

AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

The question I'm most often asked in connection with this column is not a flattering one: It usually takes place at a social gathering and the questioner, glass in hand slides up and in lieu of other small talk, asks: "Do you really watch that much television?"

The implications are clear. A. Obviously I have a high tolerance for schlock. B. Watching the tube at length requires an innate laziness. C. Excessive viewing cancels out any extensive reading, ergo at heart I am an unlettered, unread sponge.

The truth of these implicit allegations rolls off me for the most part, causing a pang only after a particularly debasing experience such as sitting through a repeat of "Cannon," actually tuning in for the last installment of a "Harry O" two-parter or catching "Kojak" dunk his lollipop in a cup of coffee.

It is then I realize that the New York Times op-ed page which I hold between me and the television set each night is not sufficient protection against the evils emanating from across the room.

And it is then I head for the new book shop in town where you can buy fairly recent paper backs at two for a quarter if you don't mind the absence of the front cover.

Last week I came home with 10 (at a cost of \$1.34 including tax) and between Monday and Wednesday read Berné's "What Do You Say After You Say Hello?" "Fear of Flying" by Erica Jong, whose literary style is highly reminiscent of the pig-tailed exhibitionist I sat next to in the fifth grade, "The Brand Name Diet" by Jean Sommers and David Viscott's "Feet Free." Yesterday I started on Woodward and Bernstein's "All the President's Men," and by tomorrow I should have Merle Miller's biography of Harry Truman, "Plain Speaking" finished.

The consequences of compressing so much intellectual effort into such a short time were predictable. I dreamed of Howard Hunt dressed in a red wig eating Dolé Pineapple slices at 90 calories per ring and Truman, a member of a transactional analysis therapy group which needs collective permission to board an airplane.

But that is not the worst result of reading, when I should have been staring with glazed eyes and dry tongue at the little silver screen.

No, the serious consequence, dear reader, is that having watched nothing this week — not the new Smothers Brothers Show, nor the premiere of "The Jeffersons" nor the Sam Houston special nor even "Hot L Baltimore" I have nothing to write about. And thus it is that you have been subjected to the above discourse. And if that is not sufficient reason for me to swear off reading for another couple months then I don't know what is.

At Home With The Movies

THERE WAS A CROOKED MAN [1970] Saturday, Feb. 1

Henry Fonda and Kirk Douglas star in an off-balance Western about a reform-minded prison warden (Fonda) who rises to the moral challenge offered by renegade convict Douglas to practice what he preaches about rehabilitation and trust. The twist ending has to do with a race to the death for a secret pile of Spanish gold!

Corny but effective, it occasionally violent, and Fonda and Douglas ham up their individual storms.

A-III

ELECTRA GLIDE IN BLUE [1973] Saturday, Feb. 1

This movie was the flop of the year when it first appeared, and how well it fares on the small screen is doubtful.

It's an ironic slice-of-life involving the routine and frustrating existence of a smalltown motorcycle cop (Robert Blake) in the Southwest. Blake simultaneously revels in such details of his life as his splendid uniform and rugged equipment, but he yearns for the "bigger" reputation he might have as a detective.

A short stint with marshal Mitch Ryan cures him of that, and a botched twist ending that reverses the EASY RIDER finale leaves you with a bad taste.

A-III

CRAZY JOE [1974] Sunday, Feb. 2

Grade-A gangster trash stars Peter Boyle as the late Joe Gallo,

a maverick Brooklyn mobster who paid for his sins with his life, thanks to the mob's rough system of instant justice. The film is laughable in its pretensions (Gallo had 'em, too) to the "noble savage" theme, and some of the dialogue ("Which do you prefer, Sartre or Camus?" quoth Joey at a cocktail party in radical-chic circles) positively reeks.

Fred Williamson, in fact, gives the film its only life as a black gangster who tries to help Joe give his own faltering operation a new dose of blood. But the rest is all worthless, especially in its misguided morality.

B

DOCTORS' WIVES [1971] Monday, Feb. 3

This one is pure, albeit adult, soap-operatics as the doctors at a large hospital dally with the nurses while their wives find diversion elsewhere.

A colleague's illtimed fatal heart attack provides the necessary scandal and shame to motivate everyone back into their proper and respective beds. Forget it, especially if they leave in the gruesome open-heart surgical sequence. Dyann Cannon, Richard Crenna star.

B

THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN [1970] Monday, Feb. 3

Two lonely, average people meet by chance, take up residence together, and finally fall in love. Warren Beatty, while perhaps a bit too young-looking for the part, actually carries the show as a nervous, joking, lovable, mixed-up adult-kid, a

compulsive gambler making ends meet by playing a piano in a Las Vegas club.

