

**AS I SEE IT**



Pat Costa

"Beacon Hill," the series centering on the nouveau riche in Brahmin Boston at the turn of the century and upon which CBS pinned so many hopes, has been cancelled effective the end of November.

After due thought and no little probing into the viewing habits of the American television audience, I think I've come up with a few reasons why "Beacon Hill" couldn't make it.

First and foremost, it was not screened on public television. Most of us can not tell when we should like something or not. If it's on public TV we don't have to worry. There's a certain cachet about exposure on public TV that gives even garbage a kind of luster. Unwarranted luster, but luster nevertheless.

The other reasons deal mostly with the inappropriate content of the series, deeming it unsuitable for commercial TV. To wit:

Only once was a gun ever pulled and it was quickly dropped by the war disabled-Rob.

There is no weekly chase.

There are no real bad guys or good guys with possibly the one exception of Harry. Mostly everybody is simply a gray mixture, embodying both human faults and virtues, a condition not yet discovered by the creators of TV's heroes and anti-heroes.

There are no junkies, no pushers, no overdoses, only an incipient alcoholic.

There are no rape scenes, no flagrant nudity, no unmitigated violence.

\* There is sex, yes, but it is suggested rather than explicit, despite the cautionary messages advising viewer discretion screened prior to some of the episodes.

There are no screaming police sirens, flashing lights, bald-headed detectives, sucking lollipops and no undercover men dressed like truity hippies.

There are no corpses, no police lineups, no two-way radio jargon.

What there has been is a continuing saga of a family which gives us a completed story within that saga each week.

The emphasis has been on character development and interaction between those characters rather than on a fast moving script and spate of dialogue.

More than once the plots have tailed to meet the standards set by the producers but quality rings out in every other phase of the series from the theme music by Marvin Hamlisch to the casting of noted and sometimes brilliant Broadway actors to the posh set designs. Only the writers have tailed.

It is particularly upsetting to see a minor work of art discarded when time and trial could have rescued this one.

But what is far more upsetting is that such a series should be weighed and found lacking in a medium which applauds itself for the likes of such trash as "Police Woman," "Barnaby Jones" and two dozen other similar examples which are returned year after year, for our edification.

**More Opinions**

**How to Help 'Life' Effort**

Editor:

The U.S. Catholic Bishops have reaffirmed their commitment to reverse the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court rulings on legalizing abortion.

The support of the Right to Life Amendment should be of major concern to every organization in every parish, e.g., Parish Councils, Holy Name Societies, Rosary Societies, Catholic Daughters, etc. If every member of every one of these organizations wrote a letter to his elected officials, I am sure that the elected officials would respond accordingly.

Our efforts, however, must not stop at working through just our local parish organizations or other religious organizations. We must also seek the support of non-sectarian groups on this issue.

What many people do not know is that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers supported the concept of legalized abortion as part of its Broad Policy until abortion was legalized by the Supreme Court in January 1973.

If you are concerned about the Right to Life Amendment, find out where your local PTA stands on this issue. Request that an emergency resolution supporting

the Right to Life Amendment be introduced at the State Convention to be held in November.

[Mrs.] Virginia A. Mitchell  
13 Princeton Street  
Garden City, N.Y. 11530

**Pastor Raps 'Wonderland'**

Editor:

In view of the track record of the Rochester Diocesan Office of Human Development, I am not in the least surprised to read in your publication of Oct. 22, "OHD Takes Stand For ERA."

It figures. In reaction to this latest pronouncement from "Wonderland" (1150 Buffalo Road) the undersigned Alice has decided not to encourage this unisex nonsense by the donation of one red cent.

Naturally, I speak only for this particular Alice (myself) but I daresay I have lots of company.

I shall give my intended contribution to OHD to Pro-Life of Rochester.

Rev. Vincent P. Collins, pastor,  
Church of St. John of Rochester  
18 Wickford Way  
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

Editor's Note: The address of the Pastoral Office is 1150 Buffalo Road.

**Campaign Planned To Expand the CFM**

The Christian Family Movement is alive and flourishing in Newark, although in many places it has lost out in competition with other activities, Father Robert Collins noted recently.

