

Pickers interrupt cult discussion

By CHERYL CHODUN

At this very moment, thousands of young adults are being brainwashed to become robots and willing slaves of various "religious cults" across the country.

This was stated by members of the League of Jewish Women's Organization who sponsored a Jan. 15 press conference in Kingsley Inn, Bloomfield Hills.

Pickers and other opponents of the religious cult deprogramming process, focal point of the conference, attempted to crash the Sunday morning session. They were more than once asked to leave by league representatives.

Deprogramming is undoing so-called mind control and brainwashing which is imposed on members, according to Joseph Alexander, who bills himself as a professional deprogrammer from Tucson, Ariz. Alexander spoke during the morning conference. He later was a panelist in the league-sponsored program "Cults—Course or Crusade" in Southfield-Lathrup High School.

The program was offered because of growing interest in off-beat religious sects which league representatives claim prey on the mind of young victims, demanding total commitment of body, mind and wealth.

THE LEAGUE is an umbrella organization for 180 religious, educational, cultural and service Jewish

women groups in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Also speaking at the press conference was Michael Trausch, former assistant district attorney of Pima County, Ariz., who said he has developed methods of obtaining legal guardianship of young adults who have been members of various cults.

"Before deprogramming can begin, young persons must be removed from the cult environment," Trausch said.

"But they must be legally removed without danger of civil or criminal court action involving the parent," Trausch claimed. "This is the only legal deprogramming group in the United States. Other deprogrammers, he said, have kidnapped young persons from these cults."

"This practice is illegal according to the first amendment which provides freedom of religious choice," Trausch said.

Deprogramming, after legal guardianship has been obtained, is usually conducted in a guarded room, takes an average of four or five days and could cost as much as \$10,000, Trausch said. The fee varies according to the family's means, he added.

Eve Eden, a 25-year-old Detroit woman deprogrammed five weeks ago, said she had spent five years with the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church in San Francisco.

"I WAS brainwashed to believe the Rev. Moon was the father and true parent to all brothers and sisters in

the group," Ms. Eden said. "They aroused my emotions and made me believe I was one of God's tools to make a better world."

Ms. Eden, who was picked up by Alexander and other members of an anti-cult group, was deprogrammed in motel rooms for four days. She said she was happy to be out of the church and spending time at Freedom Ranch, a rehabilitation center in Arizona.

Jeffrey Thal, a Birmingham youth and former member of Our Children of God, maintained his cult leaders were "out for money, power and glory."

"My major responsibility during my two years with the group was to solicit funds," Thal, now a student at Boston University, said. "Every day, I went out on the streets with other members. We preached our beliefs or said we were working with drug rehabilitation, which wasn't true. We asked for money, clothes or food."

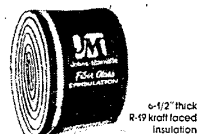
Thal said he was taught not to think because it was "carnal and ungodly." He maintained he could never again be "brainwashed" because he could now identify an attempt to control his mind.

Deprogramming advocates encouraged increased awareness and interest in the social problem of "religious cults." Group members advised young adults to understand and deal with the situation "before it's too late for them."



"It would be interesting to see cult leaders on 'To Tell the Truth,'" says Michael Trausch. "Will the real Messiah please stand up?"

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Mac Murray is 'first lady'

By AL LETRICK
TV-radio writer

On The Air

Television was once thought to be the replacement for movies. Instead, movies have tended to brighten what is sometimes an uninspired medium.

Some good movies featured on local television this week prove the point.

"Kisses for My President," a 1951 comedy, shows what might happen if a woman had been elected president. This black and white Hollywood rendition stars Polly Bergen as the president and Fred MacMurray as her "First Lady." Arlene Dahl, Edward Andrews and Eli Wallach co-star. "Although the film seems to strike a blow for equal rights, the ending may leave some liberationists fuming. The fun begins at 9 p.m. tonight on Channel 50."

Channel 2's late, late show features a young John Wayne in "In Old California." In this one, the Duke plays a young preacher from Boston who tries to search for success in the early gold-rush days of California.

"It's a good movie and worth staying awake for, if you can manage it. The movie begins at 2 a.m. Friday night (actually Saturday morning) on Channel 2."

ON SUNDAY at 1 p.m. on Channel 50, Bill Kennedy presents the family classic "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." Robert Louis Stevenson's tale of a man who succeeds in separating the good from the evil within himself. Unfortunately, evil takes the upper hand. Spencer Tracy stars, along with Ingrid Bergman and Lana Turner.

Another late movie worth the luck

of sleep turns up at 1 a.m. Sunday night (or Monday morning) on Channel 2. "The Red Pony" stars Robert Mitchum as the father of a turn-of-the-century California family who, in his kind but rough way, seeks understanding with his rebellious young son.

The movie would make for excellent family viewing, but unfortunately, the hour precludes it.

Doris Day is in fine form in the 1953 comedy "Mame Over Darling," set for 9 p.m. Monday on Channel 50. James Garner stars as her husband, who, believing his wife is dead, is about to remarry. Chuck Connors is featured as the man who spent nearly seven years with Miss Day on a desert island. And Polly Bergen is the woman left waiting at the altar when everything erupts.

Next Thursday at 1 p.m. on Channel 50, Bill Kennedy presents Marilyn Monroe and Sir Laurence Olivier in the 1957 comedy-romance "The Prince and the Showgirl."

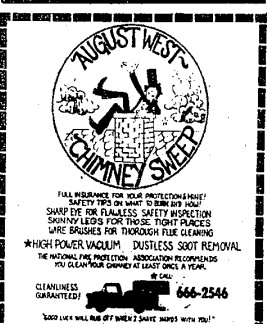
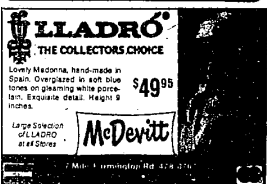
Miss Monroe is an American showgirl, appearing in London at the time of the Coronation, who is invited to a private supper by the roving-eyed Prince of Carpathia. As might be expected, the prince falls in love.



Polly Bergen for president? That's the premise of a 1954 comedy featured on Channel 50 tonight, Fred MacMurray stars as the "First Lady."

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