Re-run season brings sleaziest sex, anti-Christian assault

A look at the season of re-runs could well reveal insight into the networks' persistent attack on traditional Judeo-Christian values. Among the old episodes selected for re-airing during the summer are the crudest and sleaziest of NBC's CHEERS, the all-time sleaze champion, and some of the most offensive anti-Christian episodes from the past couple of seasons from NBC and CBS.

ABC, on the other hand, introduced a couple of new series to compete with the worst of the worst.

P&G, Kellogg ads on NBC 'angel' series—angel curses God

The June 22 episode of NBC's HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN (a 90-minute condensation of two earlier episodes) discounts any moral absolutes and departs from truth in the depiction of heaven and God's relationship to man as defined in the Christian faith. Kent McCray produced and Michael Landon wrote the episode.

To discount moral absolutes and uphold situation ethics, the whole bizarre tale is introduced with a put-down of television evangelists in a scene totally irrelevant to the story. It includes this conversation:

MARK: I tell you, Jonathan, I don't know what's happening to religion in this country. We got one guy saying, "If you don't send me a certain amount of money by a certain time, God is gonna take me!" And we've got another guy [who] hired this high-priced attorney, trying to get his ministry back when they caught him fooling around....I betcha 'the boss' is fed up with it!

JONATHAN: Ahh, power changes people, Mark. Religion and politics—they're great places to gain that power.

M: Well, it wouldn't change me.

J: I wouldn't be so sure about it.

M: Come on, Jonathan, you know me better than that. If I had the power, I'd get people to try to do the right thing.

J: Do what's right according to whom?

M: Well, according to what I know to be right.

J: Yeah, but who are you to tell people what's good or bad, or right or wrong? What makes one person so right? You know what I mean?

M: Yeah, I guess I do....

J: Yeah, it's a little tough to have love and peace in the world when you tell people, "Believe as I believe or it's the end of your immortal soul."

Also in the teaser, Jonathan (the "angel" character who roams earth) tells Mark (his earth sidekick) he hears his dying wife calling. In a bizarre scene the youthful angel/man visits the bedside of his aged dying wife. Jonathan tells Mark, "He's [God] waiting for me now. He'll be taking me back soon."

"You mean 'the boss'?" asks Mark, bewildered.

"He wouldn't keep me down here," replies Jonathan with confidence, "not with Jane up there. I'll be able to hold her again soon."

Jonathan and Mark go to the shore for some time together before Jonathan returns to heaven. At the beach, God speaks to Jonathan through thunder and lightening, obviously telling him he has to stay on earth.

Jonathan reacts: "No, I won't! Dam--t!!" I won't!!" He soon repeats a similar tirade, again cursing God. He then turns to rebellion, is arrested for destroying a theater marquee and goes to a bar to get drunk. He goes back to the beach where he saves a beauty named Jennifer from suicide. Jennifer reminds him of his late wife Jane. He moves in with her and falls in love. When she disappears after a few months, she leaves behind a note signed, "Jane."

Advertisers included:

Chrm. William E. LaMothe, **Kellogg Company**, One Kellogg Square PO Box 3599, Battle Creek, MI 49016, All Bran Fruit & Almonds cereal, Corn Flakes cereal, Just Right cereal, Product 19 cereal.

Chrm. John G. Smale, **Procter & Gamble**, P.O. Box 599, Cincinnati, OH 45201, Citrus Hill orange juice, Crest toothpaste, Downy fabric softener, Head & Shoulders shampoo, Pepto-Bismol, Secret deodorant.

Kraft, Toyota help CBS repeat show with adulterous priest

The July 7 episode of JAKE AND THE FAT MAN on CBS centered around a priest's adultery. Tom Lazarus and Franklin Thompson wrote the story; Barry Steinberg was producer. It was a repeat.

When a blackmailer (hired by the adulterous woman's husband) produces incriminating photos, the woman and her lover, a priest, decide they must be together. He will leave the priesthood and she her marriage. Sympathies are clearly directed toward the illicit lovers.

But her jealous husband murders her and frames the hero/priest. After he is cleared of the murder, the adulterous clergyman delivers this impassioned speech to his congregation: "Today I stand before you, before God, as a priest in his holy church for the last time. I freely confess to you that I have broken my vows and sinned against God's commandment, **but not against my faith**."

His confession leaves one wondering exactly what the priest's "faith" was; obviously it was not faith in God's Commandment—he says so himself. This garbled anti-Christian rhetoric was sponsored by:

Chrm. John M. Richman, **Kraft, Inc.**, Kraft Court, Glenview, IL 60025, Breyers Ice Cream, Chiffon margarine, Miracle Whip spread, Philadelphia cream cheese, Velveeta cheese.

