

New Altman scores

A WEDDING

Producer and director: Robert Altman; screenplay: John Considine, Patricia Resnick, Allan Nicholls, Robert Altman from a story by Considine and Altman; released by Twentieth Century-Fox; color; at multiple locations.

Robert Altman is an artist, making arty films inside a popular framework. "A Wedding" is the successor to the mantle of "Nashville," a sprawling film that portrayed the country music business and the lives of its people, and while it hasn't the stunning angst which the prior film had, it comes close to paralleling the framework.

It is the story of a large catered family wedding, which all of the guests send "regrets" to because they find the upper-class (Desi Arnaz, Jr.)—lower-class pairing too distasteful. The groom's family (with such members as Vittorio Gassman, Lillian Gish, Pat McCormick, and Dina Merrill) is trying to be civil and the bride's family (Carol Burnett and Mia Farrow among others) is just sort of there being their low-life selves.

Sub-plots abound: Arnaz is set to marry Amy Stryker, but when the family finds out that he has also impregnated her sister (Farrow), problems arise. Geraldine Chaplin wanders around announcing the details of the wedding ritual to the uninterested members of the party, and eventually attempts a seduction of the bride. Gish dies before any of it begins, and the people who know go to great pains to make sure no one else finds out.

It is a brilliant cinema verite, slice of life film which manages to haunt with its forboding tone (things look very grim at one point, can't about tell it though) and the occasionally surfacing lusts of the characters.



Altman directs Farrow (l) and Gassman (r)

the daily cougar's

STEPPIN' OUT

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an entertainment magazine

Dina—not just the wife of Cliff

by john atkinson



Merrill startles a nurse (Janet Schulman)

When I walked in, Dina Merrill was already talking. "Well, it's caused by imperfect insulin, impure. They don't know but they think. There's so much they don't know about it. But if with this recombinant DNA, if the beta cells could be urged to produce enough insulin so that there could be a bank of human insulin and, uh, juvenile diabetics could have human insulin instead." Instead of rabbit and pig pancreas secretions?

I had come down to the Houston Oaks that Thursday afternoon to talk to a MOVIE STAR about MOVIES and I was getting a basic physiology primer from a handsome woman in her '40s who appears to be in her '30s. Merrill has been around since the late '50s (1957 to be exact) and has been in a few good ones ("Desk Set," "The Sundowners," "Butterfield 8") and some true poop ("I'll Take Sweden," for instance) and she is a presence, shall we say, on the screen, not unlike Lassie, only more wholesome.

Just kidding. "Jack Benny was a closet diabetic for years and three months before he died, I said, 'Jack, come out of

the closet and help people, and he said "Well, I guess you're right. After all these years I guess I should talk about it" and I said 'Will you do a benefit for us in Madison Square Garden,' and he said "yes I will" and that was in January and he died two weeks later. The benefit was gonna be in March," she said.

These were not really the fabulous stories of the stars that I had been pining for, but I knew the beefy stuff had to be coming soon. It was, sure enough. Real interesting stuff about Lloyd Bridges, Merv Griffin, and "Dinah Shore being back with her show" for this year's Jack Benny Memorial Golf Classic. Lloyd Bridges, Merv Griffin and Dinah Shore, all in one thought, kind of makes my head reel and I get this coppery taste in my mouth, then everything starts fading...I think this is when I dropped my ball point pen into the Chivas and water on the \$1500 teak coffee table in front of me, creating a beautifully symmetrical ovular water stain.

"What about Farrah (Fawcett-Majors)?" queried a quick lad from a

state law daily to which Miss Merrill rejoined with "She says she's gonna come, but last year we lost out to the Queen, but I couldn't exactly fault (What a punner. Punnist. Punter.) her for that."

Is this remark really that funny? The speaker of my recorder may have sustained permanent damage due to the laughter generated by the room full of journalists and PR people.

