

A commentary on today's movies

By Sean Hennessey

As I was watching the news last night, one of the broadcasters stated that the Canadian population has become better educated and more sophisticated during the past 10 to 15 years.

This statement would tend to imply that the younger generation is turning to more advanced and better quality forms of entertainment.

With regard to the movie industry, I would have to argue with this contention.

Take a look at some of the movies which have been playing in Charlottetown Cinemas recently. We have had *A Passage to India*, *The Killing Fields*, *Places in the Heart*, *Country*, *A Soldier's Story*, *Starman*, and *The Natural*.

On the opposite end of the spectrum (the low-quality end): *Mischief*, *Firestarter*, *Red Dawn*, *Runaway*, *Johnny Dangerously*, *Against All Odds*, *Children of the Corn*, *Heavenly Bodies*, *Beat Street*, *Cheech & Chong's The Corsican Brothers* and of course, *Porky's III*.

The first list consists of movies which I would consider good quality, worth-

while movies. They are characterized by a good story, good acting, and good directing.

The second list are movies which are at the opposite end of the spectrum. Everything that is good about the movies in the first list is poor with regard to the movies on the second list. Their basic appeal, the reason people attend, is a combination of good promotion, big names, gratuitous scene of sex and violence, expectations of laughs, or simply some 'entertainment'.

I am not suggesting these movies should not be made. As with any product or service, if there is demand for these types of movies, they will be produced. As evident from the number of showings these movies enjoy at our local cinemas, there is adequate demand.

What bothers me is that when a good quality movie does come to Charlottetown, it is doing well if it remains in the Cinemas for more than four nights.

What is even more annoying is that movies like, *Amadeus*, *Crimes of Passion*, *Under the Volcano*, and *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, which

have been released for many weeks, still haven't played here.

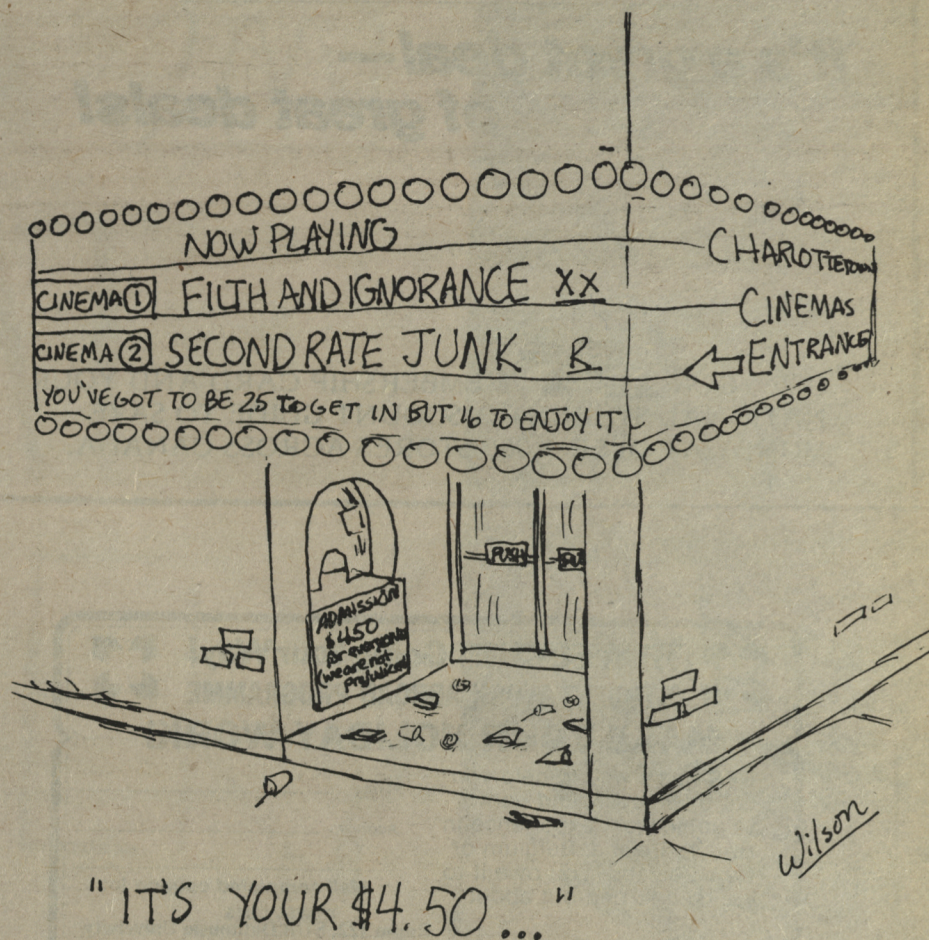
Why does this occur when we know that *A Soldier's Story*, an Academy Award nominee for Best Picture, played here for four days? It's unfortunate but an intelligent well-acted movie like *A Soldier's Story* which didn't have any car chase scenes, simply doesn't appeal enough to the Porky's generation of movie-goers to warrant a longer run.

You mean to tell me that this taste in movies is a sign of the Canadian population becoming better educated and more sophisticated?

Instead, we have the privilege of viewing *Porky's III*, the re-release of *Return of the Jedi*, or *Friday the 13th, Part V*.

The biggest market for these types of movies is teenagers and younger adults.

This group will pay \$4.50 per person to attend the new edition of a movie about the fun-filled gang that inhabits Porky's world. Also, enough of them will pay this money to warrant *Porky's III* remains in the Cinema for three to five weeks.



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Dialogue on drinking

Think about it. Talk about it.
Take action.

TAKE ACTION ON OVER-DRINKING.

"I like the taste of a cold beer on a hot day, but I certainly don't think you have to get the gang together with a couple of cases of beer just to celebrate the fact you've had a bit of exercise."

JOHN WOOD
OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALLIST