

'The Boston Strangler' Has Ups, Downs & Good Curtis

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
DTH Reviewer

THE BOSTON STRANGLER. With Henry Fonda, Tony Curtis, George Kennedy. Screenplay by Edward Anhalt, based on the book by Gerold Frank. Directed by Richard Fleischer. A 20th Century Fox Release, at the Varsity.

A director's preoccupation with freaks has never made for a very good movie.

Consequently, when Richard Fleischer's film of *The Boston Strangler* gets off the track with snickering visits to gay bars, handbag and foot fetishists and lesbian landladies, the film also goes awry.

These moments seem insincere, so comic and so wrong in this disturbing picture, for the rest of the movie is so excellently executed.

During the first half of the film, Fleischer directs with an imaginative hand. He totally involves the viewer in eleven brutal slayings through an interesting effect: no screen violence.

We never see an old lady strangled, a young woman raped or flesh slashed with shiny knife.

The audience is allowed to witness only the events leading up to the crime. With a sense of helplessness, we see the unsuspecting woman minutes before she is killed. It's like a Greek tragedy, and there's nothing we can say or do to help the victim.

Interesting, also, is Fleischer's use of the ultra-modern multiple-screen effects, introduced at Montreal's Expo 67 and subsequently utilized with a varying degree of effectiveness in *The Thomas Crown Affair* and *Wild in the Streets*.

This technique is employed, not as "intermission-relief" (like former "montage"

sequences), but as a means of speeding-up the action or, more importantly, conveying a mood of simultaneous disaster, multiplying the horror and tripling the dimension of time.

The *Strangler* becomes a self-reproducing danger, whose perverted slayings increase geometrically while the failures of the police are reported in scene by scene arithmetic progression.

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This effect may be the filmmaker's most effective tool in shaping an all-consuming sense of immediacy.

The inventive director again scores in the final scenes of the picture, detailing Albert De Salvo's confession and regression into a multiple personality.

Henry Fonda, as the police investigator, induces this withdrawal in De Salvo (Tony Curtis), and the scene develops into a mixture of flashback and conscience, of mind and memory.

Curtis remembers and imagines, figures appear in screen silhouettes, Fonda pops up in misplaced memory patterns, present voices mix with past images.

The final sequence is fascinating to watch, because it recalls the skill with which the first half of the film was assembled, image by image.

What happened in the middle?

Nothing catastrophic—nothing bad enough to make viewers walk out or turn against the film. It just becomes boring because it becomes pedestrian.

The investigation of four or five perverts is done with a condescending, laugh-at-him touch, so alien to the rest of the film's semi-documentary approach.

The discussion and scene in

the homosexual bar is as stereotyped and sissy-silly as in *The Detective* or a half dozen other films of recent months.

The viewer is distracted from the emotional and dramatic impact of the manhunt, and these "relief" scenes destroy whatever suspenseful pitch has already been established.

The film remains slow throughout preliminary interrogation of De Salvo, a situation which could have been remedied by a little of the earlier inventiveness Fleischer showed in compressing the eleven murders.

The movie begins to rise again when the emphasis turns to Tony Curtis. Curtis has finally fulfilled his acting potential, a potential many people probably never knew about.

After being imbedded for almost ten years in dozens of happy-go-lucky bachelor roles—the swinging playboy with those funny Jewish mannerisms—he tackles this serious part with skill and deep involvement.

We forget Curtis and know De Salvo. Well, not really know. The film skirts over the murderer's multiple-personality problems, in favor of the policeman's subjective view of "the Strangler we can't understand."

Though Fonda succeeds in exposing "the other self" to De Salvo, the murderer immediately retreats into an inner personality, where the film leaves him. As we leave the theatre, Fonda tries to reach De Salvo, and a haunting "Albert... Albert" continues after the screen images fade away.

Something is missing between the murders and the solution, and it's evident that *The Boston Strangler* suffers not in translation—just in transition.



Tony Curtis is excellent as the Strangler ... In Imaginative Screen Version of the Novel.



THE PUSH for visitation grinds along as students grow more eager to exercise the

hoped-for privilege. Per haps if the student legislation bill isn't approved soon, some guys may

resort to ladders and their own visitation codes.

Lots Of Campus Activities

WESLEY FOUNDATION morning worship will be held this morning at 11 a.m. Rabbi Howard Rabinowitz will deliver the sermon.

FELLINI'S 8 1/2 is the Sunday Cinema tonight at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in Carroll Hall.

RELIGIOUS LECTURE takes place tonight in Howell Hall at 8 p.m. Dr. William Clebsch will speak on "The Liberating Function of History."

NORMAN GARLAND, Assistant Dean of the Northwestern University Law School, will be in the Placement Service on Monday to interview students interested in attending law school upon graduation. Students desiring interviews should come by the Placement Service, 211 Gardner Hall, to make an appointment.

LEONARD JAFFEE, Senior Counselor for Central Committee for Conscientious

Objectors (CCC), will appear in Y Court Monday from 1-3 p.m. to offer draft counseling.

PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM will be held on Monday at 4 p.m. in Room 265, Phillips Hall. Prof. Ernst Brietenberger will speak on "Probability problems on the circle and the sphere."

BOARD of Residence College Social Lt. Governors will meet Monday at 4:30 p.m. in the Graham Library, first floor, Graham Residence Hall.

AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE will hold a dinner meeting for all returnees, host brothers and sisters on Monday at 6 p.m. Watch posters for location.

