



Current Cinema

By Robert Curtiss

Upon walking into the hotel cafeteria, the future Honey Bruce (Valerie Perrine) spied Dustin Hoffman sipping coffee at a distant table. "Who's he?" she asked her manager.

"Aw, that's Lenny Bruce, some lousy comedian", he replied.

"He's cute." Here the audience must make a distinction: yes, Dustin Hoffman is cute, but no, Dustin Hoffman is not Lenny Bruce. He might as well be Benjamin Braddock attempting to carve out a new life after the dissolution of his ill-fated marriage to Elaine Robinson. Hoffman makes those obviously timid noises of his throughout the film, and to each Bruce's stick he enacts, he attaches a hopelessly peurile moral.

Bruce was neither timid, nor obsequious, nor a moralist. He was an iconoclast: his was not to right wrongs, only to expose them. In the course of one monologue, Lenny Bruce (Dustin Hoffman) admits, "I'm no moralists." on a voice-over track, as the camera cuts from one symbol of his opulence to another but Lenny, the film, refuses to allow this admission to guide its theme.

As a biography of the saturnine social critic, Lenny ignores Bruce's childhood, the years spent with his father and fabricates an oftentimes mercenary manager. However, Julian Barry's screenplay needn't be faithful to either the Julian Barry play of the same name or the Albert Goldman biography. The film is its own artistic creation and a director must be granted the liberty to present his personal statement or his individual interpretation of another work. Yet, even judged on its own terms, the film is found wanting due to Bob Fosse's (the director) reluctance to discuss some highly germane issues suggested by the plot.

Lenny never satisfactorily explains what caused the protagonist to develop his particular brand of humor. Certainly, the scene in which Sherman Hart (Gary Morton) pretends to advise Lenny Bruce in order to gain his wife's attentions is not sufficient motivation, despite a splendid portrayal by Mr. Morton.

The tension created by Lenny's sudden rise to notoriety and his fleeting wealth remains relatively unexplored. Surely, the switch from \$70-a-week oblivion in a third rate strip joint to \$700-a-week appearances in a respectable club, record albums and ever-increasing engagement requests cannot but have some effect on any man. His doping (I refrain from labeling it addiction) is indecisively offered as the effect, but it seems only to co-exist with the tension created by his success rather than inhere in it.

A third, unfortunately underdeveloped, theme is the interaction between the judicial system, the political arrangement that empowers it and Lenny. Although the obscenity charges brought against the late comedian are the stuff that made him the figure he is and supposedly destroyed him, Director Fosse presents us with an insultingly simple exposition of

the dynamics involved worthy of a Yippie polemic.

Finally we must ask ourselves, why has this film been made? If it ventures to raise our moral consciousness, it is a decade too late. Ironically, the sketches that once brought prosecution, now bring only an "R" rating. If it is a serious endeavor to investigate the Bruce phenomenon, it misconstrues him. A glaring possibility is the desire to produce or cash in on a new, hip generation idol. Such a motive would be antithetical to all of Bruce's ideas, as well as show a regretful disdain for the audience.

Lenny seems pointless, but within its vague statement many

good actors move and much technical skill is displayed. Jan Miner is excellent as Lenny's mother, Stanley Beck is convincingly despicable as his fictitious manager and Rashel Novikoff as Aunt Mema could have been my Bubba Katz. Given her first chance to act, Valerie Perrine plays an empathic, if unrealistic, Honey.

Bruce Surtee's lyrical black and white camera and Bob Fosse's use of semi-documentary style are too incisive for Lenny. Nevertheless, Fosse handles the flash-back and -forth technique and the semi-documentary style with finesse, and Surtee's goallessly searching camera manages to bestow some moments of grace on the film.

Library Offers Programs

By Carol Von Zastrow

The Erie Metropolitan Library is only a half hour bus ride from Behrend College. It can be invaluable while doing a paper. It is located on Perry Square in a fantastic piece of Erie Architecture. Just the building is worth seeing, but it also offers some FREE programs, that may be of interest to Behrend students.

Every other Wednesday evening at 7:30 in Room 4, movies are shown. They range from

Classics to Experimental films. Showing this term will be:

April 15 Loneliness of a Long Distance Runner with Laurence Harvey.

April 29 Camping, A Key to Conservation; Grand Canyon; and Mysteries of the Deep.

May 13 The General; Dream of Wild Horses; Grandma Moses; and Dangerous Females.

May 27 King Kong.

In addition to these free films, there are also free lectures given every week. These, too, take place at 7:30 in Room 4. For our

theater enthusiasts, David Matthews, of the Erie Civic Theater, will give a talk on the Erie theater scene Wednesday, April 16. Lectures about local Erie History are given on Thursday evenings as follows:

April 3 "What Influences Erie Politics" with Dr. William Garvey of Mercyhurst College.

