

CINEMASCOPE

Who can account for the public taste? In a time dominated by such super-hype films as *Star Wars*, *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*, and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, here in Charlottetown a little low-budget flick like *O God!* is one of the most popular films of the past several years. It may mean that vast budgets and all-encompassing advance publicity programs are not so important after all.

So what's this *O God!* like, anyway? It's a mildly moralistic film, neither purely comic or purely serious, and it's very American in scope and execution. Where else but in the land of the free and the home of the brave would anyone dream of portraying God as a wisecracking, cigar-puffing old gaffer in tennis shoes and a fishing cap? It's just too campy an idea, and it's perfectly fitting that the part be played by George

Burns, that grand master of America's favourite brand of comedy, put-down humour. Without Burns, this movie's humour might be a bit too "Sonny and Cher" to be effective. It's also nice that John Denver, the all-American boy, plays the part of God's chosen saviour for mankind. These two, standing as they do for all that the United States holds so dear, work together perfectly in this cute assertion of the sanctity of individualism and personalized faith.

The movie does explore man's attitudes toward God even if it does sacrifice a lot for the sake of keeping the laughs flowing. Particularly effective and beautifully pulled off is the caricature of an evangelist whom God does not hesitate to condemn outright. No one believes Jerry Landers' (John Denver) assertions that he has seen and talked to God,

but his own faith and perseverance pull him through. Also, naturally, when Landers does achieve national prominence for his belief, he acquires a set of religious "groupies." Beautiful! Sadly though, even when God makes a spectacular courtroom appearance on Jerry's behalf, people still hesitate to believe that God could actually be so outlandish.

It seems to be all in fun, though. Very tongue-in-cheek, satirical, and witty, the movie's powers of comedy may well be wasted on many people. There are many lines which are both comic and profound at once (or try to be so), such as the case when Jerry cries, "But I don't belong to any religion!" and God snaps back with, "Well neither do I!" The script carefully avoids preaching any orthodox doctrine as well, for God, in answer

to the question of whether Jesus was the son of God, replies that Christ, Buddha, Muhammad, and indeed, everyone, were all his sons. A cop-out, in a way.

It seems that you can dress up the public taste, but you can't take it anywhere. *O God!* certainly does take the taste for the outrageous and dress it up in a light coating of social and religious meaning, but its market won't allow it to take things too far.

True, that fatcat evangelist getting told off by God was a joy to see, and some deep probing could likely bring out some heavy points, but, on the whole, *O God!* remains a highly entertaining, relatively shallow piece. It was well worth seeing just for its outlandish subject matter, and its success is, for the most part, warranted.

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advertising problems, (John Flemming, former advertising manager quit in December) and to make recommendations to the Radio Station's interim manager Cheryl Cannon on what would be appropriate financial steps for the Station to take.

Initially the Finance committee suggested that CIMN postpone their purchase of the Broadcast News Machine as they thought the B.N. Machine would be too expensive and also that CIMN should continue to cover the Panther hockey games as they (the games) had already been sold to advertise.

The Finance Committee was then informed that the B.N. Machine had already been installed so they met again to determine what should be done.

After reviewing revised figures the Finance Committee recommended to Cheryl Cannon that it was economically feasible for the Radio Station to both carry the Panther Hockey games and employ the services of The Broadcast News Machine. The Union would be losing a minimal amount of money, however, the Finance Committee deemed both broadcasting of hockey and international news valuable services to the students of UPEI; hence

worth paying for.

Radio CIMN however, disregarded the recommendation of the Finance Committee and as a result the hockey game broadcast on Sunday Jan. 15 was the first of this semester.

The reasons why the hockey broadcasts were stopped as stated by a representative of CIMN are as follows: We don't have enough carts (pre-timed tape cartridges) to handle the commercials.

I can't get any of our (40 persons) staff to work the hockey broadcasts as none are interested in hockey.

I don't like doing hockey broadcasts, personally.

Hence, readers of the Sun this is what last weeks front page story was all about. If you wish to hear hockey broadcasts once

again I encourage you to write or see your Student Union Executive.

If you don't wish to hear hockey games on CIMN you won't.

Michael McMahon
Communications Officer

Dear Sir:

I have been told that the first issue of the UPEI SUN for 1978 has been distributed. However, I have been searching for a

full day and have not yet been able to obtain a copy. I have made several excursions to the office of the esteemed newspaper, since I assumed that this would be the most logical place to find a copy of the paper. Each time I was told that there was not even one copy of the current issue in the office. I live in Blanchard Hall, and, according to the blurb on page two of past issues, the paper is supposed to be distributed to this residence. However, no copies of the SUN have yet been placed in the receptacles provided in the building. I went to the lounge of the Robertson Library this afternoon (Friday), but no copies were to be found. I have been told

by a reliable source that no copies are available in the Cafeteria.

Either they do not want anyone to read their paper, or the staff of the UPEI SUN has contrived a unique way to sell subscriptions.

Yours truly,
A Student.

You have a legitimate complaint. Unfortunately the editor is the only staff person with access to a car Thursday afternoon when we receive the paper. Since I have classes all Thursday afternoon, I cannot get the papers until Friday. We do try to get the main spots such as The Barn, the cafeteria and the library but I guess the papers are picked very quickly. We will try to improve our delivery system in the future.



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