Leaven Reviews

Satire Makes War Unlovely

It has never been thought necessary to defend British humor. Lately, however, it appears that film satire has taken a turn away from the approach which the British developed so finely in the 50's and early 60's; and that any film so much as gesturing toward the marvelous past needs to be explained and justified if it is not to be dismissed out of hand. The recent British film "Oh What A Lovely War" makes this gesture (though with rather limited success). If for that reason alone, it prompts thoughts about the nature of cinema satire.

"Oh What A Lovely War" is an anti-war satire set against World War I. Its set is an elaboration of the old British Music Hall. We see the spectacle of a Brighton Beach entertainment pier with WW I in flashing lights over the entrance, and a promise of thrills and laughter inside: attractions like Ypres and Mons; generals surveying the whole of the battle front from a crow's nest and chalking up battle results on a football scoreboard: men lost-63,000; yards gained-0.

All this is on the surface. But the movie is first of all concerned with entertainment. The sense of outrage which is the essence of good satire underlies what we see-it informs it but does not control it.

The structure of the film is very near that of the Joan Littlewood stage production on which it was based. We follow the Smith family (including 5 sons) on an outing to the WWI Fair in 1914. They purchase their tickets and, candied apples in hand, wander gaily among the attractions. But the ticket taker's uniform is really that of a general officer, and the entertainments are each transformed into scenes of war. One by one each son is lost, first to the Army, and then to death.

imps from redistic scenes of trench warfare to highly abstract portrayals of political mechanations, to the superficial frivolity of War as a Fair at Brighton are disturbingly surreal. Yet the film's anger is never openly expressed. The satire is telling, but it is never obvious. It never offends. It is, in a word, profoundly civilized, communicating through understatement the sense of outrage at war's senseless brutality. Events in this film are ironic, incongruous, cruel and incomprehensible, perhaps. Eccentricity is rampant, as are insensitivity and stupidity. But, when "Lovely War" is at its most effective (which is infrequently), events are shown, highlighted, and allowed to speak for themselves by their very closeness to reality. Assumptions are rarely forced on the audience; we are presented a comic view of the way things are.

This is the essence of British satire and can be contrasted with such films as "Mash," and Catch-22," the post Dr. Strangelove American anti-war satires. There the sense of outrage is no longer merely the underlying motivation of the film. There, outrage is the very substance of the movie. Brandished before the audience, it is meant to make us cringe as we laugh, to vicariously enjoy the privilege of sharing anger without consequence. There, the figurative blood of war is displayed in Glorious Technicolor; the merely ludicrous situation becomes an insanity in a world of madmen. British satire admits that it is hard to smile through a stiff upper lip. American satire cries out that we must laugh-or be driven insane.

The satire which owed its truth to its closeness to a rational, controlled reality is now transformed by wild exaggeration into a world which makes no sense; a

world in which the very existence of rationality is questioned. In such a world the "profoundly civilized" view of life is strangely out of place. British satire argues its cause politely; American satire outshouts the opposition. This appeal to gut feelings is certainly more in tune with the current mood; but there is a great danger that "M'lady protesteth too much." A great deal of superficiality, of pandering to faddish attitudes, can be hidden in an appeal aimed at getting the adrenalin flowing rather than the mind thinking. These films place a great value on getting the audience involved; but that very closeness to the film separates us from the real world the film is supposed to be telling us about. The power such an appeal can have over us is great and tempting; it requires a good deal of integrity on the part of the filmmaker not to abuse it. Integrity is not part of the Hollywood creed, and films such as "Strawberry Statement" and "Getting Straight" are examples of this abuse that immediately come to mind. The saving grace of these films is that they are badly made; were they well done they would be not only morally offensive, but

There is a place for both kinds of satire in film today. It is refreshing to compare "Oh What A Lovely War" with an American satire such as "Mash." Neither is a great film; both are better than average. Their effects are different because their means are different. You may enjoy one more man the other, but to see both is to understand each a little better.



Union's "Spook Spectacular" features worthies like the gent pictured above. Shows are in the Great Hall at 7 and 9:30 today and tomorrow. An 11:30 showing will be added on Friday and Saturday night.

Campus Activities Calendar

The American Field Service Club (AFS) will meet on tonight at 7:30 p.m. in 207 Dey Hall. All interested persons

Additional Meetings of I.U.N.C.: Ham Radio (Session 2), tonight, 7:30 p.m., Caldwell Y Annex;

Communal Living (Session 2), Oct. 29-8 p.m., Steps of South Building; Graveyard Shift (Session 2), Oct. 29-11:59 p.m., In front of undergrad

The India Association will celebrate DIWALI (Festival of Lights) today at 7 p.m. in the International Student Center (Carr Dorm). Mr. P. Ganguly, Minister of Education and Culture in India's embassy in Washington will be featured speaker. Documentary films about India will be shown and light Indian refreshments will be served. You are cordially invited to participate in the celebration.

The Young Democrats Club and Election 70 will meet Wednesday at 7

efforts in the Congressional campaigns. The meeting should be short.

There will be a meeting of the Sport Parachute Club on Thursday, October 29 at 7:00 in the Union.

