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# FEATURES

BIRTH CONTROL CONDEMNED

MOTION PICTURE GUIDE

## COURIER'S CURRENT CINEMA COMMENTS

By JOHN SPRINGER

(Editor's Note: Listed by the National Legion of Decency, this week, as Class B, are: "I Wanted Wings" — Objection: "Suggestive costuming," and "Chinese Den"—Objection, "Story treats of illicit love and murder without sufficient compensating moral value." New films listed under Class A, Section 1, and Class A, Section 2, are listed in the Movie Guide below.)

They're getting back to the "good old days" on the screen. A few years ago there was a run of pictures on the "gay nineties" and now, with "Strawberry Blonde" and "Cheers for Miss Bishop," it looks like another session. But if all the "gay nineties" pictures are as entertaining as these two, it won't be a sad session.

### "Cheers for Miss Bishop"—A-2

Emotional drama of the "Old Maid" school with a little "Good-bye Mr. Chips" thrown in — is "Cheers for Miss Bishop." The picture is over sentimental, perhaps, but it is saved from mawkishness by the fine handling it has received. Martha Scott, the radiant young actress of "Our Town," now offers a deeply moving portrayal of the young college teacher whose career spans the growth of the college from a small academy to a great modern university. As far as this corner is concerned, Miss Scott—along with Betty Field and Jane Bryan — is one of the potentially greatest actresses the screen has uncovered since the early days of Margaret Sullavan, Sylvia Sidney and Katharine Hepburn. Although she looks like neither of them, Miss Scott has a warm charm that is reminiscent of Helen Hayes and Irene Dunne and she has a great deal of talent as well.

William Gargan is Miss Scott's faithful suitor of the piece and there are two other young actresses of promise — Rosemary DeCamp and Mary Anderson. Martha Hunt, Edmund Gwenn, Sidney Blackmer and Dorothy Peterson are others who score in the long cast.

"Cheers for Miss Bishop" might have been distressingly maudlin. It is to the credit of Miss Scott and her cast that it turns out to be a very worthwhile film.

### "Strawberry Blonde"—A-2

"Strawberry Blonde" is also a slice of Americana — Vintage 1900 and thereabouts. While it may be exaggerated a bit, it is amusing and well played. A few years ago it was made under its original title of "One Sunday Afternoon," with Gary Cooper in the lead. At that time it was a pretty dreary little piece, but this remake "Strawberry Blonde" is approached from a different angle.

It's lively and funny all the way through and even though the prison interlude and the revenge motive still remain, the comedy is uppermost. James Cagney again proves how versatile he is and Olivia DeHavilland is at her best as the girl with the devastating wink. Jack Carson and Rita Hayworth are well cast, while George Tobias and Alan Hale head the sterling support.

### "The Man Who Lost Himself"—A-2

One of the oldest plots in the world—the comedy of errors in which a man is mistaken for another man by the other man's wife—is rehashed in "Man Who Lost Himself." This time, it's a vehicle for Brian Aherne and although Aherne is a facile comedian and makes much of the picture tolerable, it turns out to be pretty soggy rather than sparkling. S. Z. Sakall again contributes a good performance and if you look quickly you may catch a glimpse of Nils Asther. Asther, once darkly handsome and suavely menacing, is neither now. Dear Old Kay Francis is still struggling with feminine leads.

### "A Man Betrayed"—A-1

"Citadel of Crime"! It's a rather unusual and provocative title but, for some reason or other, Republic Studios changed it to "A Man Betrayed"—a title that is trite and corny, but that is good enough for the picture it names.

For, although such fine actors as John Wayne ("Stagecoach," "Long Voyage Home"), lovely Frances Dee, Edward Ellis ("A Man To Remember"), Ward Bond ("Long Voyage Home") and Wallace Ford are present, "A Man Betrayed" is just a gangster melodrama that might have been written by a high school student with ambitions to break into pulp magazines.

The picture is an amateurish hodge-podge of such plots as "The Great McGinty" and "Of Mice and Men" among others. All of the actors are completely wasted.

