

Coach Leahy's sickness
merited headlines from
newsmen yesterday ...

University of Notre Dame
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Let it merit your prayer-
ful remembrance of him
today and every day.

What About That Movie ?

Some of you are asking about the movie now playing in South Bend, entitled, The Moon Is Blue. Here's the scoop:

The word "blue" in show-business language means: off-color material, dirty lines, filth, smut.

Eric Johnson, president of the Motion Picture Association of America refused it a code seal of approval. The San Francisco Junior Chamber of Commerce, "in the interest of good taste," cancelled sponsorship of the Western Premiere of this movie.

The picture is adapted from the stage play of F. Hugh Herbert. It is all dialogue, most of which is a tease carefully calculated to shock the audience through the use of words unusual to movies.

Except for one character getting a black eye from the girl's old-fashioned father, nothing happens at all; no action; no drama; just a lot of talk about sex. At first it seems startling; then it becomes tiring, and then offensive as an endless and pointless off-color story. For all its cast, and fancy setting, The Moon adds nothing to the art of cinema; and it certainly does not deserve the attention it will get for flouting the Production Code.

The lines above are, in substance, a movie critic's appraisal. The National Legion of Decency condemned it with a "C" rating. Francis Cardinal Spellman denounced it as "an occasion of sin." Cardinal McIntyre called on all Catholics to "avoid it."

The best way to fight this shameless flaunting of public indecency, we think, is to meet the issue on its own level -- the level that carries most weight -- the box-office. Top West Coast theatre chains cancelled their showings when public opinion solidified. No theatre owner wants an empty house -- and he'll soon get rid of any movie that promises an empty house.

Your presence, and your money lend encouragement to, and foster repetition of, these smutty pictures. Your box-office influence is the deciding factor even for producers who have no sense of Christian decency. Your absence wields far more influence, and carries more weight than any other argument. Why? Because these producers are too "earthy" to comprehend any other measure. Your absence from the theatre is the club that hits them hardest where it hurts most.

Now, do what you want to about it. But don't go in, and then say that you did so innocently, or that you lacked knowledge and forethought. In your next confession be sure to tell the priest that you did not avoid the occasion of sin. If others see you enter the theatre, add the very likely possibility of having given scandal.

There will be no one with a club to keep you out. But you can hardly return to the campus, look up at the Lady of the Dome, and say that you did not betray Notre Dame and all that this Lady of our household stands for.

There was a day here when Notre Dame men petitioned a South Bend movie owner to discontinue an offensive movie, because they regarded it as an insult to their sense of intelligence and decency. Are you a man or a mouse!

PRAYERS Ill: friend of Gerald Massey of Howard (critical); grandmother of Bill Loy (Off-Campus); Father J.A. Collette; wife of Bill Strever; father-in-law of Jack Reedy, '50; sick friend of Bill Fallon, '37; father of Don Edwards, '50; 2 sp. int's.