

Excessive Hollywood Film Violence Brings Protests

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD, May 31.—Here are some catchlines of recent movie publicity:

"A terrifying spectacle of violence! Mayhem and murder from siren scream to cell in solitary! . . . the complete unbelievable record of a savage, senseless career of crime!"

"Micky Spillane's latest Hollywood bomb!"

"The day all hell broke loose!"

"A shock story . . . of juvenile high school hoodlums!"

"The terrific impact of its kill-to-stay-alive story explodes across the motion picture screen!"

"Year's most discussed shocker!"

Judging from this display, you can see why violence in movies has become a hot problem.

HIT FROM ALL SIDES

Hollywood has been hit from all sides on this matter. Women's groups have complained about the overdose of brutality

in current films. Movie reviewers and highly influential religious groups have lodged similar protests.

Excessive violence has caused the film industry to be hit where it hurts—in the money-bags. This is because foreign countries, which are more sensitive about violence in films than the United States, have been banning some rough Hollywood movies.

British film censor Arthur T. L. Watkins warned American producers: "Anyone who prolongs scenes of violence is only doing so to titillate a small unhealthy section of the audience."

FILMS BANNED

England has banned six American films in the past 18 months on the grounds of brutality. Marlon Brando's "The Wild One" drew strong criticism there. Similarly, movies have been refused showings in the important markets of Australia, Indonesia, India and Scandinavia.

Eric Johnston, head of the Producers' Association, has

recognized the problem. He said: "We're having to reexamine the (self-censorship) code, because there is nothing in it which prohibits violence or excessive brutality. Since England has banned so many of these elements and since 45 per cent of our revenue comes from foreign countries, we've got to be careful."

OVERLOOKED IN CODE

It seems incredible that violence should have been overlooked in the code, which prohibits such diverse items as white slavery, cries of "fire," and traveling salesman jokes. Yet the only caution is that brutality "must be treated within the careful limits of good taste."

There is a historical reason for the oversight. Producers adopted the code because of the clamor of religious groups and to prevent the censorship by political groups in every city and state.

The religious groups were primarily interested in curbing matters of immorality and indecency in films. So the code was largely devoted to those matters. Violence was not considered a major problem.

Why is it so important now? Why have producers turned out so many brutal pictures?

Said one movie maker: "Because the public just won't buy family entertainment in the movies any more. They get too much of that on TV. To get them out of the house, you've got to give them shock and spectacle."

OTHER REASONS

Geoffrey Shurlock, who administers the code, offers another reason:

"Part of it is because of the decline of the program Western and costume adventure films. Hopalong Cassidy shot up dozens of people and you thought nothing of it. Nor were people up in arms because Pirates tortured the leading lady. Or when Fu Manchu menaced the star. Or when Pearl White escaped sudden death at the hands of the villain."

"But now more independent producers have turned from Westerns and adventures to modern stories. People feel an identification with a heroine who is threatened by a modern gangster, where they wouldn't if she were menaced by Fu Manchu. Because they see brutality in a present day setting, it hits them harder—and they complain."

Raft Lehi II Towed Into Mexican Port

The raft Lehi II is safe in port at Ensenada, Mexico, 60 miles south of the U.S. border, today. It was towed into the harbor yesterday by the fishing boat Santa Monica.

Larry Hall, Oakland merchant mariner who was first mate on the luckless venture that started for Hawaii on April 29, has been in San Diego for the past two weeks awaiting some definite word of the raft and was bound for Ensenada today.

The squat Lehi was found just two miles off the Baja California fishing port. It had drifted due south almost 800 miles in the 29 days since its five-man crew abandoned ship off Monterey Bay on May 2.

Al Martin, Oakland hardware store operator who is one of the raft's owners, said he had posted a \$100 reward for the finder. He had just returned early today from Ensenada and a fruitless weekend search of the sea by air and surface vessel for the raft.

On May 19 crewmen of the U.S. Navy destroyer Chandler boarded the raft 35 miles off San Diego and salvaged much of its equipment.

Martin said he did not know what the Lehi expedition would do now, but he said "at least we have the raft back."