Still talking about the tournament, Miss Merrill (or Mrs. Cliff Robertson if you prefer) got into some serious name dropping—Cheryl Ladd, John and Nellie Connally, the finals of the Kennedy tournament, Clark Graebner, Pancho Segura (playing with Ethel Kennedy and Dina saying in a truly unbelievable Mexican accent, "Look out Dina, I'm

gonna pass you in the alley"), Cliff Robertson, ("Someday we're going to work together. That's gonna be interesting."), and Fred Zinnemann ("He's a lovely man and such a meticulous craftsman").

Seeing my big chance with the mention of Fred Zinnemann, (he's the fine director of such films as "High Noon," "From Here to Eternity," "Oklahoma," and "A Man for All Seasons") I asked the first question of the afternoon about the reason she was in town in the first place—to plug Robert Altman's new film, "A Wedding."

Was working with Daniel Mann, Zinnemann, or Walter Lang a lot different than working with Altman I wondered aloud, and, lo and behold, this

[See Dina, Page 3]



Altman with his trusty Panavision



The party arrives for 'A Wedding'

Dina gives clues to Altman style

(continued from page 1)

vision of loveliness said, "Well, they're all very structured-script people and Altman can bounce an idea off you and shoot it in two minutes. We improvised two particular scenes. That was all. And one of them I didn't even realize they were filming. I thought they were working on something else. But he works with three cameras and he had told Carol (Burnett) and Virginia Vestoff and myself that we should have some little conversation about, whatever, and Carol came up with this crazy thing—I had said something about I had just seen mother (Lillian Gish) and she's really dead, but I think she's fine and Virginia, who knows she's dead, doesn't want to say anything, and then Carol says 'well you're so fortunate to still have

your mother, I lost mine when I was thirteen and by the way did you see "Carrie?" and we said, 'no,' and we don't know where she's going with this, and she says 'well you know what happened to her in that film, that happened to me too, except it was in algebra class instead of gym.' More laughs for Dina.

"That scene we thought was in the background of another scene—not at all, it's right there, so he does those funny little bits and pieces every now and then. But I hadn't done any, oh, goody more Perrier, improvisation since I left drama school, so it was interesting to say the least." Boy, that Perrier really gets around (but not as well as Dina).

STEPPIN' OUT

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New Gil Scott disappoints overall

john kajander



Gil Scott-Heron and Brian Jackson
Secrets
Arista AB 4189

When Gil Scott-Heron made his debut years ago with the stunning *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* great things were expected from him. In the following years he has seldom disappointed that promise. With strong lyrics and stunning music, he provided a channel for those who believe that music and messages do mix. His mix of jazz and social comment informed as well as satisfied. His songs and poetry ranged from "The Bottle" to "Watergate" and later "Bicentennial Blues." There were virtually no issues that GSH and the Midnight Band did not at one time or another touch on.

With GSH and Brian Jackson's newest release, *Secrets*, a successful string seems to have stopped. The album, despite some highlights, seems stale and at times lifeless. For starters, instead of using the Midnight Band, a tight collection of excellent musicians, Heron and Jackson opt for several studio musicians. They may be technically better than the M.B., but half the excitement is lost in the transition. The second foreshadowing of doom is the three (count 'em) female background singers crooning ever-so-commercially along. Can strings be far behind?

On *Secrets*, Heron and Jackson deal with "Angel Dust" ("Just ain't where it's at"), "Madison Avenue" ("you can take part in the great American dream, just fill your house up with a million products you don't need") and a host of other topics. Unfortunately, the lyrics have a tendency to preach instead of teach. Gil Scott-Heron is at his best when his songs suggest ideas, instead of scream out problems. Consequently, "Angola, Louisiana" that deals with Gary Tyler is much more effective than "Three Miles Down" (about conditions in coal mines) since it only mentions his name twice.

Chileans set to stage play

by fran rice

Because of a pact made 18 years ago, people all over the world have seen performances given by the Chilean Theater Company, "Los Cuatro." "Los Cuatro" began with three brothers, Hector, Humberto and Hugo Duvauchelle and Chilean actress Orietta Escamez in Santiago, Chile.