Pres. Yoshinori Taura, **Mazda Motors of America**, 7755 Irvine Drive, Irvine, CA 92718, Mazda automobiles.

Ford, Toyota support NBC's sex show re-runs of incest, child sex jokes

NBC's CHEERS re-runs on June 16, 23 and 30 used child sex to evoke laughs. It appears that child sex is becoming standard fare for the series, with the network selecting these old shows to re-emphasize the theme. Producers were Peter Casey, David Lee and David Angell; June 16 writer was Phoef Sutton; June 23 writers, Cheri Eichen and Bill Steinkellner; and June 30 writers, Ken Levine and David Isaacs.

The June 16 show opens with a homosexual joke, then another sex joke with Sam, the series hero, wondering, "What little mermaid would like me to scale her tail this weekend?" Sam and his boss, Rebecca, are invited to Mr. Drake's boat for the weekend. Sam takes with him Julie, whom he is trying to get into bed. Rebecca is eager to do the same to Drake; predictably, the episode winds up featuring musical beds.

Sam lends legitimacy to child sex, responding to someone else's remark: "I haven't used that 'men have urges' line since I was in the fifth grade!"

On June 23, Rebecca explains that the bartenders will have to work Christmas eve. Sam declares, "...no way am I punching the clock on one of the most sacred of family nights in the whole year!" (Sam's one concern in life is to go to bed with women, thus his real objection to working Christmas eve has nothing to do with *family*.)

"Oh, what do you have planned?" asks Rebecca. "An intimate dinner with one of your *nieces*?"

Sam turns to his co-workers and says, "She makes it sound so cheap!"

In another scene, Sam shops for a gift for Rebecca, admitting it's only in hopes of getting her into bed. He picks up a woman he meets on the street, and makes plans to go to her place for her to "model lingerie" for him.

The June 30 installment was a putrid potpourri of perversion:

Teen sex—The foul-mouthed barmaid Carla complains about breast-feeding her twins. ("I haven't had my bra off and on this much since junior high!")

Bestiality—Bartender Woody tells of dressing farm animals up in women's clothing for use at bachelor parties.

Child sex—Sam boasts, "I swear to God, my very first time [to have sex] was in sixth grade—school crossing guard!"

Stripper—the every-night boozers degrade women repeatedly as they plan and host Frazier Crane's bachelor party. At his party, Crane demands, "...where's that stripper!? Let's get Bubbles or Peaches or whatever her name is out here and have at her!" Shouts and cheers erupt as she appears and begins her routine.

Bondage—Crane refers to his fiancee Lilith getting "into" sexual bondage.

Advertising on June 16 and 23 was: Chrm. Donald E. Petersen, **Ford Motor Company**, The American Road, Dearborn, MI 48121, Ford and Lincoln automoblies. Motorcraft automotive parts.

Advertising on June 16 and 30 was : Pres. Y. Togo, **Toyota Motor Sales**, Post Office Box 2991, Torrance, CA 90509, Toyota motor vehicles.

GM, Kellogg advertise in series with hateful nun

NBC's June 24 detective series SONNY SPOON features a hateful, vindictive and generally obnoxious Mother Superior. The re-run portrays the nun as dictator and extortionist. The story, written by Stephen J. Cannell, was produced by Randall Wallace.

The nun is known as "Tough Habit" in her neighborhood. Hero Sonny Spoon calls her a "steam roller" and "Atilla the Nun." Also, her theology leaves much to be desired. In one scene she attacks Sonny for stealing from people, a crime he committed at age 10 (he's now in his thirties). This conversation occurs:

SONNY: ...I think the statute of limitations on that particular crime ran out, maybe 10 years ago.

MOTHER SUPERIOR (angrily): There is no statute of limitations in heaven!

S: Yeah, but....a forgiving Lord—He's gonna cut you a little slack!

MS (with vengeance): In heaven, there is only what is right! And we serve Him, and we do not stray, ever!!

She then promptly blackmails Sonny into searching for a child missing from her orphanage. Later, she demands that he give her money he won by cheating gamblers at their own game.

Advertisers included:

Chrm. Roger B. Smith, **General Motors Corporation**, 3044 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202, AC-Delco auto parts, Buick, Pontiac and Chevrolet automobiles, Mr. Goodwrench service.