Oakland Officer Honored by Assn.

Oakland Police Lt. Arthur J. McQuillan, head of the special services division, has been elected president of the California State Division, International Association for Identification in a convention at Santa Barbara.

Lt. George Ackerman of the Antioch Police Department was named sergeant at arms. McQuillan said the Association's board of directors will hold a meeting in Oakland this fall to decide on the location of the 1956 convention.

McQuillan, who lives at 8016 Greenly Drive, joined the force in 1941. He was made a sergeant in 1948, an inspector 1950 and a lieutenant March 2, 1955.



Former San Leandro resident Donald B. Stuart will graduate from Annapolis Friday.

\$2,500 Settlement Of Injury Suit OK'd

MAJINEZ, May 31.—A \$2,500 settlement of the suit brought in behalf of 8-year-old Jerry Willoughby, 12417 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, for injuries suffered when he was struck by an auto while crossing a Richmond street, was approved today by Superior Judge Harold Jacoby.

Police said he was hit by the car of Santo S. Zagami, 30, 3264 Encinal Ave., Alameda, at Cutting Bvd. and 7th St., last June 19.

San Leandro Man Will Be Annapolis Grad

SAN LEANDRO, May 31.—Donald B. Stuart, a former resident here, is scheduled to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., Friday.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald K. Stuart, who lived at 714 Bridge Road before moving to Menlo Park.

Stuart entered Annapolis as a midshipman in July, 1951. He won his appointment to the academy in a competitive examination.

A graduate of San Leandro High School, he attended Columbian School in Washington, D.C., on a scholarship for a year before entering Annapolis.

At the Friday graduation rites he is slated to receive a commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy and a Bachelor of Science degree. After graduating, Stuart will return to Menlo Park with his parents, who are now in the East for the ceremonies, for a 60-day leave before reporting for duty at the San Diego Naval Center.

Economy of U.S. Held Unbalanced

WASHINGTON, May 31.—The Economic Outlook, a publication of the CIO, said today the rise of the stock market is due to "the development of an unhealthy lack of balance within the economy" of the Nation. It said the American economic system is "considerably stronger" than it was before the crash of 1929 but added "the serious lack of economic balance during the 1920's bears an unfortunate resemblance to a number of recent economic trends." As examples it gave "a rise in the personal income of upper income groups, while the incomes of lower and middle income groups declined" and a series of administration policies of 1953 and 1954 which, it said, made stockholders a "specially privileged group entitled to specially devised income tax reductions."



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Debbie Denies Rift: 'Eddie and I Are in Love'

HONOLULU, May 31.—Film actress Debbie Reynolds says there is no truth to reports her romance with Eddie Fisher is ended. She blamed Hollywood columnist Sheila Graham for what she termed "this rumor."

"She must have to make news," speculated the actress, who arrived today after a tour of military bases in the Far East.

"It was awfully unkind. I am very hurt. 'Eddie and I are very much in love,' she said in a telephone interview.

"It's tough enough to live a normal life. I'm so upset. It isn't true. I don't know why Sheila did it."

Asked if she and Fisher had set a date for the wedding, she replied:

"We don't have a date planned. We had figured on June 17, but Eddie has a show that will run into July, and when I get back I will start shooting a new picture. But that (the wedding date) is no problem."

her mother. Her mother and brother are "so upset and didn't know what it was all about."

On her tour Miss Reynolds took part in 22 shows. She said she and her companions spent most of yesterday sleeping. However, they got on a beach long enough "to get a good sunburn and I guess that is better than a white palor."

In Hollywood, her mother said Debbie's romance was on full force.

She blasted as "a pack of lies" the columnist's report last night that Debbie was going to mail her ring back to Eddie. The columnist had quoted Debbie's brother, Bill, who also angrily denied any talk of a bust-up between the actress and crooner.

Another angry denial came from Fisher himself in New York.

"Fortunately," said Mrs. R. F. Reynolds, "Eddie knows our family and didn't put any stock in the reports. He loves Debbie—he just told me so—and she loves him."

