

**AS I SEE IT**



**Pat Costa**

If bright and sprightly television programs can teach children to count, read, write and reason, can a similar TV effort also teach children racial and cultural tolerance?

"Vegetable Soup," a production of the New York State Education Department, is the visible evidence that some people think so.

The half-hour show which recently debuted on public television (seen here at 6 p.m. Wednesdays on Channel 21) is no "Electric Company" or even "Sesame Street."

The kind of money being spent on the two productions of the Children's Television Workshop is not readily apparent on "Vegetable Soup." Flash and dazzle are also lacking.

The show I saw had no celebrities and the pace is a good deal slower than the aforementioned kids' programs. There are puppets but they are boy and girl puppets and such personalities as Big Bird, Oscar and the Cookie Monster are not to be found.

But even if the razz-a-ma-tazz is missing, there is enough to attract youngsters, say between the ages of 7 to 12.

In the first segment, the boy and girl puppets build a pretend Skylab. While there are various races represented, it is a black boy, Willie, to whom the group looks for leadership. End of episode.

The second segment is about drums. A child narrates in a voice-over film showing various peoples using drums — tribal Africans, western Indians, the English queen's guard, Scotsmen, etc. Talking, making music, marching — drums have been used for all, the child tells us. He concludes, "All countries, all

peoples, all cultures share drums."

"Make a new friend, hold out your hand" we are instructed in the next portion of the show. There is a song whose tune is not familiar. It is played and sung while we see pictures of blacks and whites and orientals socializing.

The next segment deals with the English language. We are shown that the words we use to communicate come from a dozen different languages. We learn some of them: cola, chimpanzee, zebra (African), domino, cigar, banana, (Spanish), cocoa, potato, chili, chocolate (from South America).

The last major part, a film story about a black boy named Martin who wants and receives a boa constrictor, gets to the nitty gritty. Martin's mother, a teacher, does not like the idea of a snake as a pet. A reply from "Dear Abby" gets the point across: Some people are prejudiced about snakes because they are ignorant about them. Substitute people with black red or yellow skins for snakes for the total message. The simile, was I think, an unfortunate one. A little more work might have produced a better symbol.

Later in the story one white boy tells another white about Martin and his snake. When the second one discovers Martin is black, he says his mother does not want him associating with blacks. Just as the white boy is about to change his mind about Martin in order to see the snake Martin, hurt, turns on him and refuses to play. The lesson: Because of blind prejudice, learned from his mother, the white youngster is the loser.

"Vegetable Soup" has the right idea but sorely needs subtlety.

It did well, I think, in showing several black people as professionals. Martin's mother, for example, was a teacher. Another man was a zoologist.

Emphasizing the number of things various peoples share while playing down the differences of color and pronunciations as relatively minor is certainly a good beginning.

The show's concept is good. The direction in which it is heading, excellent. Hopefully it will grow in the methods it employs.

**Pianist Sahr to Highlight Nazareth Music Week**

Dr. Hadassah Sahr, a specialist in music of the 20th Century and accomplished concert pianist, will be the featured performer in a week-long "American Music Week" scheduled at Nazareth College Oct. 19-24. All events during the week-long bicentennial salute to the nation's musical heritage will be free and open to the public.

Dr. Sahr, a member of the

faculty of Columbia University, will perform a program of American music featuring the Second Pianoforte Sonata "Concord, Mass., 1840-1860" by Charles Ives. The concert will be held Thursday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m. in the Arts Center Auditorium. She also will deliver a lecture on "Ives, the Concord Sonata and the Transcendentalists," Friday, Oct. 24, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 13 of the Arts Center.



**Mission Banks**

Students at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Henry Bleier, Christopher Bellave, Annunziata Silvestro and Jean Zubrzycki display the banks they use to gather money for the missions. Last year the students at OLPH gathered and gave more than \$500 to the program.

**Father Fedor Sets Concert**

**Auburn** — Father David Fedor will present a bicentennial concert Sunday, Oct. 26 at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church at 99 South St. The public is invited.

Father Fedor is a member of the Diocesan Liturgical and Music Commissions and member of the organist training program. He is now associate pastor at the Church of St. Mary Our Mother where he founded the 40-voice choir.

Musical selections for the concert include variations on "America," Thou Art The Rock, and Choral Prelude by Bach among other selections.

**Rochester Encounter Schedules Convention**

Rochester Marriage Encounter will hold its annual convention at Aquinas Institute the weekend of Nov. 1 and 2.

Further information on the weekend is available through Fred and Judy Osborne at (716) 293-3543.

The theme of this year's gathering is "Total Communication" and 24 talks by religious and encountered couples will bear on the theme.

**HELEN HAYES HONOR**

**New York [RNS]** — Actress Helen Hayes will receive a special achievement award for a lifetime of excellence in theater arts during the 10th annual dinner of Morality in Media, a national non-sectarian organization which fosters principles of truth and good taste in the media.

Among the highlights of the weekend are a Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, and talks by Father Michael Sullivan, pastor of Assumption Parish in Albany, and Father Leo Klem, Rochester's coordinating priest.

Father Morton A. Hill, SJ, president of the New York based effort, announced that the award will be bestowed Nov. 10 at a dinner here.

Many area couples are planning potluck suppers for Saturday evening to host conventioners and their families. Carpools have been encouraged by convention organizers.

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



**WHO IS MIKE TOBIN?**

Mike Tobin is a man concerned about our neighborhood and active in community affairs. Mike has served as a delegate to the Ellwanger-Barry Neighborhood Association. As a coach with the South Side Little League. As a trustee of St. Boniface Church and as past director of it's Men's Club.

Mike is a 35-year-old attorney and partner in the law firm of Lines, Wilkins, Osborn & Beck. He holds an undergraduate degree from Providence College and a law degree from Saint John's University.

**ELECT MIKE TOBIN**

County Legislature — City South  
**Vote 5B or 5C**  
Republican — Conservative

**JUDGE'S**

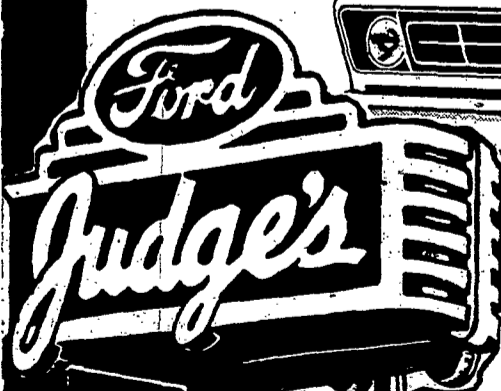
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