

Movie Review

by John Churilla

Know all men by these presents, that Paramount Pictures production of "The Lawyer," which recently played at the Strand Theatre, Scranton, might do well to employ counsel in its own defense. That a movie could retain a static plot, incorporate a list of cliché characters, and yet sustain dramatic interest is no meagre accomplishment.

I do not mean to be entirely caustic for "The Lawyer" does have some merit. It presents a noble theme and spotlights the brutal realities of extra-court procedures. The plot which focuses on the trial of a doctor accused of killing his wife is allegedly based on F. Lee Bailey's experience with the famed Dr. Sheppard trial. In fact, however, the film deviates quite markedly from the Sheppard trial.

Perhaps it's the brilliant handling of the montage that rescues this movie from being just another trite courtroom drama. Unusual camera angles open a fresh perspective on the courtroom scene. Events are structured with a logical progression of climaxes spiced with just the right peppering of suspense. A quasi-documentary style projects a "you are there" atmosphere while brief but poignant vignettes loaded with hard-hitting dialogues are machine-gunned at a spell-bound audience.

Barry Newman, a familiar face to avid soap opera fans, in the lead role combines the right masculine charm and intellectual air to bring the firebrand attorney to life. That the character has its shortcomings is not his fault.

(Newman is an actor of promise and I hope that the fact he made his debut with this particular movie will not seriously handicap his future.) His quiet staccato style of delivery is perfectly suited to the wry laconic character he portrays. He seldom raises his voice but the few moments that he is moved to emotion are convincing. The aged, experienced, and crafty district attorney, Harold Gould, turns in an awesome performance that even an Orson Welles might envy. Gould is one of those rare actors who can do more with a glance than another can with a thousand-word soliloquy. These sterling performances are properly counter-balanced by strong minor characterizations.

Amherst lists Bellante twins

Two young men from the Abington area are among those named to the current Amherst College dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the 1969 fall semester. They are Carl Stephen and John Lawrence Bellante, Clarks Summit, twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. Emidio L. Bellante of Glenburn Road. Both were honor graduates in the 1969 class of Abington Heights Senior High School, where they co-edited the school yearbook and played as a duo piano team.

John served on the student council while Carl served on the Foreign Student Committee. Both received special awards in recognition of their service to the school and both earned varsity letters in golf.

Undoubtedly the root of this film's misfeasance is inherent in the script itself. Its comedy is too often achieved at the expense of credibility. Despite his chosen profession of defender of justice, the young attorney seems bent on breaking laws himself. He has a compulsion for reckless driving;—to and from the court or just about anytime he's behind the limits of plausibility. But a man who only imbibes root beer and hires his wife as his secretary can't be all bad.

It seems as though writers Sidney Furie and Harold Buchman decided that their creations would not be the typical stereotyped attorney. To avoid this perilous pitfall they proclaimed that while the DA interrogated witnesses the young defense counsel would adroitly balance a pencil on his nose, and in turn his opponent scored a point with the jury. Idiosyncrasies often give a character that needed twist of personality to make him unique, but all these idiosyncrasies compressed into one motion picture approaches the absurd.

The movie expounds the relative merits of our judicial system, cites the importance of integrity in the legal profession, and averts turning a trite plot into another "whodunnit" fiasco. This deserves commendation.

That the film's scenario abuses esthetic discretion and common sense involves citation.

I rest my case.

region biologist elected

A group of biologists dedicated to improving Pennsylvania's environment met today at Millersville State College and formally established the Pennsylvania Biologists Association. The interim officers and directors, biologists from public and private colleges and universities, ratified the constitution and bylaws establishing the new statewide organization.

Stated objectives of the association are to "provide a state organization for individuals engaged in biological education and research to serve as an instrument of communication and coordination among elementary school, secondary school, college and research biologists and other individuals interested in the aims and purposes of the organization; to work for the improvement of the professional standards and status of those engaged in biological education and research; to foster and encourage research in biology and biological education; to bring the professional prestige and expertise of the association to bear on legislation involving biological principles; and to cooperate with other societies in achieving the above objectives."

Interim officers and directors of the new association include Mrs. John Hertz, Marywood College limnologist, who has long been an active conservationist in the Wyoming Valley.

Northeastern Fine Arts Calendar

COLLEGE CONCERT

The Key-Notes will present a concert May 7 at the Century Club, Scranton.

COLLEGE CONCERT

The Wilkes College Chorus will present a concert at the Wilkes College Center for the Performing Arts in Wilkes-Barre May 7.

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

The Conyngham Gallery, Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, will present a fine arts festival May 7 to 9.

COLLEGE DRAMA

King's College, Wilkes-Barre, will present the play, "The Male Animal" at 8 p.m. May 7 and 9 at the college in Wilkes-Barre.

ASSOCIATION BALL

The Everhart Museum of Scranton will present its 8th Annual Museum Association Ball May 8.

COLLEGE CONCERT

Wilkes College Chorolette and Collegians will present a concert at the Wilkes College Center for the Performing Arts May 8 in Wilkes-Barre.

