



LOUISE SNIDER



During an anti-war demonstration Andy (right), played by Will Seltzer, burns his draft card with the help of a student leader played by Dan Woodworth (left) in "More American Graffiti."

The continuing story of 'graffiti' goes its own way

"More American Graffiti" (PG) bursts on the screen with bold colors, multiple images, quick cuts and intercuts and a pulsating sound track.

At first, the energetic effects seem both an asset and a liability. The problem is that while the film immediately engages our senses, it doesn't stir our emotions or prod our intellect. The effect is similar to watching a rock concert on a television screen; you might be entertained, but you don't really feel you are part of it.

"More American Graffiti" is that way. You sit back and admire the technical bravado and remain even more distanced from it — at first. That is the amazing quality about this film. But in spite of the dazzling display of cinematography, the jumping forward and back in time, and the episodic nature of the action, the film hooks you.

CHARACTERS APPEAR for a few minutes here, only to be put aside while the film catches up with the lives of some other characters there, yet it all holds together.

These are the same characters who first appeared in George Lucas' "American Graffiti." In this continuation, "sequel" is too demeaning, considering the caliber of sequels we've seen, produced by Lucas but written and directed by B.W.L. Norton, we follow their lives into the troubled '60s from about '64 to '68.

The new "Graffiti" does not broadcast itself as a Vietnam war movie, but the scenes of Terry "the toad" Fields (Charles Martin Smith) in Vietnam are as hard hitting and incisive as any footage in films solely devoted to the subject. Moreover, "Graffiti" makes use of its perspective on the late '60s to uncover the humor, dark as it may be, in events.

While "the toad" is fighting in Nam, anti-war activists are burning their draft cards. The high school sweethearts, Laurie and Steve, are married and squabbling. When Laurie becomes unwittingly involved in a violent campus clash between students and police, her straight-arrow, Republican husband rushes to her rescue only to suffer the humiliation of being mistaken for an agitator.

The humor and the violence both share an irrational component that binds them together, making this a more complex film than its predecessor. "More American Graffiti" goes its own way, even though it draws on the same characters and the same pop culture environment.

THE FILM UTILIZES the music of the '60s to provide a kaleidoscopic view of that culture. It effectively establishes the mood, from Country Joe's "Fixin' To Die Rag," to the Doors' "Light My Fire," to the Byrds' "Turn, Turn, Turn," and concludes, fittingly, with that summary hymn of the era, Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone."



Left: In "American Graffiti" set in 1962, Mackenzie Phillips played a girl named Carol. Right: In "More American Graffiti" she has become a flower child, moved to San Francisco and changed her name to "Rainbow."

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR (R). JH LOST AND FOUND (PG). George Segal and Glenda Jackson are paired again in romantic comedy about a "fractured" couple who meet in the Swiss Alps and decide to yodel on through life together.

LOVE AT FIRST BITE (PG). Dracula goes disco dancing in funny, contemporary version with George Hamilton.

THE MAIN EVENT (PG). Barbra Streisand is a perfume manufacturer who manages a retired boxer, Ryan O'Neal, in comedy about the fight game.

MANHATTAN (R). The inhabitants are somewhat frayed, but the Big Apple looks glorious in Woody Allen's witty peek at the pairings and partings among New York literati.

MEATBALLS (PG). Lively comedy with Bill Murray (of "Saturday Night Live") as head counselor at a summer camp in an "Animal House" for the junior teen set.

MOONRAKER (PG). James Bond (Roger Moore) in space adventure with Lois Chiles for company and Richard Kiel (the metalmouthed "Jaws") for challenge in most spectacular of the 007 films.

MORE AMERICAN GRAFFITI (PG). George Lucas's very successful continuation of "American Graffiti" examines the lives of seven of the original characters and their problems in the troubled '60s.

THE MUPPET MOVIE (G). Anyone who doesn't like this movie is

probably in need of immediate CPR. A host of stars make cameo appearances but none outshines Jim Henson's laughable, lovable muppets as they head for Hollywood.

NIGHTWING (PG). Some scary moments in the shocker about vampire bats on a Hopi Indian reservation.

NORTH DALLAS FORTY (R). Fine performances from Nick Nolte and Mac Davis as pro-football players in film that takes hard look at the commercialism of the game.

ROCKY II (PG). Sylvester Stallone as Rocky Balboa, the over-the-hill boxer, returns for a rematch with the heavyweight champ.

THE VILLAIN (PG). As slapstick as a Road Runner cartoon extended to 90 long minutes with Ann-Margaret, Kirk Douglas and Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is a cartoon.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING ODDBALL (G). Lagging Disney comedy about Cape Kennedy engineer who gets launched into Round Table days. Based on Mark Twain's "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G General audiences admitted.
PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.
R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.
X No one under 18 admitted.



Hanging in

Harold Lloyd finds time is of the essence in "Safety Last" (1923), one of three films to be screened beginning at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 2, on the film series "The Silent Clowns" at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Also to be shown will be "Modern Times" (1936) starring Charles Chaplin and "Hot Water" (1924), another Lloyd film.

Vegetarian dinner, picnic and art show to be held in the park

A vegetarian dinner and picnic will be held on Sunday, Aug. 26, from 3-5 p.m. at Springdale Park in Birmingham. Food will be furnished by The Yellow Bean Trading Company and Harvest in the Park. There will be art displays from The Art Connection. For more information, call Claire Peek at 647-3481.

'Hello, Dolly!' slated

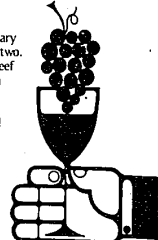
The original Broadway version of "Hello, Dolly!" will be presented by WPK Enterprises in a dinner theater production Friday-Saturday, Aug. 24-25, at Oakland Community College, Highland Lakes Campus, in Union Lake.

Dinner is at 6:30 p.m.; curtain at 8 p.m. For information about tickets call 363-6381.

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