Thursday, June 10, 1971

Sunday on WUNC-TV Buckley stars on 'Firing Line'



William F. Buckley

Devout Catholic William F. Buckley, Jr., confronts the leading advocate for separation of church and state, Madalyn Murray O'Hair on the third program of the new "Firing Line" series on university television, WUNC-TV, Channel 4. The show will be aired on Sunday night, June 13 at 7 p.m.

"Firing Line" is now broadcast exclusively by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Five years and 240 programs ago, William F. Buckley Jr., outspoken ideologue of the right, launched his "Firing Line" TV series by debating Michael Harrington, outspoken representative of the left.

Since then, Buckley has discussed, debafed and in some instances, debunked the ideas of a wide range of public figures.

For example, he discussed "States Rights" with writer Harry Golden; he debated "Liberal Versus Conservative Republicanism" with Senator Jacob Javits; he examined "The World of LSD" with Timothy Leary; and he even grappled with Groucho Marx over the perplexing question, "Is the World Funny?"

He faced foreign leaders like Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban, and debated the merits of women's liberation with Betty Friedan.

He talked with experts on the theater, representatives of student protest groups, with church leaders and with leading critics of the church. He debated those who would have strict censorship laws and those who would have none. This spring, a new chapter in "Firing Line" history began. There is still the same wide spectrum of guests and issues. The program still follows the same format. However, "Firing Line" is now aired solely by the Public Broadcasting Service.

The Tar Heel

On many programs in the new PBS series, Buckley will be the aggressive adversary. On others, he'll be the inquiring reporter.

He wever, Buckley often is the adversary, and debate on "Firing Line" can get pretty hot. Buckley's caustic tongue has more than once reduced a guest to unusual means of coping with the situation. And likewise, there have been guests from whom Buckley has taken more verbal abuse than he dished out.

When he discussed "War Crimes" with Ralph Schoenman, Buckley stopped the program after 40 minutes because Schoenman, according to "Firing Line" producer Warren Steibel, "literally would not let Bill talk."

When theatrical producer David Merrick appeared on the show, he said that Buckley had put together a good act, and offered him a job on Broadway. Buckley did not take the offer. And as long as there are men and women around with opinions for Buckley to challenge, he will probably keep his "act" on television.

Upcoming "Firing Line" programs feature Congressman Ronald Dellums, who will speak on "The Black Caucus," and Congressman Wilbur Mills.

Student film honored

Charles Huntley, a major in the UN Department of Radio, Television and Motion Pictures, is the winner of the John A. Spooner Memorial Award for a student-made film at UNC.

The UNC senior received \$200 from the St. Anthony Hall Educational Foundation for his film "Notes on a Progression." The award, established but not awarded last year, is presented by St. Anthony Hall fraternity in memory of the late John Spooner of Darien, Connecticut, a member of the fraternity and the Class of 1956. Thirteen films, all with sound and most at least 15 minutes in length, were entered in the contest by UNC students. According to Professor Earl Wynn of the RTVMP Department, one of the judges, "the competition was keen and the judging was difficult."

Other judges were William Hardy, associate professor in the RTVMP Department; Everett Babcock, a graduate student in the Department; and Brent Chambers and John H. Dore of St. Anthony Hall.

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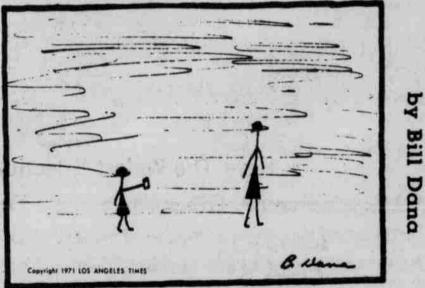
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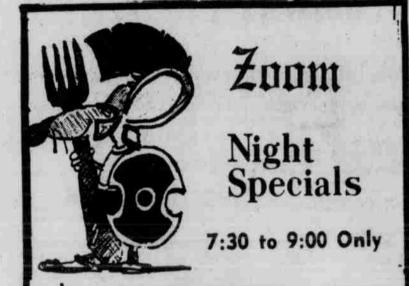
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