

THE MEREDITH



TWIG COLLEGE

Sharon Ellis's Movie Review

"Musketeers" shallow but funny

NON COERCION WORKS

If the evidence so far is conclusive, the new convocation policy will prove to be a good one. For the first time ever, no convocation meetings are required, nor are they a weekly affair. By offering fewer but higher-quality programs, the convocation committee hopes to maintain student attendance and a semblance of "community" gatherings without coercion.

Thus far, the student body has responded more than adequately to the new policy. Functions such as the Danish gymnastic team's performance and Margaret Meade's speech have been most well-received. This support indicates that when the offerings are good, students will indeed take proper advantage of them. Better quality and less quantity seem to work; thanks to those in charge for giving this policy a chance.

GR

APATHY STRIKES AGAIN.

Student turnout at last Friday's S.G.A. meeting was sorely disappointing. Although the meeting had been well-publicized, barely enough students to form a quorum managed to make time to get over to Jones and participate.

The many who did not attend the meeting missed Dr. Thomas's introduction of herself to the student body, in addition to passing up another chance to have a voice in what happens at Meredith.

Our S.G.A. leaders this year are as competent a group as we could wish to have, but they can't accomplish much alone. Instead of complaining about what's irritating you, students, go to the next S.G. A. meeting and bring your problem up there. Who knows, we might actually get some results around here if enough students will get involved.

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Richard Lester's reputation as a director extends back to 1964 when he directed the Beatle's first film "A Hard Day's Night"; now ten years later he is responsible for a film that is pure rollicking entertainment, "The Three Musketeers."

The film is based on Alexandra Dumas's classical novel about three musketeers under the service of Louis XIII. The setting is seventeenth-century France with all of its intrigue and splendor.

Lester departs considerably from the book; the movie is little more than slapstick. However, there is an all-star cast: Oliver Reed, Frank Finlay, Richard Chamberlain (remember Dr. Kildaire?), Michael York, Charlton Heston, Christopher Lee, Faye Dunaway, Geraldine Chaplin, and Raquel Welch, and they have all joined talents to make a movie that is incredibly funny even if it does lack substance.

The film opens with the arrival of D'Artagnan, a high-tempered young man from provincial France, to Paris. The role is played superbly by Michael York. D'Artagnan fumbles and stumbles and makes bumbling mistakes, but his intentions are always good and he is always sincere. He has arrived in Paris in hopes of joining the King's Musketeers.

He soon meets the Three

Musketeers, Athos (Olive Reed), Partho (Frank Finlay), and Aramis (Richard Chamberlain). They "adopt" D'Artagnan into their midst and the action begins. Action that spans two countries, involves a scandal concerning the queen of France, and is complicated by the deadly plots of Cardinal Richelieu. The plot is complicated even more (but much to D'Artagnan's delight), when Raquel Welch appears on the scene as Constance Bonacieux, the wife of D'Artagnan's landlord and a lady-in-waiting to the queen.

The movie is made up of duels, challenges, scuffles, buffoonery, exaggerated motions, groin kicks, and jests. Despite such a script Michael York adds a dimension to D'Artagnan. He has a habit of widening his eyes when confronted with challenges that emphasizes D'Artagnan's youthful courage, and he literally bounds from one scene to the next with relentless energy.

Ironically, it is Charlton Heston that does not equal his acting ability. He portrays the Cardinal Richelieu, but he simply fails to impart all the power and authority that the role requires. Such poor acting on Heston's part is puzzling; it is not so puzzling on Raquel Welch's part.

Despite her protests to the contrary, Welch has never

been able to act. Fortunately this time the role as Constance does not call for much ability, only for ineptness, wide-eyed credulity, and sexual charm. This she is able to carry off.

However, many of the good moments in the movies do not come from the box-office stars, but rather from the supporting cast. Spike Milligan is hilarious as M. Bonacieux, the innkeeper. His consternation at being arrested and sent to the Bastille is amusing. "I don't want to go," he wails. There are all sorts of nasty dungeons and dark holes there where very unsympathetic people cut very important part off one." Roy Kinnear is equally as good as Planchet, D'Artagnan's servant. Planchet huffs and puffs after D'Artagnan, forever trying to keep up with his energetic master. He is doggedly loyal to D'Artagnan, and often points him out with a toothy grin of pride.

The most remarkable aspect of the movie is the costumes and set. Every facet of the set seems to have been researched for historical accuracy. Narrow, winding streets where servants throw slops out the windows transport one to seventeenth-century Paris. Men stroll the streets sniffing clove-studded oranges, and boys participate in greased pole seesaw matches.

Jack Anderson's weekly special

Americans too deeply in debt

WASHINGTON - President Ford's inflation fighters are worried that Americans are too deeply in debt. American consumers owe their creditors a staggering \$185 billion, not even counting home mortgages. This is triple the consumer debt only 15 years ago.

Already, Americans are having trouble paying off their loans. Loan delinquencies have shot up to an alarming 25 per cent. An estimated 165,000

Americans will be forced to declare personal bankruptcy and throw themselves at the mercy of their creditors this year.

It was precisely this kind of credit crisis which caused the last great depression. People couldn't pay their debts, businesses failed and the economic chain reaction spread.

Yet the lesson of the 1930s hasn't changed the borrowing habits of most Americans. Not

even sky-high interest rates are keeping them from buying on credit. They are simply taking out longer-term loans. As long as they can keep down the monthly payments, most Americans don't seem concerned about the terrible cost of borrowing.

Terrorist Weapons: Intelligence reports warn that Libya's madcap leader, Muammar Qaddafi, is buying up new Soviet weapons for terrorists. He has ordered sophisticated weapons, including shoulder-fired missiles, beyond the needs of his own military forces. The Central Intelligence Agency has learned that he intends to distribute some of these arms to terrorist groups around the world.

In the past, the Syrians also have supplied Palestinian terrorists with weapons. But Syria's President Assad has become more moderate since his dealings with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and has developed a closer relationship with Jordan's King Hussein. Of course, Hussein ranks next to Israel on the Palestinian's enemies list.