College Life will meet in the Student Union tonight at 9 p.m. Speaker is John Buell, Southeastern Regional Director of

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the Campus Crusade for Christ.

Attention: Registered Greensboro Voters-Rides available to and from Greensboro polls on Election Day, Tues., Nov. 3. Call: Jim Van Hecke, 967-3042 or Cheenie Smith, 942-1592.

Time-Consuming

endzones and at mid-field.

Cleaning Kenan:

by Philip Gurkin

Special to the DTH

playing field in Kenan Stadium,

scrutinizing the turf as if he were a

planter looking at his finest money crop.

the vast empty arena, much as a

conductor might look at his orchestra

during the tense moments before

the last chair in the band section, and

every row and aisle lay clean, waiting for

the next invasion of a Tar Heel opponent.

It is the job of Larry Smith to see that

team whose basic task lies in keeping

Kenan Stadium clean and its playing

surface in best possible condition. These

Athletic Department, employees, also are

responsible for all other playing fields,

including tennis courts, on the Carolina

busiest in the fall season, working seven

days a week when there are home games.

cleaning Kenan. "We have tried both

blowers and vacuum units in an attempt

to save manpower, but nothing works like

Sunday morning after home football

games. They spend several hours cleaning

up trash outside the stadium around the

starting in the stadium, where on the

average of 24 two-ton truckloads of trash

until Thursday completing this job, which

begins on the upper level of the South

side and works its way to the opposite

trash has been raked into huge piles, the

aisles are swept to assure getting small

articles such as cigarettes and can pop

tops, Smith said. Also if time and weather

permits, the whole stadium is washed

After the thousands of cups and other

are hauled away after each game.

Monday brings the tremendous chore

Most of the eight-man crew will spend

For Smith workers the week begins on

a man and a rake," he said.

parking lots and streets.

Needless to say the men are kept

Smith explained the tedious task of

He is the supervisor of an eight-man

Kenan Stadium stays that way.

Everything seemed in place, down to

performing.

campus.

Larry A. Smith ambled over the

Next he paused in silence and scanned

Chapel Hill city dump. When Thursdays arrive on weeks of home games, Smith has to begin manicuring the field for the Saturday contest. First they must paint the blue and white letters which stand out in the

This is done by spraying and rolling the latex water paint onto the grass to which it does no harm. The coloring is also non-toxic.

Smith, at his job for eight years, pointed out the rapid rate at which the new Bermuda grass grows. "If we put the blue paint down on Thursday, by Friday evening you can see the green coming through," he said.

He said the grass had been a considerable problem this year, but was coming along fine now. The entire field had to be replanted after last year's Jubilee, which, because of people and blankets, destroyed the root system, Smith said.

He pointed out the new grass spreads rapidly and becomes a rugged and strong carpet-like texture. The grass, which may be replaced by the new Astro-Turf next year, "is the best playing surface for this part of the country," Smith commented.

Last, but certainly not least, comes the usual white trimmings which spectators are so used to seeing. This trim is normally applied on Friday since the slightest rain may ruin its appearance.

Smith takes pride in being able to say he has never used the artificial green coloring used by many schools to enhance their stadium's playing surface.

He said the field should be in very good shape for next season, and personally prefers the natural grass to the artificial turf.

"Coach Dooley has been very helpful in promoting the growth of our new grass. He hasn't held practices on it if it was wet, or when use might hurt it in any way," Smith said.

As far as those working under him, Smith has nothing but praise. "This is the best group of men and workers in the University set-up," he said. He said when there was a job to be done, and often at odd hours, they were all there to do it.

During the week there is no football, no fans packing into the arena to see a Presenting quite a problem are the battle-instead, a silent spectacle many liquor and soft drink bottles that belonging to those whose task it is to must be carefully removed from other convert a mess back into a usable trash to prevent breaking. Then the 24 stadium. truck loads of garbage are dumped in the

p.m. in the Student Union to discuss final WORLD BE DESTROYED 🚳

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rebuilt. Very good condition - asking \$350 - Richie 966-2546. Bo is coming. FOR SALE: Wollensak Stereo Tape Recorder \$80. Belair Stereo 8-track cartridge player and AM FM radio - \$90.966-5093.

2 roommates wanted immediately for two bedroom apartment at Royal Park Apts. Call 967-4807. Help Wanted: Parttime telephone operator for

work morning hours 7 to 10. Must have pleasing voice. Private corporation pays very good. Call 933 4835 for interview. DYNAMITE THEATRE takes up where Busby Berkley left off. Tryouts: Thurs.-Fri. Oct. 29-30. 6-10 p.m. Graham Memorial. Let's make

McCALLIE graduates (including Joel Kronenberg) homecoming and class of '67 reunion. Nov. 13 in Chattanooga. Big party and

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Anyone believing that William Branham was the Rev. 10:7 messenger, please call 967-5235 and ask for Jennifer.

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5. All meetings and drag fore by the professional and adding-

poderige in the esterological for that the in Therige. 6. All serve y charges and local traces

7. Ticket for the are performance of your choice is an our London.

Snip your way to London

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