



Dick Van Dyke and Debbie Reynolds bicker in "Divorce American Style."

Dick Van Dyke on Marriage, 'Divorce American Style'

Hollywood—"It will probably make a lot of people very angry with me" is an unusual statement to be coming from the immensely popular, clean-cut, clean-living actor named Dick Van Dyke, but let him finish.

"I've just made a picture called 'Divorce American Style,' which is a pretty straight look at divorce in this country, and divorce laws. It will probably make a lot of people very angry with me, but I feel it's a statement that should be made in a picture, and so I've done it."

"At first, I worried a little about my image with youth but in thinking it over and re-reading the script before I accepted the part I realized that first and foremost the picture is a comedy. I believe that you can say a great deal about the world and people through the medium of comedy—perhaps more successfully than you can through drama."

"Secondly, it criticizes divorce, not marriage. That was an important consideration for me. It simply shows how ridiculous so many divorces are, and that's a message—I hate that word—that I'd like to get across to all kids. Besides being a heart-breaking episode, divorce can very often be just ridiculous, like a child's tantrum or the old if-you-don't-let-me-pitch-I'll-take-my-ball-and-go-home kind of thing. The film says something which I feel has to be said about the capricious conduct of those who race off to the divorce court at the slightest provocation."

Van Dyke's long "let me explain" is his acknowledgment of his popularity as a "family-type" entertainer, due largely to the successful "Dick Van Dyke Show" on TV and his chimney-sweep role in Walt Disney's "Mary Poppins." But he's aware too of the unusual spotlight on his own marriage (he recently told why he and his wife, after 18 years, renewed their marriage vows) and his announced intention to abandon show business for religious youth work.

Although "Divorce American Style" may not be what family audiences expect of Van Dyke (the national Catholic film office has given it an A-3 "adults" rating and Van Dyke himself thinks "children would not enjoy it because they

wouldn't understand it"), the film may help keep families together in another way.

In it, Van Dyke and Debbie Reynolds play a husband and wife of 15 years whose petty bickering and over-solicitous friends drive them to the divorce courts. Quickly, both find themselves on the road to new marriages—not because of new-found love but because they are caught up in a vicious circle that presents quick remarriage as the best solution to the divorced husband's biggest problem: alimony.

One of the most caustic scenes in the film shows a large group of children that have resulted from just one couple's marriage and string of remarriages as the children are sorted out on a suburban front lawn one Sunday when the visiting hours of their natural parents and step-parents have accidentally coincided.

Calling the film "socio-social commentary about American life today," the reviewer for "Variety" abandoned that paper's lingo in describing the impact of the Sunday-visit scene: "It starts out as a funny bit, but in seconds, without one iota of preaching, becomes a tragedy of confused kids, uncertain of where they will visit today. There is an emotional wallop that hits right in the gut: children are the literal debris of divorce. Of spring of wild animals madly forget abandonment after a time; human offspring never do."

Van Dyke's concern about marriage and its image—besides being reflected in his decision to make the film, despite what it would do to his image—was shown in his decision to "remarry" his wife a year ago. He and his wife, Marjorie, were married in 1948 on a nationwide radio program called "Bride and Groom" because he knew the show's emcee, Johnny Nelson, and because the young couple was "awfully broke."

The show lavished the pair with gifts, arranged a quick chapel wedding, a honeymoon and even got the bride a Hollywood studio wedding gown (the one Claudette Colbert wore in

"Sleep My Love"). But just before their 18th wedding anniversary a year ago, the Van Dykes attended a church wedding of two of their friends and, comparing it to the tinsel quality of their own ceremony, were deeply moved by this one's spiritual tone. Shortly thereafter, they celebrated their 18th year by being "remarried" in the chapel of the Pacific School of Religion on the Berkeley campus.

Van Dyke's friends didn't think the gesture was unusual for him. He's an elder of the Brentwood Presbyterian Church, where he teaches Sunday school, and gives much of his time to "Young Life," a national religious youth movement. His oldest son, Christian, is planning to become a minister, and Van Dyke has a similar plan of his own:

"Well, I have a plan, which my manager doesn't like me to talk about, to retire from show business in five years, which is just about the run of the contract I have right now. I would like to work through the youth groups with the church, possibly with Young Life."

