

# Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

The word "censored" does not rest easily on the eye. It suggests suppression, taboos and forbidden fruit. For many people it is a red flag waved in front of a bull.

Intelligent people censor themselves in one way or another every moment of the day. This personal censorship is called responsibility and it has nothing to do with the suppression of the truth. But is it going out of style in our entertainment?

The networks call their censorship departments "Continuity Acceptance." It sounds better. But as they find less continuity that is unacceptable, they are in danger of making their jobs obsolete.

HUMAN situations which were once taboo are now acceptable in films almost without restriction. On television the standards are considerably higher but are being lowered to accommodate some of the recent movies.

In the area of religion, politics and race there are almost no TV taboos left but the restrictions of taste. The Smothers Brothers complain about network interference but one session with Rowan and Martin illustrates that there are few holds barred. Next year with three more "Laugh-In" type shows on the air and at least one more Smothers Brothers variety series, the path toward total freedom has already been charted.

On her afternoon talk show, Joan Rivers has had the "hell" censored out of her vocabulary, as well as "Oh God!" — with a \$35 fine for each — but they're now allowing a "dam" or so to slip through.

THE ONE area which remains roped-off to television writers is the vocabulary of the gutter, but during the past two years this has been opened to the movies. Television will undoubtedly follow suit. The leader in this movement is Elizabeth Taylor. "There is an evident assumption that if a star of her magnitude can be gotten to speak the words, others will follow," reasons the Hollywood correspondent for Variety Magazine.

It began in 1966 in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" when Miss Taylor translated legitimate offspring, feces, and the word for a particularly personal part of a gentleman's anatomy into the streetcorner vocabulary. Last spring movies allowed the elimination of body waste (both kinds) with Miss Taylor leading the way once again.

AS ANY grammar school kid can see, the only word left for private conversation and fighting wars is the Baracks Berlitz for fornication and the necessary personal apparatus to carry it out. But that's just around the corner.

In a very short while every word in the locker room vocabulary will be ringing regularly in the ear



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## Marines Honored By Youths

Three Torrance Marines were guests of Magruder Elementary School at a Veterans Day assembly program.

Student body president Sylvia Campos, eighth grade, was mistress of ceremonies for the patriotic program.

Following a flag salute led by the Marines, students witnessed a film depicting the history and importance of the flag.

## Historian Will Speak At College

Henry Steele Commager, internationally renowned American Historian, will present a one-night lecture Monday at 8 p.m. in the St. Camino College auditorium. Commager has made numerous lectures and appearances both nationally and internationally since 1942. He currently has 20 publications to his credit, including various publications he has edited.

A professor of American history at Amherst College since 1956, Commager re-

ceived his doctoral degree from the University of Chicago in 1928, where he later taught. In 1938, he began 18 years of instruction at Columbia University, then transferred to Amherst College in Massachusetts.

Commager is noted for his discussions on such current American probabilities as peace and equality. In his most recently published article, Commager relates the inability of men who could control the great globe itself with their failure to

control themselves. General admission tickets will be available at the door for \$1.

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