

DROWNING IN BLOOD

by Joanne Factor

"The very first essential for success is a perpetually constant and regular employment of violence."

Adolf Hitler

Unless you're a hermit, you have probably been bombarded by a recent wave of "disaster" movies, such as "Earthquake," "The Towering Inferno," and "Jaws." All these, and others, have been box-office smashes. None of these movies have particularly interesting plots, the dialogue is, for the most part, uninspiring, and all the superstar actors play dull roles. So why such a large crowd drawing?

I started asking some friends of mine why they went to see those movies (or why not), and their opinions on them. Since I saw "Jaws," I used that as a reference. I received two general types of answers:

The first group loved the mov-

"Jaws" were: "It's garbage. What do you want to see that much blood for?", "Sick--it gives you phobias and psychosis," and "it was too bloody." There were also one or two comments on the "phony-looking sharks and red-paint blood." But in most cases it appeared only too real.

Why do people enjoy watching Great White Sharks chew up a fellow person, or buildings topple and explode into flames? (I'm sure citizens of Nicaragua would just love to see "Earthquake.") Could it possibly be that we are bored, and want some glamour and excitement in our lives, even if it's only simulated? Maybe death and tragedy has become a fascination, or fetish, with us because it colours an otherwise boring, automated existence. There are very few real challenges left in the world.

friend of mine explained that she liked the violence and bloodiness in it because she could walk into the theatre and into a new, thrilling world for a couple of hours, and then return to a nice, peaceful home. Other people said they liked "Jaws" because it was a fast-paced action movie.

The sanguinity and bloodiness of "Jaws" seemed to affect most people as much as the mere swatting of a fly. You hear about murder in the news, you see it explicitly on television (eg. "The Untouchables"), and it's even worse in the movies, so eventually you get to ignore it and become jaded. Sometimes I wonder when throwing prisoners to the lions will become a national pastime, just like in Rome before it fell. To quote a friend of mine, when reflecting on why people like "Jaws" so much: "They like it because it was disgusting." And yet--there do exist people who were sickened by all the blood and killing. They went to see it because everyone else was raving about it. Fear pressure. Some of the reasons cited for not liking

maybe we depend so much on our spectator position for a good part of our entertainment, and the gaudier and goryier they get, the more titillating and attention-grabbing. In the attempt to liven up a rather commonplace, normal life, do we rely too much on the lore of simulated adventure and excitement?



This reminds me of a part of Huxley's Brave New World. In that world, possibly our own in a decade or so, there exists Violent Passion Surrogate treatments. These are taken whenever a person feels restless and depressed and in some way wants some excitement. The

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... Uncle Sam and the Pirates
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graciously offered to stop his pirates for the small grant of one million dollars and a token gift of \$21,000 a year in tributions.

John Adams, then the president, was in a quandary about what action he should take. The country tended to be in an isolationist mood and he didn't seem to wish to disrupt it.

What did our president do? He recommended paying the tribute. What did the United States Congress do? It paid.

When the news finally reached the hearts of true blue American citizens, they were in a state of outrage. The shouts rang out "Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute."

In time, America finally sent a fleet to Tripoli, whose ruler was the most persistent in his demands and who continuously threatened war. When the United States' ships began to appear on the scene, the Barbary pirates had been in a condition of peace with most countries and the natives were getting reckless. The large

the capital city and throw out the hostile, incumbent ruler.

Tripoli's ruler was in dire straits. This was the first time anyone could remember a prolonged attack on Tripoli or any other Barbary nation. He went to the American diplomat and worked out a peace treaty.

All American prisoners would be returned, no more raids would be conducted, but could you please pay \$60,000 in order to help us save face. Sure, said the American diplomat, later to be reprimanded for his concessionary attitude.

Based on this survey, it would seem that the United States made a spectacle of itself in Barbary. Not really. In twenty-five years, Americans ridded the world of a pesty menace which Europe could not defeat in six centuries. We beat the Pirates. It's just too bad the Mets can't!

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person just goes to a treatment center, gets the arti-

treasure-laden ships provided security for the rulers and booty for the pirates. It didn't take long for the blackmailers to realize that the United States had no navy to protect their ships, the jealous English diplomats at Tunis informed them in a hurry. After a while, the penny-pinching American Congress sent a fleet over to the Mediterranean and ordered it to protect the shipping.

The American bombardment of Tripoli proved to be a long delayed event in the mind of William Eaton, the American diplomat at Tunis. For years, he planned to restore the deposed king, who would then be a thankful puppet ruler the America could control. His plan involved a long, calculated march across the Tripolitanian desert, which, with assistance from the American navy, would finally capture

the king, celebrate and then leaves, happy and content. This is a way that government makes the people ignorantly blissful without any change or damage to the status quo of society.

