

'Stir Crazy' displays too much Wilder, too little Pryor

by Randy Stevens

While being imprisoned for a crime you didn't commit is nothing to laugh about, Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder manage to squeeze some humor out of just such a situation in 'Stir Crazy,' currently showing in several Portland area theatres.

The film, while certainly not a threat for an Academy Award, does provide some moments of zaniness, particularly from Pryor.

The story, by Bruce Jay Firedman, begins simply enough. Wilder, (an unpublished playwright) and Pryor (who only earned \$35.00 as an actor last year) are both sacked from their jobs in New York, and decide to head to California, where their "real talents can be put to work." Along the way they are convicted of a bank robbery they didn't commit and sentenced to 120 years in prison. The balance of the film consists of the somewhat predictable reactions of two law-abiding comedians who have to

live with muggers, murderers and assorted criminals.

Regrettably most of the attention is focused on Wilder. Wilder doesn't quite have the necessary skills to deliver what could be funny lines, so he compensates by shouting them. I don't know why directors think yelling is funnier than good timing and delivery, but here Sidney Poitier has let Wilder get away with it again. This adds to the stilted nature of several scenes. In one scene in a moderately quiet tavern, Wilder is shouting his lines at the top of his lungs while neighboring diners take no notice and go on eating. In the real world, people whose peace is disturbed generally look up.

Richard Pryor is the brightest spot in the movie. He can provoke laughter from the audience simply by raising an eyebrow. The comparison between the two stars' styles is most evident when they first enter jail. As they walk by cells where the other prisoners are, Pryor starts strutting and shucking, "Be

bad, man, be bad," he counsels Wilder. His portrayal of a jail-wise con is carried off beautifully until Wilder starts shouting and over-acting again. The movie could have been improved with a little less Wilder and a little more Pryor.

'Stir Crazy' is a moderately funny movie that is certainly better than anything you might watch on television, but six months from now it will be gone and forgotten. It's rated R because of language and brief gratuitous nudity.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners, under the provisions of ORS 198.850 intends to hold a public hearing on the 28th day of January, 1981 at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the Columbia County Extension meeting room, main floor, Columbia County Courthouse, St. Helens, Oregon regarding Order No.4-81, declaring its intent to proceed with the annexation to the district of Fishhawk Lake Estates-Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Annexation. The new boundaries as proposed by the district are to include that portion of Division 1 of Fishhawk Lake Estates which lies within Columbia County.

At this hearing, public testimony will be received concerning the proposed annexation.

Marion Sahagian
Vice-Chairman
Columbia County Commission

47J SCHOOLS CLOSE

There will be no school for Vernonia District students Monday, Jan. 19th. The date was originally Jan. 26, as an in-service day for staff. The date has been moved up to coincide with the end of the term.

PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning debated

The Vernonia City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 16, 1981 in the City Library on the request by C.E. Miller for a zone change to extend the commercial zone in the city from River Street north to Nehalem Street and from the alley between First and Second Avenues east to California Street; from Alder Street in Riverview north to 100 feet on the north side of Knott Street.

Don Dunaway
City Recorder

Rampaging auto just a repeat

To the Editor:

Read your story about "Rampaging Auto invades house" in the Jan. 8 issue. If I see that picture correctly it's not the first time that house has been run into.

Circumstances were very much the same, with the exception that the accident was reported shortly after it happened and the party was immediately

put in jail, but this time it was reported the next day and no charges were made.

In so far as the statements made by observers and the "foggy night," "add a little whiskey" and being New Years eve gives the story an air of comedy.

From one who's been there.

Mrs. Henry J. Turner
Newberg, Ore.

Riverside Drive frustrates residents

To the Editor:

I'm a resident of Riverside Drive and I'm writing to complain about the road. I have lived there for three years and for three years the road has been bad.

Residents have complained many times to the city and city officials just reply, "We are trying, but you're still on the priority list." It is a sorry story when you have to take your car into the garage every few months if you drive it

everyday.

