

32—POST-GAZETTE, Mon., Nov. 13, 1978



Win Fanning

Late last Wednesday I got, for the first time, at least an inkling of what it means to be "canceled." Set to run in Thursday's paper was a long interview with Charlotte Schiff Jones, producer of the "People" series, in which she enthusiastically discussed not only the show, but particularly expressed her excitement about the new Saturday night, 8:30 time period, where it was to air last week.

How It Feels To Be Canceled

man—"a very, very rare look at Hoffman"—Kris Kristofferson, Muhammad Ali and Dennis and Marie Osmond, among others. We had also talked about her being the only woman producer of a "People" series, since Liz Bohla's "W.E.B." was said, and about the special problems of being a woman executive in a man's world. "You have to keep your sense of humor, or you'd go mad," she said.

That was last Monday. On Wednesday Miss Jones needed all the sense of humor she could muster. CBS announced that "People" had been canceled, effective immediately. As I got a call from CBS just in time to kill the story—but not in time to write another column for Thursday—I felt utterly "canceled"—"canceled" as so to speak.

How I wondered, did Miss Jones get the news? And how was she taking it? Inviting myself to the wake, I gave her a call the next day.

"One of the programming executives called me at home yesterday morning to tell me that there was a big meeting going on, and to alert me that there was possibly going to be bad news—which was thoughtful of him. He's been very nice—and he didn't wash me to get it cold (because) it didn't look hopeful.

"I asked him why and went into the whole thing, including my arguments as to why I thought it was a mistake and so on... They have their problems and I'm not about to second-guess them. But I didn't understand pulling it Saturday night... I don't know why they didn't have just postponed it—as they did "WREP"—if they felt they needed a sure thing ("Alice") in that time slot because of the sweeps.

"Then about noon I had a call from the West Coast, and they told me the bad news personally. I thought it was a mistake, but they've been producing and they've been civilized about it—both when they supported it and when they stopped supporting it.

"I know they liked the show. They said they just very hard about it. But they have their own problems, so they're doing what they think is best for them.

"Yet they had moved us all over the place and then canceled on us on the basis of performance, when nobody knew where we were. But that's the nature of this crazy business.

"I think it's their loss. I think the show needed building. I just "The Incredible Hulk." It was that kind of a show. It's different. It's breaking all the rules. It's a format show.

"Continuing in the present tense—as if the program were still on—Miss Jones said: "It's a new, non-fiction entertainment, which has never made it in prime time. So, if you're going to do it, you've got to back it up with it, to build back in a good time slot, and promote the hell out of it."

The producer said she thought her staff—about 40 people—is "the best group that's ever been assembled to do anything, ever," on TV. "It's been a wonderful experience. We all feel that way."

What next? "Well, this is Time, Inc. not every day show biz, so it's not just, well, everybody, goodbye. The show's gone, everybody out," Miss Jones said. "You know we don't do that. So it's my concern right now to see that everybody's taken care of."

As for her own plans, she said, "Well, I'm with Time, you know they was assistant publisher of People magazine, and they've told me to take a sabbatical and decide what I'll do next."

Bill Moyers' return to public TV is marked tonight by a half-hour interview with President Carter, beginning at 9 o'clock. This is the first time a president of the United States has appeared in a one-on-one interview on the public network.

The program will be taped early today at the White House. It is a special edition of the revived "Bill Moyers Journal," which begins its weekly run in February.

This will be Carter's second interview with Moyers, the first having taken place in April, 1976, when the president was still just another presidential aspirant. That interview was a George Foster Peabody award for "conspicuous service in broadcasting."

Movies on TV

"Nose" (12) "The Brave Bulls" (1951) Mexico's top matador regains faith in himself and enters the bull ring after a period of self-loathing. Hal Ferrer, Anthony Quinn (2 hrs.)

11:30 a.m. (3) "Our Man Flint" (1961) Super-sleuth has his work cut out for him when he is assigned to stop a sinister organization which plans to take over the world by controlling the weather. James Coburn, Lee J. Cobb, 1 1/2 hrs. (2) "A Star Is Born" (1955) A young actress reaches stardom, but her personal life is plagued with troubles. Judy Garland, James Mason, 2 hrs. (40 min.)

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The Fight for Food. A hand holding a bunch of wheat stalks. Text: 'WHEN I THINK OF THE STUFF WE GET FOR THE PRICE WE SHOULD WE GET IN THIS SHOW, FROM THE JOB FARMER TO THE GROWER OF IT'.

Holiday House. NOW THRU NOV. 18 PHYLLIS DILLER Also MIKE TULLER. BOOK YOUR BANQUET NOW! CALL FOR SPECIAL DISCOUNTED RATES. NOVEMBER 19-25 JAY JOHNSON "Soup". NOV. 24-DEC. 2 GUY LOMBARDO'S ROYAL CANADIANS. DEC. 4-17 HUDSON BROTHERS Stars of TV's "SCHNEEDS". DEC. 18-31 VIC GENRE & STONE MANSION.

