

Silver Kitten: like lewd comic strips

by JAMIE LAMB
Citizen Staff Reporter

One thing about trotting down to see a film at the Silver Kitten on Fifth Avenue is, you always know what you're getting.

There's none of this business of taking the family to the corner theatre and having to contend with somebody's head being blown all over the screen in living technicolor.

You go to the Silver Kitten for sex. Lots of it and in as many combinations as the film company payroll can provide.

Which isn't always that much.

In a sense, the movies shown at theatres such as the Kitten aren't so much movies as lewd comic strips.

They have yet to make an interesting porno film. All the furor created by the high-brows when Deep Throat came out ("brave new frontiers in filmmaking" and "deep psychological drama") was just a pile of trash.

This reviewer saw Deep Throat at a special showing at Rochdale College in Toronto (learning institutions, it seems, are able to show films unavailable to the general public) and it was straight porn. Nothing else.

Society has yet to see any porn-lovers come forth in the form of a lobby for more interesting movies. Those who attend such shows as "Cousin Jed Rides Again" and "The Man Who Came At Dinner" arrive quietly and leave quietly. There is simply no way of avoiding the term "skulk" when discussing Silver Kitten exits and entrances.

But even this is changing. More and more couples are coming to the Kitten to watch the sex shows, according to Rusty Halbert, theatre manager.

"Let's face it, sex is here to stay," Halbert said. "People are starting to let their hair down, so you see more and more couples."

"Sometimes the girl is embarrassed, but now and then you see a single girl come in by herself to watch."

Be that as it may, at 2 p.m., on a Wednesday afternoon, there were 10 men and one couple at the showing I attended.

In 15 minutes, the film was happy to display the couplings of a husband and wife, wife and lover, wife and lover and

husband, wife and lover and friend, husband and friend, all accompanied by a terrible soundtrack recorded from some old Sonny and Cher 45 platter.

The film technique was 'advanced home-movie' with film lights easily seen at the top of the screen while the camera man-producer-director tried to find a new camera angle to slip by the censor.

The films are censored by the theatre chain before delivery to the provincial censor, Halbert said.

"Otherwise, they tend to make a mess of it," she said.

The Silver Kitten is the third link in a theatre chain operated by a Vancouver businessman. (The Vancouver theatre is called the Golden Kitten and the Kamloops Theatre is called the Bronze Kitten).

Some 50 to 60 persons attend the theatre each day with the evening showings always the most popular, she said.

The management has to deal with a drunk or two but no more than any other Prince George theatre, she said. In fact, the patrons of the Kitten are probably the quietest of the lot, wishing to stay somewhat anonymous as the writhing couples, trios, and quartets play across the screen, said Halbert.

The Kitten has been in Prince George four years and has yet to encounter any moral crusade or obscenity problems.

The theatre is licensed both by the province and the city and seems secure in its Fifth Avenue, former restaurant location.

"After all, sex is here to stay," Halbert said.

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U.S. judge being paid \$37,760 to do nothing

ADEL, Iowa (AP) — A U.S. federal judge is being paid \$37,760 annually to stay at home and do nothing because, he says, the government does not agree with his rulings. He hasn't heard a case in 14 months.

"I want to go back to work," John King, a judge for the Social Security Administration's Bureau of Hearings and Appeals, told the Des Moines Register.

"Sitting around the house all day is driving me out of my mind and ruining my marriage."

King, 65, told the newspaper in a copyrighted interview he is not working because "the bureaucracy simply didn't like the way I was handling cases."

He said he will not quit because "I'm used to living on this kind of salary and I need the money."

Robert Trachtenberg, national director of the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals, said Tuesday in a telephone interview from Washington that the bureau did not violate any federal regulations by taking King's caseload away from him.

He would not say why King was relieved of his duties.

Administrative law judges hear individual appeals to decisions made by federal agencies on the application of regulations. Their decisions can be appealed to federal courts.

King, an administrative law judge for 15 years, said he and a former supervising administrative judge clashed over the fact that King was reversing lower agency medicare deci-

sions to favor the claimants 95 per cent of the time.

Social Security records show the national average reversal rate for administrative judges handling such cases in 52 per cent, the newspaper said.

King said that in March of 1975, his superiors stopped giving him cases, so at a law judges' conference last November he told officials of the American Bar Association about his lack of cases.

Within a week, King said, he was notified without explanation that his duty station was being transferred from the federal building in Des Moines to his home in Adel.

VISITOR HONORED

NEW YORK (AP) — Helga Eilers, a West German woman visiting New York for the first time, became the 50th millionth visitor to the top of the Empire State Building. Mrs. Eilers said she was overwhelmed by her reception at the 86th-floor observatory. There to greet her were Mary Beame, wife of Mayor Abraham Beame.

MERCY KILLING

Grandmother free

MAIDSTONE, England (AP) — A grandmother who admitted killing her stricken 8-year-old granddaughter by smothering her was freed by a judge Wednesday after the prosecutor told the court it was "a tragic case of mercy killing."

Elizabeth Jacquet, 56, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Emma Jane Jacquet, who suffered brain damage at birth, was unable to walk or talk and experienced up to 50 fits a week.

The court was hushed as Mrs. Jacquet's statement about Emma's last hours on Jan. 2 was read:

"She was fast asleep. She slept so peacefully. I put plastic over her face and held it as I had practised on myself."

"I talked to her all the time. She hardly struggled at all, not until the end. I'm

sure she didn't feel anything."

"Afterwards I put her head in a comfortable position and tidied her up. I told my sister she had died during the night."

"She was a happy child. I loved her. She only understood love and want."

The prosecutor said Mrs. Jacquet had lived a previously blameless life and had helped her son and daughter-in-law look after Emma to give them a break from their exhausting task.

The defence said Mrs. Jacquet feared the child, who suffered from cerebral palsy, would end up in an institution "sitting in a chair looking at a wall."

Judge Sir Gerald Theisger, after hearing evidence including medical reports that said the girl would not have lived long anyway, gave an absolute discharge to the weeping grandmother.

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