

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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SMALLER THAN EVER

Come rain or come shine, it's a little world. We are never more mindful of this fact than we are when war clouds gather, casting an ominous shadow over God's global gift to man.

New Bern is next door to everywhere, and today is our day to be closest of all to Lebanon. We can neither ignore nor escape the bitter blight that has placed it in the headlines.

Staying clear of entangling international alliances was sound reasoning for our forefathers. Such reasoning in our age of shriveled oceans and dwarfed airplanes would be at best an idiot's dream.

Man, in his scientific ingenuity, has managed to invent just about the ultimate when it comes to wholesale destruction. He has been far less impressive in discovering a formula for peace and good will toward mortals at home and abroad.

Ironically, the answer would require little research. It can be found in the words of a gentle Man of Galilee, Whose Sermon on the Mount embodied a way of life that nations and individuals pay lip service to, but practice half heartedly, if at all.

Maybe it's too late, even at this hour, to take stock of ourselves and admit in humility that big planes, big bombs and big armies aren't bigger than God. Too late to stop aiming at the moon, instead of setting our sights on a vision of Bethlehem's star.

Certainly in the mess we're in, created not by God but by man himself, we can ill afford to junk our armaments. In a world where might threatens right as never before, we must be prepared militarily, and alert for any eventuality.

Yet, in times as dark as this, lasting peace is the one objective to strive for, and pray for. To abandon that objective in the midst of crisis would avail nothing.

We have no intentions of insulting your intelligence by contending that Russia's Communistic leaders, or their followers, could be turned into hymn singing worshipers of the Almighty with a little effort on the part of those who earnestly desire peace and brotherhood.

But it is lamentably true that the seeds of this evil thing called Communism grew into bloom because those who professed to love their Maker and pledged to do His bidding failed to take Him seriously.

If this sounds corny to you, remember that America's greatness was founded on great religious faith. And, despite our smugness and self sufficiency, the only real greatness that we have since retained or grasped is basically spiritual.

How different would the world be today, if the leaders of our nation were devout God fearing men, instead of smart politicians posing as bonafide statesmen? How much different would it be if the United Nations presented an equally devout group?

These are things to ponder, as Lebanon's predicament causes grave concern for all the thinking people of the earth. New Bernians share that concern, and with good cause.

Yes, it's a small world—growing smaller by the minute. We're everybody's neighbor, whether we like it or not. And, whether we like it or not, we must learn to live together in brotherhood, or in due time we will die together.

Christ taught this as a way of life and a stepping stone to salvation. Today it is our one hope of survival, and failure to accept this fact, with or without religious fervor, could seal our doom—quite effectively.

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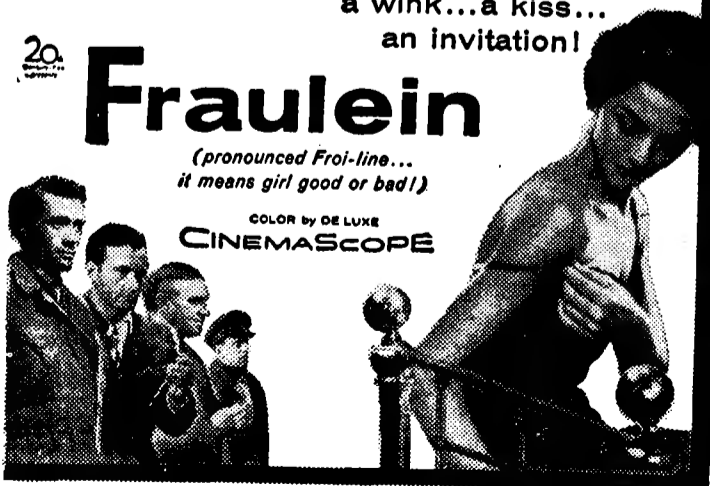
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(pronounced Froi-line...
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MOTOR MAIDS



Parents, Police Boost Road-e-o

By Jeanne Smith,
Dodge Safety Consultant

RODEOS may be nothing new out West, but a recent "Teenage Road-e-o" in Inglewood, Calif., involving cars instead of horses, gave viewers an entirely new slant on young drivers. Safety officials, police and parents discovered that youngsters today are taking their driving seriously.



Miss Smith

As one parent put it, after witnessing 700 Los Angeles area Explorer Scouts demonstrate their driving skills, "Teenagers today really are being 'taught' to drive as opposed to the haphazard manner in which we 'picked it up.'"

Each of the boys, aged 14 to 18, participated in a driving test supervised by a state driving examiner and competed in a short economy run which demonstrated that careful driving is economical, too. They also took the standard California driver's written examination.

After scoring the tests, an examiner remarked, "These boys really know the motor vehicle code book. Only four per cent failed, and most of the errors were on questions dealing with recent changes in California driving laws."

A California Highway Patrol officer explained his interest in the program this way: "We're eager for any opportunity to work with prospective drivers. We like to get them young — before they have a chance to develop incorrect driving habits or attitudes."

"There's another thing, too," he added. "After we spend the day working with these boys, they realize we're their friends. That's a healthy attitude which helps us tremendously in our work."

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—JGMCD.

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