

# AS I SEE IT

Pat Costa

The Sunday Times in its television section recently revealed that all over the country college students are devoted followers of the soap operas.

Young men as well as young women sit around dormitory lounges shushing anyone who dares to talk while the characters of a favorite soap are spewing out the story of abortion, illegitimate births, cosmetic surgery and sundry other issues.

### MUSICA NOVA

A public concert by the Eastman Musica Nova and Eastman Chorale will be presented in Christ Church Cathedral, East Avenue at Broadway, at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1. There will be no admission charge.

In his report, Fergus M. Bordewich, a freelance writer, attempted to discover just what it is that turns college students, whose minds ostensibly should be occupied with more sophisticated or weightier subjects than melodrama, on to soaps.

He learned first of all that in recent years the storylines of soaps have become more relevant for young viewers dealing with their problems as well as social issues that idealistic students concern themselves with these days.

Then he asked the students themselves. The answers were varied and often contradictory.

Some watched for "realism"

while others watched for "escape."

"Romantic and more exciting than real life" was the evaluation of another.

Years ago before I condescended to watching soap operas, a neighbor who watched them faithfully and said she had "known Betty Hughes (As the World Turns) longer than my own mother-in-law" explained her devotion to them saying that her own problems seemed insignificant along side the catastrophic daily occurrences of the daytime dramas.

And, besides, she pointed out, what other problems could as easily be dismissed as those on TV. A flick of the knob and they are banished—permanently if you want them to be.

I've thought a good deal about my own reasons for watching soap operas.

I'd like to be able to say that it

was because of the good acting but I'd be untruthful. (Some of the emoting is superb while some is on par with the worst amateur community product.)

The storylines are horrible, the pace so sluggish that one takes the chance of reaching senility before a side plot comes to fruition.

The truth is I am a voyeur. A peeping Thomasina. I am titillated at the prospect of looking in on the intimate goings on of another's life with no responsibility, no commitment, no sense of involvement.

If I am to be completely truthful then I must admit that the soaps fill a need best when I am lonely for adult company. Let the kids be sick and I am trapped in the house for seemingly days on end then the daytime dramas take on more importance. Familiar faces appear and grownup voices fill the room at a touch. Interestingly enough when a minor crisis did occur at our

house recently I wanted no part of the make-believe world.

Our own problem was more than enough excitement for my nervous system.

Perhaps as one graduate student observed in the Times article — "life itself is a soap opera anyway." And one soap opera at a time is all I can take.

### WEEDSPORT BLESSING

Weedsport — The annual blessing of the graves at St. Joseph's Cemetery will take place following the 11 Mass, Sunday, Nov. 3. The blessing will be for all resting in the cemetery. In case of inclement weather, the living rosary celebration will be in the church.

### DEAF CHILDREN

Friday, Nov. 1, will be Know Your School day at the School for the Deaf, 1545 St. Paul. Families will be shown how deaf pupils "can have the same educational benefits" as those who hear, the announcement says.

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