### Other Pictures

Another melodrama of the week is "Sleepers West" (A-2), which is passable entertainment of familiar stamp. Lloyd Nolan, Lynn Bari and Louis Jean Heydt, all of whom deserve better, give good performances. As a relief from crime in second features, "Blondie Goes Latin" serves very well. It's mildly amusing nonsense with Penny Singleton getting a chance to do some song and dance work — her first since the old musical comedy days before she became blonde and "Blondie."

### Off to Broadway

George David, the Democrat and Chronicle dramatic editor, is making his annual pilgrimage to New York to cover new plays and interview available screen and stage stars. Your Courier Commentator has accepted his invitation to join him so you can look forward to a report of the Broadway season in this column, within the next couple of weeks.

• • •

(John Springer reviews current movies and discusses a popular picture of the past over WHAM every Saturday morning at 10:15. This week's Movie Memory presentation will be the Katharine Hepburn-Fred MacMurray version of the Booth Tarkington novel, "Alice Adams."

*'Fifth Column Victims'*

## The Children's Lost Battalion

By The Rev. Donald M. Cleary

Catholic Chaplain, Cornell University

*(Complete Text of Sermon on Birth Control delivered at Old St. Mary's Church, Washington Park, Wednesday evening, March 26, 1941.)*

In the Catechism which each one of us studied as children, there is this question: "What is Man?" And the answer, "Man is a creature composed of body and soul and made to the image and likeness of God."

We learned that this image and likeness of God is found especially in our souls, in that God has given us faculties similar to His own, though finite in character, an intellect which can soar to explore the realms of the unknown, a will to decide the greatest and most important of problems, an immortality sublime enough to defeat death. Only those people who accept this definition of man will be convinced of what I shall say tonight.

If man be the result of a fortuitous concourse of atoms, if his soul be the same as the life in any animal in the city zoo, then no arguments of mine, except one, will avail. Each argument which I offer you, with one exception, is built upon the Catholic concept of the dignity of man, a creature of God, destined for God. The one exception will be the argument based on the instinct for self-preservation, something we share with all animals. Only those persons who will admit that moral and spiritual values are more important to the individual and the nation than economic and material, can be aroused by the fact that anything is sinful.

Unless a man believes in God, he cannot believe that there are things which offend God.

**BAD SCIENCE**

During the past century, a new science has sprung up, known as Eugenics. The word comes from the Greek, meaning "Good Birth" and, as a science, it has to do with all those things which are for the betterment of the human race. It deals especially with the factors which make for the propagation of the best type of child. There is a good science of Eugenics, and a bad. I am not concerned tonight with the former—that which strives by moral and legal means to improve the conditions and circumstances whereby the human race might be better off and more happily live out its existence. I refer rather to that type of Eugenics and that group of Eugenists who, during the past few years, have offered as panaceas for economic ills and as helps to the betterment of the race, such devastating ideas as the sterilization of the unfit, the killing of the old, infirm, or insane, known by the pleasant sounding title of Euthanasia, clinical abortions, and most especially that rotten, cancerous thing, known as Birth Control, better styled by Theodore Roosevelt as "Race Suicide."

**I maintain that this group of people, Margaret Sanger, Mrs. Hepburn, and all who have come out publicly for one, or all, of these things, is more of a Fifth Columnist than the most revolutionary minded Communist!**

These are the people who, by a short-sighted, stupid, view of things, would have us believe that this world would be a far better place for the human race if only it were possible to set aside the laws which now exist and that it be permitted to teach these ideas in our schools and to promulgate them among the masses of the people by means of literature and clinics.

They are Fifth Columnists because they are advocating the implanting of something which is intrinsically wrong into the body of the United States and which cannot possibly be controlled once it is implanted. Either they do not see, or they cannot see, what has happened in other countries where the very things which they advocate have been permitted and encouraged.

**FRANCE'S FALL**

It is only a few short tragic months ago that Marshall Petain said that the reason for the fall of France was the lack of a knowledge of God and the absence of young men—young men who would have been there had not France led the world in the practice of artificial contraception

We, in this country, are second to France and, unless steps are taken to halt the spread of these materialistic and atheistic ideas, the United States will soon be where France is today. Nature is relentless and like her, God will not be mocked!

