

Two Little Indians

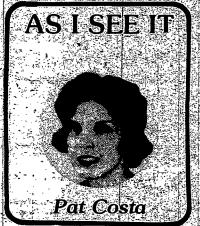
Phuc Nguyen and Debra Kirchgessner are disguised as Little Wing and Blue Eagle in the paper-bag buckskins they made during their study, at St. Andrew's School, of Native American cultures. (But doesn't Little Wing's crown say Happy Birthday Phuc?)

Walkethon Tops \$5,000

Elmira — The second annual Walkathon results are nearly complete, and they indicate that more than 675 students, parents and teachers raised \$5,142.80 for their efforts and for the Catholic schools of Chemung County Saturday, Nov. 13

The four schools of the Chemung

Catholic School System, sponsors of the walk, were joined by St. Mary our Mother, Horseheads, and Notre Dame. High School, in their walk from St. Patrick's junior high to Notre Dame. The top selling school was St. Mary's Southside, which sold more than 1,700 of the \$1 sponsor tickets.



Is there a sure fire way to get kids who, don't want to read, reading? Probably not. But there is a way to expose the reluctant reader to the classics nevertheless—and it's painless.

Public television's "Once Upon a Classic" which has just concluded with Mark Twain's "The Prince and the Pauper" has now begun a sixpart dramatization of "Johanna Spyri's "Heidi".

Emma Blake plays the role of the little orphan girl who goes to live in the Swiss Alps with her grandfather. Dame Flora Robson is seen as the blind grandmother of Heidi's friend Peter, who is played by Nicholas Lyndhurst (cast as both the prince and the pauper in the previous series).

Parents who protest that TV dramatizations are a poor means of experiencing literature have my sympathy. I have seen several filmed versions of "Heidi", for example, and the actors and actresses playing Heidi, the old alms uncle and Clara always conflict with the characters. I envisioned upon the first reading at age 10 or 11.

On the other hand even Spyri's description of the Alps never prepared me for the wonder of the mountains as filmed in this latest release.

And for those children whose introduction to certain classics depends on happening upon a filmed version then obviously that is better than never discovering the story at all. I think

And there is always the outside chance a youngster upon being introduced will be charmed to the extent by a character, a plot or a setting that he or she will go on to read the book to see what, if anything, was changed or omitted.

Parents who may be tempted to try this method of exposing their children to the classics should also know that commercial TV and cable's Home Box Office from time to time present dramatizations of books long popular with the young

CBS for example; concludes the two part animated feature based on "Charlotte's Web" Friday at 8 pm. For the uninitiated, the story by E.B. White about a spider who befriends a pig is one of the most beloved tales among kids today.

On the same night at NBC at a half hour later George C. Scott and Trish Van Devere start in a Hallmark Hall of Fame Production of the old fairytale; "Beauty and the Beast"

Parents should also keep an eye out for some of the Hollywood versions of the classics done back in the thirties and the forties. Those who subscribe to cable TV particularly have a good chance of seeing some excellent productions. We happened on the 1937 "Prince and the Pauper" with Errol Flynn on a rainy Saturday this past fall. And I'm still hoping to happen on the 1940 edition of "Pride and Prejudice" with Greer Garson and Laurence Olivier. And catching Katherine Hepburn as fo in "Little Women" (June Allyson was in the later remake) and Errol Flynn as Robin Hood is worth the effort of scanning the movie lists at the beginning of each week.

If the animated versions of such classic works as Ivanhoe, All Baba and the Forty Thieves, etc. turn you off as they do me don't deprive the kids of the exposure. In this modern age when there is such competition for their spare time it may be the only opportunity they'll ever get to become acquainted with the beloved stories of yore.

The Church 1976 Fr Andrew Greeley

The great Detroit tent show was an act of oppression, an exercise in phoniness; and a disgrace to the American Catholic democratic tradition. It was a sort of event which led to the American Revolution 200 years ago. Catholicism in the United States celebrated the Bicentennial by repeating the kind of oppression which caused the founders of our country to revolt from England—without any sense of the irony of such a celebration of liberty.

Harsh: words? OK, so they are harsh: They also happen to be true.

Consider The American Catholic population was taxed through its sunday contributions to pay for the Detroit meetings, it was not represented there. A number of people claiming to speak for the Catholic population—but without any electoral mandates to validate such a claim—laid-out a program for social action for five years, for which presumably the Catholic population is going to be taxed again.

In the strictest sense of the word, this is taxation without representation. Worse, it is taxation, with phony representation. If that is not oppression, then the word has lost all its meaning

The issue is not whether the program is good or bad (my feeling is that it is nauseatingly amateurish), not whether the participants were in good faith (sure they were, but so were king George and Lord North) the issue rather is whether the Detroit meeting was representative of anyone and the answer is that it was not

Nor was the so-called "survey" of Catholics in fact a survey. It was a scientifically worthless self-validation by a little clique of amateur ideologues who can the meeting—put together in the same way that. "Literary Digest" predicted the election of Alf Landon in 1936 (he-carried Maine and Vermont for those of you too young to remember).

Why were Cardinal Dearden and the clique who ran the meeting (much smaller, incidentally than the committee which was supposed to be in charge) atraid to have a real representative meeting? Why were they afraid to let American Catholics elect their own

BLUE ARMY VIGIL

The Blue Army's First Saturday vigil in reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will begin at 9 p.m. Dec. 3 in Holy Rosary Church, with Mass celebrated by Msgr. Richard Burns. Msgr. John M. Duffy will lead the prayers and meditations from 10 until 11, and Father Francis Vogt, from 11 until midnight. The 6 a.m. Mass will be celebrated by Father Robert Meng, pastor of the Lexington Avenue Church. All are invited.

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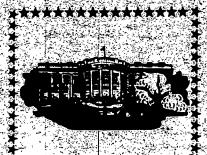
MON: through Fri. & Sat. Nites 9:30-1:30

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representatives? Why were they afraid to do scientifically valid research to find out what ordinary Catholics really think? Why the phoniness of a three-ring circus which actually spoke; at most, only for those who were there? I am not sure I know the answer to these questions, but I do know that the meeting will do nothing to help the leadership of the America church recapture the credibility which it has lost. The ordinary laity are not the fools which the organizers of the Detroit meeting think they are.

I am disappointed with the bishops, many of them—some closely connected with the meeting—told me "off the record" that I had been right all along about the bicentennial program and that it was a disaster; but they had to go along with it I am weary of bishops telling me one thing off the record and doing something different on the record — though I guess I can understand the reasons why they have to The American hierarchy has changed dramatically for the better in the recent months and years. It is time that the grass-roots bishops reassert their control over what goes on in the church and use that control so that authentic representative institutions—thoroughly American like John England's pastoral Council established in 1827 — replace the self-appointed, self-anointed, messianic cults which claim to speak for the rest of us. They can begin by making clear that the so-called Detroit "mandate" was no mandate at all, but a fraud.



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