

What 1971 brought to the arts

by Frank Parrish
 Feature Editor

As 1970 recedes slowly into memory I'm sure I would be amiss if I didn't recall some of the singular triumphs that made it another banner year for the arts. I don't guarantee infallibility. Nothing is certain in these parlous times. Sophia Loren, for example, made both a "worst-dressed" and "best-dressed" list. Now, for a look at the outrageous misfortunes suffered by art.

Worst book—Erich Segal's "Love Story" towers above the rest. Its one virtue is that it is mercifully thin—131 pages in hard cover. Professor Doctor Segal apparently tried to revive the genteel school of literature. William Dean Howells, luckier than most sentimentalists, is dead. Were he alive, he would have seen the reviews. The critics, in an inexcusable lapse of taste, were nearly unanimous in their praise.

I do not hold against the book that it was written as a spinoff from the movie's screenplay or that parts of it first saw print in "The Ladies' Home Journal." It's quite atrocious in its own right.

The story traces a love affair between Jennifer Cavilleri, an Italian baker's daughter and Oliver Barrett IV, a New England patrician's son. When Oliver announces his plans to marry Jenny, he completely breaks with his father. Their relations, alas, were never amiable anyway. There you have it, folks, all in one package. Not just a tale of "star-crossed lovers" but a generation gap as well. If only Barrett the Elder had broken up the affair, you wouldn't be treated to stock characters going through a dumb show of emotion.

After Ollie and Jenny have been married for a precious few years, the reader learns Jenny doesn't have much time left. Alas, cruel fate. She has leukemia. Just think, it could have been another "Forsyte Saga." As you read the deathbed scene, you must have a heart of stone if you don't laugh uncontrollably.

Then you can enjoy a good cry. Erich Segal's overdose of saccharine headed the best seller list in fiction for most of 1970. It warmed the cockles of American

hearts. Mr. Segal, in my judgment, owes the American public an apology. Yet, to take a line from Mr. Segal's epic: "Love means not ever having to say you're sorry."

Worst movie—"Airport" is grounded but miraculously soars to unimaginable heights of mediocrity. As with the Supreme Court, perhaps we need a little mediocrity in the movies. "Airport," far and away, led at the box office in 1970. Its cast included practically every product of the star system except John Barrymore. "Airport" was based on Arthur Hailey's melodramatic book of the same name. It was far more traumatic on celluloid than in print. The movie was soapier than the 10,000th segment of "Love of Life." Airport's score had the organ stops pulled out but it was bland enough to match the dovetailing dramatics.

Worst television program—There were many contenders for this honor. That hardest of perennials, "The Ed Sullivan Show" was only dismissed reluctantly. But let's face it. The showman who brought us "the little Italian mouse" and the immortal Raphael—that would have been quite a coup but he was a singer, not a Renaissance painter—deserves better treatment. Shrewdly calculating what most closely approximates primitivism, I'll have to go with "Let's Make A Deal." Genial Monte Hall proves repeatedly that greed can reduce adults to inarticulate asses. Next season, he may distribute some beads and conceal Manhattan behind one of the curtains.

Monte's audience members dress like extras for Andy Warhol's next film and are reduced to drools, laughter and convulsions when Monte picks them to

make deals. The best is yet to come though. God help the viewer when someone wins.

Worst records (single and album)—worst single—Bobby Sherman gets the nod for his opus, "Easy Come, Easy Go." In the bubble genre, Bobby is without equal. The music on this one sounds as though it is played by castoffs from the Ohio Express and 1910 Fruitgum Company. And the lyrics offer a sad comment on the mental state of subteens. But Bobby has indisputably found his "metier." Watch him in action. He launches into a series of pelvic gyrations, flashes a toothy

grin or two and belts out the pungent lyrics.

Worst album—The Partridge Family album is the work of a collection of terrible enfants. I can only wonder if the Partridges play their own music. If they don't, the studio musicians must have been sent over from a nearby unemployment office. The Partridge Family is evolution's answer to the Monkees who also started making joyless noises on the tube.

My list of 1970's artistic marvels concluded, I can only add that 1970 was a true "annus mirabilis."