Soon after the company was formed Hugo Duvauchelle died of cancer. His death gave the rest a deeper sense of commitment to the theater.

The director and playwright, Edmundo Villarroel, has been a part of the company for about 15 years, according to Carlos Monzanto, associate professor of Spanish and other languages. "Felix Dias, a Venezuelan guitarist, provides the music."

"Their mission, I think, is mainly to bring a bit of Chile to Chileans away from home and to build a bridge of love among Chileans and other Chileans and among Chileans and the world."

"Los Cuatro" will present a performance in Spanish Saturday Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. in the Cullen Auditorium at UHCC.

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Acting, staging highlight Showcase's first outing

by jill lefforge

RED ROVER, RED ROVER

A play by Oliver Hailey, directed by Lucille Ralph at Theater Showcase. Thursdays-Saturdays through November 18. Curtain at 8:30 p.m.

Houston's newest addition to the theater community is Theater Showcase and under the guidance of executive producer Lucille Ralph, it should prove to be an exciting and innovative extension of Houston's burgeoning cultural climate. "Theater Showcase," she says in her program notes, "plans to be a professional theater which will bridge the gap between academic and regional theater. We hope to provide opportunities for actors, directors and new playwrights to enhance their dramatic and imaginative skills, both on the stage and on our Monday night workshop." Other plans include one-act plays to be presented as late shows on Friday and Saturday nights.

To kick off its brand new season, Ralph has chosen Oliver Hailey's new full-length play, "Red Rover, Red Rover," which takes place right over there in Memorial where Joe and Vic are throwing another one of their infamous parties and have invited two other couples to join them: Nell and Harris, and Leigh and Eddie. The only problem is, it is getting late and Vic has already served two meals and everyone is getting tired, including Vic who has done twice the amount of cooking she planned on doing. Joe suddenly gets a great idea and asks everyone to stay for the night. Whether everyone agrees to the idea or not, he has taken the liberty of letting the air out of all the tires of one car and hiding the keys to the other, so no one has much of a choice. Just why Joe wants them to stay is a problem, or is it just because he's lonely? Vic is just as exasperated at this stunt as everyone else is. So author Hailey has captured three couples under the same roof for the night and the story unfolds.

Neurotic Nell was once married to Harris, who has the hots for Eddie's current wife Leigh. After it is decided who will sleep where, no one sticks to the plan and the plot, as it usually does in bedroom-living room farces, thickens.

Joe and Vic from here on out are little more than a referee team. Each character gets a chance to step out of the action and ruminate upon the quality of his or her sex life, comment on the current plot twist or just ramble on. This device becomes rather monotonous when used without discretion. Hailey's basic premise also smacks rather resonately of contrivance and might have risen above that had he used his characters with the exception of Joe and Vic for a bit more than sexual checkers, jumping and maneuvering themselves from one bed to another.

The production has some excellent performances, with gold stars going to Kathy Woods as Vic and Claire Hart's Nell. Woods' baffled, but her understanding and eventually independent wife, gave the play a much needed anchor. The amusing cynical neurotic was never a stereotype at the hands of Claire Hart, but familiar enough to bring to mind all those you may have ever known. Joe Watts as Joe, the the lonely schemer, could have used more variety in his presentation. Tom Miltenberger's virile, eager Harris took the stage with sheer vitality. Sharon Hamill as the surrendering but forgetful Leigh was delightful as was Travis Stockley as her husband.

Tom Dornbusch's lush set, which even includes a swimming pool, gives a nice texture to the production. One could see the wheels turning in some of director Ralph's blocking, but she kept the pace at even keel.

Here's wishing Theater Showcase the best of luck in its endeavors and hereby notifying theater-goers to add the Showcase to their list of "theaters to support."

