

Oregon Daily EMERALD

Our Visitors Speak...

Too Much 'Typical Nazi,' Not Enough 'Desert Fox'

(Ed. Note: We thought it would be interesting to hear the reaction of a German to the movie "The Desert Fox" which played recently in Eugene. Below a German exchange student in journalism tells his views.)

By Franz Cesarz

It may have been wrong to ask a German for a review of the Rommel movie. Certainly it is not produced mainly for German eyes. It was an English book written by Brigadier Young which became a best-seller in English speaking countries. People met with great interest the story of a general whom they fought in the African desert and who had been outstanding. A good subject for a movie picture, obviously. You can make money out of it—and Hollywood did.

Really, Rommel was an outstanding figure. Decorated with the highest German bravery order in World War I, he was a soldier all his life, a good soldier as even his former opponents admit. He didn't care for politics. What would happen, he thought, if the military power isn't subordinated strictly under the political power? That was the rule he followed. He was a soldier.

Then Hitler came. Many followed him. Rommel, the soldier, also obeyed the orders of the "Fuehrer" who legally came to his political power and later became his military superior as supreme chief of all armed forces. The longer the war lasted the more General Rommel disagreed with the former lance-corporal, Hitler—in the military field. And only his military disagreement later brought him in contact with

ideological bound men of the anti-Hitler circles—this finally determined his decision to join that front of irreproachable men.

Rommel's warfare proved himself as a man embodying the old transmitted conception of an honorable soldier. He was an outstanding figure. But historically his significance lies in the military sector. The military development became his political attitudes criterion, which for many other Germans the immoral character of the whole Nazi-system itself had been.

Thus Rommel doesn't typically embody the tragedy of many Germans who since the beginning of the Hitler era considered him as their ideological enemy and conspired against their legal political leader.

Very late the honorable man and soldier Rommel considered after heavy struggle with his sense of duty the responsibility of a general being broader than only to obey orders. There is very much personal tragedy in Rommel's life and death, but the tragedy in many German souls began earlier than Rommel's personal story.

Insofar the fascinating movie cannot satisfy. It shows too little of Rommel as the "Desert Fox" and too much of Rommel "the typical Nazi general" who later became Nazi-enemy. That is another point Germans have a different outlook upon. They liked Rommel as much as they hated such typical characterless Nazi generals as Keitel and Schoerner. The "only-soldier" Rommel never was a Nazi general in their eyes, particularly not in the sense of

former Hollywood propaganda movies.

Thus, James Mason, the giant, isn't the modest Rommel as we saw him. However, Mason is excellent in his role. Leo G. Carroll, a typical General Rundstedt, and Luther Alder as Hitler are very impressive. The movie has its most impressive parts in documentary pictures of the desert war and the invasion.

The movie tries too many compromises to make the Rommel picture acceptable for his former enemies and in spite of documentary authenticity, the movie falsifies the Rommel image.

On the Screen...

'Streetcar' Movie Has Theater Polish

By Wes Robinson

A Streetcar Named Desire (MacDonald): They've dragged Broadway right into Hollywood, Calif., for the filming of this Pulitzer Prize-winning play. As a result, it has all the polish and character value of a theatrical production.

This picture should be quite as much in the running for Oscars next March as the recent "A Place in the Sun." The legitimate stage, contributing three major factors in Director Elia Kazan, stars Vivian Leigh and Marlo Brando, and a script needing hardly any revision in order to be filmed, practically guarantees this.

Hollywood has contributed something, too—fluidity through the eye of the camera, which makes Tennessee Williams' absorbing drama even more absorbing. These things wrapped up together make this movie one of the most gripping and sensational pictures you'll see for a long time.

The story concerns a southern schoolteacher (Leigh) who is a nymphomaniac (a nice way of saying a naughty word). Out of a job because of her moral transgressions, she comes to live with her sister. The sister's husband (Brando) takes offense at the intrusion and decides to force her from the house. In attempting to do so, he learns of her past, destroys her one thin chance at happiness, and is a main factor in her final and complete tragedy.

The film is much more than a sex movie. It's a story of frustration and stark tragedy, told with intense feeling and brutal realism. Despite its great length (2 hours, 5 minutes), it will hold your attention for every second, which is truly the mark of a great picture.

Pay Phones--Another Question

There's a major question facing Oregon student representatives who'll go to the PUC-phone company meeting in Salem next Tuesday! What is the dormitory status?

OSC is opposing the phones on the grounds that fraternities and sororities cannot be classified as "semi-public." (The tariff says pay phones must be installed in "semi-public" organizations.) The OSC administration requested pay phones in the dorms.

