

Opinion: Mine . . . What's Yours?

by George W. Earley

So . . . do you rent old clunky sci fi movies? Watch *Mystery Science Theater 3000*? Stay up late with Joe Bob Briggs and those Saturday night Monster Movies? Are you convinced that *X-files*, *Sightings*, *Unsolved Mysteries* and similar shows are right in implying the Government knows more about UFOs and alien beings than it is telling us?

If you do, you should trot right over to your favorite bookseller and ask for **Hollywood us. the Aliens** by Bruce Rux [\$19.95 from Frog, Ltd; ISBN # 1-883319-61-7 in case they think you're kidding about the title].

The book's thesis is clearly stated by the subtitle: *The Motion Picture Industry's Participation in Disinformation*. What Rux is saying, in nearly 700 pages, is that a cabal of writers, directors, actors, producers and other movers and shakers in Hollywood are in cahoots with the government to confuse and bamboozle us even as they entertain us. Every sci fi/horror/fantasy flick you've ever seen or heard of, and scores and scores more you've not, have been carefully crafted to prevent you from learning that flying saucers and their alien crews are coming to earth and doing nasty nasty things to humans.

Unfortunately for those of us who are door-slaming, tire-kicking investigators, Rux provides no 'smoking gun' to arguably prove his claims. But that won't bother the True Believers and paranoid conspiracists Out There. For them, it is enough that Rux has woven a seemingly plausible argument out of moonbeams and fairy dust.

For the rest of us, though, the book will give us an insight into some of our favourite viewing that we've not had before. As well as an insight into the dark world of conspiracist thinking.

Recently TIME magazine gave us a cover article on sex and the young child. Seems the kids are doing IT at younger and younger ages and this is naturally concerning a lot of older folks. There are, as TIME points out, ample reasons for us all to be concerned about such sexual activity. Unfortunately, given the hormonal drives built into us, there seems little that concerned older citizens, be they parents, politicians or professional folks, can say to diminish youthful enthusiasm for sexual relations.

Concurrently, the same older citizens are justifiably concerned about youthful attitudes towards alcohol and tobacco use. Both are addictive, too often fatally so.

So . . . given that kids will have sexual intercourse, smoke cigarettes and booze it up despite every warning adults can think of, what's to be done?

Well, given that there are a number of mood-altering drugs on the market -- some prescription, some not -- which we use for a variety of reasons, could we put some additives into both tobacco and alcohol?

Could we, say, spike booze with something that, as the toxicity level of alcohol in your blood approached a certain limit, made you throw up? Might result in fewer drunken drivers on the road as well as reducing the use of alcohol as a tool for seduction.

Could tobacco be modified to diminish one's sex drive?

Or should we simply rethink our seemingly perpetual reluctance to include classes in sex education, tobacco and alcohol abuse in our schools beginning during grade school?

Hollywood keeps insisting [with a certain air of desperation it seems to me] that "movies are better than ever." But if you've come out of a movie theater this summer with your head aching and/or your ears ringing and buzzing, you may feel that "noisier," not "better" is the more operative word.

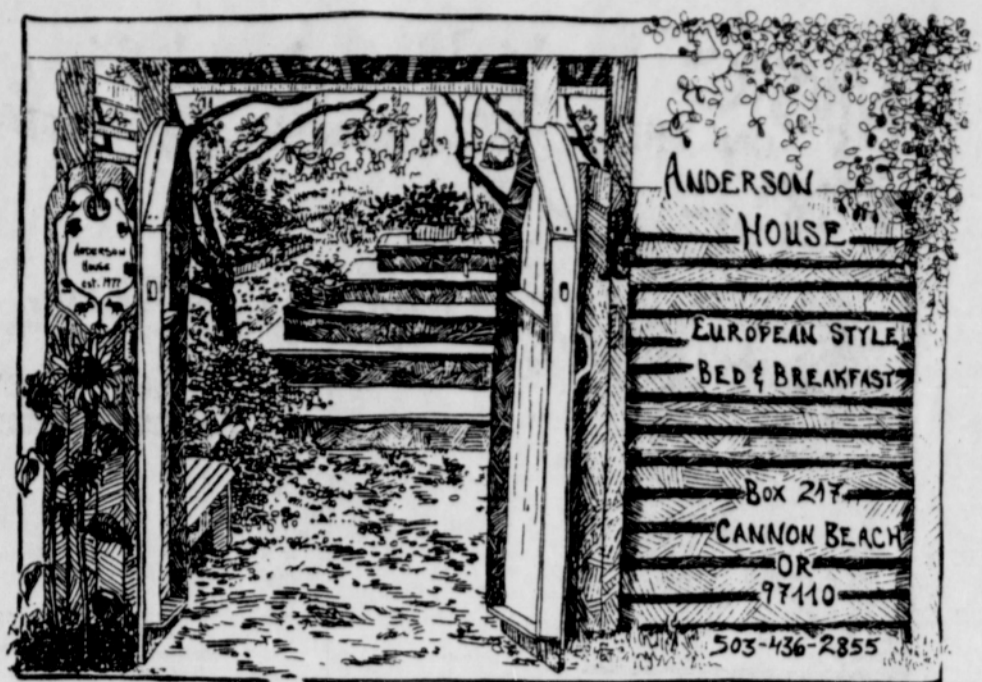
Writing for the NYTimes News Service, James Barron reports that such films as *Godzilla*, *Rugrats*, *Bulworth* and *Quest for Camelot* subjected viewers to sound levels well into ranges that cause permanent hearing loss.

And as many of you have noticed, the sound effects often get in the way of the dialog. If the trend to louder and louder films continues, Hollywood may be forced to bring back subtitles.

Dialog aside, the problem is controllable for those of us who largely eschew theaters for large screen TV -- we can either hit the mute button or volume control.

I've also given some thought to asking the local community college if they have a lip reading course.

George W. Earley is a freelance writing living on one of Mount Hood's old glacial moraines. Readers of *UFO Magazine* know him as The Opinionated Oregonian™.



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