April 10 "Early Northwestern Pennsylvania History" Alan Perkins, Curator, Drake Well Museum.

April 17 "Let's Preserve Early Erie Architecture" Robert A. Krider, architect.

April 24 "The Beginnings of the Oil Industry in Northwest Pennsylvania" Michael Davidson of the Drake Well Museum.

Coming Again

Behrend Radio Series

The Behrend College Radio Series will present this week, the "Myth Making and the American Hero."

The show is to be narrated by Arno Selco, and the guest speakers this week are Pat Holland, Charles Redenius, and Wayne Scott.

The program is to be aired on WQLN-FM, Stereo 91.3, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 3.

All Behrend College students are urged to listen to this informative and interesting segment of a series of programs presented by the Behrend College.



Star Corner

By Rosa Myers

Note: This is the thirteenth in a series of weekly articles.

Jacob had twelve sons.

Jesus Christ had twelve disciples. There were twelve tribes of Israel.

And there are twelve signs in the Zodiac.

Genesis reads: "In the beginning..." and the world was created under the sign of Aries. Christ's death marked the age of Pisces - an age we are still moving out of.

Astrology and religion are closely intertwined. Astrology, when studied seriously, is more than a frivolous pastime. In his book: Meditations on the Signs of the Zodiac, John Jocelyn states: "In an age when humanity has become conscious of cosmic space, the traditional and conventional religious views are inadequate to fit the changed conception of our universe. As larger clothes are needed for the

growing child when it has outgrown its old ones, so enlarged spiritual concepts are needed for evolving humanity. This principle was recognized by Jesus Christ when he said: "I have yet many things to say to you but you cannot bear the now." (St. John 16:12)

The study of astrology inevitably results in a better understanding of mankind. One is not so quick to criticize and belittle. Instead our capacity to tolerate and understand becomes greater. People who believe only in that which can be revealed through the senses will never understand the beauty of astrology. Astrology gives life a definite pattern. One slowly begins to understand the cycle of birth and death and life does not seem such a puzzle anymore. The famous astrologer, Zolar, once remarked that students of astrology are generally religious or close to God. I suppose he meant that the study of the stars and the heavens in all their splendor can only be comprehended by one who is continually amazed at the powers that be. And he does not necessarily mean those who accept the orthodox God because witches, who worship the Life Force and other deities, are nearly always caught up in astrology.

It is an old art (six thousand years old) dating back to a time when man was more of a spiritual being than he is today. It is the true psychology—man's first attempt at understanding himself and the world around him. In the next few articles I hope to explain the construction of a horoscope and the various attractions experienced by human beings as a result of the positioning of certain planets. I also hope to briefly discuss compatibility among the sun signs.

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Special Announcement on Housing and Food Service

Contracts - 1975, 1976 For University Park Campus

Students are reminded that filing a contract for housing does not constitute approval to transfer from a commonwealth campus to University Park. This approval must be cleared through the Assistant Director for resident instruction at the Commonwealth Campus.

Contract Cards with \$45.00 Advance Payment MUST be submitted to the Office of the Bursar, 103 Shields Building.

April 15 is the deadline date for priority consideration for branch campus transfers.

Assignments will be made according to date contract is received. If applicants contract is received before all available vacant spaces have been assigned, he or she will be assigned to the resident hall requests. If all space has been assigned for the specific residence hall requested, consideration for space in the residence hall area will be given until space available has been depleted.

Should no space be available in areas requested, assignments will be made in areas having housing spaces available.

IF SPACE IS NOT AVAILABLE, HOUSING CONTRACT WILL BE CANCELLED AND AN ADVANCE PAYMENT REFUND WILL BE PROCESSED BY MAY 31, 1975.

IF STUDENT IS NOT APPROVED TO TRANSFER TO UNIVERSITY PARK BY JUNE 13, 1975, HOUSING CONTRACT WILL BE CANCELLED AND ADVANCE PAYMENT REFUNDED.

ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE REFUNDED IF STUDENT NOTIFIES THE ASSIGNMENT OFFICE IN WRITING BEFORE 5:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1975, THAT HE WISHES TO CANCEL HIS HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT.

ALL STUDENTS WITH HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE CONTRACTS, IF ENROLLED FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR, ARE OBLIGATED FOR THE FULL CHARGES IF THEY FAIL TO CANCEL THEIR CONTRACTS BY APRIL 30, 1975.

SUMMER TERM 1975

Students desiring residence hall accommodations at University Park Campus for Summer Term 1975 may obtain contracts at the Commonwealth Campus they are presently attending. NO ADVANCE PAYMENT IS REQUIRED FOR SUMMER TERM.

A SEPARATE CONTRACT MUST BE FILED FOR FALL-WINTER-SPRING TERMS. APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BEHREND COLLEGE RECORDS OFFICE

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