

AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

Attempting to characterize the television effort, the morning after the presidential election, two words come to mind: maddening and painful.

As probably most viewers did Nov. 2, our family switched from network to network throughout the night, a strategy made easier than ever this year since our cable hookup provides a box one can place at the fingertips and change from Cronkite to Chancellor to Reasoner and back to Cronkite in a matter of seconds without leaving one's chair. The lack of exercise may be bad for the waistline but the opportunities for keeping up with what each network is doing were excellent.

So why "maddening" and "painful"? Well, as our fellow switchers know, none of the networks agreed as to the electoral count throughout the evening. This was a minor irritation as was the fact that our favorite anchorman Walter Cronkite stumbled his way through the evening appearing to forget what he was saying mid-sentence at times and mislabeling candidates at others. Jim Buckley became "John" and Robert somebody became "Roger."

Things weren't much better at ABC. Barbara Walters, overdressed in a white gown with flowers attached, was distracting. Either she talked too much or pitched her voice too high — possibly both. Pollster Lou Harris who worked with Walters and Harry Reasoner came across as lightweight, if ponderous.

John Chancellor and David Brinkley and their NBC team proved to have the smoothest of the network organizations although Tom Brokaw seems more show biz than news department.

The "maddening" part of the evening came at 11 p.m. when all three local stations cut away from their networks to bring us warmed over news. The only ones who benefitted from the move were the stations themselves who obviously could not forgo advertising revenues for just one night even in the national interest.

WHEC-TV was guilty of rerunning their 6 p.m. football series segment and even worse a bit of film showing the Carters voting. For heaven's sake couldn't anyone there come up with something more recent.

Keith Martin at WROC-TV strikes us as having more polish than substance. Reporters calling him from party headquarters could have used a little of his varnish. It was "painful" to hear them stumble over election night jargon. WOKR also suffered from reporters' inability to articulate. Only WHEC-TV's reporter Mike Powers demonstrated competence. The team of Don Alhart and Dick Burt compensated somewhat at WOKR. Locally they were the easiest to listen to.

CWC CORRECTION

The Catholic Women's Club will sponsor a memorial Mass for deceased members on Sunday, Nov. 14, at 11 a.m. in the Nazareth College Faculty House Chapel.

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By the time the stations switched back to the networks we were eager to hear what had happened in our absence. (They weren't about to tell us on the local stations.) Unhappily it took another 15 minutes of dial punching to find out.

We turned the set off at 2 a.m. to rise at 6 and try to discover who had won. "Sunrise Semester" was on 10. Nothing elsewhere. It seems here that WHEC missed the perfect opportunity to run a trailer under the picture with the information.

At 6:30 Eddie Meath appeared and announced the news and another reporter fell all over himself trying to explain what had happened during the night. We became hysterical listening to him try to pronounce Herbert Hoover's name. No, I don't know what "Hebert" won.

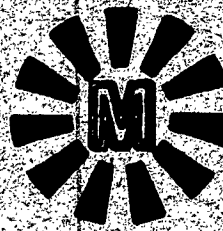
When oh when will Rochester TV decide that our city is large enough to warrant newsmen and newswomen. Down with the pretty faces!

Altar Society Reorganized In Churchville

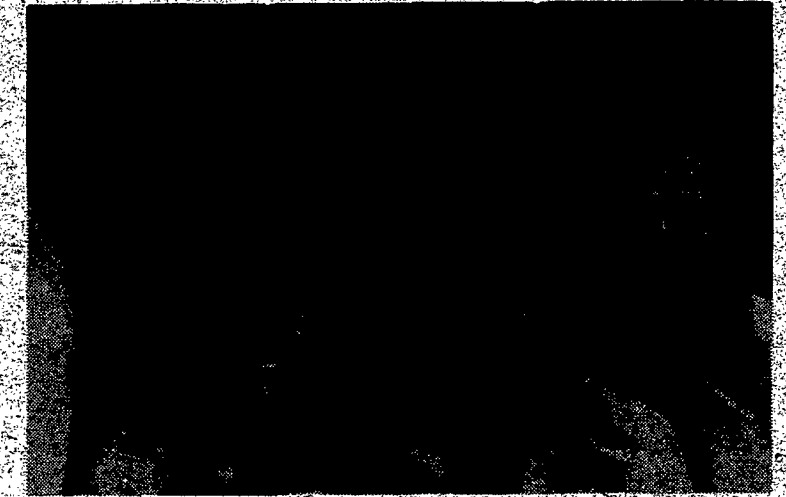
The Altar Society of St. Vincent De Paul's Catholic Church in Churchville has been reorganized. At their first meeting, with more than 50 members present, the following persons were elected to office:

Mrs. June Reynolds, president; Mrs. Elaine Voorheis, vice president, and Mrs. Sandra Casey, secretary and treasurer.

A tour of the church and an explanation of all the furnishings and materials used in the liturgy and in devotions was given by Father Louis J. Hohman, pastor of St. Vincent's. A wine and cheese tasting social followed the meeting.



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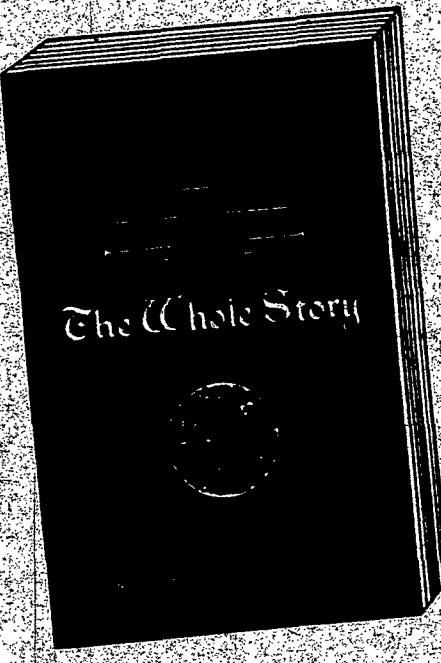
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