One night Elizabeth Taylor, a hefty chorus girl, equally mixed-up (a mistress kept dangling on a string for five years by a married businessman), wanders in and invites him home. They form a "no strings attached" relationship while ever so slowly coming to understand and accept each other.

Veteran director Stevens has lost his bounce and comic flair; the film is a bit uneven and overlong. And yet, as an "old-fashioned" melodrama, it holds interest, has color, is honest and divertingly entertaining.

A-III

'Birdie' Set At Kearney

The Bishop Kearney Parents Clubs will present Showtime '75, a tribute to Jerome Kern, on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 30 and 31, and Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 1 and 2 at the high school auditorium.

The show "Bye Bye Birdie," a tribute to Jerome Kern, will be directed by Brother T.C. Severino, and will feature orchestrations played by the Kearney Stage Band which will be directed by Ray Shakin.

Curtain time is 8 evenings with a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the auditorium door. For reservations call 342-4000.

For Enjoyable Dining

Gourmet dining under tiffany lamps

The Big Elms

Restaurant

196 Seneca St., Hornell, N.Y. Our Colonial Room — famous for 50 years. Home baked pastries our Specialty. Open daily 7 a.m. - 12 midnight. Introducing the new Victorian Dining Room (gourmet specials), Cocktails, Banquet Room. Authentic antiques, Tiffany-type leaded shades create the ideal Victorian atmosphere. Luncheon weekdays 11:30, Dinner 5:30, Sunday 12:30. 1-607-324-7450.

Hof Brau Haus

Now open Sundays, 406 Lyell Ave. Home of real German & American cooking. Wide choice of continental dinners, such as Sauerbraten with potato pancakes and Bavarian beef goulash. Open daily for lunches and dinners. Bavarian music Fri., Sat. nites. Phone 234-9660. Your hosts, Bill and Betty Oswald.

Kar-Mac Manor

Routes 5 & 28, Between Geneva & Waterloo, Thruway Exit 42. Dinners from \$3.25 — Featuring Prime Rib — Chaf Broiled Steaks — Chicken Oregano — Liver & Onions — Seafood — Beef & Sea Smorg. every Friday — Dancing nightly except Tues. & Thurs. Reservations — 789-1305 or 539-8044.

Roman Forum Restaurant

Home of the emperor's favorite PIZZA

- old tyme movies
• free popcorn
• draft beer and wine
• hero sandwiches

1313 Ridge Road E. — Phone 288-9352 Between Goodman & Portland Ave. Next to Vail's DINE IN OR TAKE OUT

STEAK STOCKADE

Special Daily Price Stockade Steak \$5.25 Inflation Fighter Stockade Steak \$4.25 Sunday Special - Inflation Fighter Prime Ribs of Beef \$4.95 Childrens Menu Available

For Reservations Call:

544-8410 DINNERS RIDGE HUDSON PLAZA 716 RIDGE RD. EAST 223-3326 LUNCH AND DINNERS EASTVIEW MALL RT. 96 VICTOR

"We're Proud To Serve You"

2846 W. RIDGE RD., GREECE 364 W. MAIN ST., BATAVIA

Perkins

869 East Ridge Rd., Irondequoit 911 JEFFERSON RD. ALL STORES OPEN 7 A.M. 'TIL MIDNIGHT SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY FRI.-SAT. 3 A.M. (E. Ridge Rd. Store Only Fri.-Sat. 7 A.M.-2 A.M.)

MR MIKE'S

LUNCHEONS IN OUR NEW LOUNGE

Tiffany Lamps, Log-Burning Fireplace

JUDY DAILY at the Piano Bar MON., TUES., WED., THUR., NITES

1485 MT. READ Near Lexington 458-0420

DINNERS IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DINING ROOM

The Fabulous Bob DiNeri and the Partnership

Fri. & Sat. Nites 9:30-1:30

"Planning a Party"

THE MANHATTAN RESTAURANT

HAS A ROOM AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS OF 25-100

A MENU PLANNED JUST FOR YOU! CHOICE OF COCKTAILS 25 EAST AVE.

PHONE 454-7158

Convenient Parking in Midtown also Euclid or Elm Street

"Just for the two of you" Prime Rib Dinner Every Thurs. Fri. Sat. Night \$9.95 for two

Sunday Chicken Dinner for the Family

ADULTS 3.25 CHILDREN 1.95

serving every Sunday • Noon to 8 P.M.

Strolling Troubadours TO ENTERTAIN YOU Thurs. Fri. Sat.

Lunches Served Mon to Fri 11:30-2:30 Dinners Served Mon. to Thurs. 5 to 9, Fri & Sat. 5 to 10

Banquet facilities available

CAFE AVION

MONROE COUNTY AIRPORT 328-7553

3 Hours Free Valetted Parking RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED