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WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT... WALLPAPER OR THE BEST PITCHER I EVER DREW IN MY WHOLE LIFE?

Television in review

British may bring spice and vinegar to U.S. television

By Rick Du Brow UPI Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — The British, who have been having a funny year no matter how you look at it, may be bringing some of their spice and vinegar to American television.

With their satirical "Beyond the Fringe" troupe conquering Broadway, and their ribald movie "Tom Jones" sure to rock filmgoers with delight, the bland video networks here in the colonies also seem to be competing for some of the action.

On Saturday, for instance, three members of another notable satirical British group, "The Establishment," did their stuff, though modestly, on the season premiere of NBC-TV's "Exploring," which ranks with "Captain Kangaroo" as the best children's show on television.

And Sunday night, CBS-TV's Ed Sullivan scheduled a company of players from "Beyond the Fringe," and "The Establishment," along with the American comedy team of Bob and Ray, for some spoofing on his hour. He has promised that this act, titled "What's Going on Here?" will return from time to time.

The idea for "What's Going on Here?" grew out of a special half-hour television show of the same name, presented in May on a local New York station. And the New York "What's Going on Here?" was inspired by the amazing success of Britain's wildly irreverent program "That Was the Week That Was," which mercilessly satirizes current events and people.

Now comes word that NBC-TV will offer on Nov. 10 a one-hour special previewing a planned American version of "That Was the Week That Was," which has been known in television circles for some time to be a hopeful entry for next season. Probably this special is in the nature of a test.

Undoubtedly the American version would be dominated by American performers. Mike Nichols, of the team of Nichols and May, would be an occasional participant in the shenanigans as well as being a creative consultant. Leland Hayward is the executive producer.

"That Was the Week That Was" has been blue-pencilled a bit this year, according to reports from England. And unless some miracle occurs, it seems obvious that the sponsored nature of U.S. television will not allow for the latitude given the English program, which appears on the non-commercial British Broadcasting Corp.

The Channel Swim: Walt Disney offers "The Waltz King," a two-parter about the young Johann Strauss, on his NBC-TV series Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. Same network's Andy Williams has Lee Remick as a song-and-dance guest Tuesday. Art Carney visits ABC-TV's Jimmy Dean Thursday.

June Allyson appears with CBS-TV's Judy Garland Oct. 27. ABC-TV's Jerry Lewis decided against doing two shows from Las Vegas next month. CBS-TV's report on American funerals is now set for Oct. 23. Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy star on NBC-TV's Joey Bishop program Nov. 2.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman estimates the United States will save about \$200 million in storage costs by selling U.S. wheat to Russia. Freeman's estimates are based on pending Soviet purchases of between 150 to 200 million bushels, which would only make a dent in the 1.2 billion bushel U.S. surplus stockpile now stored in American granaries.

The Agriculture Department indicated today that Russia and other Communist countries might purchase as much as 250 million bushels of U.S. wheat. A weekly publication by the department's Foreign Agricultural Service said that "inquiries in recent weeks have indicated that around 250 million bushels may be involved, with the Soviet Union apparently interested in about 150 million."

Appearing on a television program Sunday, Freeman said he was convinced the sale would be advantageous to the United States by improving wheat farmer's income, reducing the U.S. balance of payments deficit and strengthening wheat prices.

He termed as "a bit ridiculous" Richard M. Nixon's criticism of the sale. Freeman implied that the unsuccessful 1960 presidential candidate was trying to use the issue to inject himself into the 1964 election campaign.

Freeman also discounted the contention of Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., that political considerations such as Russian removal of her troops from Cuba should be attached to the deal.

Such provisions, Freeman said, "would be a deterrent toward the strengthening and improving" of U.S. - Soviet relations.

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The Soviet news agency Tass said the session, opening Tuesday, will "review a number of important questions concerning economic and scientific-technical cooperation among the socialist countries."

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