



### TV Realignment

Meredith Baxter Birney and her husband David Birney, who co-starred in the comedy series "Bridget Loves Bernie" a decade ago, each will have new NBC series this fall. Meredith stars with Michael Gross as a former 60s radical whose trials and tribulations with their more conservative children lead to comic situations in "Family Ties." David and Cynthia Sikes play staff doctors at St. Eligius, a large old hospital in a deteriorating section of Boston, in the comedy-drama, "St. Elsewhere." (NC photos)

## TV Programs of Note

By Henry Herx

New York (NC) — A tourist's view of the cultural differences between East and West is provided by "Peking Encounter," the one-hour prime-time drama airing nationally over the Liberty Mutual network of 100 stations this week.

Filmed entirely in the People's Republic of China, the story follows an American tour group's visit to the Chinese capital. This affords many striking views of Peking's bustling thoroughfares, quiet suburbs and the imperial precincts of the old Forbidden City, as well as a side excursion to sample the monumental scale of the Great Wall.

The American production, however, is less interested in sight-seeing than exploring the quality of life in the New China. To accomplish this the script cuts a number of dramatic corners, primarily by contriving an instant romance between one of the tourists (Diana Canova) and a young man (Shi Yong) kind enough to give her a lift by bicycle after she misses the hotel bus.

Actually, the romantic attraction is mainly in Ms. Canova's imagination as the young man does everything short of outright rudeness in trying to discourage her interest. He is the conductor of a student orchestra, an idealist dedicated to his art and his people, and he has no time for dalliance with a passing stranger.

What he does have time for, however, is answering her questions about his country and taking her to meet some of his relatives. This is no ideological courtship, however, because he, too, has questions about the West, especially about its popular music. Keeping matters from getting too serious are Ms. Canova's fellow travellers, June Lockhart and Mason Adams, both real assets to the film.

Directed by veteran E.W. Swackhamer from a script by Cecile Tang and Timothy Burns, this brief encounter in Peking shows a society in tension between the old and the new, between responding to present priorities — China must provide for a quarter of the world's population — while preserving older values, such as the honor due old age

(a point beautifully made in the film's concluding scene).

By treating the Chinese in positive and uncritical fashion on the level of individuals rather than as citizens of a competing political system, the film does promote cultural understanding between our two peoples. Such exchanges are all the more important as our diplomatic relations become increasingly strained.

Friday, Aug. 27, 9-10 p.m. (PBS) "Voices of a Divided City." Residents of Boston's all-white Charleston and predominantly black Roxbury neighborhoods were invited to a screening of a film shot in both communities and the resulting discussion highlights the problems of racial relationships in contemporary urban America.

Saturday, Aug. 28, 8-11 p.m. (PBS) "La Boheme: Pavarotti in Philadelphia." The winners of an international competition join Luciano Pavarotti and the Philadelphia Opera Company in a new production of Puccini's tragic "La Boheme," staged by Gian Carlo Menotti and conducted by Oliviero de Fabritiis.

## Movies in Brief

"Barbarosa" (Universal) — Country-western singer Willie Nelson does very well in the role of Barbarosa, a grizzled outlaw who is an unwilling participant in a 30-year-old feud with an aristocratic Mexican family he married into. The patriarch (Gilbert Roland) keeps sending out young men to kill him, and Barbarosa, with increasing regret over the years, keeps killing these knights errant bent on avenging family honor. The outlaw happens to save the life of a cloddish young farmer (Gary Busey) who, by coincidence, happens to be on the run from a feud itself. The two become friends, have various adventures, and at the fadeout, the mantle of Barbarosa falls

upon the shoulders of the once callow youth while a chorus of peasants, whose main occupation throughout the film has been to chant "Barbarosa, Barbarosa" for Nelson, lays it on really heavily for Busey. William D. Wittliff's script is only mediocre and the film is of interest mainly for Nelson's fine performance and because it is the American debut of talented Australian director Frank Schepisi ("The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith"). Because the inevitable violence is rather restrained, the U.S. Catholic Conference has classified it A II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance.

"Night Shift" (Ladd Co.-Warner Bros.) Henry Winkler and Michael Keaton, the entire night crew at the New York City morgue, turn the place into a call girl service. The situation allows for little but smirks and the few laughs are sight gags mainly about what passes for life in Fun City. Winkler again strikes out in trying to make the transition from TV sitcom to the big screen, but Keaton shows promise in his role as a frenetic zany. The heavy-handed direction is by Ron Howard, another TV sitcom alumnus. Because of the film's theme and nudity, the U.S. Catholic Conference has classified it G — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

## Book Review

Law and Bioethics: Texts with Commentary on Major U.S. Court Decisions, edited by Thomas A. Shannon and Jo Ann Manfra. Paulist Press (New York, 1982). 362 pp., \$14.95.

By Catherine Ambrosiana Fisher

NC News Service

This useful collection brings together 21 significant legal decisions in the area of bioethics. There are seven sections which cover abortion, death and dying, medical transplant and involuntary institutionalization, disclosure and informed consent, non-disclosure and confidentiality, organ transplantation and genetics.

Each section begins with two brief commentaries, one by each of the editors. Jo Ann Manfra, a historian now practicing law, highlights the legal reasoning and issues involved in each case. Thomas Shannon, a professor of both social and medical ethics, speaks to the ethical questions posed in them. It is a combination that works very well, and one may wish, at times, for a more extensive discussion.

The cases chosen make it apparent that the courts are exercising a critical influence over medical practice in areas which have profound ethical implications. While the decisions in each case reflect the courts' sensitivity to bioethical concerns, serious social policy questions are also raised: Are the courts reflecting the attitude of the public? Are the courts forming public policy? Should they do so? Is public policy being formed anywhere else? Ought it to be?

It is obvious that these questions

and their answers are important to each person in this society. The quality of our society's treatment of such paramount questions affects us all. We are all diminished if we fail to live up to the essential calling of a civilized society: to care for the life of each member of that society.

In the Sakikewicz decision the Supreme Court quotes the following passage from an essay by Chief Justice Warren Burger: "The law always lags behind the most advanced thinking in every area. It must wait until the theologians and the moral leaders and events have created some common ground, some consensus."

Every person in our society needs to face the issues raised in this book to be able to contribute to that moral consensus which Burger said the courts need in making difficult decisions. The courts deserve the benefit of the thinking of morally sensitive citizens of all backgrounds as well as that of the legal and medical communities in reaching decisions in the complex and often new areas of bioethics.

This volume will help the reader to appreciate the type of decisions which such cases call upon the courts to make and to see the reasoning process which the courts apply in making them. It will be especially helpful to people who are neither professionals in law nor in ethics, because it would be difficult for them to compile cases which are as timely and provocative as those presented in this book.

(Mrs. Fisher is an attorney at the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington. She has a master's degree in social ethics.)

**BUCKMAN DAIRY**

**THE BEST ICE CREAM IN TOWN**

**REPEAT of a SELL-OUT!**  
Due to the tremendous response of our last sale, we're doing it again! Don't miss this one!

**Ice Cream SALE**

Buckman's old fashioned Ice Cream

Reg. \$3.45

**ALL FLAVORS**

**\$1.99** 1/2 gal.

• **HOMEMADE** daily on the premises

Sale starts Tues., Aug. 24 through Saturday, Aug. 28.  
Limit 4, 1/2 gal. per person.

**Buckman's**  
"A good name in Rochester since 1914"

**2576 Ridge Rd. West**  
at Long Pond Rd.

**225-7720** Open Daily 6 am-11 pm

**OPEN 7 DAYS** **Ample Parking**