

TV CANDIDS

by Terrence O'Flaherty

The "isolation booth" now has a bubble to keep it company in retirement.

The new television season has had its first death in the family. It is (or I should say WAS—they removed it so quickly) a pretentious quiz show titled "100 Grand" wherein the contestants were encased in a giant plastic bubble.

After two tries, the bubble burst and ABC yanked it off the air. The cause of death not only was a small audience, it also was a terrible show. To my knowledge, never have more uninteresting amateur contestants been assembled in a single half hour program.

The network paid out a paltry \$20,000 in cash and \$5,000 in Savings Bonds. The cost of the plastic bubble is undetermined, but it has been suggested that everyone connected with the show be encased with its shining interior and dropped into the East River.

Removal of "100 Grand" from the boards might be considered the death knell for the big money quiz. I doubt if it will be tried again for some time.

The success of the "\$64,000 Question" and "The \$64,000 Challenge" was based on the size of the jackpot and the personalities of the the contest, whether honest or dishonest—and I have never known of any of them being entirely cleared.

The money is now old-hat to viewers who know that Elizabeth Taylor got \$250,000 for her tour of London. When the personalities—albeit honest—were dull "100 Grand" folded at the starting date.

The replacement is "Laughs for Sale," with Hal March, whose biggest success was on "The \$64,000 Question." He moderates a panel of four successful comedians, each of whom does a skit using the material of a new comedy writer. The winner is asked to write a skit for the next week's show. The program was first auditioned for sale to ABC last March.

I would guess the show's chances are slim. I was under the impression that all the amateur comedy writers in America were employed full time turning out scripts for "Harry's Girls," "The Joey Bishop Show," "The Farmer's Daughter," etc. Where will "Laughs for Sale" get its writers?

The Richard Boone series is a major effort to bring adult drama to the TV audience and there has been some fear that it may therefore suffer from small audiences—particularly because it is up against a big, splashy ABC series, "The Greatest Show on Earth."

When I spoke with Stanley Colbert, the lively producer of "Greatest Show on Earth," he made this comment on the rivalry:

"I wish Boone all the luck in the world. It's my kind of show and I would like to see it succeed. But I wish it weren't up against me because I think my show will win out. I don't mean that the Boone show will be bad, but I just don't think they can knock us off. My repertory is made up of chimps, tigers, elephants, and lions. Unfortunately for Boone they have more audience appeal than adult drama.

"Boone was undoubtedly wearying of playing Paladin in 'Have Gun Will Travel' and now he comes in as an entrepreneur doing everything from starring to producing. Very few actors can bridge the gap successfully. I suspect he will become disillusioned and the network will complain that he's not in enough shows and the series will collapse."

Fortunately for Boone, this prophecy not only has not come true, but I suspect that "The greatest Show on Earth" may be the one to suffer. Animals may not be the best repertory company after all—particularly when Boone and Co. have the best stories.

Retarded Children's Week Proclaimed by Mayor Isen

November 18 to 25 has been proclaimed "Retarded Children's Week" by Mayor Albert Isen. Isen issued the proclamation in conjunction with National Retarded Children's week.

"Retarded Children can be Helped" is the slogan for the National Assn. for Retarded Children campaign throughout the southwest area during November. Five benefits have been planned for the group.

A pancake breakfast at Nativity Catholic Church will end the drive on Dec. 1. The London Society will hold a dance on Nov. 30 with proceeds going to the local chapter.

Information regarding the Retarded Children's Assn. speaker program can be obtained from Mrs. Dean Thurman, P. O. Box 494, Torrance. The group provides speakers for clubs and other civic groups.

Junior Colleges Look To Future at Meeting

Dr. Stuart Marsee, president of El Camino College, and Jack Dabs of Torrance, a member of the El Camino Board of Trustees, recently headed a seven-men delegation to the California Junior College Assn. convention in San Diego.

The California Junior College Assn. is composed of presidents, faculty members, and trustees of the 70 junior colleges in the state.

Other El Camino representatives included Mrs. Grace Ed-

wards, president of the ECC Assn.; H. M. Maddaford, student activities advisor and chairman of the association's committee on student government; Lee Swanson, co-ordinator of research; Charles Lindahl, an administrative intern; and Dr. Jack Martin, executive secretary of the association's southwest region.

THE CONFERENCE was attended by more than 400 delegates.

Among the speakers which the group heard were Dr. Glenn S. Dumke, chancellor of the California State Colleges, and Assemblyman John R. Mills of San Diego.

Devoted to "Major Issues Facing California Junior Colleges," the conference was divided into seminars, work sessions, and general sessions. The recent legislative session was reviewed in detail, and members of the College of San Mateo presented a panel dis-

ussion of academic senates in the junior colleges.

Ben M. Scott of Harbor City, a member of the State Board of Education, urged the colleges to give greater attention to vocational training. Scott said he was proud of the community colleges as developed in California, but cited a need for more emphasis on occupational guidance for students who enter vocational-technical courses.

MANY OF the delegates discussed the question of the junior college role as higher institutions or part of the secondary education system. The colleges are legally defined as both, but Dr. Ronald W. Cox, associate state superintendent of public instruction, declared the question is not important. "It is not your name, but what you do that determines your status," declared Cox.

During the final session, the delegates previewed a new film

"The California Junior College Story" The film was a cooperative venture between the Standard Oil Co. and the Junior College Assn.

Tim May Wins Role In Thornton Drama

Tim May, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. W. May, 5622 Maria Linda St., has been cast in the role of Tommy in the Pacific University Theatre production of "Infancy" by Thornton Wilder.

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