

## 'Curmudgeon At Large'

# He's an old pussy cat

By CAROL MAHONEY

Cleveland Amory, an expert on endangered species, was introduced to yet another endangered species last week when he was the guest speaker at the Troy Town Hall.

According to Anna Mae Burd, of the Troy School District, the series, which is facing financial difficulties, will not see another season if the sale of season tickets for this year's series does not pick up.

Amory, a master of tongue-in-cheek delivery, treated his listeners at the San Marino Club to an autobiographical sketch, some humorous observations on our times, and a thought-provoking look at the mistreatment of animals.

Until the past year, Amory, who bills himself "The Curmudgeon At Large," was the chief critic at TV Guide magazine. During his remarks he observed that television has gone downhill. He dismissed what he called "the idiotic ratings," which determine what shows make it and which ones are canceled.

"Usually, the shows you liked were replaced with something that not only wasn't any better, it wasn't as good. Each one is just one step worse than the one before."

His all-time least favorite television show, Amory confided, was "Queen For A Day." He described the show as one where women contestants were encouraged to concoct the most "miserable story" they could think of.

The sagas, he said, usually included a runaway husband, incorrigible children, financial ruin, and terminal illnesses. Nonetheless, he said, contestants were urged "to keep it light" while they recited their list of woes for prizes.

WITH THESE REMARKS Amory was off and running with his own list of things and persons worthy of verbal badinage.

Harold Robbins, whose novels have been dramatized on television, "is a writer in the sense that Woody Woodpecker is a carpenter," Amory declared.

Concerning television soap operas, Amory said, "Men have a long way. We get equal pay, get to make minor decisions around the house, but we are not emotionally equipped to watch soap operas."

He told his amused listeners what to do should husbands start watching one of these shows. "It's your duty to sit beside him. He will have questions and you can give him the answers."

However, he deems public television worthy of praise. "Masterpiece Theater" and "Upstairs Downstairs" proved what could be done with TV drama. The virtue of the latter series was that it did not try to stay on the air as long as possible.

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Amory couldn't resist mischievously tweaking the noses of his predominantly female audience. His opinion of women in sports, particularly boxing, led him to "Let me ask you simply. Do you want your brother to marry one?"

Children, Amory said, "should be seen and not heard. We may have to have them on TV, but there's no place for them on radio."

IN A MORE serious vein, he answered a mother concerned with what television offers her children. "You can be there and at a certain point you have to turn it off," he said firmly.

Author of "The Proper Bostonians," "The Last Resorts," and "Who Killed Society," his latest book is titled "The Trouble With Nowadays." He describes it as "the most satirical I have ever written."

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intervention of activists on behalf of mistreated animals.

Members of the Fund For Animals, who painted more than 1,000 baby seals with organic dye last year, will stand trial in Canada in November. They painted the seals, he explained, to protect them from being slaughtered by hunters seeking their skins.

"These kids face a \$5,000 fine for painting a seal, a \$5,000 fine for being within a nautical mile of a seal and not killing it, and a \$200 fine for resisting arrest. Ironically, all these charges have been brought under the Seal Protection Act."

He not only supports the defendants in the case, but will be present for the trial.

BECAUSE "no one ever made a living out of Fund For Animals," Amory uses income from radio, books, and lectures to help finance his involvement with the group.

He became involved initially, he said, after watching a bull fight in Mexico almost 20 years ago.

"It changed my life. I joined every anti-cruelty society there was."

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For years he was the irascible critic for TV Guide, but today Cleveland Amory is saving his wrath for adversaries of his Fund For Animals. Behind his verbal badinage there is a good deal of common sense. (Staff photo by Dwight Cendrowski)

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## Botsford osteopath wins national award

Robert I. Boorstein, D.O., of Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, won the first award in the General Surgery Scientific Exhibit at the 52nd Annual Clinic Assembly of Osteopathic Specialists held recently in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Boorstein's exhibit, "EEA - Auto Stapling Device" was an in-depth project displaying a new stapling device used in gastrointestinal surgery.

Use of the device can save some patients from experiencing permanent

colostomy for low-lying tumors of the colon. His display illustrated the extreme versatility of the EEA Stapler, and included photographs of the new instrument being used in the Botsford operating room in several different cases.

Dr. Boorstein, who is the Chief Surgical Resident at Botsford, is in his second year of a four-year residency in general surgery training; he will complete the residency in August 1981.

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