"There's a lot of good work to be done. I speak to many youth groups—not because I'm any big shakes as a speaker, because I'm not. But kids will listen attentively to a baseball player or an actor or somebody like that, anybody they can look up to, when they won't listen to their parents or their teachers or their rabbi or anybody else."

"I do a lot of questions and answers with the kids, during which they nail me right to the wall. I even have kids ask me what I think of premarital sex in this day and age. Isn't it better to find out if you are compatible before you get married rather than afterward? Because if your not compatible, then you won't make a terrible mistake."

"And my answer is that you are almost certainly going to find out that you're incompatible, because it takes years and years to be compatible. It takes a lot of living, and relationship, and practice, if I can use the word." — (Catholic Press Features)

Elmira KC Track Club Hosts State Meet July 29

It isn't often that the sponsors of a track meet can promise the spectators that they will witness a record-breaking achievement.

But, such is the case with the Elmira K of C Track Club when it hosts the Seventh Annual New York State AAU Track and Field Championships on Saturday, July 29 at Parker Field.

A new State Meet mark will be set in the 440 Intermediate Hurdles when that event appears for the first time on the program.

The thrilling "once around the track" event is viewed infrequently in the Elmira area and is sure to be one of the highlights of the state-wide encounter.

Strongest competition in the new event should come from a trio of Long Island Strider runners including the former 120 high hurdle champ, Gil Baher; John Elliott of Cornell who posted the new mark of 14-flat in the "highs"; Ron Pearson of the Hancock Field (USAF) Striders, who was a very close second to Elliott; Bill Urban of

the New York Athletic Club and Elmira's own Ed Hawkes.

If last year is any indication, more marks could tumble, with a fast track and if a six-year record of no rain holds out.

Track buffs at the 1966 meet witnessed the shattering of no less than seven records and the establishment of a mark in a new event—the mile relay which replaces the 3/4-mile.

Ed Walsh of the defending champion Long Island Striders led the record- onslaught, as erased the oldest mark on the book by nearly a foot in the pole vault.

Ed battled Tim St. Lawrence of the New York Athletic Club to the 14-foot level, then upped the bar four inches to eclipse the 1961 1.36 height of the NYC's Paul Woodall.

With the '61 pole vault record by the boards, many of the competitors are now setting their sights on the current oldest mark—NYAC's Garry Hackett's 1:54 in the 880, set in 1962.

Other field records broken last year were in the high jump and discus.

Bruce McDaniel of the Rochester Track Club cleared 6-6 1/4 in the high jump. The record of 6-4 had been held jointly by McDaniel (1965) and Al Stuckey of the Garden Town T. C. of Buffalo (1963). Last year Stuckey finished third behind McDaniel and Bill Crawford of Hancock Field.

Frank DeBlase of the L. I. Striders improved by two feet on "L.I.'s Bob" Stetgerwald's 1965 showing of 157-9 in the discus.

NYAC's Ron Daniel, the National 30-kilometer walking king, clipped nearly one minute from Garden Town's Bob Hoffman's 1964 time of 7:40.4 in the mile walk.

Elsewhere on the cinders, Fran Smith of Garden Town and Cornell moved his time in the 440 down from a '65 showing of 48.2 feet to 47.6.

Bill Ripple of Garden Town and LeMoyne College posted a record performance in the mile with a 4:13.3 to shatter the 1964 mark of 4:14.9 by Ron Davis (L.I.).

State meet tickets went on sale this week and may be obtained from any club member or at downtown locations or at the gate.

Fisher Names Vincent Vater

Vincent J. Vater, 94 S. Main Street, Pittsford, has been appointed to the newly created position of Director of Student Aid at St. John Fisher College. He will be responsible for administration of all Federal and State grants and loans, as well as for the college's own admissions and in-course scholarship programs.

