

'The Fixer' a 'Must' Film -- NCOMP

Catholic Press Features

New York—The film version of Bernard Malamud's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about anti-Semitism in Czarist Russia, "The Fixer," has been lauded by the national Catholic film office as having as much importance as the report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders in attacking racism.

"The Fixer," said the national Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, "is not just a colorful rendering of an historical record. It is about the injustice of all forms of anti-Semitism present and past—including the incredible anomaly of those Christians infected with it—and, by extension, the irrational roots of all man's inhumanity to his fellow man.

"For Americans, the film's theme should have as much significance as the Kerner report on the civil disturbances which plague our country."

Malamud's story, which won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for fiction in 1967, is about a Jewish handyman living in Kiev during a violent wave of anti-Semitism at the turn of the century. He is falsely accused of what appears to be a ritual murder of a young boy and his stubborn refusal to "confess," despite physical abuse and deprivation, leads to international interest in his case. At film's end, his oppressors give in to the public trial he has demanded.

The central character, Yakov Bok, is portrayed by Alan Bates, with secondary and other minor roles played by Dirk Bogarde, Hugh Griffith, Elizabeth Hartman and Jack Gifford. It was directed by John Frenkelheimer and filmed in Hungary.

In its "Catholic Film News-



Alan Bates as a Jewish handyman falsely accused of murder in "The Fixer," a film about anti-Semitism in Czarist Russia.

letter" commentary on "The Fixer," NCOMP observed:

"Without choosing it, Karkov Bok becomes the symbol of brutality is exaggerated or irrelevant to our modern

times. Nothing could be further from the truth."

"Some viewers, far removed in time and space from these historical events," the review said, referring to the

film, "might feel that so much physical and spiritual victim of injustice and prejudice. During the course of his imprisonment and the indignities and brutality which this entails, Bok comes to the determination that as a man, and especially as a Jew, he must take a political stand and commit himself to the struggle against tyranny.

"Alan Bates in the role of the fixer is excellent as the 'kind of man who finds it perilous just to be alive.' Bates projects a quiet, interior strength of character which makes credible Bok's decision to vindicate all victims of official state oppression by refusing to accept a face-saving pardon from the Czar."

"But 'The Fixer' essentially stands on Frenkelheimer's carefully composed images which create a mood of foreboding disaster and then of grim, unrelenting misery," NCOMP noted. "The action scenes, in a film which necessarily works within a claustrophobic frame for much of its length (many of the scenes occur in a prison cell), stand out vividly. The horrors of the pogrom which introduce us to the world of the ghetto particularly catch in the memory."

NCOMP concluded its review with the comparison to the Kerner report.

Two Sets of Film Ratings Similar

New York—Catholic film-goers now have two sets of film ratings they can consult—those of the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, and those of the Motion Picture Association of America—and the first available comparison shows that the MPAA and NCOMP see films pretty much the same way.

Thirty films have been rated by both the MPAA and NCOMP since the movie-industry rating plan went into effect November 1. Of these, 23 received similar classifications from both agencies. In four other cases, NCOMP was the more severe, and in three, the more lenient.

How closely the MPAA ratings come to NCOMP's will be an important determining factor for the future of the latter. The Rev. Patrick J. Sullivan, S.J., NCOMP's executive secretary, told newsmen recently that if the MPAA's rating system proved successful, he would recommend to the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Motion Pictures that they "re-evaluate" NCOMP's system.

In judging MPAA's ratings, Father Sullivan said, NCOMP would take into account the ratings themselves, how well they are publicized, and how well they are followed by the theaters.

Among the 30 films rated by both the MPAA and NCOMP, four were condemned by the Catholic film office, and all four received either an "R" or an "X" rating from the MPAA. "R" stands for "Restricted," meaning persons under 16 are not admitted unless accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. "X" means no one under 16 is admitted at all. (In some states, the age limit is 17 or even 18.)

The four "C" films are "The Girl on a Motorcycle," which received an MPAA "X." It is a film about a nymphomaniac, which was condemned because it is "sexually explicit." "Birds in Peru," condemned for being "graphically suggestive," also received an "X." "The Magus," condemned for "the explicit treatment of several sexual sequences," got an "R," as did "The Fox," a film about lesbianism. It was released prior to the Nov. 1 starting date for MPAA ratings but was included anyway.

Four of the 30 films received a "B" or "morally objectionable in part for all" rating from NCOMP, and of

those 4, 3 were given an "R" rating by the MPAA, and one was rated "M," which means "suggested for mature audiences; parental discretion advised."

The "M" went to "Impasse," which NCOMP "B'd" because of "derogatory racial implications, excessive brutality and suggestive sequences." The "R" films, along with NCOMP objections, were: "The Touchables" (a "titillating male sexual fantasy"), "Joanna" ("visuals immerse viewers in a promiscuous and degenerate life") and "Lady in Cement," a Frank Sinatra detective film objected to by NCOMP for "vulgar" and obscene dialogue, nudity and indecent treatment.