OVER EASY 55 and into your gain peetime. It's EASY when you tune into HUGH DOWNS and TV's most interesting guests! OVER EASY—television's only daily news magazine series about aging—with celebrities, information, features and entertainment—now in its second year. This Week: Sen. Muriel Humphrey, Val Brynner, Sen. Edward Kennedy, Gerson Kamin, Janet Leigh.

TONIGHT (Season Premiere) and Nightly 7:30 PM WQED 13 ALSO ON CHANNEL 16/6:30 PM. Includes a photo of a man and text: 'TONIGHT (Season Premiere) and Nightly 7:30 PM WQED 13 ALSO ON CHANNEL 16/6:30 PM'.

BULLETIN...

from the Allegheny County Bar Association

Donald L. Very, President

Recently we ran an advertisement in this newspaper suggesting that you, the citizens of Allegheny County, and we, The Allegheny County Bar Association, get to know each other better.

We have made great strides in that direction. More than 1,200 people responded to our ad, requesting information and giving us some very valuable suggestions. We had a well attended community meeting where representatives from The Allegheny County Bar Association met with various community leaders from religious, social, labor and citizen groups to receive comments, questions and suggestions on giving you, the citizens of Allegheny County, better legal representation. We'd like to hear from more of you.

WOULD YOU LIKE INFORMATION ON:

- When You Need A Lawyer And How To Find One: This four page pamphlet outlines the most common situations where professional legal advice is needed, and gives information on the Lawyer Referral Service of Allegheny County.
What To Do In Case Of An Automobile Accident: An invaluable resource for the glove compartment of your car to help you form a plan of action you should be taking in the event of an automobile accident as either a driver, passenger, or as a witness. This pamphlet includes an Accident Information Form for recording important information about an accident.
Family Law Problems: This pamphlet offers questions and answers on common family-related legal problems including marriage, divorce, annulments, temporary orders on alimony, support, and custody and adoption.
Parent-Child Responsibility: Many areas of the law touch upon the parent-child relationship. This pamphlet outlines some of the common legal rules which apply to questions of custody, support and parental responsibility for the debts and misconduct of children.
Do You Need A Will?: Here are answers to some of the most common questions on the importance of making your will, including what happens when you don't make a will.
Death And Taxes: Find out what transfer of property and money are subject to Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax and Federal Estate Tax. Who pays the taxes and when are they due? Notwithstanding the old adage about death and taxes, inheritance taxes are not necessarily inevitable.
So You're Going To Buy A Home: A pamphlet with questions and answers for the prospective home owner when you are moving about making probably the biggest single investment of your life.
Speakers Bureau Brochure: A list of more than 50 timely subjects available to your group, class or other organization free of charge from The Allegheny County Bar Association Speakers Bureau.
Tips To Prospective Law Students: Interested in a legal career? Here is the information you need about the nature of the profession, the opportunities in it and preparation necessary.
Handbook For Jurors: This information-packed pamphlet is designed to help you understand the procedure in the Courts of Common Pleas, and to help jurors do their part as jurors.
How Do Lawyers Charge?: Are there such things as "set" fees? Are fees negotiable? What is a retainer? This booklet answers the most common questions about legal charges.
Your Family Lawyer: Practical advice on why you need a family lawyer. When should you seek his advice? This pamphlet outlines the most common situations where legal help is advisable.
Your Courts: Pennsylvania Courts and United States Courts. A pamphlet on the Courts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Federal Courts of the United States explaining what the different courts do, how judges and district magistrates are chosen and other facts.
Your Lawyer-What He Means To You: An informative pamphlet covering common situations where an attorney can be of assistance to you, how should you choose a lawyer, and many other areas to help you, the hope consumer, understand the role of the law and lawyers.

DO YOU NEED A LAWYER? If you need or think you might need a lawyer, why not mark the appropriate block below and information will be sent up to you about that Lawyer Referral Service. For a fee just \$12.00, you can consult with a lawyer about your problems for up to one-half hour.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED? If you want to serve on a community group to work with the Bar Association to improve your community, let us know on the form below. Such a group is being formed.

HAVE YOU ANY COMMENTS, GRIPES OR SUGGESTIONS? We welcome them. Let us hear from you on the form below.

Cordially, Donald L. Very, President

To: Allegheny County Bar Association, 220 City-County Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Please send the following: [ ] "When You Need A Lawyer And How To Find One" [ ] "Death and Taxes" [ ] "Tips to Prospective Law Students" [ ] "Handbook for Jurors" [ ] "How Do Lawyers Charge?" [ ] "Your Family Lawyer" [ ] "So You're Going to Buy a Home" [ ] "Your Courts" [ ] "What He Means to You" [ ] "Parent-Child Responsibility" [ ] "Your Lawyer-What He Means to You" [ ] "What To Do in Case of An Automobile Accident" [ ] "Speakers Bureau" brochure [ ] need a lawyer but don't know one. Please send information. [ ] want to improve our community. I will serve on a community group with the Bar Association.