

'Farewell'

By Dan C. Vuong

Oct. 22, 1978, about 7 p.m. — After supper, it was time, and I was ready to go. I took a long look around the house. I started to know how much I loved the family. It meant everything. Gazing at my father, I could read his sensitivities there. In front of the old man, I felt guilty about my leaving. I seemed to have a shadow behind my conscience which was scolding and questioning me — How could you dare to escape with old parents and a young sister left behind? Did you fear to face the Communists? Were you sure that you would be able to help your family out of that dark iron curtain? Honestly, I couldn't answer those questions. I realized that "leaving" was not a simple matter; instead, it was a heavy burden that my parents handed me. I was proud that they trusted me, but I worried. I wasn't even sure whether I would successfully finish my trip. For instance, with nearly 300 people packed into a 19-meter wooden boat, there was danger of suffocation, not to mention drowning. I couldn't believe that was the last moment I could enjoy

the warmth of my family. Truthfully, I wished God would stop the clock or stop the spinning of the earth, so that I could look at my parents, my sister and everything in the house for one more minute, one more second. We stopped in front of the door. Shaking my hand hardily, and looking at me with his teary eyes, my father said, "You take care!" My tears rushed out of my eyes without shame. With an encouraging smile on her face, my mother said, "Be good out there, now!" A million words were behind my lips, but I didn't know how to start. For a moment, the silence occupied the atmosphere. We just quietly looked at each other; it seemed that we could reach each other's minds by our eyes. Both of my cheeks were wet and hot. Eventually, in my sobbing voice, I said, "I won't let you down. You take care, too!" Then I stepped out of the door and began my journey with a simple parcel in my hand, and full of love of my family and encouragement in my heart. As I walked, looking at my feet, I had a feeling that each step I took would never be retraced again. Just like the water in the stream, never returned.

MOVIES

'Zelig' Is Only Mildly Amusing Woody Allen

By Michael Gallagher
New York (NC) — In "Zelig" (Orion-Warner) Woody Allen has some fun with the American obsession with celebrity. The era is the late '20s, and his hero, Zelig, played by guess-who, is an obscure clerk who wants very much to be liked and to fit in. So desperately does he want this, in fact, that he develops a malady that somehow transforms him physically and mentally into a person much like whomever he happens to be with.

Zelig becomes all things to all men. Thus he is Chinese to the Chinese, French to the French, black to the black, Irish to the Irish, and even fat to the fat. And in the company of the psychiatrists who cluster around him, he becomes a psychiatrist.

Once his bizarre capability becomes known, Zelig abruptly becomes famous as the Chameleon Man, getting the ultimate tribute of the giddy era: having a dance named after him, the Chameleon Hop.

But there is someone who cares for him for himself, even though to all intents and purposes, there seems to be precious little of himself to be found. She is Dr. Eudora Fletcher (Mia Farrow), and under her sympathetic care Zelig is eventually cured. He becomes a person in his own right for the first time.

But just as he seems destined to lead a happy, normal life married to Eudora, all sorts of misdeeds comes to light, allegedly committed by Zelig while in the grip of his syndrome. Public adulation suddenly turns to hostility, and all abandon him save for the faithful Eudora.

The ending is happy, however. Thanks to a spectacular relapse, Zelig wins forgiveness and gains his old fame back tenfold.

A mildly amusing comedy, the film's best features are its originality and its pseudo-documentary style in which the splendid camera work of Gordon Willis faultlessly weaves the Zelig saga into actual historical footage, making for some good sight gags. (Zelig peeking out from behind Hitler at a Munich rally. Zelig on deck during batting practice while Babe Ruth takes his cuts.)

Allen as an actor, however, is extremely limited, having no flair for physical comedy. The film's structure, moreover, clever though it is, keeps the viewer at arm's length. If the jokes were funnier or had there been much satiric bite to things, these drawbacks might not have mattered so much. But as is, there are some slack moments despite the brief 84 minutes of running time.

U.S. Catholic Conference has classified it A-II, adults and adolescents. The industry rating is PG, parental guidance suggested.

Capsule Movie Reviews

"Class" (Orion)

A woman in her mid-30s (Jacqueline Bisset) has an affair with a teen-age boy (Andrew McCarthy), a student at a private academy. Later, to their mutual shock, they discover that she is the mother of his roommate and best friend (Rob Lowe). Directed by Lewis John Carlino, who did much better with "The Great Santini," and written by Jim Kouf and David Greenwalt, this ill-considered effort can't make up its mind whether it's supposed to be a romantic comedy, slapstick or serious drama. It ends, moreover, without coming to anything resembling a satisfactory conclusion. The two boys fight it out after the woman's son has discovered the truth, the old macho brawl-and-make-up device so much a feature of John Wayne movies. The lasting impression then is one of adolescent vulgarity and the sensationalism of graphic sex. The U.S. Catholic Conference has classified it O, morally offensive, and the industry rating is R, restricted.

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Catholic Family Center Seeks Help for Refugees

On this page is a true account, one which could be repeated over and over, as many Vietnamese and Laotian children flee their homelands to refugee camps.

This story was written by Dan C. Vuong, now 19, who lives with a foster family in Gates. He is of Chinese ancestry and came to the United States in 1979 as part of the Catholic Family Center's Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program.

He is now a student at Rochester Institute of Technology where he is majoring in computer engineering. He obtained a 4.0 average during his first semester and continues to do excellent work.

His foster parents, Evelyn and Warren Sarley, are very proud of their foster son, who has been a real part of their family.

Catholic Family Center has brought about 55 young boys and girls to the United States since becoming involved in this program in 1979.

Today there are 44 young adults in foster homes in Rochester and the surrounding area.

The CFC, through the Monroe County Department of Social Services, is able to provide board money, clothing and medical assistance for these refugees.

CFC is seeking more foster families who will open their homes to these

young people.

Currently, a 15-year-old Vietnamese boy is waiting to leave a refugee camp as soon as a family opens its home to him. There is also a 13-year-old Catholic Vietnamese girl who already has said goodbye to her mother and brother and is waiting for a family to open its doors to her.

Persons interested in further information about the program are asked to call Mrs. Joyce Daley or Miss Bernadette Slater, 546-7220.

5 Candidates Pro-Choice

San Antonio, Texas (NC) — Five of six major Democratic presidential candidates, vying for electoral support from women, told the National Women's Political Caucus convention in San Antonio July 10 that they favor legalized abortion.

The five, former Vice President Walter Mondale and Sens. Alan Cranston of California, John Glenn of

Ohio, Gary Hart of Colorado and Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, all espoused a pro-choice position on abortion and backed the Equal Rights Amendment and equal pay for equal work. They criticized overly high military spending, according to accounts of their speeches.

Another Democratic presidential hopeful, former Florida Gov. Reubin Askew, did not attend the convention.

At the same convention, President Reagan was denounced for his policies, regarded as unfavorable to women. He opposes abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment, the proposed constitutional amendment to outlaw discrimination based on a person's sex.

Peace Academy OK'd by Unit

Washington (NC) — The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, voting 11-6, approved legislation July 20 to establish the United States Academy of Peace.

If the legislation is passed by the full Senate with a similar measure passed in the House, the proposed academy would sponsor graduate and post-graduate level studies on the causes of war and teach techniques for conflict resolution and peace making.

Hearings for the House version of the bill, H.R. 1249, are scheduled for September.

The U.S. bishops, in their recent pastoral letter on war and peace, endorsed establishment of the peace academy.

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