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Baylor at A&M	A&M 17	A&M 13	Bay 6	A&M 10	A&M 10	A&M 21	A&M 13	A&M 11
Arkansas at UT	Ark 6	Ark 9	Ark 10	Ark 20	Ark 8	Ark 10	Ark 1	Ark 9
Tech at Rice	Tech 27	Tech 10	Tech 14	Rice 3	Rice 3	Tech 14	Tech 3	Tech 9
TCU at Tulane	Tulane 30	Tulane 2	Tulane 12	TCU 5	Tulane 21	Tulane 14	TCU 2	Tulane 9
Oilers at Pittsburgh	Pitt 7	Hou 1	Pitt 17	Pitt 6	Pitt 14	Hou 3	Pitt 3	Pitt 6
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Coogs to face big-play Mustangs



by paul marcus

The month of October continues with yet another tough battle for UH's 11th ranked Cougars this weekend when they travel to Dallas to face the Mustangs from Southern Methodist (3-1-1).

"If we can go 4-0 this month we'll be well set," Bill Yeoman, Cougar coach, said.

The Cougars are 2-0 so far this month with victories over Baylor and previously unbeaten Texas A&M. "The boys played real well against A&M. They proved themselves in that one," Yeoman said.

Mustang safety D.K. Perry was impressed by the Cougars win over A&M last weekend. "We'll have to work hard and be prepared, because they beat a very good group of Texas Aggies," he said.

The Mustangs too were victorious last week with a come from behind 28-21 victory over the Baylor Bears.

"We shouldn't have a hard time getting up for this game," Yeoman said. "The Mustangs have a great thrower in Mike Ford and a great receiver in Emanuel Talbert. We'll have to get a real good pass rush in order to stop them."

Currently Ford is the country's leading

passer and Talbert is on top of the Southwest Conference receivers.

The Cougar defense came together last week in their 33-0 win over the Aggies. Tackles Hosea Taylor and Leonard Mitchell along with linebacker David Hodge were named as tri-winners of the Associated Press National Defensive Player of the Week award.

This is the first time in Coach Yeoman's memory that three players received the award together. "They played one heck of a game. Taylor is getting better and better every week," Yeoman said.

Last year the Mustangs came from behind in the last quarter to beat the Cougars 37-23. In fact, the Mustangs scored 20 of their game total 37 points in the last two minutes.

This is the third meeting between the two clubs with the Mustangs holding a 2-1 lead. However, no team has won a home game and this year's match-up is scheduled for the Cotton Bowl, home of the Mustangs.

This year's game is important for another reason—the winner of this game will also continue to have an excellent shot at the Cotton Bowl, since the winner will be on top of the SWC with a 3-0 record.

Hodge (42) stops Aggie Adger Armstrong for a loss

RAY KEELING

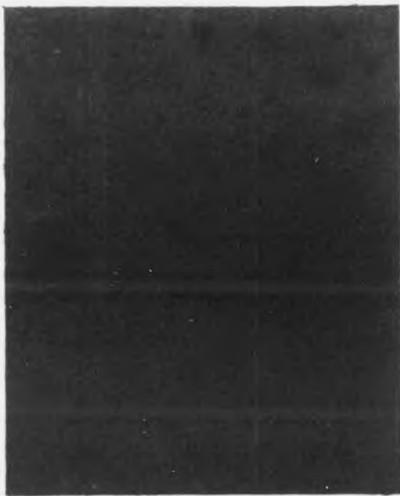
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UH B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL will have Shabbat Services at 8 p.m. in Bruce Religion Center. Open to all.

CATHOLIC NEWMAN ASSOCIATION will have a soup kitchen from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Catholic Newman Center. There is a 50-cent donation. Open to all.

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Ex-commentator cites mass media problems

by redding finney

A former national news commentator said the television news industry, along with many local newspapers, were not reporting the news as well as they could be.

Elie Abel, one of the speakers in the UH School of Communication, discussed the problems that are faced by the mass media. He focused on television and newspapers and how they are failing to provide quality news service.