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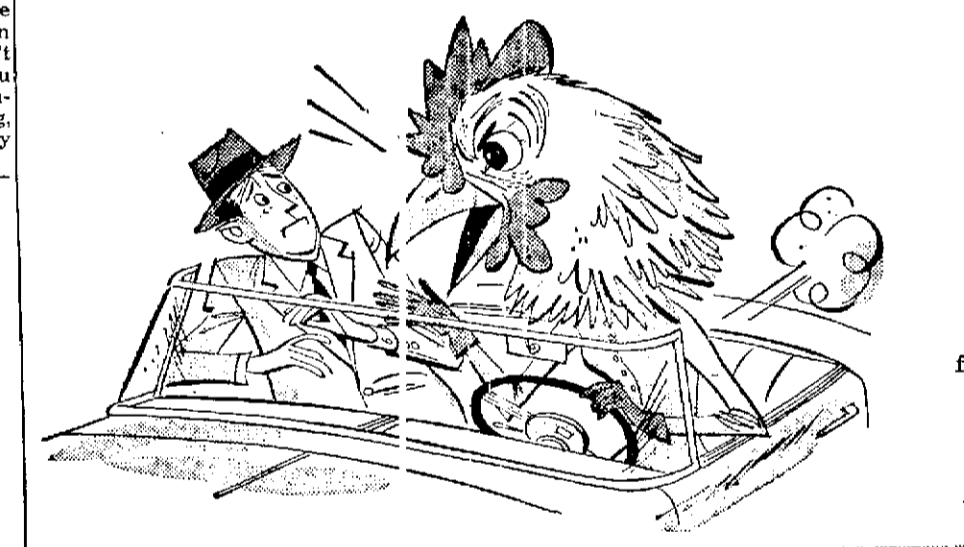
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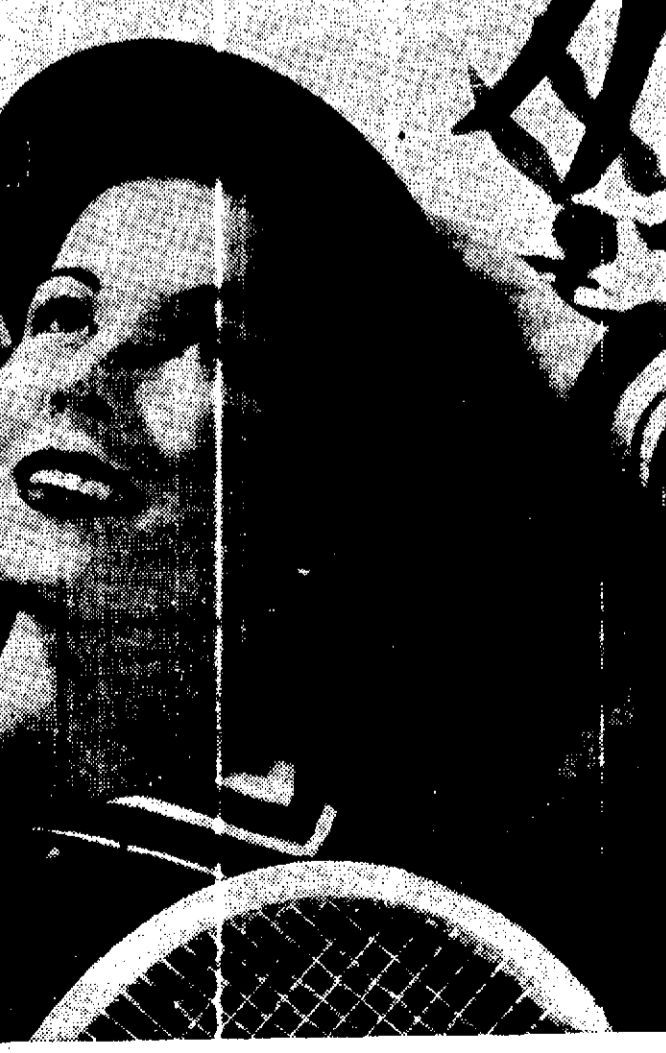


How's your disposition today?

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