Police raid Panthers after meat robbery

WINSTON-SALEM—Police fired hundreds of shots and lobbed tear gas into a Black Panther headquarters Tuesday, charging that they were fired upon from inside the house while investigating theft of a truckload of meat.

No one was hurt despite a barrage that riddled the walls with bullet holes and smashed out windows in the two-story frame house.

Police took two blacks into custody and recovered 20 boxes of frozen meat identified as having been taken from the truck. They also confiscated a shotgun, two military-type weapons, and ammunition.

Police Chief Justus Tucker told newsmen several of his officers said they were fired upon as they surrounded the house. Police and sheriff's deputies, about 75-100 men strong, opened up with rifles and shotguns in a barrage that lasted between 30 seconds and a minute.

Tucker said a truck driver, Ralph Lindley, was delivering meat when his truck was stolen. After reporting the theft, Lindley found the truck parked in front of the Panther headquarters. Lindley said he was driven away by an armed black.

Teacher strike closes schools

CHICAGO—Teachers went on strike Tuesday in the Chicago school system, the nation's second largest, closing the city's 533 public schools and giving 577,000 pupils an unscheduled holiday.

Mayor Richard Daley, moving quickly to end the deadlock between the 20,000-member Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) and the board of education, invited negotiators to bargain in his office.

The two sides were millions of dollars apart as they recessed talks in the early hours Tuesday. The board had offered a \$38.56 million package, including a 4 per cent salary increase. CTU demands totalled \$42 million, and called for a 12 per cent increase in teacher's salaries.

Steel prices concern Nixon

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif.—President Nixon was "deeply concerned" Tuesday over the "enormous" 12.5 per cent price increase announced by Bethlehem Steel Corp. and threatened to open U.S. doors wider for foreign steel imports if other companies follow suit.

In an unprecedented tough response to the announcement of the Bethlehem hikes on steel products, effective March 1, Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said that Nixon asked his Cabinet Committee on Economic Policy to review all aspects of the effects of the increase on the economy and to report promptly on action the government can take.

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 Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle

ACROSS:
 1 Entreaty
 5 Pronoun
 8 Containers
 12 Ventilates
 13 Dine
 14 River in Siberia
 15 Keep in a sound state
 17 Portico
 18 Scoff
 19 Wiping out
 21 Common contraction
 23 New Deal agency (init.)
 24 French plural article
 27 Scraped with the nails
 32 Great bustard
 34 Be ill
 35 Elanet
 36 Gondolier's melody
 39 Number
 40 Exist
 41 Bark
 43 Meeting of bodies
 47 Man's name
 51 Mine entrance
 52 Valuable cabinet wood
 54 Not one
 55 Tierra del Fuego Indian
 56 Mild expletive
 57 Sandarac tree
 58 Damp
 59 Communists

DOWN:
 1 Moccasins
 2 King of beasts
 3 Sea eagle
 4 Item of property

5 Weight of India
 6 Possessive
 7 Without end
 8 Russian horseman
 9 One opposed
 10 Midday
 11 Projecting tooth
 16 Goddess of childbirth
 20 Skill
 22 Person clad in rags
 24 Tennis stroke
 25 Greek letter
 26 Title of respect
 28 Spanish for "river"
 29 Strike of first miracle
 30 French for "summer"
 31 Lair
 33 Stew
 37 Macaw
 38 Ireland
 42 Force
 43 Scene of first miracle
 44 Aroma
 45 One of Columbus's ships
 46 Pitch
 48 Theater box
 49 Burden
 50 Advantage
 53 Posed for portrait

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I'D REALLY LIKE TO BE A BETTER PERSON

I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO KNOW THAT YOU WERE PERFECT?

TAKE IT FROM ME, IT'S A GREAT FEELING!

Y' LOOKIN' A BIT ROUGH, CHALKIE

I KNOW, I DIDN'T SLEEP A WINK

IT'S 'ER SNORIN', ANDY. I'VE TRIED EVERYTHIN', 'EAVEN KNOWS—ALL THE CURES KNOWN T' MODERN MAN, 'ELPFUL ADVICE, KINDNESS...

DOES FLORIE SNORE?

YUP

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