

# Entertainment Outlook

## Soft sell in religious TV



By BOB SPENCE  
Thomson News

You may hear some warnings about fire and brimstone, but Canada's first religious television network will not be a Canadian version of American TV evangelism.

Newly licensed Vision Television - a cable network created by a consortium of mainline churches and minority faith groups - does have a message to deliver.

"It will be a values-based message," said Rev. Randy Naylor, general secretary of the United Church's division of communications and vice-chairman of Vision TV.

Network programs will range from a daily newscast to dramas to documentaries, Mr. Naylor said in an interview. These programs, some of which will be purchased from Europe, will emphasize such things as family relationships and an individual's responsibility to his community.

There will be two types of programs: cornerstone (network) and generic (produced by any of the 14 faiths or denominations involved in the consortium).

The interfaith network plans to be on the air by next fall, with at least three hours of programming each day.

The five-year licence, granted by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunication Commission, calls for a 50/50 balance between cornerstone and generic programming.

The cornerstone programs will be paid for with the money the consortium members pay for airtime for the generic programs, said Mr. Naylor.

A typical day on this cable network would include: a 30-minute newscast (a reflection on the news, rather than a news report), another hour of network programming and three half-hour shows produced by three members of the consortium.

Consortium members decided to set Vision TV up as a charitable non-profit organization from which they would buy airtime, rather than as a company they would own.

Vision TV was created "to give Canada's faith community an opportunity to express their views in one of the most influential mediums of the day," said Mr. Naylor.

The interfaith network will operate under a special code of ethics it has adopted.

"You can state your own views...but you can not attack someone else's position," said Mr. Naylor.

What do you give Superman for a birthday present?

The Man of Steel turns 50 on Feb. 29.

Birthday festivities include an exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, a CBS-TV special and a new book (Superman: Man of Steel) that includes the first six comics in a series which retells the story of Superman's genesis.

Now, that birthday gift. How about a portable, folding phonebooth that pops open at the touch of a button?

There won't be any Gotham City crime fighters when the bat cave comes to Toronto on Jan. 16.

The bat cave exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum, though, will include 3,000 handmade bats.

The exhibit recreates the shape, texture and ecology of the two-mile-long St. Clair Cave in Jamaica - the home of millions of bats. The ROM's bats are made of vinyl and wax, modelled after specimens collected during a 1984 expedition to Jamaica.

Bats "fly" through the air during the 15-minute computerized audio and light tour of the cave.

Middle-aged baby boomers are the target of a new magazine.

Memories, The Magazine of Then and Now, is gambling on nostalgia.

About 350,000 copies of Memories go on sale in the U.S. Jan. 12 in a one-shot experiment. If successful, the magazine will be produced at least quarterly and the publishers would likely then start thinking about potential customers in

Canada. The first issue includes stories on why Jane Wyman left Ronald Reagan; Elvis Presley's experience in the army and what might have happened if John F. Kennedy had not died.

Canadians, of course, may not be that interested in a magazine that carries stories on what happened many moons ago. We already have magazines that accomplish this feat - thanks to our postal service.

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## Is it one Moore — or two?

By Dick Kleiner

Dear Dick: This has bothered me for years. Is Dickie Moore the same as grown-up Roger Moore? The last I remember Dickie Moore was as a pickpocket, maybe in "A Tale of Two Cities" with a character named Fagin. I'm almost sure Dickie Moore played in "Our Gang," too. — J.D.C., Hollywood, Fla.

Dear J.D.C.: You have everything a little twisted. In the first place, Dickie Moore didn't grow up to be Roger Moore. They are two different guys. Secondly, the movie Dickie made, with Fagin, was "Oliver Twist." Thirdly, he was never in "Our Gang." He was a big child star in the 1930s, however. He is 63 now, and the last credit I have for him was in "Member of the Wedding" in 1952.



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