

At The Movies

by Mike Plake

"100 Rifles" stars ex-football giant Jim Brown; Raquel Welch; and newcomer, to this viewer at least, Burt Reynolds.

It is the second big western for Miss Welch, who also starred in "Bandolero." It does the same job of revealing Miss Welch's fantastic ability as an actress as did that Dean Martin-James Stewart flick. But "100 Rifles" does it differently; not only does it show just how bad Miss Welch is at acting, it shows just how good she is taking a shower in the semi-nude and spilling blood and guts all over the screen.

One of the best-known facts about this flick is the love scene between Jim Brown, the black policeman called Lydecker, and the brown Mexican revolutionar-

ess, played by—you guessed it—Miss Welch. After the first encounter, she becomes his woman, explicitly.

THE PLOT: Jim Brown is a policeman trailing Burt Reynolds, a half-breed Yachi-Alabamian who stole \$6,000 from a bank in Lydecker's town. And Lydecker catches him. Then they, in turn, are caught by a powerful Mexican general, played by Fernando Lamas.

It turns out that the half-breed, Joe, bought 100 rifles for the Yacquis (who were fighting the general) with the stolen bank money. And that's what the flick is all about, between hot love scenes and gory battles which saw Mexicans massacred in every which way.

Another good thing about this

movie is that it lets a real honest-to-God, masculine Negro man, the likes of Jim Brown, fill the starring role. It's similar to The Scalphunters, only the white man (Reynolds) does the supporting. In fact, it lends credence to the idea that black people may have existed in the Old West, and even further, they might have made real, honest-to-God heroes. Although you would never realize this from comic books, television, cartoons, or Saturday movie serials, all of which combined to make up our image of the old American west.

JIM BROWN has an aura about him. Like one of the audience said last night, "He looks like he's gonna run a power sweep." And he does, several times, and his little army (they elected him general) wipes out approximately all the Mexicans in the world.

So that's it in a nutshell: it's full of gory fighting, has a few torrid love scenes, and looks a little like an American western made in Spain, a la "Fistful of Dollars."

And it was.

STUDENTS

(Continued From Page 1)

civilian side, do a fine job. There is also the matter of precedent to be considered. It's very important."

Maddox mentioned that a new proposal will be made at the Senate meeting next Thursday.

"WHAT IT will probably be," he said, "is the addition of some students to the present board—the exact number to be decided later. I definitely think students ought to have a say in these matters."

"I think students should have the opportunity to be judged by their peers. For that matter, students are often harder on student offenders than the administration would be."

"I am confident that we will effect some kind of change," Maddox continued. "I think that some type of student participation is vital."

Post Office Needs Massive Changes

John Platzer

"Neither rain, nor sleet nor dark of night can keep the postman from his appointed rounds."

What about outdated buildings, equipment and methods, however? According to Postmaster General Winton M. Blount, problems such as these are causing the United States postal system to teeter on the brink of a complete breakdown.

"Everything about the postal service is archaic—the buildings, the equipment, the way things are done. People are delivering mail today the way they have always delivered it," Blount has said.

"There has been little attention to new techniques and new ways to approach problems."

AS THE quality of the mail service has declined, the cost to the taxpayer has increased. The Post Office Department expects to handle 84 billion pieces of mail next year on a total budget of \$8 billion and a prospective deficit of \$1.5 billion.

The only solution to the dilemma would seem to be the operation of the post office by the government as a private business seeking profits instead of as just another governmental agency.

Blount says that his department is "the single government agency that can benefit most from the management techniques and the modern facilities that have been so successful in business. We just haven't been using them."

THE NIXON Administration should be applauded for its stand in removing postmasters and rural mail carriers from the political-patronage system. This allows the post office to hire the best people available for each job instead of worrying about who knows which politicians.

Still more freedom and flexibility has to be given to the department if it is to prosper, however.

"We just cannot continue to operate in the way we are doing now. Congress controls the rates we charge the public, Congress controls the wages we pay our

employees, and Congress controls the amount of funds available for capital investment. As a result, we are hamstrung," Blount says.

