

THOSE OLD MOVIES
by Fay Roller

I think nearly everyone has seen one of the series of "Beach Party" movies. They are focused on a crowd of college-aged kids who have just jetted off to California for a surfing weekend.

The plot is always the same, or if not the same, quite similar: Devastating Dee Dee, most beautiful girl on the scene, and Fabulous Frankie (these parts are invariably played by Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon) are "crazy" about each other. However, true love never runs smooth; and very early in the film gloom sets in. Frankie's attentions soon waver to a voluptuous newcomer usually played by a Joey Heatherton type babe. In retaliation Dee Dee fakes a romance with Fabian in an attempt to arouse Frankie's jealousy.

Meanwhile a breathtaking subplot is introduced. The action crowd is cavorting about the beach minimumly clad, surfing, dancing around a bonfire and boys and girls rumbling in the sand (It must be noted that no matter how exciting-of-body the females may be, no sex activity occurs. Both males and females are virtuous virgins.) Actually the whole affair resembles a massive Coca-Cola commercial.

Unfortunately, everyone's favorite Fred cannot attend the weekend frolic on the beach. He is being tutored by Wally Cox in his hotel suite. If he doesn't pass the finals, he'll flunk out of school.

That evening the action crowd throws a mammoth "wienie" roast on the beach. And who do you suppose happens by? Why the Rolling Stones, the Beach Boys, Petula Clark, the Supremes, and Little Stevie Wonder, all personal friends of the action crowd.

Come the end of the film, Dee Dee and Frankie are found gazing into each other's eyes singing words of eternal love. Fred, thanks to Wally, has aced all his finals. And everyone lives happily ever after.

What rot!

Suppose we create a more realistic image of the college crowd. Woody Allen is first choice for writer and director. (He proved his worth in "What's New, Pussycat?") The setting will be the University Park Campus of Penn State. The action crowd will not jet to California for the weekend. Being normal, poverty-stricken students they will spend their weekend in apartments, cars, and bars.

The main plot will feature our former stars, Annette and Frankie, playing the roles of Puritanical Penny and Treacherous Larry. In this film of ultra-realism and torrid sex, Larry is lured away from Penny by Lusty Louise, the most dated girl on campus. Penny, since she is a picture of purity, has returned to her room in the dorm to mourn her loss.

The scene now flashed downtown to the "My-O-My" bar. Various sub-plots are underway. Who will win the chugging contest? Will Susan consent to spend the evening at Allen's apartment? Where will Sam find the money to pay for his next fix? Searing drama...

Throughout the film various progress scenes will be flashed from area bedrooms. Congratulations Jack!

As the film draws to a close, Louise and Larry are joined in marriage shortly before Louise is rushed to the maternity ward. Penny and Wally Cox have recently announced their engagement. The group has lost several of their most popular members after failure of finals. It may not be the best picture, but then, not many people look at the world through Walt Disney glasses.