Oregon and Oregon State did not file a joint complaint mainly because OSC could see no plausible argument in their favor if dormitories were included in the complaint terms. In a recent letter, they said their attorney agreed.

Fraternal groups cannot be called "semi-public" because of their limited and selective membership, say the OSC students. But will that case stand for dorms? They are selective only on the grounds that not everyone can be a University student.

If our case—when it includes dorms—doesn't stand up, should we go ahead and fight to have phones removed from the houses? This would be unfair to that large segment of the student body that doesn't live in Greek houses.

Yet should we just leave the phones in all campus groups and raise no further opposition?

As yet student officials have contacted no informed persons—a lawyer perhaps—to get an opinion on where the dorms would stand. We think they'd better do something soon.

A decision will have to be reached. And next Tuesday is drawing close.

Even the Movies Cash In

The nights are colder, the pumpkins frostier and "Basketball Fix" has replaced "Saturday's Hero" on theater marquees.

As well as showing the nearness of winter, this latest "scandal picture" displays Hollywood's intention of cashing in on this sordid business.

The studio's self-avowed reason for putting out the picture is no doubt to provide public service. It may show some basketball player the error of his ways or keep some other star on the square by illustrating the ease with which one can become involved in criminality in sports.

If this was their noble purpose, the moviemaker might better have used a little more talent, money and time in the film's production. It still looks like a money-making proposition to us. "Basketball Fix" might help make basketball more honest.

We hope so.

We'll also hope that Hollywood teaches its "basketball stars" to play believable basketball before starting production of another film on the court sport.—D. D.

Boys Will be Boys

That was a good football game last Saturday. It was a good Oregon team—a fighting team—one to be proud of. And we are proud of it.

We can't say the same of the card section. But possibly it wasn't a University of Oregon card section. From their childish actions when the card tricks were finished (hurling the cards out over the spectators) it would seem no one in the group had yet completed grade school.

We noticed a lot of little fellows out on the field after the game ended. They were sailing the cards through the air. Which was only natural because after all, little boys will be boys.

But why should university students be little boys?

There's been some talk about starting an honor system around here. Observe our first shudder of apprehension. How could an honor system be entrusted to a bunch of juveniles who apparently can't honor a simple request to act like gentlemen?

—B.C.

-- Letters to the Editor --

Peculiar Economy

Emerald Editor:

Who made up this year's winter term class schedule?

It seems like they try to save a little money nowadays in the most peculiar places. Really, the amount of ink required to print the name of the course on the winter term schedule wouldn't break the University up in business—or would it?

Guess we'll be picking our winter term courses by the "number" that sounds best, unless, of course, we saved the material necessary for the cross-referencing.

It must truly be rather dark where the economists of this school's administration keep their heads.

John Kerns

A "Something"

Emerald Editor:

For the third time there appeared a "something" by Pat Dignan in the Emerald. I say a "something" because it consists of a lot of obvious statements, and a lot of nothing in a lot of words.

This time there was added a queer inconsistency. He says: "Ike will definitely run if the foreign policy he worked for in Europe is threatened by someone like Taft." Furthermore: "Truman will allow himself to run if a strong Republican candidate is nominated who threatens the existing government policy."

From this you would conclude that both Ike and Truman are going to run to save the present policy. But no... Pat tells us that he believes that, if Ike becomes the candidate, Truman

From the Morgue...

30 YEARS AGO

Nov. 28, 1921—Faculty members of the University of Oregon have prepared a telegram to send to the American delegation at the conference on limitation of armaments approving naval reduction idea urged by Secretary Hughes.

10 YEARS AGO

Nov. 28, 1941—The student executive committee recommended that a 2.0 GPA be required of students for participation in activities. Present requirements are a 1.5 for underclassmen and a 1.75 for upperclassmen.

will run; if Taft becomes the candidate Truman will step down.

So Taft is running for the nomination to stop Truman, Ike will run to stop Taft, Truman will run to stop Ike; one would almost believe in a three party system.

I think that this inconsistency can be cleared up if we say that Pat's belief is just a slip of the brain, and that it really should be: "Truman will step aside if Ike becomes the Republican candidate, (because Ike's policy will not be a threat to the existing policy which is partly Ike's already) but that Truman will run if Taft becomes the Republican candidate (since Taft is likely to threaten the Truman policy). Thus changed the "something" will be again pleasant reading for the sleepy "justgotupformy-eightO'clock" Oregon student.

Dirk Schepers

Season Starts Soon



"Say coach, I unnerstand yer lookin' for a tall center for yer basketball team."