THEATRE MUSICAL

The musical "Mame" will be presented at the Broadway Theatre of Northeastern Pennsylvania in Scranton May 8 and 9.

PHILHARMONIC CONCERT

A Philharmonic concert at King's College, Wilkes-Barre will be presented May 9.

COLLEGE CONCERT

The annual Town and Gown presentation of Wilkes College will be held May 10 in the Center for the Performing Arts on the campus in Wilkes-Barre.

COLLEGE CONCERT

Edward Auer, pianist, will present a musical concert at College Misericordia at 8 p.m. May 11 on the college campus in Dallas.

Swedish car to cut auto emissions

A Swedish auto maker, recognized industry-wide for a series of developments which significantly cut down air-polluting engine emissions, has moved into a new anti-pollution phase with a new type emission cleaner.

Volvo, Gothenburg, Sweden, officially introduced its 1800E sports coupe for 1970 in mid-January, which carries the new emission system.

The new 1800E features a new electronically-controlled fuel injection engine, which, according to company president Stig Jansson, cuts down still further the percentage of engine air pollutants already reduced by Volvo's gasoline evaporation control system.

"The engine does it with the help of a compact electronic computer which controls four injectors that meter the amount of fuel into the cylinders much more precisely than standard carburetor-type engines. Together with cleaner emissions, the system also means better all-around performance and greater economy," said Mr. Jansson.

The four other Volvo car models—along with the 1800E—sold in this country carry a gasoline evaporation control system as standard equipment for 1970.

Altho required only by the state of California, Volvo's new anti-pollution, closed fuel system is available on all five car models it sells in America.

POLITICAL ADV

Shapp on the Issues

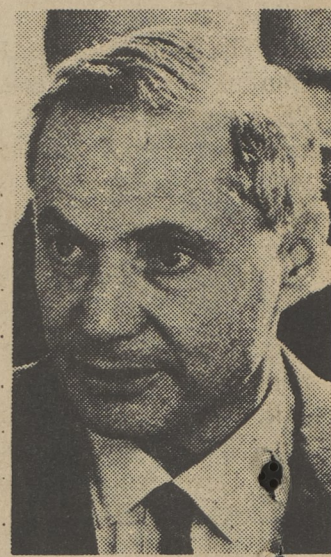
The Answer: Confidence

(This is another of a series of columns by Democratic candidate Milton Shapp concerning his positions on important issues and problems facing the Commonwealth.)

to be governor of Pennsylvania—especially by people who are puzzled that a business executive would seek such a demanding, frequently frustrating job.

My answer is this:

After years of closely surveying the State's economic conditions and the operations of government; after observing that both are deteriorating, I concluded that I can contribute something of value toward making things better.



Of this, I am confident. If I weren't I would be deceiving people by asking for their trust and support.

But while confident I have something to offer Pennsylvanians in executive experience and knowledge of State problems, I certainly don't underestimate the enormous challenge of solving these ills. Undoubtedly, the most urgent, immediate challenges are cutting waste and inefficiency from government and thoroughly reforming our outmoded, unjust tax system.

State government, bear in mind, is the biggest business in the Commonwealth. It employs approximately 113,000 people. Its annual operating budget has reached, under the Shafer administration, \$2.5 billion. Add to this, operation costs of the Department of Highways, the General State Authority, the Liquor Control Commission and the Turnpike Commission and the total is about \$3 billion for the current fiscal year.

Anyone familiar with State agencies knows that millions of this vast sum are wasted in inefficient operations, in duplications of programs and manpower, in programs that no longer serve a useful purpose. It very probably runs into the hundreds of millions, and I would bring in a team of skilled management experts to find ways of eliminating this misuse of funds.

The overhaul and streamlining of government operations will not only save millions. It will also insure better service to the public; and, after all, that's the purpose of government—to serve the people. Under my administration the prime importance of this purpose would be instilled into all State employees and agencies. Because of the entrenched patronage system, though, large numbers of these employees lack this allegiance to public service. Their first loyalty, instead, is to the party bosses who got them on the payroll.

Many of the approximately 47,000 non-civil service employees—a greater number than in any other State—are dedicated and capable, but far too many are not.

This fact contributes to the kind of "public be damned" attitude you often meet when dealing with State agencies.

This attitude must be changed. The costly abuses of the patronage system must be eliminated.

And, at the same time, the tax structure must be dismantled and rebuilt to meet today's needs. It doesn't now.

The tax system inflicts injustices on millions of average Pennsylvanians, while allowing powerful vested interests all sorts of loopholes and privileges. It lets some industries and businesses escape with paying little or no taxes, while imposing heavy burdens on many others.

It includes a sales tax that's too high, too regressive and too expensive and difficult to collect effectively.

This all must be corrected and we must have a single, fair broad-based tax to supply the major portion of necessary revenue. And it will be the governor's responsibility to lead the efforts to accomplish this goal.

In subsequent columns I'll discuss reaching this goal in more detail. Also I'll talk about education, conservation, pollution, economic problems and transportation.

VOTE SHAPP!

Democratic Primary

May 19, 1970

Shapp for Governor Committee
Frank Hilton, Chairman

POLITICAL ADV.

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