

Tomorrow at 4:45: Holy
Hour in Sacred Heart
Church. Drop in.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Coming up: First Friday -
the day we pray especially
for the grace of a Happy
Death!

Movies Make A Difference

So you are wondering about the classifications given to certain new movies by the Legion of Decency -- movies like Peyton Place, and Bonjour Tristesse -- as suitable for adults. The explanation: while the books are rotten, the movie versions are not. The approval of the movies is in no wise an approval of the books of similar names. Movie producers probably hope that all those who read the two books will rush the theatres to see how they panned out on the screen.

What of A Farewell To Arms? The Legion classifies this movie as "morally objectionable in part" because of undue emphasis on illicit love, and because of sensational and excessive treatment of childbirth -- which the Legion holds as unacceptable for motion picture entertainment purposes. This indicates the birth sequence might be suitable in a medical study film, but not in a movie for mixed public audiences. And that makes very good sense.

A Catholic critic has no right to evaluate a film on the basis of the book from which it is taken. Nor can he sustain an adverse opinion of a film simply because it deals with immorality. Rather, he must ask himself these questions: Does the movie distort moral and ethical values, so that evil is made to appear justifiable as well as alluring? Is right made to seem relatively unimportant, or undesirable, or even wrong? These are matters for a critic to decide, along with the artistic and technical qualities of a movie as entertainment. The Legion confines itself largely to an ethical criticism of a movie.

In A Farewell To Arms, producers and their advertisers passed off guilty sex infatuation as "a great love." The Legion spotted this phony morality immediately, and objected to it, reminding us that there are still Ten Commandments -- the yardstick by which we shall all be measured for Eternity -- 20th Century-Fox to the contrary notwithstanding. Time magazine labels it "painfully overblown... infantile and mawkish."

Indoor Sport

"I swear because: it is a fine mark of manliness... It proves I have self-control. It makes my conversation pleasing to everybody...It indicates how clearly my mind operates...It leaves no doubt in anyone's mind as to my good breeding, culture, and refinement... It impresses people that I have more than an ordinary education...It makes me a desirable personality among women, children, and in respectable society... It is my way of honoring God Who said, 'Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.' ... It is a strong way to express a weak mind." (Hi-Y News).

Even if you read the most recent translations, and new versions, of the Scriptures, you'll find that there has been no change of attitude on God's part regarding reverence for His holy Name. So far as we know, respect is still in order. So far as we know, the Second Commandment is still part of the Decalogue.

There's only one place where people curse and blaspheme with impunity -- in hell!

Profanity, remember, is useless, unnecessary, unbecoming, childish -- and SINFUL. We are responsible for bad habits -- even bad habits of speech.

PRAYERS REQUESTED - Deceased: uncle of Bob Kolopus of Alumni; father of John Rumbach, '45; James E. Kennedy, '49; mother of Ed Kowalski, '38; mother of Rev. Henry Glueckert, CSC; grandmother of Fred Jamroz of Howard; grandfather of Martin Decre of Zahm; Thomas P. Butler; grandmother of Marris Lewis of Lyons. 2 special intentions.