

Dialogue



Protest against fiction film nothing more than folly

By Doug Vaughan
Editor in Chief

After a postponement and several attempts to ban the airing, ABC Entertainment is setting Nov. 20 as their date for the showing of a two-hour drama about the effects of a nuclear war, called "The Day After."

The \$7 million production takes place in Lawrence, Kan., and is based on the screenplay by Edward Hume. The show stars such actors as Jason Robards, John Cullum, Steve Guttenberg, Jobeth Williams and John Lithgow.

But that is not the controversial part. What is raising the hair on peoples backs is that the film is deemed by some as "Anti-American."

Actually, what is "American." Isn't this the land of the free? Yes, free thinking, free press, free religion, etc.? Or are we supposed to have the same beliefs in such areas as nuclear weaponry? This is the feeling I get from the film's opponents.

This film is said to be "the most controversial and horrifying film ever made for the home screen," by the *New York Times*. But isn't nuclear war controversial and horrifying? Or is my mind somewhere up in stratosphere?

The only thing that I find horrifying, maybe the correct word is unbelievable, is that ABC is willing to take a loss on the film. We are talking dollars and cents.

The film is costing the network \$7 million—three times more than the average television film. Even if they sell all the advertising slots, it is said that they will only recoup half the \$7 million. Most of this is due in part to a commercial free second half.

According to the descriptions by viewers, the film leaves no disrupting graphics out. There are enormous destruction scenes by firestorms, vaporizing people, loss of food and water supplies, and murder, the breakdown of medical care and disfigurement and death from radiation sickness.

Believe it or not the effects are said to be believable. Actors, wore makeup simulating burns and sores, and wigs were worn from which their hair fell out. Maybe not appetizing, but, from what I have learned in my thirteen plus years of school, realistic.

Of course, the gruesome scenes are not exactly what people are ranting and raving about either. More or less, it is the plot. Or let's

Calendar of events

Thursday, Nov. 17
Women's Awareness Day, CC Mall—All day.
Part of Awareness Week. For information call ext. 307.

Friday, Nov. 18
Senior Awareness Day, CC Mall—All day.
Part of Awareness Week.

Wednesday November 16, 1983

say, what they think the film is leading us to believe.

A major accusation is that the film leaves the audience not knowing which side launched their nuclear missiles first. The assumption "either we fired first of they fired first" is implied. If it is going to kill the majority of us anyway, why point fingers?

This is where challengers of the film would say nasty things about me because they say the film implies that it does not make a difference who launches the bomb. The show implies the enemy is the bomb rather than Russia.

The opponents claim that "the bomb being our enemy" is historically false because U.S. nuclear missiles have successfully prevented war for the past 38 years. Sorry, but I just blew my nose on that statement.

Just because we have not been in war for 38 years does not necessarily mean that nuclear missiles have, in their terms, "successfully prevented" war. I feel we are lucky that they haven't destroyed each and every one of us, and I am not too sure that someday they won't.

People are also concerned with the effect that the movie will have on younger viewers. ABC recognizes the hazard by a disclaimer at the beginning of the movie stating that it may not be suitable for younger viewers.

The concern surrounding this deals with the psychological effect that it will have on the children. Dr. Harold Voth, a psychiatrist, said "the program can only scare the wits out of young people, challenge them with unsolvable problems, and ultimately lead to a sense of hopelessness about the future."

Wait a minute. Nuclear war is fun and enlightening, right? Can you say nuclear holocaust? . . . Yes, I thought you could.

Portland Public Schools are showing their concern by advising parents to not let students under the age of 16 watch the show. And for students 16 and older, they have advised them to watch it in the company of an adult. That is right, hide the simulation of the truth. Don't let them know the dangers of nuclear arms.

The fact is, a nuclear war should be a fear of everyone. It is possible, and should be faced. "The Day After" is only a movie. But it does give us a picture of what we might be in for if we just let things happen.

Personally, I hope to be doing more exciting things this weekend than watching T.V., but that doesn't mean nuclear war doesn't scare the pants off me.

Saturday, Nov. 19
Fall Pruning Class, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Environmental Learning Center. For more information call ext. 351.

Sunday, Nov. 20
"Old Time Fiddlers," performance set from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the CC Mall Cafeteria. For more information call Greg Baker 657-7125.

Letters to the editor

The *Print* gladly accepts any letters to the editor. All letters are subject to editing, and should not be libelous, obscene or false.

Letters must be typed and double spaced. It must be signed with author's address and phone number, but can be held anonymous upon request.

ASG president reports to students

Fellow students,

Once again this is your Student Government bringing you up-to-date on what's going on.

First of all, I would like to thank all of you who came out to support the college on election day. We appreciate people like you who come through when help is needed. Obviously, we will have to try again until we succeed, so please don't lose your energy.

For those of you who did not take the initiative to vote, you will have to pay the price when cuts start to affect us. A committee has been formed to investigate as much as possible how to encourage students to register and to vote. The college levy could have passed if just one-half of our twenty thousand full and part-time students had voted.

ASG is making new moves to be of more help to the underprivileged members of the community. We gave all the help we could for Take Charge Day on Oct. 22. The day long event was extremely successful.

We have also made a

commitment to raise some funds for the United Way. We are not sure of exactly what type of event we will sponsor. Maryellen Newton, a volunteer for the organization, spoke to us about their cause. It's amazing what this organization does and can do for our community.

ASG is sponsoring a canned food drive starting the 21st of November and running through December 7. This will be an inter-club competition with first-place finishers receiving a \$50 prize. For all of you who care to donate canned food for our community, please bring it to the Student Activities Office after November 21.

A special Ladies Day in the Recreation Room is coming up soon. It will be for "ladies only" with special prizes and handsome instructors.

The Club Council is working well, all club constitutions are due in by December 1. These must be in by this date to be considered eligible to request ASG funding.

Sincerely,
John Sagoe, President

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Trailer B
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