

PICKS & PANS

TUBE

By David Hiltbrand

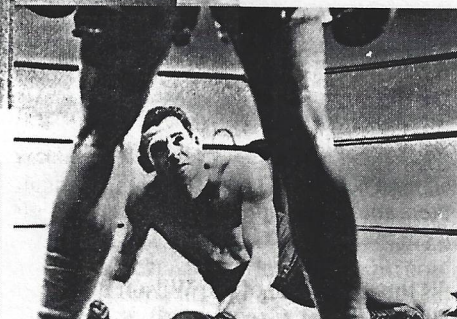
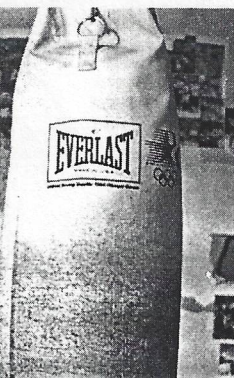
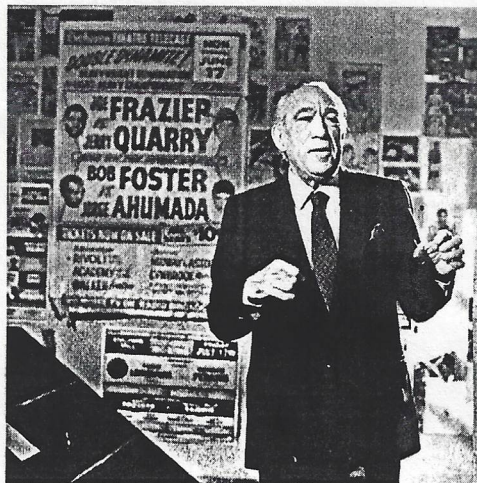
You'd think the networks were East Germany the way people have been fleeing them for other television options. Well, one network struck back this month. CBS paid a reported \$55 million to broadcast 10 films next season, including *Field of Dreams* and *Born on the Fourth of July*, before they're shown on cable. CBS's coup has to concern such pay-cable services as HBO and Showtime. After all, feature films have always been their *raison de regarder*. Cable got blindsided in the '80s by the VCR explosion. Now comes this deal. It may well be time for the cable giants to rethink their programming strategy for the '90s, such as increasing their original programming.

■ **KNOCKOUT: HOLLYWOOD'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH BOXING**
American Movie Classics. (Thurs., April 26, 8 P.M. ET)

Anthony Quinn narrates a strikingly writ-

TAPING TIPS

Two vintage collectors' items will air this week. Making the first of many comebacks in 1973, Frank Sinatra was in rare form on *Ol' Blues Eyes Is Back* (Disney, Sun., April 29, 9 P.M. ET) with guest Gene Kelly. The highlights are superb renditions of "I Get a Kick out of You" and "I've Got You Under My Skin." It's the first of 13 old Sinatra TV specials the Disney Channel will show over the next two years. The next night CBS offers *I Love Lucy: The Very First Show* (Mon., April 30, 10 P.M. ET). This is the never-before-seen 34-minute pilot for the classic sitcom with Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, fleshed out with later clips and hosted by Lucie Arnaz.



Knockout
Anthony Quinn, left, saluting such boxing films as, from top, *The Set-Up* (Robert Ryan); *On the Waterfront* (Rod Steiger); Marlon Brando; *Golden Boy* (Adolphe Menjou, William Holden)

ten appreciation of boxing movies. Scenes from *Body and Soul*, *Champion*, Quinn's own *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, *Rocky*, *Raging Bull* and other films are interspersed with actual boxing clips of Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali and others. Unfortunately there's one other ingredient: a parade of commentators making empty observations. They serve only to rope-a-dope what could have been an intriguing subject. Grade: C+

■ **THE ORCHESTRA**
PBS (Fri., April 27, 9 P.M. ET)

Noted MTV maven Zbig Rybczynski turns his high-tech video technique on classical music for *Great Performances*.

Elderly couples in somewhat formal dress engage in odd, ritualized behavior within the hedged confines of a formal garden as Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 plays. A man and a woman in their underwear pinwheel through the cavernous space inside Chartres cathedral as Schubert's "Ave Maria" wafts through. Soldiers in full ornamental uniform march about in the Louvre while a man is shaved and dressed by a valet in time to Rossini's "The Thieving Magpie" overture. In three other pieces giant snakes drift in the air, dachshunds gaze balefully at the camera and a fetish involving loaves of bread is carried on.

This is a promising concept, but Zbig's visions are too dourly mystical, in an Ingmar Bergman kind of way, to hold one's interest. Grade: C

■ **BUZZ**
MTV (Sundays, 9 P.M. ET)

MTV isn't just radio with pictures anymore. With programs like *Pirate TV* and *Unplugged*, the channel continues to grow beyond a handful of self-impressed twits introducing music videos. The newest addition is a galvanic assemblage

of obscure clips, sound bites and graphics. Even though the images fly by at hummingbird pace, there's an underlying theme in each episode, such as the transience of pop stardom or the tyranny of the female ideal. *Buzz* is one of the freshest programs on TV. Grade: B+

■ **THE STORY OF THE BEACH BOYS: SUMMER DREAMS**
ABC (Sun., April 29, 9 P.M. ET)

Shallow but entertaining, this TV movie