Time does not permit me to take up one by one each of the theories proposed by these modern pagans. Rather, I shall take one and that the most popular of all their preachings, and analyze it with you—the idea in mind being that if this one theory can be proved to be false, the other theories based on the same premises are likewise false.

A short time ago an article appeared in one of the metropolitan papers, stating that the first birth-control clinic in New York State was established in Newburgh, N. Y. This of course is contrary to the laws still on the statute books of the State of New York, which forbid the dissemination of birth-control literature, and materials, by such clinics. Let us analyze for a moment the purpose of such a clinic—to it were to come all these women who might be future mothers—particularly were to come, according to Eugenists, the poor—who should not bear children which they could not support nor educate properly, to be instructed in the technique of contraceptives.

Let me stop here for a moment and make a definition—by birth-control these people do not mean the control or spacing of births, by natural means, but rather by the use of such devices as make this control of birth an artificial one. To the people who started that clinic, or any other similar clinic, in this or in any other land, to all those who manufacture, or sell, the articles conducive to such control, to all those who in any way either in their own lives or by their advice to others, contribute to such artificial contraception and race suicide, the voice of God, through His divinely instituted mouthpiece, the Catholic Church, thunders: "You have done a detestable thing"—such was the angry voice of God to Onan, the father of the present-day birth controllers, and so it is repeated to his offspring. "You have done a detestable thing."

**ANSWERS QUESTIONS**

Rightly, you should ask two questions, first — what right have you, a priest, having no knowledge of family affairs, to speak on such matters? Secondly—Why does God say that this thing is detestable? In answer to the first, I say, there is no one in the world more competent to speak on such matters than is a Catholic priest. He does not need to experience these things in order to know the morality underlying and the cures for them, any more than does a doctor need to have had scarlet fever, or diphtheria, in order to recognize its symptoms and how to cure it.

The ordinary individual knows at best the intimate lives of a very few people—even the doctor is limited to hundreds, but the priest, sitting as he does in the confessional, week after week, and year after year, knows thousands of cases and, because of his knowledge of many, he can speak with authority and assurance. The second question—why does God say that this is a detestable thing — will take some greater time to answer. But let it be said first of all, that there is no moral teaching of the Catholic church which is so completely consonant with pure logic and with the experience of mankind. Its one great flaw is that it goes contrary to the desires and wishes of human nature! Briefly, the practice of birth control is detestable, a moral wrong, and therefore seriously sinful in the sight of Almighty God, for the following reasons:

1. It is contrary to the natural law.
2. It is the beginning of national decay.
3. The Bible condemns it.
4. The best medical convictions anathematize it.

It is against the natural law God in His wisdom has created a world which world He intends should run according to certain predetermined laws. This is evidenced if one but looks around him and observes the change of seasons, the order of the planets, the procession of growth and death. Everywhere one looks one sees the evidence of an immutable law working through things. As that is true in the material order, so is it true in the moral order.

**DEFINITE STANDARD**

Almighty God has set up a definite standard of laws according to which human nature should operate. And if it does, it achieves the most complete happiness and perfection which such human nature can attain. For example—has it ever occurred to you to question, "Why is it wrong to murder?" Why isn't it a good and delectable thing to steal or to libel? The simple answer is because God has ordained it otherwise. And as long as God wishes it so, that will be the natural law. Murder, theft and libel, will always be wrong.

Now, God has implanted in man certain faculties to be used according to the law which God has set up. For instance—there is the faculty of speech, given to man to convey to others the truth in his mind. If he uses this faculty to convey an untruth, he is violating that faculty and we say that he is lying and therefore that he commits sin. In the physical order, we have the faculty of digestion, by which food is taken into the body and is assimilated, in order that we might go on living. To this faculty, God has attached a certain pleasure. If we were to use the faculty for the pleasure alone, that is to eat, and then by artificial means to disgorge this food, we would be violating this faculty, and would be said to be sinning.