Men have come out to rock the road, but that only lasts about two weeks. With all that work put into it, it could have been paved!

We're tired of being bumped and thrown all over the road.

I'm asking the city once more, you will save a lot of money, if you would please pave Riverside Drive.

Sincerely,
Kerry Grummett

Lindsley family thanks neighbors

We wish to express our sincere and deep appreciation to everyone who extended sympathy and help to us during this time of loss of our wife and mother, Alice. The special blessings that you dear ones added to our lives this past week is beyond our ability to appropriately thank. You gave of your time, your energies, your love and most of all yourselves.

All we can say is thanks so much and may God continue to bless you. We would like to extend a very special

thanks to the saints at the Foursquare Church.

We, as a family, not only hope but know with assurance that Alice is with her, and our, Lord now. And because of this assurance, our loss seems much less painful because our Lord has gained. Again, thanks so much.

Vernon Lindsley
Mario and Sherry Alfonso and family
Jack and Ruth Lindsley and boys
Ron and Sandy Welch and Angie

Vernonia Freedom

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Obituaries

HOWARD SAMPSON

Funeral services for Howard Sampson, 74, will be held Friday, January 9, at 2:00 P.M. at the Fuiten Mortuary Chapel in Beaverton. The Rev. Robert Benefiel, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Beaverton, will officiate.

Interment will follow at the Valley Memorial Park Mausoleum in Hillsboro.

Howard Sampson was born June 13, 1906 at Ewing, Nebraska, the son of Eugene and Belle Hosick Sampson. His early lifetime was spent in the Ewing community. He later moved with his family near Randall, Kansas where they farmed. He was united in marriage September 19, 1931 in Beloit, Kansas, to Fern Flinn. After their marriage they lived and farmed in Jewell Co. Kansas. The family then moved to St. Helens, Oregon where he worked for Crown Zellerbach. Mr. Sampson later went to work for the poostal department and carried mail on Star Route between St. Helens and Vernonia until his retirement in 1968. After 1971 they resided between Aloha and Apache Junction, Az. Mr. Sampson was a member of the Methodist Church in St. Helens.

Mr. Sampson died on December 23, 1980 following an extended illness at Apache Junction. He is survived by his wife, Fern in Aloha. Also surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Roy (Barbara) Langford, Portland; Mrs. Bob (Nina) Rose, Aloha and Sharon Wells of Beaverton. Eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren survive as does one sister, Erma Ward of Straton, Nebraska.

The family suggest memorial contributions to the Oregon Heart Association.

ALICE LINDSLEY

Funeral services for Alice Lindsley, 58, resident of the Vernonia community for the past fifty years were held Friday, January 9, at 1:00 p.m. at the Foursquare Church in Vernonia. Her son, the Rev. Jack Lindsley, officiated. Concluding services followed at the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery with her grandson serving as casket bearer. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Fuiten Mortuary Chapel in Vernonia.

Alice Lindsley was born April 21, 1921 in Brush Prairie, Washington, the daughter of Thomas and Sophia Marie Johnson Juola. She spent her early lifetime in Brush Prairie going to school there until her seventh year in grade school. She then moved with her family to the Vernonia Community where she has lived until her death January 7, 1981 at St. Vincents Hospital in Portland.

She was united in marriage July 8, 1938 in Vancouver, Washington, to Vernon Lindsley. They have made their home in Vernonia since and for the past several years have lived at 348 C. St. Mrs. Lindsley was devoted to her family and her church. She was a member of the Foursquare Church in Vernonia, and a member of the Vernonia Grange No.305.

She is survived by her husband, Vernon of Vernonia, three children, Mrs. Mario (Sherry) Alfonso of Portland, Or; The Rev. Jack Lindsley and Mrs. Ron (Sandy) Welch both of Vernonia. Eight grandchildren survive as do two brothers, Clifford and Roy Juola, both of Vernonia.

The family suggest memorial contributions to Vernon in care of the family.

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