Vater, 33, received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in General Business from St. John Fisher in 1962. He returns to his alma mater after two years as assistant secretary of the Horseheads Savings and Loan Association, Horseheads. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred C. Vater, reside in Horseheads.

From 1962 until 1965 he was employed by Lincoln Rochester Trust Company in Rochester. He also served in the U. S. Marine Corps from 1952 to 1955.

Family Rosary

The Family Rosary for Peace program is broadcast each evening at 7 p.m. by Rochester radio station WSAJ, WMOB-FM in Auburn, television cable companies Channel 3 in Elmira, Channel 5 in Hornell and at 8:25 p.m. in Corning. Those who will lead in recitation of the Rosary this week will be:

Friday, July 14 — Daniel J. Spencer, Jr., St. Thomas the Apostle parish.

Saturday, July 15 — (Mass will be celebrated) — Louis Kretschmer, St. John the Evangelist, Greece.

Sunday, July 16 — Al Keidel, Holy Cross.

Monday, July 17 — Representative of Knights of St. John.

Wednesday, July 19 — Thomas Angelini, St. Augustine's, accompanied by the Juniors Legion of Mary.

Thursday, July 20 — Joseph Fischette, St. Ambrose.

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Sister Muriel In Sweden

Sister Muriel, S.S.J., a member of the Nazareth College of Rochester Biology Department, will spend the summer at Karolinska Institute for Tumor Biology in Stockholm, Sweden. She will be working on a research grant with Doctor George Klein, a world renowned biologist in this field.

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Assets	
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Loans on Pass Books	160,883.90
Student Loans	41,255.00
Property Improvement loans	78,037.63
Real Estate Sold on Contract	23,886.32
U. S. Government Bonds	1,616,487.48
U. S. Government Agency Bonds	855,471.88
Federal Home Loan Bank Stock	327,400.00
Prepaid Share Insurance Premium	184,524.65
Other Investments	416,392.48
Cash	771,395.26
Office Building and Equipment	173,303.97
Accrued Interest Receivable	39,390.46
Other Resources	2,227.55
Total Assets	30,518,212.54
Liabilities	
Savings Accounts	27,841,403.50
Loans in Process	132,261.94
Other Liabilities	19,215.68
Surplus, Undivided Profits and Federal Insurance Reserve	2,525,331.42
Total Liabilities	30,518,212.54

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Too Much Ecumenism

London — (RNS) — A prominent British Methodist, the Rev. Roland Lamb, resigned from the ministry because of "the betrayal of Methodist doctrines by the Methodist Conference."

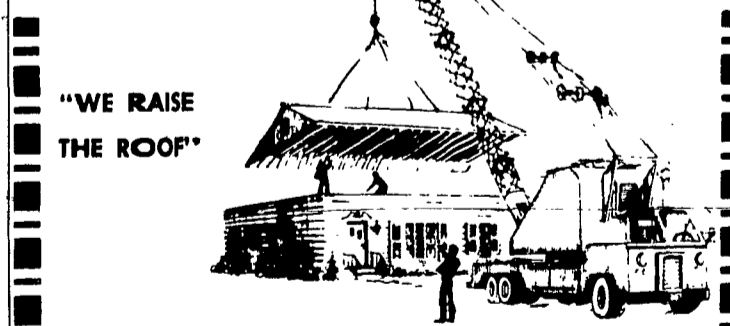
He announced his decision in a letter to the Callington and Gurnislake Circuit in southwest England, where he has been superintendent minister for 12 years. He also charged his Church with being blind to the "dangers of increasing flirtation with apostate Rome."

Mr. Lamb is a son of the late Lord Rochester, a former vice-president of the Methodist Conference, and brother of Kenneth Lamb, former head of BBC's department of religious broadcasting.

His announcement, described as "one of the biggest bombshells" in British Methodism for some years, came only a few days before the opening of the 1967 Methodist Conference at Middlesbrough.

Scheduled for discussion at that Conference is the latest stage of negotiations on union between the Methodist Church and the Church of England (Anglican), and these negotiations reportedly have spurred Mr. Lamb's decision to resign. News of his decision was confirmed to Religious News Service by Methodist headquarters in London.

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