He said the television industry was only interested in fulfilling the requirements set up by the Federal Communications Commission. He cited as an example that in the average national news broadcast, which lasts for 30 minutes, only the equivalent of headlines are read. There is also a lack of depth and detail in the stories which the networks covered. Abel said he felt this did not inform the viewer.

Another problem of the television news, Abel said, is that the broadcast media is an

entertainment industry and is more concerned with the amusement of the viewers than with informing them.

Abel said that the Public Broadcasting System is faced with the same problem because local station managers feel that controversial news programs would hurt the fund-raising drive that keeps them on the air. He did give them credit for having high quality entertainment shows.

In discussing the newspaper industry, Abel said that its primary problem was one of local news coverage. He said that most of the time, newspapers depend on wire and feature services which provide the bulk of their information.

Abel was also concerned with the fact that many papers have no local competitors, and in many cases where there are morning and evening papers, they are owned by the same person or company.

Abel blasted newspapers for becoming advertising tools rather than the information



Elie Abel... more news, less ads mediums they were originally intended.

The only positive quality Abel attributed to television news was that it gave the viewer the knowledge that an important event was taking place. But he said that this was emotional more than anything else.

Abel is the dean of the Columbia School of Journalism and a member of the Board of the American Stock Exchange.

He has worked for the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*, as a reporter and diplomatic correspondent. When he was with NBC News, he worked as a national commentator and diplomatic correspondent.

Two more men indicted in money scandal

Two more men have been indicted by a grand jury for their part in a scheme involving the purchase and sale of securities to UH.

Melvin Covington and Roger Knox are accused in the indictment of buying securities from UH at below market prices and selling to UH, securities at above market prices.

Covington and Knox were part owners of Covington-Knox Investments, Inc. The company is one of more than 30 companies that former UH financial analyst Samuel Harwell dealt with for the university.

Another owner of the company was Patrick Sullivan, Harwell's half-brother. Covington-Knox Investments, Inc. was put into receivership June 1 by Judge Wyatt Heard.

District Attorney Carol Vance said yesterday the transactions involve "several hundred thousand dollars."

The indictment alleges that Harwell sold to the company bonds at prices lower than their actual market value. Harwell then bought the bonds from the company, for the university, at prices more than their actual market value.

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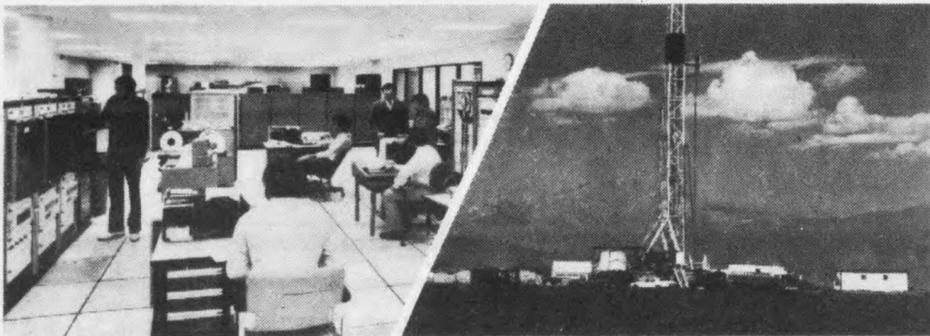
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THE UC ARBOR was filled with a peaceful and co-operative atmosphere yesterday, as more than 1,000 students flocked to the International Food Fair sponsored by the International Student Organization (ISO).

"The turnout was beautiful. This is a fun way to educate people about other cultures," said Eve Varellas, International Activities adviser.

This year the fair was different from previous years in that ISO had a booth of its own, and that there were more booths of various nationality groups, 19, who catered food from 50 countries.