The MPAA put 9 of the 30 films into its "G" or "suggested for general audiences" category and found NCOMP in general agreement, the Catholic Film Office rating those films either A-1 ("morally objectionable for general patronage") or A-2 ("morally objectionable for adults and adolescents").

Unlike NCOMP, the MPAA has no rating that distinguishes an adolescent audience from a general audience; there is no rating between the MPAA's "G" for general audiences and "M" for mature audiences. Interestingly, the old Legion of Decency went 25 years before creating a separate rating for adolescents.

The 9 "G" films and their NCOMP ratings are: "An Angel in My Pocket" (A-1); "Backtrack" (A-2); "Hellfighters" (A-2); "The Horse in the Gray Flannel Suit" (A-1); "Kener" (A-2); "The Marriage Came Tumbling Down" (A-2); "The Shoes of the Fisherman" (A-2); "Submarine X-1" (A-1); and "Yellow Submarine" (A-1).

NCOMP had a different opinion on four other "G" films, deciding they belonged in the A-3 or "morally objectionable for adults" category. These five are: "The Great Catcher," "House of Cards," "The Impossible Years," and "Les Gauloises Bleues."

But on three other films, NCOMP was more lenient than the MPAA. "Corruption" got an "R" (Restricted) rating from the MPAA but only an adult A-3 from NCOMP. The same was true for "The Princess," and "Strategy of Terror" got an "M" (for mature audiences) from the MPAA while NCOMP gave it an A-1.

Six films received an "M" from the MPAA and an equivalent A-3 from NCOMP: "Better a Widow," "Buona Sera, Mrs. Campbell," "Decline and Fall of a Bird Watcher," "The Fixer," "More Dead Than Alive," and "The Trygon Factor." (Catholic Press Features)



Shoppportunity

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES in tune with modern living

By Ruth DeMallie

WINE IMPORTS

A recent visit to HENNER'S International Wine Rooms, 544-554 Chili Avenue by the Rt. Hon. Ernest Marples, English member of Parliament, resulted in a large special purchase by Henner's of an assortment of Estate Bottled Red and White Burgundies—all the great vintage of 1966. All are standard large 24 oz. size.

Henner's made the great buy not only because of the quantity purchase, but because Estate Bottled Wines Ltd. of New York, U.S. distributors, are changing business locations.

The Rt. Hon. Marples and his wife, Ruth, themselves vineyard owners in FLEURIE personally selected the wine purchased by Henner's.

Here is where the consumer benefits during the Holiday Season!

The wine types are: FLEURIE, POUILLY, FUISSE, MACON VIRE; MOULIN A VENT, BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGE S, BROUILLY, and CHENAS.

The price is \$2.29 per bottle for \$5.99 or \$22.50 for a solid or assorted case of 12 bottles. Free Delivery. Phone 235-7674.



DONALD'S AT NEW ADDRESS

Mr. Donald and his 14 talented hair stylists now at 1365 Culver Road in all new salon specially designed for your relaxation and comfort, while you have the finest in hair styling, coloring, manicuring. The new Donald's on Culver Road is near Bay Street. There's a large, free parking lot but a stone's throw away on Merchants Road.

Bus stops just a few steps away. DONALD'S of East Avenue has earned a fabulous reputation for hair styling—Now visit DONALD'S conveniently located at 1365 Culver Road in their new deluxe Spanish-style salon. Call 654-8700 for an appointment with your favorite stylist.



SALE—SMALL APPLIANCES

Christmas-Timed to save you money, CHARLOTTE APPLIANCE is now closing out on toasters, irons, mixers, percolators, etc. at below cost! Choose from Hoover, GE, Sunbeam at amazingly low prices. What better gift than a gift of convenience for the home? Visit CHARLOTTE APPLIANCE, 3200 Lake Ave. 663-5050. Open evenings.



WHAT ABOUT HAIR STYLES?

Short to medium length and lots of curl, says Mr. Charles Martin of PARTY-TIME HAIR STYLES. Smoothness is out, curls are in with the close-to-the-head look gaining popularity.

Hurrah for the curly set that you can comb and brush and still keep your style in all week! (The smooth look was of such fleeting duration.) How to achieve the look—A good cut, a curly perm—not to be confused with kinky! Call PARTY-TIME HAIR STYLES, 621-3870, 2892 Dewey Avenue. Open till 9. Tues. Thurs., Fri., Mon., Wed. and Sat. till 5.



DON'T SQUEEZE—USE FEE'S

Used by prominent clubs and restaurants throughout the country, FEE'S concentrated Cocktail Mixes give the professional touch in drink fixing. Recipes are on the labels. Cocktail Mixes (use as desired) Froth Mixer in lemon and lime (whiskey sours and daiquiris) Cordial Syrups, creme de menthe and creme de cocon (Use as is on ice cream). FEE'S, manufactured in Rochester, sold at SIBBLEY'S, WEGMAN'S and many other fine food stores.

DON'T SQUEEZE—USE FEE'S

Used by prominent clubs and restaurants throughout the country, FEE'S concentrated Cocktail Mixes give the professional touch in drink fixing. Recipes are on the labels. Cocktail Mixes (use as desired) Froth Mixer in lemon and lime (whiskey sours and daiquiris) Cordial Syrups, creme de menthe and creme de cocon (Use as is on ice cream). FEE'S, manufactured in Rochester, sold at SIBBLEY'S, WEGMAN'S and many other fine food stores.