God has given us the generative faculty, by which he intended that children be conceived and brought into the world and thereby that the race be propagated. To the use of this faculty, he has attached a certain pleasure. If this faculty is used for the pleasure alone and in its use its results are artificially hindered, or destroyed, we are abusing that faculty.

**'A DETESTABLE THING'**

We are violating the natural law—the law of nature which God has implanted in us, and therefore we are committing sin. In other words—the individual act of artificial birth control, whereby the results, the possible natural results, are excluded, is contrary to the law of God, and that is why God said in the first recorded instant of such birth control, "That Onan had done a detestable thing."

Some people are not affected by arguments in which the natural law is given as a basis. They must have something more concrete, more specific, before they can realize the force of any truth. To these people let me say, that the promoters of race suicide in the United States have set in motion the machinery which will ultimately destroy this country and anyone who follows their counsel is contributing to that destruction. In that sense, each person who, for any reason whatsoever, makes a practice of artificial contraception can be called, and truly so, a Fifth Columnist.

Even the most materialistically minded economist will admit that when a nation's birthrate parallels its death rate, the end of that nation is not far off. Statistics disclose that the birth rate in the United States has declined in direct proportion as has the practice of artificial birth control been condoned and encouraged.

The Bureau of Vital Statistics in Washington figures that if the birth rate declines at the rate which it has been declining during the past twenty years, in 1950 it will be lower than the death rate. In 1985 we will begin to have a nation of old people and a nation of old people cannot long endure.

**PRACTICED BY WEALTHY**

Doctor Thurman Rice of the Indiana University of Medicine has said, "It takes an average of four children in a family to reproduce a nation and unless our best families do their part, the best blood will be wasted." We find that, in this country where our Eugenists preach the doctrine that those who have money and position should propagate and those who are poor and illiterate should be taught the methods of birth control and encouraged to practise it, that the result has been only too obvious. It is the wealthy and the literate who have adopted all of the methods urged by the birth controllers in order that they might not be tied down by children from enjoying their wealth and from proceeding without fetters to the divorce court, while the so-called illiterate poor are producing and saving the nation for them! Why is it that the

(Continued on Page 14)

## Fr. Brennan Pens 4th Book For Children

Carrying a foreword by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, the fourth children's book from the pen of the Rev. Gerald T. Brennan, pastor of St. Bridget's Church, entitled "The Man Who Dared a King—St. John of Rochester," has just been released.

Written for children between 8 and 12 years of age, in Father Brennan's popular style, the book consists of 16 chapters and is handsomely illustrated.

The story is about St. John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester England, who has gone down in history for daring to defy King Henry VIII.

In the foreward, Bishop Kearney writes:

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The other books by Father Brennan which met with such hearty acclaim from the children are: "Angel City," "Angel Food" and "The Ghost of Kingdom Come."

of the Mystical Body."

## Movie Guide

**NEW FILMS REVIEWED**

The Great Swindle, A-1
Ride on Vaquero, A-1
Shadows on the Stairs, A-1
The Bad Man, A-2
The Man Who Lost Himself, A-2
Repent at Leisure, A-2
That Hamilton Woman, A-2
Topper Returns, A-2
Chinese Den, B
I Wanted Wings, B

**AT THE THEATERS**

PALACE

The Sea Wolf, A-2
Double Date, A-1

LOEW'S ROCHESTER

Topper Returns, A-2
Rage in Heaven (Not classified)

CENTURY

Las Vegas Nights, A-2
Scotland Yard, A-2

TEMPLE

Round-Up (Not classified)
Sign of the Wolf (Not classified)

REGENT

Strawberry Blonde, A-2
A May Betrayed, A-1

LITTLE

Night Train, A-2

RIVIERA

Back Street, B
Let's Make Music, A-1

DIXIE

Little Nellie Kelly, A-1
Ellery Queen, Master Detective, A-2

STATE and LIBERTY

High Sierra, B
Second Chorus, A-1

MADISON and MONROE

Flight Command, A-1
Dulcy, A-1


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