

Liner Notes

New film rating not the answer

by Robb Frederick
Entertainment Editor

The ratings system devised by the Motion Picture Association of America will be further tested on Oct. 3, when filmmakers appeal the X rating slapped on Phil Kaufman's forthcoming film *Henry & June*. The appeal has heightened tensions in a year heavy with controversial films.

The MPAA has responded to increasing public pressures by proposing a new category for the ratings system. Tentatively labeled RR, the additional rating would ban viewers under 17 unless accompanied by an adult. To me, that sounds pretty close to the rules governing R rated movies.

Members of the MPAA argue that the new rating would allow directors to include rougher material while avoiding the pornographic association an X rating carries.

A further ratings subdivision is not the answer. If the RR rating were established, filmmakers could incorporate more graphic sex and violence without fearing the stigma which accompanies the X rating.

The MPAA needs to become more consistent in its rulings, and it must accept that some films, like last year's *The Cook, the Thief, His Wife & Her Lover*, will accept and even strive for an X rating in the hopes that a public controversy will financially compensate for a lack of artistic quality.

The MPAA will not escape its problems through the creation of further ratings brackets. But if Congress can hope to alter the Constitution because of current trends in public opinion, the film ratings system may inevitably become a complex system of subdivided bureaucratic bull.

- A four-CD boxed set documenting the career of **John Lennon** will be issued next month to mark what would have been the ex-Beatles' 50th birthday. Tentatively titled *Lennon*, the compilation will feature 73 tracks, including seven which will be making their CD debut. The set, which was approved by Yoko Ono, will sell for about \$76 and will not be available on vinyl or cassette format.

- Tesla has pulled the plug and moved toward acoustic music on the forthcoming Geffen LP *Five Man Acoustical Jam*. The live piece will feature 15 tracks, including covers of The Beatles' "We Can Work It Out," the Rolling Stones' "Mother's Little Helper," and the Grateful Dead's "Truckin'."

- Fusion guitarist **Pat Metheny** has threatened a lawsuit against Florida Governor Bob Martinez. Martinez, who sparked the censorship furor over 2 Live Crew, allegedly used Metheny's song "Last Train Home" in TV campaign ads.

- Louisiana Governor **Buddy Roemer** vetoed a bill last week which would have required additional warning labels on recordings dealing with certain aspects of sex, violence, or substance abuse. The governor noted concern for musical content, but supported the voluntary labels used now used by the Recording Industry Association of America.

- Several classic episodes of "The Ed Sullivan Show" may soon be broadcast again. Producer Andrew Solt has purchased the rights to every episode of the CBS series and is negotiating with syndicators and the three major networks to get a series and a two-hour special onto the screen again. Selected re-runs may include the Beatles' first U.S. appearance, a gyrating Elvis Presley filmed from the waist up, and the infamous Rolling Stones performance, during which the band was forced to change the lyrics of "Let's Spend the Night Together" to "Let's Spend Some Time Together."

- Geffen Records will no longer distribute releases from Def American recordings. The label has been at odds with Def American's controversial roster, which includes comedian Andrew "Dice" Clay.

- Pocket Books is set to release *The Secret Diary of Laura Palmer* later this month. The trade paperback, written by Jennifer Lynch, (daughter of co-creator/director David Lynch), will include "actual" pages from Laura's diary, including information that has not been disclosed on the cult TV series.

- **Yusuf Islam**, who used to be known as Cat Stevens, referred to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein as a "congenial fellow" during a recent visit to Baghdad. Not what you'd expect from the guy who owes his earlier recording success to the song "Peace Train."

- **George Michael** has written and produced a track for **Wham!** backing singers **Pepsi & Shirlie**.

- Producer **Bob Rock** will produce **Metallica's** next Electra LP when the band enters the studio early next month.

Entertainment

Lemon Sisters tugs emotions New film draws heavily from "Beaches"

by Christi Luden
Collegian Staff Writer

"A comedy about one of life's greatest challenges - staying friends." Diane Keaton, Carol Kane, and Kathryn Grody star as those friends surviving all of life's hardships in *The Lemon Sisters*. Written by Jeremy Piker, produced by Joe Kelly, and directed by Joyce Chopra, this comedy is supposed to resemble *Beaches*. Although that goal is definitely not achieved, the film isn't a total disaster.

Eloise (Keaton), Frankie (Kane), and Nola (Grody) are three nine-year-old girls who meet in Atlantic City. They go through the typical secret-telling, talking about boys, and developing that all girls go through. They meet under the boardwalk (sounds like *Beaches* doesn't it?) and make a pact to meet every Monday for 82000 and some years.

The film then moves into the present. All three girls are women with lives of their own trying to make it after their parents have died. Eloise is an eccentric cat-lover trying to keep her father's TV-show collection business going in a place where big hotels and casinos are taking over.

Frankie is an aspiring singer holding on to the dream of her and her two best friends owning and singing in a night club.

Nola, the narrator throughout the film, is a married mother of three. She and her husband (Elliott Gould) are still keeping the family taffy business alive while struggling through money problems.

world.

Although the majority of the film is about the women's present lives, flashbacks of them as children are intermingled throughout. This, along with the attempt to mesh the three lives together, makes the movie choppy. There is a lack of plot to the extent that you can walk out of the theater for popcorn without worrying about missing anything.

It is evident in a few places that the film-makers are trying to do a variation of the extremely successful *Beaches*. The attempt is not a good one. Although there are some touching scenes, this film lacks the sad storyline of *Beaches*.

The movie is strictly geared towards part of the advertising slogan stated earlier: "...staying friends." The thing it wasn't: "A comedy..."

The acting was good. Each actress, along with her actor partner, fits her part well and adds variety to the film. This is what saved the movie, along with the final statement in the narration by Kathryn Grody which summed up the main theme: "You need to know what to let go of and what to hang to." This can be applied, not only to friendship, but also to all aspects of life in general.

The movie is strictly geared towards the advertising slogan "...staying friends."

The three friends of many years are still very much a part of each others' lives. They each have dreams that are somewhat crushed by realities throughout the movie. The little girl problems of boys and growing up have grown into life's problems of money, love and trying to hold on to the past in a changing

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