



'Silver Bears' loses momentum

"The Silver Bears" (PG) doesn't glitter and doesn't growl. Touted as a suspense-comedy, the movie is never suspenseful and is seldom comical.

A few humorous and even witty bits of business and dialogue spark the beginning of the movie, but the brightness quickly fades. Director Ivan Passer does not seem to have exercised the kind of control that might have boosted the film with better pacing and a more cohesive style.

He's let the story, dealing with business manipulations and chicanery, take over, as if piling up one complication on top of another were sufficient to get a laugh. It's not. We just get a heavy thud.

The movie slows down and dulls down, in spite of a game cast. Louis Jourdan, particularly, stands out for his deft, amusing performance as a poor but proud Italian prince.

MICHAEL CAINE plays an English business expert (even though he buys the only bank in Switzerland without assets?) working for a Las Vegas syndicate headed by Martin Balsam.

Caine goes to Switzerland to buy a bank to launder the mob's money. Jourdan is the impoverished Italian noble who lends his respected name to ignoble enterprise. The bank finances a silver mine, which turns out to be a smuggling operation (run by Stéphane Audran and David Warner), which nevertheless leads to disruptions in the world silver market.

More complications ensue and coalesce when a California bank sends a naive and dull junior executive (Tom Smothers) overseas to buy a European bank. Naturally, he singles out the funny-money bank that Caine and Jourdan are running.

While he's bidding to acquire the bank, his zany wife (Cybill Shepherd) is consorting with the enemy (Caine) and telling all. Shepherd overplays her first comedic role and creates a singularly obnoxious character.

By wrap-up time, it's not only Cybill's character that is obnoxious but the tenor of the whole film which treats fraud as fun and adultery as a delight.



Michael Caine (left) and Louis Jourdan conspire to use a small Swiss bank for a daring, secret plan to corner the world silver market.



Cybill Shepherd is the adventurous wife of a dull, junior executive of an American bank who accompanies her husband on a European business trip.

Glimpses

AMERICAN HOT WAX (PG). Story of rock 'n' roll era with guest shots by Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis. Tim McIntire plays deejay Alan Freed. **THE BOYS IN COMPANY C (R).** Lives of a cross section of young men from Marine boot camp to Vietnam. Good individual performances. **CASEY'S SHADOW (PG).** Sensitive movie about impoverished Cajun (Walter Matthau), his three sons and the horse that becomes pivotal to their future fortunes.

THE FURY (R). Director Brian DePalma unleashes the special effects in gory film about secret government agency and two teenagers with strange psychic powers.

HOUSE CALLS (PG). Walter Matthau and Glenda Jackson in entertaining comedy about amorous adventures of widowed doctor and complications in hospital politics.

I WANNA HOLD YOUR HAND (PG). Beatle hysteria of the '60s in story of six youngsters who go to New York to see the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show. Sound track of Beatles' recordings.

PRETTY BABY (R). Red-light district of New Orleans, in 1917 as seen by a child prostitute in lush, unromantic film by Louis Malle.

RABBIT TEST (PG). Joan Rivers directed this wild comedy about the world's first pregnant man.

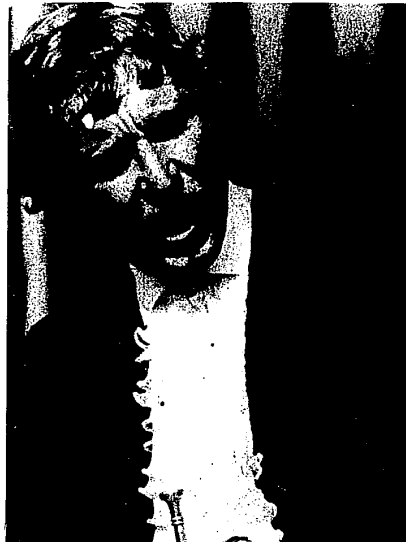
SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER (R). John Travolta (of Kottler's sweatshops) is the main man in film with plenty of disco action.

A SPECIAL DAY Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni are excellent as two lonely individuals caught up in bombast of Italian fascism. Subtleties.

AN UNMARRIED WOMAN (R). Jill Clayburgh in top form as woman who picks up the pieces after her husband leaves her, then finds there's more to life than Scotch Tape. Written and directed by Paul Mazursky.

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.



Sing out at Troy Hilton

1,000 Sweet Adelines convene

Nearly 1,000 Sweet Adelines from Region No. 2 (eastern Michigan and western Ontario) will gather at the Troy Hilton Inn May 5-7 for their annual convention and competitions. Members of the S.O.C. (South Oakland County) Chapter will host the event.

The Sweet Adelines will hold an annual membership meeting, install new regional officers and members of the regional board of directors, train candidate judges, and hold regional quartet and chorus competitions.

According to Convention Chairman Rosemary Cisdal of Royal Oak, the two competitions are the highlights of the convention weekend. Both contests

will be held at Athens High School, John R. north of Wattles Road (Seventeen Mile) in Troy, and are open to the public. Tickets are available at the door or by calling Jund Budzen at 646-3719.

Eight barbershop quartets will compete for the honor of being named Regional Champions at the Regional Quartet Competition May 5 at 7:30 p.m.

THE NEW champions will represent Region No. 2 at the International Convention and Competitions in Los Angeles, Oct. 3-7.

Also appearing on the May 5 evening program will be the Front Office Four

quartet, 1975 International Queens of Harmony, and the Sound Waves quartet from Macomb County Chapter, 1977 Region No. 2 Quartet Champions.

Many of the Sweet Adelines attending the convention will appear in the Regional Chorus Competition on May 6 at 12:30 p.m.

Eighteen choruses will vie for the first place medals, trophy and the privilege of representing Region No. 2 in the International Chorus Competition in St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 6-10, 1978. S.O.C. Chapter Chorus Director Jack Kaye and Del McPherson, both of Farmington, will MC the May 6 contest.

The competing quartets and cho-

ruses will be scored by four judges who are trained and certified in their respective categories. Judging the Troy contests will be Carolyn Butler, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif. music; Zoe Thompson, Seattle, Wash. sound; Marilyn Rose, Memphis, Tenn., expression; and Mavis Burnett, Denver, Colo., expression.

A MINI-SHOW, featuring the S.O.C. Chapter Chorus, and a Parade of Champions (1977 and new 1978 Regional Quartet and Chorus Champions) will be presented the evening of May 6 at the Troy Hilton Ballroom. All tickets for this event have been sold out.

They're entertaining

Some of the faces on the night scene include these personalities—who will be doing shows in the metropolitan area. Dion (lower left), formerly of Dion and the Belmonts, is appearing tonight at Angies nightclub on Orchard Lake Road, just south of Fourteen Mile, in Farmington. Tickets are available at the door for shows at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Rock artist Lou Reed (upper right) is scheduled for a concert at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Masonic Auditorium in Detroit. Tickets are available at the box office and at Hudson's. Barbara Barrow and Mike Smith open Wednesday at the Raven Gallery in Southfield. They will play through May 7, with show times Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday at 9:30 p.m. and midnight. "Doc" Severinsen, musical conductor of the "Tonight Show," goes on stage for two shows, at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m., Saturday at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. Further information is available by calling the theater box office at 543-8222.



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