Chrm. William E. LaMothe, **Kellogg Company**, One Kellogg Square PO Box 3599, Battle Creek, MI 49016, Crispix party mix, Eggo Waffles, Mrs. Smith's Pies, Nutri-Grain cereal, Raisin Squares cereal.

Ford, Hicks & Haas ads support NBC's policy to promote prime-time nudity

The June 3 episode of SONNY SPOON on NBC continued NBC's pioneering efforts in introducing nudity to prime-time family viewing. (Semi-nudity and/or quick, fleeting nudity have been featured during the 1987-88 season on NBC's BRONX ZOO, AMEN, A YEAR IN THE LIFE and ST. ELSEWHERE.) The creative team for this episode of SONNY SPOON included producer Randall Wallace and teleplay writers Michael Daly, Dina Price and Stephen J. Cannell.

The episode centers on a model (a high school chum of hero Sonny Spoon) who is being blackmailed by a pornographer who photographed her nude before she became a star. In Sonny's scam of the pornographer, he leaves the man trapped in a hotel room with no clothes. Then the man runs down a hall, dashing in front of the camera offering a fleeting glimpse of full frontal nudity.

After Sonny saves the beautiful model, she openly offers him sex to express her appreciation. Advertisers included:

Chrm. Donald E. Petersen, **Ford Motor Company**, The American Road, Dearborn, MI 48121, Ford motor vehicles, Lincoln Continental automobiles, Mercury automobiles, Motorcraft automotive parts.

Chrm. Thomas Hicks, **Hicks & Haas Holding Company**, 300 Crescent Court #1700, Dallas, TX 75201, Dr Pepper soft drink, Seltzerbrate salt free seltzer, 7-Up soft drink, Welch's Soft Drink.

New ABC series mixes illicit sex, psychiatry, profanity—support from Pepsi, Lever Brothers

ABC's new HOTHOUSE series debuted June 30 in a two-hour movie written by Nina Shengold and produced by Joseph B. Wallenstein. The show focused on sex at a clinic for the mentally ill. Ben (a doctor, 32) is having an affair with Marie (a doctor, 47). Art (a doctor) asks Marie to go to bed with him. Then Art and Marie discuss Lucy's (head nurse) thigh muscles and Art's homosexual anxieties. Lucy and Marie discuss Lucy's sex life. With another staff member, Lucy discusses her sexual exploits with two doctors. Get the picture?

A barrage of profanity reveals that either the characters (or the writer) have extremely limited vocabularies—more than 40 uses of profanity occur during the two hours. A touch of domestic violence occurs when the husband of a clinic patient strikes her.

The hour-long July 7 episode (also produced by Wallenstein, written by Donald Marguiles) was entitled "The Subject of Sex." And it delivers: Mark and Claudia (husband and wife) in extended bed scenes; two doctors (also married) in the shower together; Marie and Ben (the illicit-love couple) in bed together; a patient asking Marie what it's like in bed with Ben; a doctor expressing her desire to find a woman for her divorced father to have sex with; and a doctor who "smells" sex at a Jewish wedding.

Advertising on both episodes were: Chrm. D. Wayne Calloway, **PepsiCo**, Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY 10577, Diet Pepsi, Lay's potato chips, Pizza Hut restaurants, Ruffles potato chips, Taco Bell fast food.

Chrm. Gordon K.G. Stevens, **Lever Brothers**, 390 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022, Caress soap, Close-Up toothpaste, Dove soap, Lifebuoy soap, Ragu' foods, Snuggle fabric softener, Sunlight dishwashing detergent.

Citicorp, Monsanto advertise on NBC show discrediting evangelist

Without ever appearing as a character on the screen, TV evangelist Billy Bob Thomas is attacked and discredited by the "sane" and "rational" characters of NBC's LA LAW on the June 30 repeat. It was a typical network caricature of the clergy: Rev. Thomas is clearly drawn, by implication, as a fraud. Writers were Terry Louise Fisher and David E. Kelley; producer was Scott Goldstein.

A wealthy woman who retains the LA LAW law firm wills $30 million to Rev. Thomas. Pushed by her greedy, adult children, Stuart Markowitz (her enlightened and wise attorney) talks her out of giving her millions to a "pulpit thumper."

She then employs another lawyer and suddenly dies. In a bizarre scene, Markowitz and his law partners, the attorney who drew up the new will, Rev. Thomas's attorney and the children's attorney engage in a battle of verbal abuse and literal physical assaults. In addition, the "professional" lawyers hurl ugly names at each other and spew out more profanity than one would expect to hear in a barroom brawl—all in order to slander an unseen, unheard preacher.

Advertisers included: Chrm. John S.