The festival, accompanied with lively musical entertainment, ended at 2 p.m. With a full stomach of international food, everyone was very satisfied with the fair.



photo by CARLOS CAVAZOS

French department to offer placement exams

by fran rice

Some students on campus may want to receive credit for knowledge of the French language without taking the course. The French department offers credit by examination and by passing the test a student could receive up to six hours of credit. "That's a saving of money and time," said Dr. William McLendon, professor in the French department.

There are four requirements to take an examination for credit:

1) The student cannot be tested for credit at any level below that which he has already received credit. (For example, a student has successfully completed French 231, the test must be for French 232 or higher.)

2) If a student wants to take the test for credit examination, contact must be made with the Counseling and Testing Service in the Student Life Building, 749-1731. He will take the College Board French Listening-Reading Achievement Test (also called the French Placement Test.)

3) After passing the Listening-Reading Test, the student must go to the French department, room 438 in Agnes Arnold Hall. A faculty member will talk with the student and determine his comprehension and expression of the language.

4) The faculty member will give the student an authorization to take the Credit by Examination test at the Counseling and Testing Service.

The Credit by Examination tests are given at specified times—during the first week of classes, and approximately three weeks before early registration for the following semester. The next credit by examination tests will be Oct. 25, 26.

On the day of the testing, the student must bring his signed authorization slip and \$18.

The examinations have a two-hour time limit and test a student's active skills in French. Questions will require written answers in French, and will test comprehension of reading material and written questions involving basic vocabulary.

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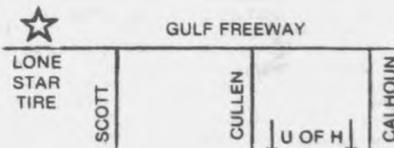
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PART TIME counter sales 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, some weekends. Call 654-1618 Don.

PART TIME help wanted. Retail wallpaper sale. \$3.40 an hour. Flexible hours. Please call Wallpapers to Go. Memorial Location. 932-1466. Sharpstown Location 789-4190.

LIQUOR sales clerks full and part time \$3.10 hour to start. Apply Sage Liquors 4645 Beechnut M-F. 10-3.

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UNIVERSITY Computing Center needs part time computer consultant for Central Campus facilities to advise and assist users. Qualified applicants who have been awarded work-study may apply. Knowledge of Fortran and the Honeywell 66/60 is required. Some knowledge of other computer languages is preferable. Minimum salary \$3.15 hour. Contact John Romanek, 749-2761.

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GOOD typist. General office work for part time. 644-8221 near Loop 610 and Gulf Freeway.

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PART TIME cashier Pacific Stereo in Memorial City, 932-7516. Flexible evening hours T-F and Saturdays.

PART TIME position available in our data processing department. Work evenings, 3 p.m.-9 p.m., M-F. Contact John Arnold, 869-3573.

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1977 PLYMOUTH Arrow, fully loaded, 5-speed vinyl top, radial tires. \$3700. Call Susan 453-7577 until 5

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(See CLASSIFIED, Page 11)

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JOE COCKER, Woodstock survivor and sometimes rock singer will perform at 8 tonight in Cullen Auditorium. Cocker, a unique stylist, will be backed by Jay Boy Adams in this concert brought by PC. At 3 p.m. Sunday in Cullen Auditorium, the Whirling Dervishes of Turkey will be performing the unusual dances induced by other worldly states of consciousness for which they are renowned.



CLASSIFIED

(Continued from Page 10)

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ROOMMATE wanted immediately. Two bedroom apartment near University. 1 1/2 baths. \$250 monthly. Utilities paid. 926-7672.

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Farrow among the stars

'Death' renders Christie novel well

by Judith K. McGinnis

DEATH ON THE NILE
Director: John Guillermin; screenplay: Anthony Schaffer (based on the book by Agatha Christie); released by Paramount Pictures; color; at multiple locations

If anyone is hoping that this review will tell them, 'whodunit'—wrong again. The last thing anyone should do is give away even part of the story in this dedicated recreation of Agatha Christie's "Death on the Nile".

