

About show biz, marriage

Phil Donahue talks to Marian mothers

By NANCY KASSEN
Telling numerous jokes about religion and himself, daytime TV's Phil Donahue entertained the Marian High School Mother's Club at its recent luncheon in Somerset Inn.

In a short introductory speech he complimented the hostess, Mrs. Howard Keating, mocked his own outfit and admitted, "I think everyone should have his own talk show . . . It's ego-gratifying to have your name on the screen."

Afterwards he launched a question-and-answer session which lasted nearly an hour.

The most frequently posed questions concerned the numerous political and Hollywood celebrities who have appeared on his morning talk show.

They have ranged from famous to infamous, from Martha Mitchell to Marabel Morgan, author of "Total Woman."

"YOU MENTION 'Total Woman' and you're in for an all-night conversation," he said.

The book gives sometimes controversial advice to women on marriage and how to keep their husbands happy, from the kitchen to the bedroom.

Taking some tips from Ms. Morgan he suggested more women "call your husbands at work and say 'I want your body' or meet him at the door in 'a new nightie or Saran Wrap.'"

But "there's more to it (marriage) than that," he said, adding, "It's a sad fact of life but there are some women who are really stuck (in an unhappy marriage) and vice-versa."

"Many women want to know when men are going to assume responsibility for the spark," he said. His hardest interview was with Sid Caesar.

"I was asking seven-minute questions and he was answering 'yes,' he said. Finally Donahue told Caesar, "This is not an investigation." It was the only time he has ever rebuked a guest, he said. Jack Cassidy is not as egotistical as he seems and Sammy Davis Jr. "doesn't look well," Donahue said.

MARTHA MITCHELL was "a little like interviewing a butterfly" but not hard to book "once we got past the busy signal," he quipped. The 39-year-old father of five children, Donahue was graduated from Notre Dame University.

He began his career as a summer replacement on a radio station in Cleveland, which he thought "was big stuff."

Shocked when they let him go at the end of the summer, he later made it as a TV news reporter in Dayton. He describes himself then as "a basic reporter with the shiny suits."

His news background has given him trouble handling celebrities, he said.

Zsa Zsa Gabor made him uncomfortable because she wondered why she couldn't be profane on the air but could endorse living with a man before marriage.

And he was so nervous with Bob Hope "He'd be in the middle of a joke and I'd ask 'How's Delores?'" A few persons Donahue said he would like to book on the show are Robert Redford, Paul Newman and Howard Hughes.

To interview former President Richard Nixon would be "a journalistic coup," he said.

"THE HARDEST guests to get are businessmen but two notable ones, Ralph Nader and Edward Cole, did appear."

Donahue described Nader as "a hero of mine" although "I realize this is not the best town to say that in."

Before Cole appeared he "counseled with all his peers and they all gave him the same advice but he went on anyway," Donahue said.

Men are worse on talk shows than women because they talk too much, he said.

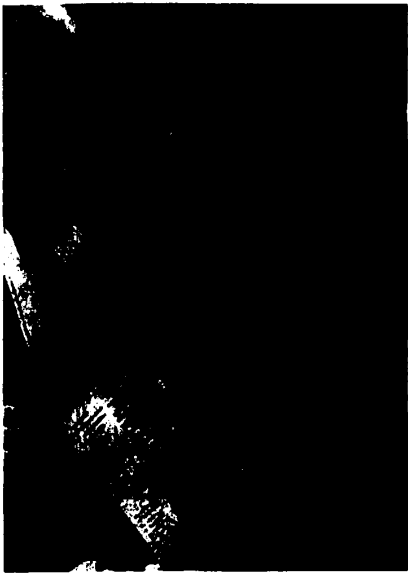
"The more you talk, the less sure

Nursery gives tour during open house

The Family Life Cooperative Nursery is holding an open house at 8 p.m. Wednesday North Congregational Church, Northwestern Highway and Lahser.

An explanation of the nursery program will be given and questions will be answered by the accredited teacher and officers for the 1975-76 school year. A tour of the nursery and its facilities will follow.

Applications for fall will be available at the open house. For information call Mrs. Richard Keier.



Phil Donahue, talk show host, recently chatted with Marian mothers (Staff photo by Douglas Bowman)

you are of your point. We can't afford a rambling speech at the start of the show."

He considers women smarter than men and said, "I think most women read more than their husbands. Men are pre-occupied with their jobs and are reading the sports page while women read the whole paper. Women are freer to consult issues."

GUESTS ARE selected by Donahue and a staff of three women and two men. "We seldom book anyone blind" and "we strive for diversification," he said.

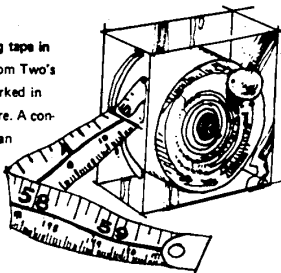
But "none can force me to work with anyone I don't want. We have a familial relationship, we agree, but I'm like the monsignor, my way is best."

Donahue said he would love to return to Detroit because he has a "built-in Nielsen rating" with his in-laws who live in the area.

There are times though "when I wonder what I am doing here," he said. And if anything has changed over the last eight years of having his own show, it's him.

"I'm asking a lot more questions today and struggling with the answers."

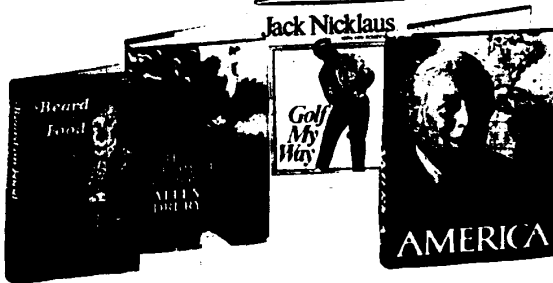
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