

Editorial

Last Tango in Paris: Death of bourgeois-Liberalism

The reviews of this movie have not, by any means, been clear as to what it represents. Many statements have been made but all have been for the most part, uncritical assumptions. I attended the last showing, Nov. 13/73, and was amazed at the profound message it had to offer.

The American (Marlon Brando) represented the bourgeois Liberal lifestyle characteristic of capitalism. The French girl represents man qua human (or the goals of socialism).

The girl is seduced at the outset and, although she is tempted to the non-committal, irresponsible lifestyle the American represents she is also cognizant of the fact that this lifestyle is tragic; i.e. it leads to nothing positive in human terms (values, responsibility, commitment, etc.) and, so, passively resists. Throughout the movie, the American continues to seduce her and depersonalize her so as to make seduction easier and thus to maintain his dominance over her. She sees that unless she acts against him she will become entangled in his lifestyle and embark upon a tragedy like him.

By the American confining himself to an apartment where "people are not real

outside", has symbolized how confined such a lifestyle is. He did not want to commit himself to anyone or anything so he forbid any names between himself and the girl since names are personal and human & lead to the acceptance of a person as a person and thus the commitment and responsibility this inevitably entails.

The girl, tempted by this lifestyle, realized she must rebel; she realized that, although real life has its ups and downs, there is no real alternative but to face it. This was symbolized by carrying on a relationship with another male who promised marriage. Now, marriage takes one directly into the nitty-gritty of life.....

I could feel the strength and desperation of her resistance in the dramatic episode at the dance palace where she was manually bringing him to a sexual orgasm; although she was still sufficiently under his influence, the human element was crying out against it. She finished and left -- back to the apartment where he followed her. Now here is where the profundity of the tragedy is manifested. He tried to persuade her to continue with him, but she exclaimed "it's over", but he would not listen; "okay, when it's over, you start over again." He would not

accept the fact that his lifestyle only led to human degradation. Anyone familiar with Kierkegaard's "Aesthetic" man will see the significance of this moment. He made promises to her if only she would continue with him; but she would not; he insisted and so she picked up the gun. Now for the finale.

You will remember that hitherto no names were used; now, perhaps in another bid to win her over, he asked her name. The moment she said it, she shot him. How profound this is !!!

Consider; when the Bourgeois capitalist becomes aware of the contradictions inherent in his life as a capitalist life, he must attempt at a resolve. No one can tolerate (knowingly) contradictions in his life. Now, this necessarily means that one seek for alternatives - this means the end of capitalist values, beliefs, etc. because they are full of contradiction. One becomes aware that his life is, and has been, less than human; thus, being aware now that man must be humanized, you seek for human goals, human values, etc.; all of which capitalism lacks!

The girl was aware that she was fighting for her future, indeed, her life! She had to choose -- she chose man (the human element); she had to act -- she killed that which would prevent her from being a true, full, human being; thus, she symbolically rejected capitalist ideology and the Bourgeois Liberal lifestyle it implies, when she shot the American.

The movie was from the continent; profound and instructive; and is head & shoulders above anything the decadent Americans can produce. They (Americans) are still (typically) hung up on violence.

P.S. Who would endeavour to explain why, after he was shot and stumbled out onto the balcony, the American stuck his chewing gum under the railing?
Editor

This will be the last issue for the fall term. Exams are approaching, papers are due and everyone, including the Cadre staff, is feeling the pressure.

We will resume publication when the second semester begins.

Until then, enjoy your holiday and, if some of you should extend your holiday indefinitely, -- good bye.
Editor

Letters to the Editor



THANKS-HEAPS

Dear Sir,

Would you kindly print this letter in your next issue so I may publicly thank the many supporters of the 1973 Football Panthers. Throughout the just completed football season we had tremendous fan support, both home and away, from everyone connected with the university. Though we did not win the sought after championship, we were accorded championship support. So for everyone connected with the team, I wish to extend our thanks and appreciation and want to assure you we'll be back next Sept. in search of the 1974 champion-

ship.

Sincerely Yours,
Ed Hilton
Head Football Coach

To the Editor,

I would like to address this to the L.C.M.F. that has been writing those articles on Gentleman Jim's. Don't waste your breath. People are going to go there anyway no matter what you say. Besides the more you talk the more people are going to go. You are defeating your purpose; the typical Island attitude is to put up with anything the businesses say because they are too afraid to say anything; this goes not only for prices but for wages. Gentleman Jim's is getting more business now than before the articles. These people, especially students, don't want a champion of justice such as you are trying to be, and, I might add without much success. All they wa-

con't on pg.4