

CANNES, France (AP) — American moviemakers overrode hostile critics to take the top awards today at the Cannes Film Festival.

Honors went to Apocalypse Now, The China Syndrome, Days of Heaven, and Norma Rae.

Apocalypse Now, Francis Ford Coppola's epic about the Vietnam war, shared the award for best film with West German Wolker Schlöndorff's The Tin Drum.

Schlöndorff's treatment of Gunther Grass' brilliant novel about postwar guilt in Germany was the only non-American entry to win a major award.

Veteran Hollywood actor Jack Lemmon was named best actor for his role as a nuclear technician in The China Syndrome, the story of an accident in an atomic power plant.

Another American, Terence Malick, won the award for best director with Days of Heaven, a harrowing morality tale set in the wheatfields of turn-of-the-century Texas.

Sally Field won best actress for her title role in Norma Rae, which depicts a struggle to organize workers at an Alabama textile plant.

Briefly

PEOPLE

The Duke will get gold medal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House of Representatives voted unanimously Wednesday to have a special gold medal struck to honor actor John Wayne.

Wayne, star of 200 films, celebrates his 72nd birthday Saturday, and Representative Frank Annunzio (Dem., Ill.) said authorizing the medal "is a way to honor this last of the old-time movie actors."

Congress has approved creation of 83 special gold medals in the past to honor Americans such as George Washington, Andrew Jackson and Walt Disney. A House banking subcommittee headed by Annunzio held a hearing earlier this week and heard actresses Elizabeth Taylor and Maureen O'Hara speak in favor of a medal for Wayne, hospitalized in California for treatment of cancer.

The Senate approved similar legislation earlier this year and final congressional action is expected swiftly.

Gays at prom

The couple attracting much of the attention at the high school prom wore matching light-blue tuxedos, red roses and silver pierced earrings.

Randy Rohl, 17, and his date, Grady Quinn, 20, Tuesday night became the first acknowledged homosexuals to attend a high school prom together in the U.S., the National Gay Task Force said.

Police were on hand in case of trouble, but aside from a few raised eyebrows, the dance went as planned.

"Many students came over and congratulated us," Randy said at a post-prom brunch. "A lot of people were really glad we stuck to our guns and went."

But Randy, a slim youth with red hair and braces, admitted the support was negated somewhat by threats to "tar and chicken feather" him.

He said most of the antagonism came from high school boys, who "tend to be more wary of supporting me, probably in fear of getting the label of being homosexuals themselves."

Seuss formula

NEW YORK (AP) — Some characters in the popular Dr. Seuss children's books are based on real people like Adolf Hitler and Richard Nixon, says the author, Theodor Seuss Geisel.

Geisel, quoted in the current Parents magazine, said Hitler was his model for Yertle the Turtle. He said Yertle is "a little domineering guy who pushes people around."

Geisel said he was inspired during the unfolding of the Watergate scandal to write the book Marvin K. Mooney, Will You Please Go Now.

Marvin is a child based on Nixon, he said. The book, published the day before Nixon resigned, concludes: "I said go and go I meant. ... The time had come so...Marvin went."

Food usually comes in kilograms and grams

Americans collect at Cannes



LEMMON

Some European critics booed as the awards to Lemmon and Apocalypse Now were announced.

Many French critics panned The China Syndrome and Apocalypse Now when they got their first European exposure at Cannes.

Coppola, who made The

Godfather, built Apocalypse on the lines of Joseph Conrad's classic novel Heart of Darkness. He spent \$30 million to depict a war-weary captain sent to eliminate a mad American officer who has set up a private kingdom and army in a remote part of Indochina.

The film is not yet finished.

Twenty-one films were entered in the 32nd Cannes Festival, coming from as far away as Israel and Australia.

A special jury award was granted to Siberiada, a Russian film describing 60 years in the lives of two families living in Siberia.

Stefano Madia won the

secondary acting award for his role in Italian director Dino Risi's Caro Papa. In the female category, Eva Mattes was honored for her acting in West German Werner Herzog's Woysek.

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