

Editorial Opinion

Two for the Show?

Hollywood has long been crying over the decline of box office goodies with the influx of television movies. It seems that now TV's late show has almost replaced the old double-feature at the local popcorn palace.

The recent hits in State College which caused most male students to toss away the books, "And God Created Woman" and "Peyton Place," appear to have disproved this theory. However, nationally speaking, movie theater owners last week received some bad news in the form of statistics.

Average weekly theater attendance has dropped 7,000,000 from 1956 figures and theater owners have suffered a \$50 million loss at the box office. These statistics were included in a report by business analysts Sindlinger & Co.

Probably the bulk of the drop-off came in the second-rate movie department but this left such a gap that it



could not even be canceled out by the series of big budget films released last year—such as "Sayonara," "Around the World in 80 Days," and "The Bridge on the River Kwai."

Five years ago any one of these big-budget films would have been called a spectacular. But today Hollywood has found that the average movie has to be a spectacular if it wants to draw any shreds of an audience.

Independent producer Samuel Goldwyn has said that within a year Hollywood will be producing only half as many pictures as now, but adds, "They will be better pictures," and sees the industry heading for a "healthier condition than it has ever known."

The top movies produced during the past two years have been listed in the Consumer Reports, published by the Consumers Union of U.S., Inc. Those rated "excellent" include "Around the World in 80 Days," "Bespoke Overcoat," "Friendly Persuasion," "LaStrada," "Lust for Life," "Magnificent Seven," "Moby Dick," "Secrets of Life," "Solid Gold Cadillac," "Tea and Sympathy," "Silent World" and "Ten Commandments."

Then on the duller side Hollywood has slipped in some sour notes for mass teenage appeal—"Prison Girls," "I Was a Teenage Werewolf," "Jailhouse Rock," "Don't Knock the Rock" and "Loving You," to name a few. The only entertainment in these seems to be provided by the advertisements.

However, we don't believe that theater owners seriously have to wonder where their next meal is coming from. Although they have suffered a great loss, Hollywood producers have been holding up a good end despite the threat of television movie competition.

As long as Hollywood concentrates on quality instead of quantity we do not believe that the movie industry will be destroyed. Instead, it will gain a reputation that will be pretty well guarded—even from the blows struck by TV.

Editorials are written by the editors and staff members of The Daily Collegian and do not necessarily represent the views of the University or of the student body.

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The Daily Collegian

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ED DUBBS, Editor STEVE HIGGINS, Bus. Mgr.

Other Opinion

The Dancing Of Lunatics

These are bleak days for counting global blessings, but perhaps there is at least one worth mentioning. If there are intelligent beings on Mars, we can feel confident that they are not contemplating an invasion.

Their advance patrols must have long since reported to the Martian bosses that planet Earth is just an oversized lunatic asylum, to be avoided like a plague.

Picture the situation on this side of the globe objectively, if you still can. America today is engaged in a great debate (if we may dignify near-panic with such a term) and the basic issue is simple. Can we snuff out civilization as efficiently as the Russians can?

The administration says we can; its critics say we can't. But sides agree that in either event a monumental military effort is now mandatory.

A monumental effort to what end? Merely to maintain (or regain, as the case may be) our place in an armaments race that all concerned have long since agreed is a global suicide pact.

An armaments race that, even at the very best, can only produce an uneasy balance of terror in which a madman's pushbutton can regulate civilization to the incinerator.

—The Berkshire Eagle
Pittsfield, Mass.

Safety Valve

Collegian Thanked For Cooperation

TO THE EDITOR: We of Phi Sigma Sigma want to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to The Daily Collegian for all the help in our benefit movie campaign for Larry Sharp.

Without the publicity and wonderful coverage, we would not have achieved the success we did.

We have derived satisfaction from our work for Larry, and we believe that Collegian should share this satisfaction because the paper's contribution was so important.

—Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority
•Letter cut

Florida Alums To See Films

"This is Penn State," a sound and color movie filmed from a student viewpoint, several of the recent season's football films and a University speaker will constitute the program at the annual meetings of two Florida alumni groups.

Ridge Riley, executive secretary of the Alumni Association, has requested staff members who will be in Florida in March and who are interested in serving in a speaking capacity to contact him.

The meetings are scheduled for March 8 in St. Petersburg and March 11 near Lake Worth.

Gazette

- TODAY
- Christian Science Organization, 7 p.m., 218 Chapel
 - Code Classes for FCC amateur radio, technician and novice class examination, begin 7 p.m., 219 EE
 - Hillel Advanced Hebrew Class, 7:30 p.m., Foundation
 - Newman Club Legion of Mary, 7:30 p.m., Center
 - Newman Club Fraternity-Sorority Committee, 7 p.m., 107 Boucke
 - Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Dr. Hans A. Penofsky, professor of meteorology, "Stochastic Analysis Applied to Atmospheric Turbulence," 7:30 p.m., 214 Willard
 - UCA Skating Party, 7 p.m., University Rink
 - WDFM Staff Meeting, 8 p.m., 316 Sparks

UCA to Sponsor Party At Ice Rink Tonight

The University Christian Association will sponsor a skating party at 7 tonight at the University ice rink.