Might not gorgyness and simulated thrills soon be accepted as the norm? What kind of society derives pleasure from witnessing the ceaseless slaughter of others? Media, by Euripides, is an extremely bloody Greek play. Yet, performed on stage, you don't see Media dismember her children or the princess her lover planned to marry, burnt to death. The point is gotten across effectively by Euripides because of the quality of the writing. Is this society sacrificing quality in favour of the exotic?

The ancient Assyrians' empire disintegrated because it slaughtered the conquered in excess, for the hell of it, and therefore invited revolution. Rome fell because of the extreme hedonistic basis of society. And the level of violence for pleasure is surely rising in this country.

Are we next?

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BOOKS

"Helter Skelter-The True Story of the Manson Murders"
By Chris Sciabarra

"It was so quiet, one of the killers would later say, you could almost hear the sound of ice rattling in cocktail shakers in the homes way down the canyon."

So begins the startlingly realistic journal of the Manson murders, "Helter Skelter" by Vincent Bugliosi with Curt Gentry (502 pages, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., \$10.00).

Bugliosi, who was the prosecutor of the Tate-LaBianca murder case, gives a first-rate, personalized account of the longest trial in American history, one which was "an international press, radio and television spectacular for more than a year."

The horrifying events of two successive August nights began with the most brutal killing of actress Sharon Tate and four others at her home in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Each of the victims were grotesquely and maliciously stabbed and shot. The puzzling phrase "pig" was scrawled on the door in blood. The saga continued on the next night with the equally terrifying slayings of Leno and Rosemary LaBianca. Here too, numerous phrases were found written in blood, among them the misspelled "Helter Skelter."

After an intricate, sometimes buckling investigation, Charles Manson and three female and one male co-conspirator were indicted on charges of first-degree murder.

The trial, which lasted over nine and a half months was perhaps as bizarre as the murders themselves. Revealed was the alarming fact that over one hundred people who claimed to be members of the Manson "Family," looked up to Charlie as the Second Coming of Christ (Man's Son). Their sole pur-



pose in life was to cleanse the Earth. By killing well-known persons and putting the blame on "blackie," they would ignite a black-white revolution known as "Helter Skelter." Once the Holocaust ceased, they would emerge out of "the bottomless pit" with Manson as their leader and King of the World. Publicity? Insanity? Maybe so. But Bugliosi reveals that the Family, in furthering its cause, was responsible for the killings of as many as thirty-five victims to date.

The trial ended with the conviction of the five defendants. Their death sentences were later commuted to life imprisonment. While they will most likely serve at least fifteen

to twenty years, says Bugliosi, they will be eligible to apply for parole in 1978.

Vincent Bugliosi has written a masterful and vital document for us all. Through his foresight, he indeed shows us that the Manson horror still exists. Even recently a member of the Family, Lynette "Squeaky" Brown aimed a pistol at the President of the United States.

"Helter Skelter" must be read, not for its gruesome details but rather for its foreboding into the future of our society. So long as such nihilistic souls infiltrate into each of our homes, so long as we must live in horrendous fear, "Helter Skelter" will remain and burn in our minds as a "shared madness."

JERRY'S AUCTION OUTLET

SPECIAL NOTE

The staff of GADFLY wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to the Parents Association of John Dewey High School. Their generous contributions will help us to continue our publication.

ARE AMERICAN CORPORATIONS
LOYAL TO AMERICA?

By Saul Cornell

In our present state of economic uncertainty the concept of the multi-national corporation becomes increasingly important. One might ask what is a multi-national corporation? The multi-national is found in many nations and exists for one purpose--to make profit and make the multi-national grow. Its employees must be loyal to it and for them it has become the center of their world. Perhaps even more significant is the question of what relevance they have. In our society, the clothes you wear, the foods you eat and the government are all directly influenced by these corporations.

The point of vantage from which our opinions and policies are directed is the concept of the sovereign nation. The roots of this concept have been deeply embedded in



not examples of petty graft. One executive of Lockheed paid a Saudi Arabian official well over \$100 million to encourage the sale of Lockheed Airplanes.

The fact is that many of the "American Companies" are not so American. H.J. Heinz, I.B.M., and Standard Oil of New Jersey make 50% of their profits abroad. As stated by the President of Heinz regarding restricting congressional legislation.

Western thought since the 16th century. The ideas of loyalty to one's country was and is considered basic to this concept. To the multi-national however, nations are to be used wherever they can serve to further greater profit.

