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THE LOOKING GLASS

New Delinquency Show Finishes Run Tonight

By Len Calvert
Emerald Columnist

A movie intended to make the public aware of juvenile delinquency as it is overflowing into some American schools will finish its successful run at the Heilig tonight.

Those who have not yet seen "Blackboard Jungle" are missing a true dramatic treat, done in the memorable style of such films as "On the Waterfront."

Unfortunately, it gives the impression that schools such as that depicted in the film are more wide-spread than they really are. However, it is well that the public be made aware of the serious problems which face teachers in several "big city" schools.

One of the points in favor of the film is that it makes no attempt to give a clear-cut, black and white answer to why boys will act as those in the picture. There are many reasons and no one is really sure which one is the right answer to the why of juvenile delinquency.

Glen Ford gives the best performance of his career as the young Navy veteran fresh out of college and filled with the ideals of teaching. Thrown into a "garbage can" of education, the film graphically depicts the struggle which Ford undergoes within himself to keep his faith in the students and his fight to win the confidence of the boys.

Briefly, the plot of the story concerns Ford's experiences in a school which include a knife

fight, stopping an attempted rape, an alley beating and anonymous letters. The temptation to leave the "jungle" and go teach in a "nice" school is very great for the new teacher.

The movie makes one even more grateful for the teacher who truly believes in what he is doing and believes that any student is worth saving. More of the Ford type might result in a better educational system, staffed with teachers who really do "care."

Acting as a counter-balance to Ford's optimism is Louis Calhern, who portrays a cynical teacher who has to be shown that there really is some good in the boys he faces every day.

But, the real stars of the show are the boys themselves, all recruited, we understand, from a Los Angeles high school. Their terse, underplaying gives the film flavor which would have been entirely lacking otherwise.

Adding to the realism of the film was the background music of such jazz artists as Bix Beiderbecke, Stan Kenton and Bill Haley. The strong beat of the music fitted the film perfectly.

With the "Blackboard Jungle" is a delightful co-feature which many students will remember from the University Theater, "The Happy Time."

The film is a fairly faithful adaption of the successful play which deals with a boy growing up and discovering that love for a girl is different from the love he feels for his mother.

Oregon Spirit

"It was just great," was a comment of one of the co-chairmen of the 1955 Canoe Fete Steering committee when he finally took a well-earned breather following the completion of the Fete Sunday night.

The people who guided the first University Canoe Fete in 14 years to completion despite every conceivable type of mishap showed, even in their relaxed moments, why the Fete was the success it was.

Not content to let it rest, they were analyzing mistakes, planning recommendations for next year's fete, and reworking technical details in their minds.

Also prominent in the conversation were verbal reminders to themselves of the many people who deserved thanks and recognition for their work on this year's Canoe Fete.

Most frequently mentioned was the name of Howard Ramey ("We never would have made it without him") tireless instructor in speech who devoted endless time and effort, not to mention his own equipment, to make the show a success.

And on they went into the night—making notes of persons who would have to be thanked — students, faculty, alumni, and friends.

"Weren't the orchestra and the singers great?" was one question — a question we don't think needs an answer.

The University Orchestra and the University Singers were among the major reasons why the Canoe Fete was such a success. The music, beautifully planned and presented, gave the show a smoothness and scale which set the Fete far above the level of the average college float parade or similar event.

And on top of long hours of practice for their performance in the chill night air—the musicians didn't get to see the full beauty of the parade of floats because of their location.

Yes, everyone was great — the professors who served as advisors (and frequently as technicians and laborers), the people from the SU who gave the chilled workers hot coffee during the float construction Sunday, the physical plant, the city, the various chairmen.

But in the final analysis, we have to go along with Co-Chairman Bob Schooling's comment — "It was the kids, the whole student body. Did you ever see anything like it?"

No, we didn't. But we're proud and happy to be part of it, and we hope we'll be seeing it again for a long time to come.

py to be part of it, and we hope we'll be seeing it again for a long time to come.

For the thing which made the Canoe Fete great was the thing we do so much talking about and searching for, but the thing that pops up when you least expect it — Oregon spirit.

We're Tired

We're still tired. And we probably will be clear through final week. Junior weekend has ceased to be a mere weekend—it has become a week and a way of spring term life.

The word "weekend" is a misnomer—and we hope that the junior class officers for next year will see fit to bring this to the attention of the board of deans. The event calls for a three-day weekend, with no classes on Friday.

Granted this will meet with disapproval from the faculty, but why force class attendance on students who are too tired or too excited to benefit from any lecture? Class attendance traditionally hits a low the Friday of Junior Weekend. Perhaps the women are afraid to brave the walks leading past Fenton pool. Perhaps some are cleaning house for their incoming mothers. Perhaps some are resting up for the prom. And some are bound to be working on the floats or other Junior Weekend activities. Wherever they are, they aren't in class. And they aren't likely to be.

The calendar for next year has already been drawn up—with the usual two-day provision for Junior Weekend. Two days are not enough, especially with the addition of the Canoe Fete. When the request was made for the additional day this year, the application was turned down because not enough notice was given. Surely the board of deans would consider such a request again after this last weekend, even if the calendar has been approved. Such a request should be made this week by the officers of next year's junior class, for the next Junior Weekend will be their responsibility.

Footnotes

Remember the bathtub which floated along behind the comedy float in the Canoe Fete? The Tri-Delts and Alphaholics were quite careful not to let the bathtub sink, not because they were worried about the bather's health, but because a lost bathtub would have cost \$24.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Marshal Tito's Neutrality Plans To Face Severe Tests In Future

By J. M. ROBERTS
AP News Analyst

President Tito's announcement that he intends to maintain something very close to neutrality in the East-West conflict probably anticipates what the Russians will ask of him.

Molotov, in his unexpected speech at Vienna, made it clear that a neutral strip in Central Europe is very much on the Russian mind these days.

Neutral zones have never been effective in keeping the nations of Europe from one another's throats, but Russia seems to think it better than nothing as the strength of the West rises.

At least a neutralized Yugoslavia adjoining a neutralized Austria would give Russia a position from which to argue in connection with Germany, whether or not she has any real hope of preventing West German rearmament.

The signs from Germany indicate that, since alliance with the West has become a fact, neu-

trality cannot be made to work for such a powerful nation, and is a price she would be unwilling to pay for reunification.

For Tito, however, with Yugoslavia's natural orientation toward Eastern Europe, and with her intent to develop as an independent Communist state, neutrality would be an advancement from his recent position of cold war with the Soviet Union and her satellites.

Tito may find it difficult to make such a position work, despite his announced determination to keep his relatively new friendship with the West, with its economic aid. Neutrality is not a posture to be assumed at will, but must be worked for with all nations.

Russia's determination to end the long conflict with Tito is not necessarily tied to any single factor of her policy. The spectacle of a Communist state doing pretty well without being connected with international communism is a dangerous example to other

states and a constantly galling challenge to Moscow.

Tito says he told them clearly, however, that they needn't come to Belgrade expecting to get their fingers back in the Yugoslav pie, or to separate her from new Western friends, and that they agreed.

This, along with the fact that Molotov, who helped Stalin kick Yugoslavia out of the Cominform, is not included in the Russian negotiating party, shows the Russian visit is by no means merely a courtesy call. Khrushchev and Bulganin want something specific. For the Communist Party chief and the Russian premier to go together tags the trip as extremely important.

Khrushchev said recently he didn't need to go around peering over Bulganin's shoulders at things like a Big Four conference, where matters of state policy would be concerned. That makes the trip to Belgrade look like a party as well as a state matter.

Women's Ways



oregon daily EMERALD

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