

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



O&E Monday, January 10, 1987

S&Wb.T.Ro.S.F)

'V' is for violence in Hollywood

Violence comes in all shapes and forms, particularly in current motion pictures, where it is packaged as a regular product.

If the MPAA Ratings were meaningful, we could probably check how many murders rate an "R" or how graphic sexual display may be and still cater to young dollars with a PG.

A comparative study of violence in films drums up some pretty ludicrous contradictions. One man's "X" is another's "R" and there is no consistency from one film to the next. Parents are justifiably puzzled as to what kind of guidance they should offer their children.

What does one tell children 13 or under about "Assassination" (PG-13)? A concerned parent might guide them elsewhere than this ridiculous and poorly produced film. From the box-office statistics, however, that's not been the case so we'd better advise further.

Crime and sex get 'R' and 'PG'

MOM AND Pop might start off telling the children that the latest Charles Bronson-Jill Ireland vehicle is highly implausible. The screenplay by Richard Sale, who has written 31 feature films over a long career, is based on his novel, "My Affair with the President's Wife."

Ex-U.S. Senator Bunsen of Hawaii (Michael Ansara), chief of staff for President Calvin Craig (Charles Hoverton), is trying to assassinate the First Lady (Jill Ireland) because she may divorce the president, whose injury heroically landing an

F-111 left him impotent. Good reasoning, right, kid?

Naturally, a widower has a better chance of re-electing than a divorced politician. All this was worked out in Sen. Bunsen's evil mind during the inauguration as he hired Reno Bracken (Erik Stern) to kill the First Lady.

Now, children, are you still with us? It just so happens that Bracken is a sworn enemy of Secret Service Agent Jay Killian (Charles Bronson), who is just returning from leave after an unpleasant divorce. Don't ask

much about the materials to which their children are exposed.

TERRY LAMBERT (Steve Guttenberg) is having an affair with Sylvia (Isabelle Huppert), who just happens to be married to Terry's boss, Collin (Paul Shenar).

After some late-night bathroom antics, while Terry is in the bathroom, Sylvia looks out the window and sees the Brad Greenquist attack D. (Elizabeth McGovern).

Henderson is frightened off. Later that night he kills another girl. Terry feels that Sylvia's testimony would help the police, but she can't come forward because of her affair with Terry. So Terry pretends to be the witness and gets more deeply involved than he expected.

The scenario proceeds along an unusual tack, with just enough realistic detail to convince us that such complications are plausible.

While there are some weak spots, on the whole the film is entertaining. Henderson's attorney (Wallace Shawn) pulls off a slick experiment but it's questionable how he obtained his key fact about Terry's contact lenses. The film is well-paced, and some of the other questions get lost in the shuffle.

HUPERT HAS just the right amount of distance and disdain from the pleasures she shares with Guttenberg. We never learn why she is cheating on her husband, but it doesn't matter.

Unfortunately, her sophistication overpowers Guttenberg's character and characterization. She seems just right, while his self-conscious and embarrassed little laughs qualify less as acting and more as the young employee (read "less experienced actor") uncomfortably dealing with the boss's wife (a renowned actress).

McGovern is effective as the no-nonsense, cocktail waitress who can take care of herself. Greenquist's pervert is properly withdrawn and



the movies

Dan Greenberg



Charles Bronson is Secret Service Agent Jay Killian, protecting the president's wife, First Lady Lara Royce Craig, played by Jill Ireland, in "Assassination."

perverse, while Shawn does a neat characterization as an offbeat attorney.

"The Bedroom Window" has its perversity and violence, but the film is well-done and deservedly "R"-rated. Thank goodness no parental guidance is required. If it were, I'd have to explain our society.

What does one tell children 13 or under about "Assassination" (PG-13)?



Elizabeth McGovern is Denise Connelly, the victim of an attack by Brad Greenquist, in the role of Henderson, a pervert, in "The Bedroom Window."

On the big screen

Movies Just Opened: "The Color Purple" (Return Engagement), "Maiden" (at AMC Maple), "The Mission" (Beacon, Dearborn, Showcase-Pontiac, Showcase-Sterling Heights, holds over at Movies at Prudential), "Native Son" (Americana, Eastland, Renaissance Theaters), "Wanted Dead or Alive."

Movies Holding: "Assassination," "Heartbreak Ridge," "Little Shop of Horrors," "The Morning After," "The Mosquito Coast," "No Mercy," "Return to Horror High," "True Stories" (Maple Theatre), "Wisdom."

SHOWCASE OF BANDS

An opportunity to see & hear a variety of bands. Ideal for weddings, dinner dances & special occasions. Available for functions anywhere in the Metro Detroit area.

Thursday, January 22, 1987

Refreshments 7:00 P.M. No admission charge

ROMANS OF BLOOMFIELD

2101 S. Telegraph Road

332-9217

\$93 Winter Weekend Getaway

Get away without a trip. Come to the "new" Kingsley Inn. Our one-night weekend package includes a chilled bottle of champagne, Sunday brunch and unlimited use of our indoor atrium pool and whirlpool spa for one night for two people. Two nights, \$155. Poolside rooms higher.

Kingsley Inn

Woodward at Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills • 644-1400

Presented by the **Observer & Eccentric** NEWS PAPERS *Vacation Planner*

PLAN YOUR VACATION TODAY--ANTICIPATION IS PART OF THE FUN!

California Golden West Tour

8 DAYS -- DEPARTS TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1987 -- RETURNS TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1987

LOS ANGELES **HOLLYWOOD** **UNIVERSAL STUDIOS** **CALICO GHOST TOWN** **LAS VEGAS** **PALM SPRINGS**

Price Includes:

- ☐ Air transportation on scheduled air lines with in-flight meals
- ☐ To-your-room baggage handling
- ☐ Hotel/airport transfers (in California)
- ☐ Hotel accommodations
- ☐ Sightseeing & special events
- ☐ Entrance fees
- ☐ Fully escorted

\$439 COMPLETE PER PERSON (Based on Double Occupancy)

Florida Sunshine Tour

\$649 COMPLETE PER PERSON (Based on Double Occupancy)

14 DAYS -- DEPARTS SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1987 -- RETURNS SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1987

GEORGIA **FLORIDA** **TENNESSEE** **CAROLINAS** **GEORGIA**

Price Includes:

- ☐ Round trip airfare to Atlanta
- ☐ Round trip motorcoach from Atlanta through the Southeast
- ☐ Hotel/Motel accommodations--14 days
- ☐ To-your-room baggage handling
- ☐ Sightseeing, entrance fees, special events and entrance fees as listed
- ☐ Fully escorted

\$1484 COMPLETE PER PERSON (Based on Double Occupancy)

Hawaiian Tour

18 DAYS--DEPARTS TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1987 -- RETURNS WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1987

WAIKOLI **KONA & HILO** **MAUI** **KAHOOLAWE** **KAHOOLAWE** **KAHOOLAWE**

Price Includes:

- ☐ Air Transportation--Round trip via scheduled airlines coach class, with in-flight meal service
- ☐ Airfare/Hotel/airport transfers (in Hawaii)
- ☐ Hotel accommodations--based on twin/double bedrooms in first resort hotels, all rooms with a private bath
- ☐ To-your-room baggage handling
- ☐ Personal Transfer--Airport to hotel, round trip throughout Oahu for baggage handling are included

YOUR MAN TOURS

24624 MICHIGAN AVENUE DEARBORN, MI 48124 (313) 276-4102

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____