For those who go to such movies to see how closely they match the novels from which they are

drawn, 'Death' is a rare treat. With a few exceptions, Anthony Shaffer has rendered justice to both the story (a string of vendetta-type murders) and style of Christie's work.

Christie's characters are little more than social parody—British style. Larger than life, not to say more colorful, they drift across stretches of Egyptian dunes, leaving murder and mayhem in their tracks.

Peter Ustinov is wily and intellectually superior to the situation. Angela Lansbury—flamboyant and willful. David Niven as Col. Race is (unfortunately) wrong for the part. Dedicated readers of Agatha Christie have been teathed on a much different image of this bon vivante agent in Her Majesty's Service. He is not quite so small and scheming. And finally, Bette Davis is simply Bette Davis.

Cinematography for this film is as elegantly handled as it was in "Murder on the Orient Express". Yet what more could a cameraman ask for than desert sands, the artifacts of ancient Egypt and stiff breeze. Even the slightly melodramatic score by Nino Rota suits the grandure of the setting.

Crosby still remembered

HOLLYWOOD AP—Comedian Bob Hope paused. It was a time for quiet reflection, not wisecracks, one year after longtime road companion, Bing Crosby, had died.

"I think about him all the time. Every time I turn around, somebody's asking about Bing," Hope said. "And when I look over my old material, I realize how much stuff we did together. Is it really a year that he's been gone? It's unbelievable the way the clock keeps going."

A year ago Wednesday, Bing Crosby was buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, near the graves of the singer's parents and his first wife, Dixie. The Oct. 18 anniversary was marked by a large number of flowers at the grave, some with notes from as far away as England.

Hope and Crosby had been planning another "road" movie when Bing died of a heart attack Oct. 14, 1977 after a golf game in Madrid. Hope said he wants to make the film with George Burns in the Crosby role but is waiting for Burns "to loosen his schedule."

Kathryn Grant Crosby, the star's widow, was spending the anniversary at the family resort home at Las Cruces, N. M. She plans to return to an engagement in repertory at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

"She wants to keep busy," said Maury Foladaire, Bing's publicist for 31 years. "The ACT keeps her going from morning to night, and she enjoys it." Mrs. Crosby spent almost a year in a bus-and-truck tour that took her from Arizona to Boston in the play "Same Time, Next Year."

Harry Lillis Crosby Jr., 20, is enrolled at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, studying music. He is an accomplished guitarist.

Mrs. Crosby and the three children of the singer's second family will appear Dec. 6 on the CBS television network in a special, "Bing Crosby—the Christmas Years." The show will include clips from classic Crosby Christmas shows.



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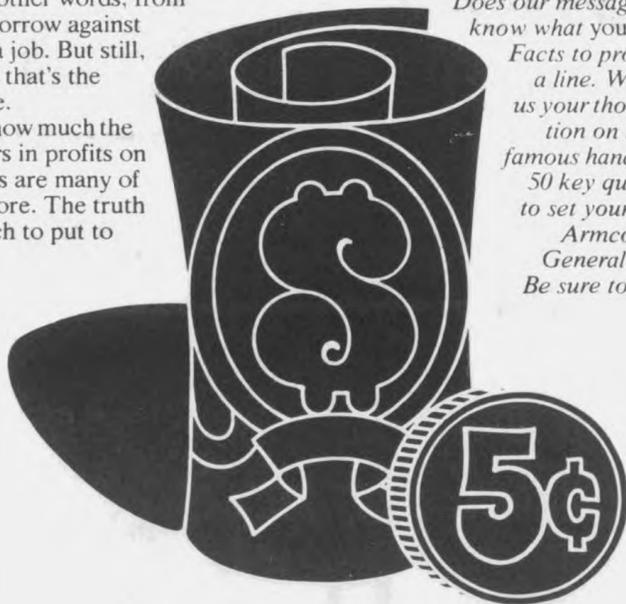
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