An example of one such multi-national is General Motors. To install a sense of perspective, think about the following fact: G.M. turns out a profit of over \$24 billion which is significantly more than the G.N.P. of Switzerland or Belgium.

In the past few months we have heard stories of corporate executives bribing foreign officials. These bribes are

"Heinz would give serious thought to disincorporating in the United States and move its headquarters to another country." One must consider this when President Ford states that he will go to extremes in protecting American businesses abroad. It would seem that our president is playing policeman for the multi-national corporations.

If you are not frightened by this, perhaps you should be. It is my opinion that the powers and resources of these corporations have created a universal false economy. Under this system, wealth is in terms of dollars, not resources.

Businesses seek cheap, short term, inefficient products. If the production stops, the workers suffer and are subsequently laid off. If the present fashion of production continues, our vital resources will be exhausted and we may face a slow, economic collapse.

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. . . ON FORCED BUSSING AND
DE FACTO SEGREGATION . . .

By Suzanne Houser

It is by now a familiar scene for many Americans: National Guardsmen escorting yellow buses to school; black and white students on the brink of attacking one another, held back only by police; angry mobs of parents screaming vulgar racist epithets at bewildered students; frightened children boarding buses at dawn to make hour long treks cross town. We have seen it all. Since the 1954 Supreme Court decision ruling school segregation unconstitutional, to the present, the pros and cons of school bussing have been weighed, discussed and debated. Its supporters and opposers have argued their cases until they have been virtually at one another's throats. Now in 1975, twenty-one years after the historic ruling, it seems like high time to take a closer, more critical look at school bussing.

The 1954 ruling directly affected only seventeen southern schools, which were practicing

the New York area, there are Black neighborhoods, Puerto Rican neighborhoods, Italian, Irish, Jewish, German neighborhoods, etc. Naturally, the schools in the mostly Jewish neighborhoods have mostly Jewish students. Those in the Italian neighborhoods have Italian students and so on. No court ever interceded there, bussing half the Italians into the "Jewish" school or vice versa. The idea seems ludicrous! But when it is a question of Blacks and Whites, those against such a court decision are called racists.

So in 1975, children in Boston and Jefferson County, Kentucky and throughout the country board buses, some to make trips of over two hours in length. Are their protesting parents bigots? Perhaps. But this is not the point. School buses cannot be used as a means of eliminating individual prejudices. Has the education of either the black or the white

compulsory public school segregation, but its ramifications have shaken public education across the country. It was in 1967, that a Federal District Judge in Washington D.C. ruled that De Facto segregation, that is, segregation as a result of housing patterns, was as unconstitutional as De Jure segregation, (that which results from intentional administration practices). The judge was reacting to a situation in Washington, where schools which were predominantly black were receiving far less money from the government than mostly white schools. The judge's disgust at the unfair and discriminatory practices of the Washington School Board were understandable. However, his ruling against the constitutionality of De Facto segregation seems ridiculous and incomprehensible.

Why is it wrong to go to school where you live? It has always been the nature of civilization for people to settle in areas where they are together with people of similar ethnic backgrounds. Throughout

children benefited? There are conflicting reports, but many are to the contrary.

What forced bussing has certainly accomplished is that it has increased the rate in which the white middle class taxpayers have been fleeing the inner cities. It has also sparked new animosities between whites and blacks. This fall, bussing across city lines in order to integrate black schools in Louisville, Kentucky, renewed the fears and the questions that many throughout this country share. It seems to me, that forcing students to leave their neighborhood schools because of their race is as discriminatory and unconstitutional as the "evils" which caused bussing's creation.



BI-CENTENNIAL WORD FIND
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



S I L L A W N R O C E
S D N O T L I M A H C
O B Y S G S I R A P S
R O T O A X A I A E T
Y O R K T O W N E F O
B N E M E T U N I W N
T E P C S E N O J M T
E K I N G G E O R G E
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L C O R C M E F T N Y
A E S N D L P Y G W L
F S X S K L E E N C A
A E T I A A D L I T R
Y I M A N T N L H S

(John) Adams
Betsy Ross
(Daniel) Boone
Boston Tea Party
Britain
Bunker Hill
Colonies
(Lord) Cornwallis
(Gen. Thomas) Gage
(Gen. Horatio) Gates
Hessians
(Gen. Sir William) Howe
Independence
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King George
(Alexander) Hamilton
(Gen. Henry) Knox
(Marquis de) Lafayette
Lexington
Minutemen
(Thomas) Paine
Paris

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L L I H R E K N U B E
O L G S I P A R E S H

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Tea Tax
Tory
Townshend (Acts)
Valley Forge
(Gen. George) Washington
Yorktown

Buy Centennial

G A D F L Y

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