

AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

Obviously operating on the premise that an audience already hooked on violence should not be allowed to slip away, ABC has put together a Monday night schedule that should please the most ardent fan of contact sports.

True: the playing field has changed somewhat. The football stadium has faded and in its place the high rise luxury condominium, the back alley and all other potential scenes for crime have surfaced.

The good guys now wear a different kind of uniform. Bullet-proof vests have replaced shoulder pads and black turtle neck sweaters are standard instead of colorful jerseys. The name of the game has changed but the reason behind the entertainment is substantially the same: Knock the hell out of the other guy.

"The Rookies" in its usual 8 p.m. slot is now followed by "S.W.A.T." at 9 p.m. and "Caribe" at 10 p.m.

"S.W.A.T." which had a preview in a two-hour special of "The Rookies" last week stands for Special Weapons and Tactics and features Steve Forrest as head of a unit trained to take over where the regular police force leaves off. Since the regulars as epitomized by "The Rookies" do

not mess around playing traffic cops every week, the action and violence in "S.W.A.T." must necessarily reach for a new level of violence if it is to live up to its billing.

In the preview special, the S.W.A.T. team kills a man involved in a marital dispute without attempting other methods of saving the wife whose life is being threatened by her mate.

"Well done," says tough-minded Hondo Harrelson (Forrest) as the efficient execution is reported by one of his men. (I wonder if the character would have as much macho if he were named Percy.) This cold-blooded attitude irks Rookie Officer Terry Webster. But of course, the S.W.A.T. head has a ready excuse for the killing. The husband was a mental patient with a past record.

Later in the show there was another violent killing as mobster Leslie Nielsen is gunned down in a hallway by an entire team of men.

Rounding out the prime time evening is Stacy Keach Jr. as a Miami police officer on special assignments in "Caribe." The first show featured a lot of beatings, at least one killing and an awful lot of boring dialogue and no hum plot, which goes to show that even the lushness of the Caribbean is no insurance against mediocrity and dull programming.

VIENNA 1900

The next series in the Masterpiece Theatre series on public television will be Vienna 1900, subtitled Games with Love and Death, based on stories by Viennese author Arthur Schnitzler. The first of five stories in a series, "Mother and Son," will be presented Sunday, March 2 at 8:30 p.m. on WXXI-TV-21.

At Home With The Movies

WALKING TALL [1973] Saturday, March 1

One of the most phenomenally popular "bad" movies of all time now comes to television with its super-violent footage toned down somewhat, but its noxious message of "take-the-law-into-your-own hands" more or less intact.

Hulking Joe Don-Baker stars in the role of the late Tennessee sheriff Buford Pusser, whose true life story laid the groundwork for this heavily fictionalized film.

The plot is about a big man (Baker) who walks tall and clubs freely in his campaign to close down rural vice in the Tennessee county where he lives, and to root out the accommodating political corruption that allows the vice to flourish.

Nice objectives, but the means used in the film to obtain them are ignoble, ugly, and vicious in themselves.

THE HOSPITAL [1971] Sunday, March 2

If botched surgical operations and hospital chaos are your bag, then this brilliant but uneven and very clinical comedy written by Paddy Chayefsky and directed by Arthur Hiller will be just fine.

And even if you gasp at the sight of blood and wince at the thought of gross medical incompetence, the movie will hit hard and still provide a good many unavoidable laughs.

A madman is loose in a big-city hospital whose chief of surgery is George C. Scott, and all the balmy friend has to do is take the first step — blundering nurses who administer wrong

medication, impossible delays caused by bureaucratic red tape, aides who wheel the wrong patient into surgery, do the rest.

Scott, already suicidal, is driven nearer the brink but at the last moment regains a sense of direction in his life. Some of the situations are hilarious, but the feeling is one of giddiness, followed by the bite of terror.

The comedy is allegorical, the humor is black, and the writing, acting and directing are top-notch. Language and uncompromising situations make this a Hospital for adult patients only. But all of that will doubtless have been surgically trimmed by the network's own "surgeons."

A-III

Scholars To Lecture At Nazareth Symposium

Five of America's leading scholars and visionaries will explore the present and future of man in a three-day symposium on "The Quest for Human Values" at the Nazareth College of Rochester Arts Center March 3-5.

Trends in religion, science, theology, education and landscape design and urban planning will be analyzed during the special series of lectures scheduled as part of the college's 50th anniversary celebration.

Among subjects to be discussed by some of the country's most outspoken writers and lecturers are the evolution of a new "people's religion," the creation of a "planetary culture," the increasing responsibility of the individual in a technological age, the ecological approach to urban planning and the emergence of a "new morality."

Following is the symposium calendar:

Monday, March 3, 8 p.m.: Dr. Harvey Cox, Victor S. Thomas Professor of Divinity, Harvard University. Topic: "The Use and Abuse of Religion in Society."

Tuesday, March 4, 3 p.m.:

Gerard Piel, president and publisher of Scientific American. Topic: "The Acceleration of History."

Tuesday, March 4, 8 p.m.: Dr. Daniel Maguire, associate professor of theology, Marquette University. Topic: "Revolution in Values."

Wednesday, March 5, 3:30 p.m.: William Irwin Thompson, author and director of Lindsfame Association. "The Creation of a New Planetary Culture."

Wednesday, March 5, 8 p.m.: Ian McHarg, chairman, School of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania. "Design in Nature."

All lectures will be open to the public free of charge.

PRE-CANA

Auburn — The next scheduled Pre-Cana conference in the area will be held on Sunday and Wednesday, 7:15 p.m. to 11 p.m., March 2 and 5, at St. Alphonsus cafeteria. Call Bob and Colleen Hoffman, 252-7005, or John and Ann Scanlon, 253-8349, for reservations. The next Pre-Cana conferences will not be held until May.

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