



Want an Evening at Hawaii?

A benefit program to aid youngsters to attend Notre Dame Retreat House for seminars in Christian living will take the form of attending the much-acclaimed movie Hawaii at the Towne Theatre, Henrietta, Wednesday, April 19. Information and tickets from Mrs. Joseph Filippone.

Parish Plans 'All Seasons'

St. Thomas More parishioners plan to attend the showing of the movie "A Man for All Seasons"—the dramatization of the life of St. Thomas More—at the Regent Theatre, Rochester, Friday, April 21. Tickets are available from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Connor, John Glavin, John O'Brien, Frederick McNabb, John Merkel and James Ryan.

Student Leaders

Seattle (NC)—A three-day summit meeting of student body presidents of Jesuit universities and colleges throughout the U.S. is being held here at Seattle University.

8 COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, March 17, 1967

Film Award Reveals New Attitude

New York—(CP)—In Florida, a husband and wife over 40 saw in their diocesan newspaper that the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures had just named "Georgy Girl" the year's "best film for mature audiences." They went to see it, and a few days later the film office had its first angry letter about that award.

But the chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Motion Pictures has expressed the hope that most Catholics are beginning to understand NCOMP's acceptance—and praise—of some "adult" films.

"We are all becoming aware of the many profound changes that are taking place on the motion picture scene," remarked Bishop Christopher J. Weldon of Springfield, Mass. "We are also aware that these changes have evoked conflicting responses and have sometimes created understandable confusion in the minds of many people.

"Nevertheless, in spite of the inevitable pangs and awkwardness that attend any vital growth, reflection upon this changing scene gives more cause for hope than alarm."

Bishop Weldon's remarks, delivered just before he announced this year's NCOMP prize-winners, were obviously prompted by some of the reaction last year to NCOMP's selection of "Darling" as best film for mature audiences. Although the film office had been giving "morally unobjectionable" ratings to an increasing number of adult-theme pictures, it was the first time that NCOMP had gone so far as to single one out as "best" of the year.

"A scandal," one typical letter-writer said of NCOMP's award to "Darling," ignoring the film office's opinion that the picture was "a sharply realistic examination of the emptiness that characterizes the lives of the pleasure-seekers in contemporary society." Among the kinder things said about "Georgy Girl" by the Florida couple was that it was "the filthiest picture they had ever seen."

What Bishop Weldon and other NCOMP officials hope to make clearer is that the phrase



A scene from Georgy Girl, rated by the U.S. Catholic bishops motion picture committee as the year's "best film for mature audiences." The award indicates a significant change in attitude to such films which, in a previous year, would probably have been ruled morally objectionable.

"mature audiences" has little to do with age but, rather, refers to those viewers who are going to today's movies with, in Bishop Weldon's words, "new and different attitudes and expectations." The word "mature" is seen as referring to those audiences that have developed an appreciation for serious films, and is not intended to classify the viewers themselves as either "mature" or "immature."

"Once considered to have no more... aesthetic stature than a carnival," Bishop Weldon explained, "the motion picture today is able to command the respect of thinking men everywhere. Film education and perceptive viewing are gradually freeing the medium from that unwritten mandate that would limit the film-maker to producing only 'safe' but mindless entertainment."

Both of the films honored to date by NCOMP as best for mature audiences were originally classified as A-4—morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations. This category is used by NCOMP when it wishes to inform prospective viewers that they will find the film upsetting—in either treatment or theme, or both—if they consider motion pictures to be primarily a means of relaxation and escapism.

In classifying "Georgy Girl" as A-4, NCOMP warned that "some of the treatment is coarse and realistic."

Most of the reviewers for the Catholic Press have praised "Georgy Girl" highly, but critic James Arnold—whose reviews appear in about 20 diocesan newspapers—pinpointed the problem faced by NCOMP in honoring films like "Darling" and "Georgy Girl."

"The precise moral and artistic problem of such movies is to present... reality without exploiting it, and then to make the social-moral point without being phony or preachy or un-

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'Mouse Trap' at Holy Family
Holy Family Theatre Group, Rochester, will present "The Mouse Trap" April 6, 7 and 8 at the parish auditorium. Rehearsals already underway include James Abbott, Diane Smarsh, Joseph O'Connor and Winnie Galand. Tickets are on sale at Pat Grassi Dry Goods Store or from George Ringholz.

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Shadow
(By Religious News Service)
An unexploded bomb burst into the news recently from East Berlin. It could well symbolize the current situation in Germany.

Nearly a quarter-century after Adolf Hitler's crushing defeat, the shadow of Der Fuehrer still stretches long across the land. It is reflected in the nation's postwar division into two zones, in the lost territories now a part of Poland; it is invoked by analysts of political trends and confured by Germany's latest educational crisis.

French Bishops Remy
Paris—(NC)—The Church must remedy evils rather than denounce them, the French bishops said in their reply to

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