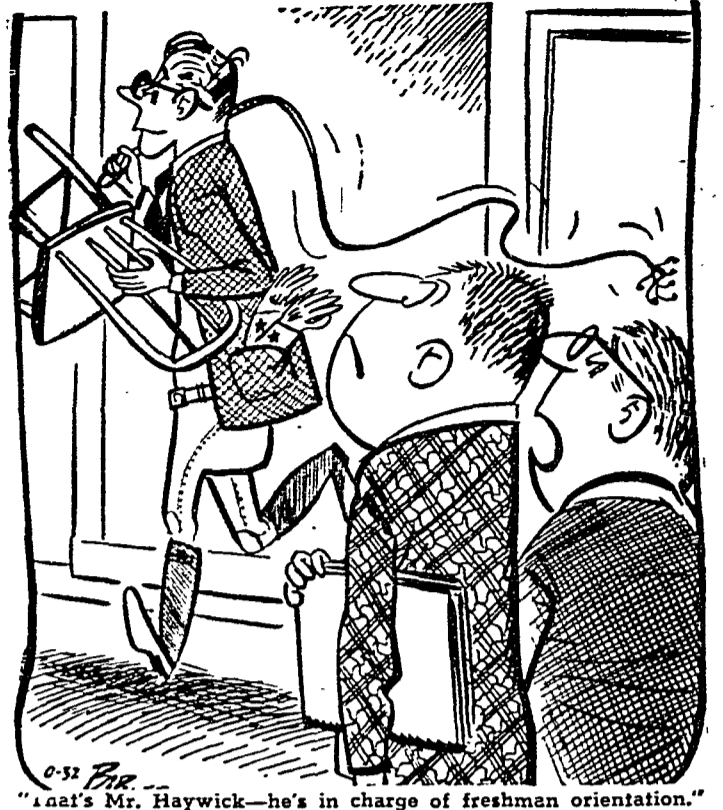
Refreshments will follow at 9 p. m. in the Eisenhower Chapel.

Froth Will Be Sold at HUB

Froth will be on sale today at the Hetzel Union Building only.

Little Man on Campus

by Dick Bibler



Is the Senate Slipping or What?

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (AP)—The Senate must be slipping.

Sometimes it has seemed that only death or a political knockout could pry a senator from office.

But when Harry Flood Byrd (D.-Va.) said today he will not run for re-election this year, he became the fifth senator to reach such a conclusion.

Previously Sens. Edward Martin (R.-Pa.), who is 78; Sen. H. Alexander Smith (R.-N.J.), 77; William Knowland (R.-Calif.), 49; and William Jenner (R.-Ind.), 49, said they had had it.

They gave various reasons—Byrd, for example, has an ailing wife—but they add up to a surprisingly large group to leave the Senate voluntarily.

In some ways, Byrd's decision is the biggest shock. True, he will be 71 on June 10. But he has made such a career of going his own, and often lonely, course that he had become an institution.

During the 25 years he has been in the Senate, Byrd's statements calling for more economy in government have become a part of the scenery, like the reading of Washington's Farewell Address in Congress every Feb. 22.

Successful in the newspaper business, successful as an apple grower—he and his partners raise such a large crop every person in this country could have one of their apples—Byrd brought into government this fiscal philosophy: "You don't save money by spending it, junior."

So in 1938 he was saying: "We have at Washington today the most costly, the most wasteful, and the most bureaucratic form of government this Republic has ever known or ever been afflicted with."

And though government has

steadily become larger and costlier, Byrd has fought it stubbornly ever step of the way.

Byrd pointed out that in 1934 he had been one of the few senators to oppose the National Recovery Act, that in 1935 he was one of five to vote against the Wagner Labor Act, that in 1938 his was the only vote against the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

"In the Senate I have fought many lone battles," he said. "Rightly or wrongly, I have not always trod the popular road."

But if Byrd had his troubles on the national scene, he did well at home.

Few senators manage to retain their hold on state politics. Byrd did.

The so-called Byrd organization can't be compared too closely with a city machine, but political observers have pointed out it has been effective.

Generally speaking, what Byrd has wanted, so has Virginia. And what Byrd hasn't wanted, Virginia wanted no part of either.

Byrd, of course, is too modest to admit this.

The man whose plump cheeks are as rosy and jolly as the apples he sells once put it this way: "That I have had some small voice in the affairs of Virginia for more than a third of a century is a source of deep satisfaction to me."

