

THE OPEN WINDOW

Father Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

At 65, married over forty years, this is the longest thing I have ever had to struggle through with a church that wants everything both ways. We have six children - we are all neurotic - which is practically normal. We never used artificial birth control, which led to taking it out on the kids [my ten pregnancies] in drunkenness, violence, and now in our old age, we don't speak to each other, have no interests in common, afraid to offend the church or the children or neighbors by separating. I think my husband would like to marry again - a young person, for a few years of sexual excitement. My own lack is the feeling of no soul. My role to the end seems to be cook and maid - help the children with their children when asked, loan them money when needed, and don't be a bother.

Do you think life here is a Big Illusion? Do you think there will come the happy day when we wake up?

Sincerely,
H. C.

Dear H. C.,

You are no doubt exhausted, disillusioned and discouraged.

At Home With the Movies

THE LAST PICTURE SHOW [1971]
Sunday, Oct. 6

Peter Bogdanovich's bleak picture of a dust-stricken and culturally depressed little town in Texas is brilliant in the way it captures the epoch-making, banal details of the place and time (1951). The trouble is, it presents Ararene's inhabitants as a hopeless lot whose only interests are sexual experimentation (very graphically presented) and the pursuit of TV soap opera and quiz show fantasies. There's more to life than that, even in Ararene, Texas, 1951. (Visual offenses in the original will have to be trimmed for TV.) - G

THE WEST WAS NEVER LIKE THIS
Sunday, Oct. 6

This made-for-television spoof of Western movies stars Ben Murphy as Wild Bill Hickok in a series of manic adventures and wild chases, all served up with frothy humor in a tone reminiscent of True Grit.

SALT AND PEPPER [1968]
Monday, Oct. 7

Sammy Davis, Jr. and Peter Lawford star in this dumb, somewhat off-color spy spoof adventure. As owners of a swinging nightclub in London, the two become embroiled in a series of nasty murders, and the trail leads into a tangle of government intrigue and nuclear blackmail. The film is supposed

Far be it from me to try to comfort you with "pie in the sky bye and bye." But there are certain facts you should remember: you have obviously been a sincere person over the years, one who has been intent on doing what you considered right no matter how difficult that was. And everything still went wrong. But only if you surrender to despair and give up faith in an All-loving Father in heaven can you be a real loser in the end. Personally I believe that while the past seems to be such a total loss, the present is not. For one thing, you could re-build your relationships with your grown children on a basis whereby they are not using you (as personal banker, babysitter, etc.). It might be difficult at this stage, but it is possible that you establish a real adult relationship of friendship with them, no strings attached. Hopefully they are not totally spoiled. As to your husband, is it really sexual excitement he wants or a relationship with you which is hopeful, constructive and looking to new avenues of sharing and discovering? How many new avenues of sharing, doing "new things" together (travelling, projects, services) you could find if you just were not so tried and discouraged. It is not too late to start anew.

to be lively, witty and risqué. Instead, it is dull, witless and leering. -B

HIT LADY
Tuesday, Oct. 8

Beautiful Yvette Mimieux acts as both bait and deadly hook in her sub-rosa job with the mob, as chief exterminator of rivals, delinquent debtors and the like. It's the sort of life that can a lady down, especially when her "serious" interest is in a painting pretty pictures. Amoral trash.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE PEOPLE GONE?
Tuesday, Oct. 8

One good question leads to another - how to get the people back. Peter Graves plays the head of a desperate family trying to survive in the ruins of civilization, following a nuclear blast that released a world-wide attack of deadly virus. Gripping fantasy.

PAPER DRIVE

Proceeds from this year's paper drive at Cardinal Mooney High School will go to the Baden Street Settlement for a reading program. The drive is scheduled for Oct. 5. Paper will be accepted at the school parking lot, 800 Maiden Lane, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Pick-up arrangements may be made by calling 865-1000 on Oct. 5.

Chavez Speaks To Religious Order Leaders

Rome [RNS] - United Farm Workers leader Cesar Chavez appealed here to more than 200 representatives of Roman Catholic religious orders for support in the boycott of grapes and lettuce produced by California growers who cancelled contracts with his union.

Chavez, who the day before (Sept. 25) had been received by Pope Paul in a private audience, spoke during a special meeting arranged by the Vatican Commission for Justice and Peace for priests and representatives of various generalates of religious communities in Rome.

Chavez is on a tour of Western Europe to promote the boycott of grapes and lettuce, particularly in Scandinavian countries where a large percentage of U.S.-grown grapes are shipped.

In comments which he read in English, Archbishop Giovanni Benelli said, "We are all indeed grateful to Mr. Chavez for the lesson which he brought to our attention. It is a very important lesson: to know how to be conscious of the terrible responsibility that is incumbent on us who bear the name Christian."

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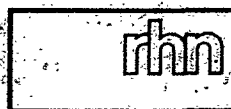
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