

AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

At its best television is a medium without parallel. It can, in a single effort, entertain, inform, enlighten and influence millions of people all at a given time.

That television rarely achieves its full potential is well-known. Thus when it does, it would seem only right that we the consumers and the ultimate beneficiaries stand up and cheer. A recent ABC presentation deserves that kind of hurrah.

"I Will Fight No More Forever," the two-hour special dramatizing the stand of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians against the U.S. government's decision that he should take his tribe to live on a reservation was sponsored by Xerox.

It is the hope here that it will be shown in every elementary school in the United States. Certainly it is a must for every child that has ever played Cowboys and Indians, whose education has taught him that every red man is a savage, who does not understand the full significance of what the federal government perpetrated in setting up the reservation.

The true story of how Joseph kept eluding the U.S. Cavalry under Gen. Oliver Howard and initially defeated army forces much larger than his own small band makes for excellent adventure and good drama in its own right.

But as in any story of depth it is the people involved and their personalities which gives the play dimension. In this case the leaders of the opposing forces so embody the same virtues of intelligence, compassion and insight that the real horror of what the U.S. did in removing the Indians from their land is delineated anew in a kind of counterpoint of emotion.

Yet so understated were the characters of Joseph and Oliver played by Ned Romero and James Whitmore that sentimentality was never allowed to wash and erode the harsh reality.

The Nez Perce (The Pierced Nose Tribe?) who dwelled along the Snake River in Idaho and Oregon and who were but 40 miles from the neutrality of Canada before they surrendered were sent south for this production. The filming was done in the mountains of central Mexico, which if lacking in authenticity compensated with the force of their beauty.

From a purely personal standpoint, the most satisfying feature of the two hours had to be the manner in which the sensitivity and strength of the man Joseph were intertwined and projected through both script and acting.

At the end the Indian leader intones the fateful words of the show's title "I Will Fight No More Forever" then turns his back on the general and his forces to weep for his people. For this child of the 1940s who sat through more Friday night Hollywood massacres than history could vouch for, it was vindication, illumination and long overdue humanizing of our sullied American natives.

OPEN WIDE

Ask your dentist for a complete mouth checkup. It's one of the ways to detect oral cancer early when it is curable, according to the American Cancer Society.

At Home With The Movies

**-QB VII, PART 2
Wednesday, April 23**

Continuation of film described for Tuesday, April 22.

**QB VII, PART 3
Thursday, April 24**

Concluding installment of the film described for Tuesday, April 22.

**THE GOOD BUYS AND
THE BAD GUYS
Thursday, April 24**

This entertaining, energetic Western spoof pokes fun at the new and inept breed of bad men and at the complacency and greed of politicians and the newly prosperous citizenry. An aging, long-time marshal (Robert Mitchum), retired against his will because he is an uncomfortable reminder of the town's disorderly old days, and an aging outlaw (George Kennedy), also forcibly retired, join forces to thwart a train robbery which the town, in its newly found respectability, cannot believe is threatening. Though the pair's athletic prowess has deteriorated with the years, with the result that their heroics are more slapstick than swashbuckling, their eventual triumph is a deserved tongue-in-cheek tribute to the senior side of the generation gap.

A-III

**PLANET OF THE APES
Friday, April 25**

A garbled allegorical warning to damage-prone mankind. Arrogant earth man Charlton Heston lands an expedition "320 light years from earth on an unnamed planet in orbit around a star in the constellation of Orion." He discovers an advanced colony of apes trying to prove that species man can be domesticated. The apes talk, but human subjects cannot. Shot by ape soldiers, Heston loses his

voice and must prove he can speak, but the corny dialogue doesn't seem worth the trouble. Religion sustains puny blows, but Darwin's theory of evolution, ironically, hasn't been so badly misrepresented since the prosecution got going in the Scopes "Monkey Trial."

A-III

**THE GREAT ESCAPE,
PART 1
Saturday, April 26**

Thrilling rendition of a fact-based story about an elaborate escape from POW camp attempted by Allied prisoners during World War II. Set in a German prison camp, the story traces the multiple efforts of the officers and men to work together as allies in a common effort to outfox their captors — on a grand scale. The fascination in the film has to do with the careful unfolding of the plan, its evolution and refinement, its scope (250 men plan to take a powder), and the step-by-step details of execution and mishaps along the way. It all builds to a stunning, sobering climax that will both tug at your heart and keep it racing. Among many outstanding performances are those of Steve McQueen, James Garner, Richard Attenborough, and Charles Bronson.

A-I

**ROSEMARY'S BABY
Saturday, April 26**

Roman Olanski's controversial — and popular — film about the recycling of Satan on West 72nd Street won't look much like the original, thanks to ABC's effort to trim it down to fit the home screen. The result, in any event, is not likely to please either the admirers or the detractors of this modern day horror movie about a young husband (John Cassavetes) who turns his wife (Mia Farrow), body and soul, over to the next

door neighbors — a coven of witches led by Ruth Gordon and Sidney Blackmer — so that she can become the mother of Satan Incarnate. The production values are topnotch, and performances are completely chilling, but the film's religious elements may prove disturbing to all Christians who take their faith seriously. For the purpose of thrills, Rosemary's Baby toys with some basic Christian beliefs — the Papacy, the Virgin Birth, the Incarnation, the saving role of Christ, the nature of the spiritual — in a way that almost diabolically denigrates these beliefs to the level of the ridiculous.

C

Abortion to Be TV Topic

ABC Wide World Special (Channel 13) will be airing a 90 minute special hosted by David Frost, on Thursday, April 24, from 11:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. featuring a panel discussion on abortion.

Dr. Mildred F. Jefferson, chairman of National Right to Life, Dennis Hoan, co-author of "Abortion & Social Justice," and a member of the legal Advisory Board of National Right to Life, and Johanna M. Jankowski, chairman of New York State Right to Life Committee, will be on the panel representing the pro-life issue.

In opposition will be Dr. Christopher Tietze, assistant director of Population Council, Bio-Med. Division, Sarah Weddington, attorney, ACLU, and Bea Blair, executive director of NARAL.

VOLUNTEER

Hornell — A volunteer, needed to teach the Color Guard of St. Ann's Band, is asked to call Yolanda Scaglione (324-6285).

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