

AS I SEE IT

Patricia

A friend told me about a couple of relatives who came to this country over the past Summer for a three-week visit and watched TV incessantly for the first few days completely captivated by the commercials.

Keeping their European background in mind, I tried visualizing their impression of the typical American family as seen through the medium of the sponsor's message.

The American woman is besieged with guilt, the source of which is unclear. But it manifests itself in her constant obsession with dirt.

The American man is either constipated or hung over and in need of Alka-Seltzer. Their American children seem to live their whole lives in fast food restaurants, e.g. Kentucky Fried Chicken, McDonald's and Carroll's. To compensate for this they are fed vitamin pills in the shape of monsters and for break-

fast, which they do consume at home, they are given sugar-encrusted cereals which in lieu of any natural nourishment are fortified with vitamins, minerals and God—only knows what else.

The American woman has nothing else in her life but the challenge of finding grease stains and eradicating them, getting her kids to wash their hands with Lava, to brush their teeth with Crest, and unsnarl their hair with "No More Tangles."

She is vulnerable to assaults from all sides. When she goes to a party the pretty new neighbor discovers dirt on her husband's collar. The wife, of course, is responsible. When she goes on vacation her husband and kids complain that the motel towels don't feel as soft as those she produces at home with her bottle of Downy. When her friends come to play bridge they smell her pine room deodorizer and wonder snidely in the car as they leave what horrible smell it is.

Organists' Program Begins Soon

The diocesan Organists' Training Program, a course in organ technique with an emphasis on hymn playing and liturgy lectures, will begin in the Rochester area on Sept. 16 and 19. Interested organists can schedule appointments on those dates by calling 254-9023.

Those who are interested in the Elmira area will be seen on the same dates and can call Father David Fedor at 607/739-1344 for more information. Sept. 16 is the only date for those in Auburn and Father Robert Beligotti, at 315/252-9576, has further details.

The training program, designed by a committee within the Diocesan Music Commission, is divided into two sections. The first will enable the musician to

play any hymn, simple preludes and postludes. The second will qualify the student to perform music for any liturgy and establish competence to enter college level work.

Organizers of the program hope that it will upgrade the quality of music in Catholic and Protestant churches in the areas where it's given. Parishes have been asked to meet the \$256 tuition per enrollment. Other smaller fees are also involved.

Program chairman is Donald Meminger, organist at the Cathedral. Further inquiries about the program can be sent to Organists' Training Program Office, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Pk., Rochester 14615.

she's trying to cover up.

When her kids aren't out to the Pizza Hut or Hardee's she gets points by fixing stuff out of boxes called Hamburger Helper and Meal in a Pouch which cost three times as much as if she took the ingredients off her shelves instead of out of a box.

Her husband is no prize. The poor gutless wonder wanders into a bar, asks for a Schlitz and is coerced into drinking a Utica Club. In his only moment of abandon, he bursts into song on a crowded elevator about his non-binding underwear, caresses his car more than he does his wife, uses more perfume under the guise of manly cologne than does his teenage daughter and is stricken by the double affliction of foul breath and sweating, stinking feet.

Together as a family when they are not worrying about body odors, surface grime and wrinkled clothes, they eat and eat and eat.

They consume as many as 50 kinds of brand name candy, mints, gum, Life Savers, some of which do double duty as mouth fresheners. They gobble cardboard cakes, pies, cookies and a wide assortment of crackers whose taste alternately inspire thoughts of southern fried chicken, New England boiled dinners and London Bridge.

In her most inspiring moment, the mother writes a letter to Oscar Mayer to tell them what a good ham they have and what a good boy she has. The father, never allowed to be inspiring at all, agrees with his mother-in-law that if his wife isn't perfect her rice is. The kids round out this picture of American supremacy by telling us how good Kool-aid is for us and insisting that they believe in peanut butter.

All in all a stunning picture.



Topol as Tevye, in Sunday's Fiddler on the Roof.

At Home With the Movies

KLUTE (1971)
Saturday, Sept. 14

This is the movie that won an Oscar for Jane Fonda. In it, Fonda plays a kooky New York call girl who gradually realizes that her life is threatened by a psychopath—one of her clients, but which one?

On hand to help head off her intended murderer (who has already dispatched a couple of other working girls) is Donald Sutherland, as a nice-but-bumbling detective from a small town in Pennsylvania. Fonda and Sutherland cross paths by coincidence, but discover that the man she's afraid of and the man he is tracking down are, you guessed it, one and the same.

This is a serious, unflinching film that tries to get into the minds of its characters—girl, cop, killer.

The language and depiction of events were pretty graphic in the original form and will doubtless be cut somewhat for TV.

But the subject remains strong, no matter what the network cuts.

out—so adults should be advised to approach with caution.

A-IV

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (1971)
Sunday, Sept. 15

There's fine family entertainment in this glowing film adaptation of the longest-running musical in Broadway's history.

Topol stars as Tevye, milk seller in the little Czarist-era Russian village whose life of Jewish Orthodoxy is filled with joy and sadness, but always buoyed by the spirit and eternal hope. Struggling in a time of cultural and political flux to find suitable husbands for his three dowryless daughters, Tevye has more than a share of earthly challenges.

But his faith and hope and sheer love of life and mankind keep him and the family going. Norman Jewison directed the film, with music by Jerry Bock and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick.

A-I

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