He said there soon would be a publicity campaign "to make known the merits of this movement, the way in which it can build stronger families."

The "federation couple" for the diocese are Jim and Mary Sue Govola of St. Michael's parish in Newark. Their group meets bi-monthly in the homes of members, and they have two programs in store that are available to all parishes. The first, called The Encountering Family, is a good introduction for couples and for parents without partners to become active in the growth of their Christian family, according to the Govolas' announcement. The second "encourages couples to investigate such areas as communications in a marriage, the neighborhood community, sex education and other social concerns."

Father Collins, head of the Family Life office, said that the CFM continued to be very successful in many areas, particularly in the Midwest. "At one time, it had little competition

**Dr. O'Hare To Be Speaker On Education**

Why has Religious Education in the Church changed? This is the question to be addressed by Dr. Padraic O'Hare at the final Fall sessions of Teacher Education for Catechists and interested Adults.

Dr. O'Hare, diocesan consultant for Parish Education Planning will conduct classes on Tuesdays, Nov. 11 and Nov. 18 from 8 to 10 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy High School (McAuley, Wing).

Fee is \$1 per session.

**CWU DAY**

Auburn — World Community Day will be observed by the Cayuga County Church Women United on Friday, Nov. 7 at 1 p.m.

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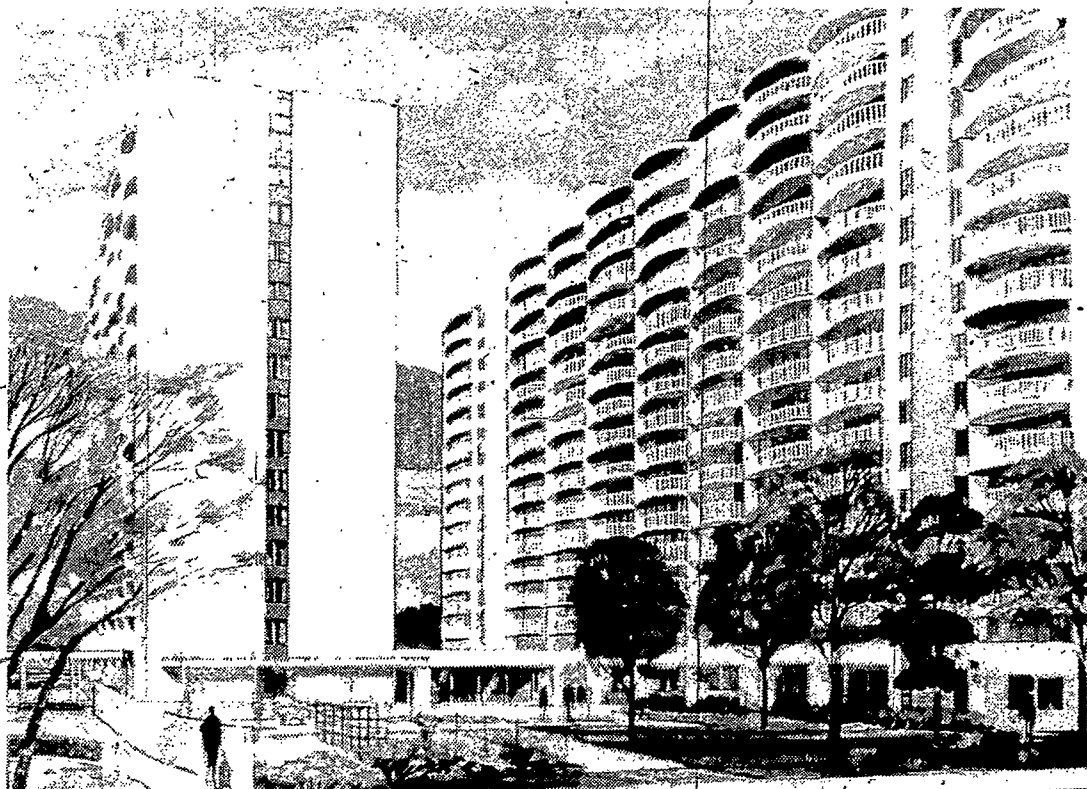
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