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION science lecture takes place in 265 Phillips Hall at 1 p.m. Monday. Dr. Derek Henderson speaks on "The WITS system as seen by the user."

PARAPSYCHOLOGY, course No. 21 in the Experimental College, will meet at 7:30 Monday night in room 203, Alumni Bldg.

CHAPEL HILL concert series presents Igor Oistrakh, violinist, Monday night at 8 p.m. in Memorial Auditorium.

SEE UNC basketball in color with the "Mouth of the South" Bill Curry and head basketball coach Dean Smith. Films of last year's Far West Classic, ACC Tournament and conference games. 8 p.m. Monday in Faculty Club

Lounge. Everyone invited. Sponsored by Morehead Forum.

SOCIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM presents Kenneth Boulding who will speak on "The Present Crisis as a Crisis of Legitimacy." Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. in Howell Hall.

THOMAS McDANIEL of the Johns Hopkins University, Master of Arts in Teaching Program will be in the Placement Service on Wednesday to interview students interested in attending graduate school upon graduation. On Thursday Everard Meade of the University of Virginia, Graduate School of Business Administration will be in the Placement Service. Students desiring interviews should come by 211 Gardner Hall to make an appointment.

COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE applications for a one year scholarship to Columbia, South America, are available in the ISC lobby. Deadline for applicants is Nov. 21.

LATIN AMERICAN COLLOQUIUM is being sponsored by the International Student Center Nov. 12-Dec. 17. All students interested in being on panels to question speakers should contact Jane Brooksleire, 968-9012, or Glenda Alexander, 968-9002. TORONTO EXCHANGE meets this afternoon at 4 p.m. in the Grail Room of GM.

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FEATURES:
12:40 - 2:48 - 4:56 - 7:04 - 9:12

Varsity

Sartre Play Enacted

A professional repertory company is currently presenting Jean-Paul Sartre's *No Exit* at Thompson Theatre

on the N.C. State campus.

The play is a dramatic enactment of Sartre's existentialist philosophy that "morality demands positive participation" and that "man becomes what he wills himself to be."

The play runs through November 13, and student tickets (for \$1) may be obtained at Thompson Box Office.

OLD BOOK NEWS

Books in German
go out this week in the Old Book Feature Case. Nothing rare in this lot, but good reading in German for anyone who likes the language of Goethe, at moderate prices.

Handsome Art Books

Perhaps the finest Art library we have ever offered is being sold this month—and who knows when we'll ever find its like again? You'll find them in the big book case back by the North Carolina display.

A Flood of Good Reading

came in along with our showier features, and the result is that the 97c shelf, the 58c shelf, and the 19c shelf will be lively hunting grounds for the next few weeks.

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Grad Seminar Opens

divided into one meeting devoted to a general introduction, three meetings conducted by each of the professors and then two class meetings after Christmas devoted to summary and conclusion.

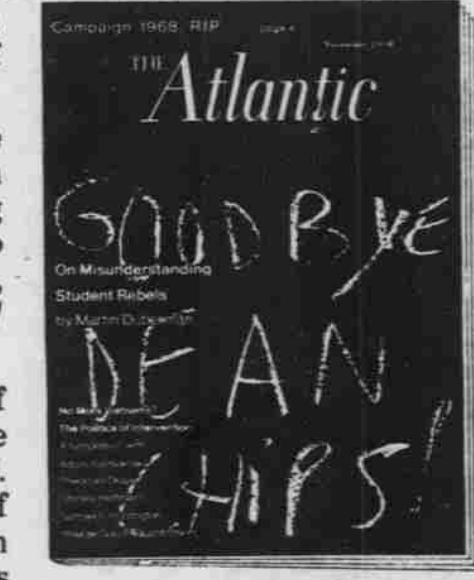
The seminar is a graded course. Each student is required to submit a paper to the professor in his department. "Hopefully," Dr. Thornton said, "the paper will be eclectic, that is chosen from two or more of the fields of study represented."

The principle aim of the course," Dr. Thornton continued, "is to bring different disciplines together to focus on a particular problem, in this case the Subjective/Objective dichotomy."

In reply to the question of what Subjective/Objective dichotomy means, Dr. Thornton gave a number of instances. "Individualism versus social responsibility is one facet of the problem, an important one. Just look around you every day. Participatory democracy, in fact the New Left, is partly an outgrowth of subjectivism. Subjectivism carried to its extreme limits would be insanity, I guess, but that's Dr. McCurdy's field so I'll leave that to him."

At present there are no plans to repeat the course, but Dr. Thornton said he is anxious to see the movement continue here.

At your newsstand NOW



More on the War Against the Young: Martin Duberman says those in power in our universities are blind to student principles. James Dickey on Allan Seager and Theodore Roethke. No More Vietnams? Is it even realistic to insist on this? ... Where does the Vietnam experience leave us in our relations with the U.S.S.R. and China? (The first of two excerpts from a conference at the Adlai Stevenson Institute in Chicago.)

DR. WILLIAM E. BEEL (optometrist) announces an expansion of office hours to

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2. You?
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3. That's Browning.
What about: "A jug of wine, a loaf of bread, And thou, Myrna, beside me..."

4. That's Omar Khayyam.
Then how am I going to show Myrna how much I care?

5. Why don't you see if you can land one of those great jobs Equitable is offering. The work is fascinating, the pay good, and the opportunities unlimited. All of which means you'll be able to take care of a wife, to say nothing of kids, extremely well.

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