COSMETIC EXPERTISE

Mrs. Mary Johnston of DEONE'S shares her experience in cosmetology with women who want to look their best. Make-up is not hastily purchased in hit-or-miss fashion—instead you learn how to apply your make-up and what products and shades are harmonious to your particular type. Many top lines of cosmetics and fashion trousseaus carried.

THE LITTLE GIFT—A huge selection of Grab Bag gifts just \$1 and \$2 that are most acceptable

DEONE'S the only shop of its kind—its devoted exclusively to cosmetics and personal beauty aids, is at Greece Towne Mall, just inside West entrance. 277-1360. Open 10 am - 9:30 pm including Sat.

DEAR READERS:

Here's something new in the "Courier-Journal!"

SHOPPORTUNITY featuring newsy tips telling where to find bona fide values in shopping needs for you, your family and your home is being introduced this week. This is also your column for exchange of ideas. Send in helpful hints and recipes that you would like to share.

Be a SHOPPORTUNIST and follow this regular column. For information regarding advertising, please call the Courier-Journal advertising office, 454-7050. Ask for Ruth, your Shopportunity gal.

GREETINGS to my old friends; I hope to be meeting new friends along the way. See you next week. . . . Ruth



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Good News for you planning an office or club party RUND'S, the House of Good Food, offers delicious holiday menus for groups of 10 or more at just \$2 per person for lunches and \$4 per person for dinners. Price includes complete meal, tax and gratuity. You can count on RUND'S for festive party atmosphere and deluxe service as well as good food. For reservations call 473-3891. RUND'S, 2581 W. Henrietta Road.

COMPLETE ASSORTMENT OF CHRISTMAS CANDY
RIBBON • HARD • CLUSTERS AND BARS
CRANDELL CANDIES
28 LAKEVIEW TERRACE 254-0711

800 Maternity Shop
800 MONROE AVE. at Canterbury Rd.
Daily 10 to 5:30 — Tues., Thurs. till 9
Phone 271-1654
OH, WHAT FUN IT IS . . .
to find the perfect Christmas costume from our collection of maternity fashions. Sizes 6 to 46. Budget and charge accounts.
Stop in and register for free drawing for \$20 in merchandise. No purchase necessary. Drawing last day of each month.

Holiday Whiskey
Give Seagram's 7 Crown and Be Sure.
Seagram Distillers Company, New York City, Blended Whiskey, 86 Proof, 65% Grain Neutral Spirits.

BUCKMAN'S HAS HOLIDAY ICE CREAM and DONUTS DELUXE for Your Holiday Treats
2576 RIDGE RD. W. Corner Long Pond

Apple Dewey Buns
Baked Tuna Surprise
Kraut Crescents
Company Chocolate Cake
Double Apple Tart
Italian Meat Roll
Lebanese Meat Pies
Prune Meringue Dessert
Root Beer Rye Bread
St. Joseph's Bread
Topsy Turvy Coffee Cake
... and more, more, more!
All in Red Star's new Back Fence Recipe Book Recommended by Nancy Sasser

CUT OUT THIS VALUABLE
Special Portrait Offer
When Presented At Studio Entitles Bearer to One
8x10 ROYAL TONE PORTRAIT
\$2.00 Charge For Each Additional Person in Groups
Only **\$1.95**
Suitable For Framing
• No Appointment Necessary • Selection of Proofs Shown
• Only One Offer Of Any Kind To A Family • Children must be accompanied by Parents
Reg. Value \$9.75
Rogers Studio
12 CLINTON AVE. SO. Ph. 454-1270
This Offer Good Until Jan. 4, 1969
Studio Hours Daily 9 to 5:30, Tues., Thurs. to 9

2 Family Films Recommended

The national Catholic film office has recommended two new films for family audiences: "Paper Lion" and "Yellow Submarine."

"Paper Lion," about writer George Plimpton's experiences while trying out as a pro quarterback with the Detroit Lions football team, was described by NCOMP as a "pleasant diversion." This is that too rare kind of film that parents can take the children to and not be either embarrassed or bored to death themselves.

"Yellow Submarine," a full-length cartoon musical featuring the Beatles, was described by NCOMP as "an enterprising and creative piece of entertainment" that "deserves to find an audience far larger than those who follow the ups and downs of the record

NEW! RED STAR YEAST "BACK FENCE" RECIPE BOOK

These are prize winners in Red Star's Back Fence Recipe Exchange . . . and from appetizers to desserts, they're exciting! Book includes new Mixer Method directions, too, for short-cut baking with new Red Star Instant Blend Yeast. Beautifully illustrated in color! Send 50¢ plus 3 empty Red Star Yeast packets (or Compressed Yeast wrappers) and name and address to Red Star, Box 710, Minneapolis, Minn. 55440.

UNIVERSAL FOODS MILWAUKEE, WISC. A **30A** PRODUCT