"WE HAVE got to have more freedom—the same sort of flexibility that any business or public utility has in its day-to-day operations."

An example of how the postal department is tied down through governmental control is the way money is appropriated for capital facilities. When money is appropriated to the postal department, it is charged directly to that year's budget. Industry, on the other hand, can amortize the price of a new building over 30 or 40 years and the price of a new machine over 10 to 15 years.

Britain, which has experienced the same sort of postal problems as the United States in recent years, is going to an independent postal corporation to be run by businessmen rather than politicians.

THE UNITED States would do well to study the British program and to adopt its more successful aspects.

If everyone had the same attitude as Henry David Thoreau (who said: "I have received no more than one or two letters in my life that were worth the postage"), there would be no problem. This is not the case, however.

The most immediate problem facing the postal system is one of direction.

"We have a more immediate problem: That is to bring this Department—kicking and screaming—into the last third of the twentieth century," Blount has said.

"If we can do that, we will have done something pretty dramatic."

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



EARLE
ARR 69

"It's sorta a variation of a cuckoo clock to help me with my studying!"

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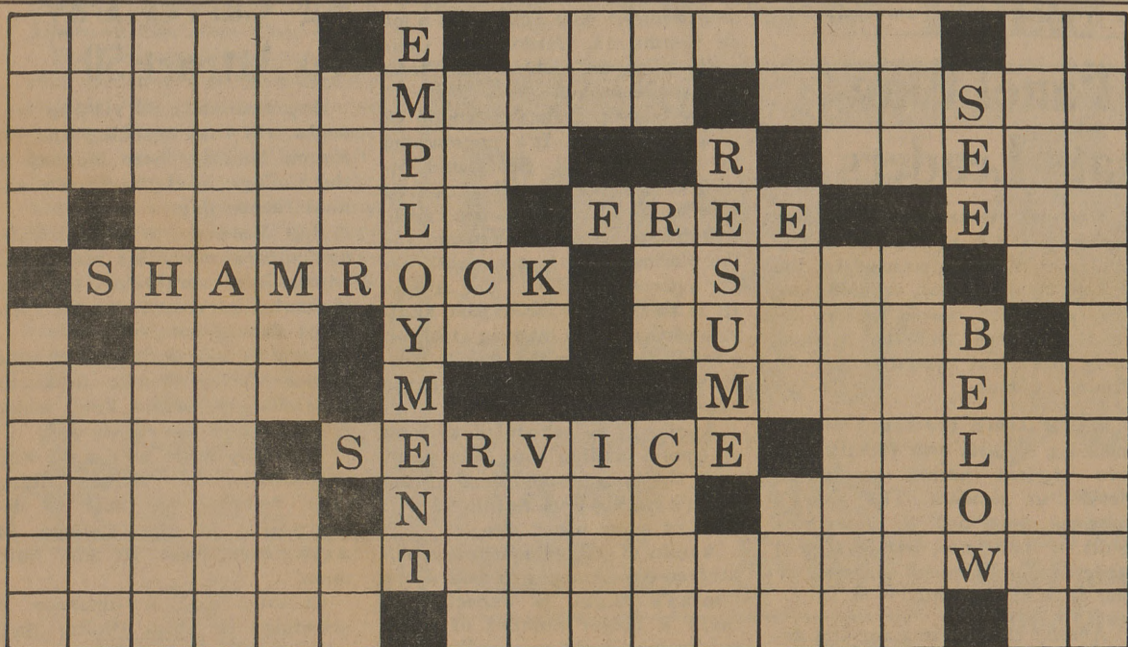
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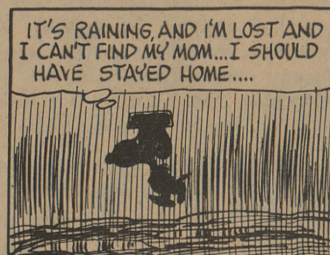
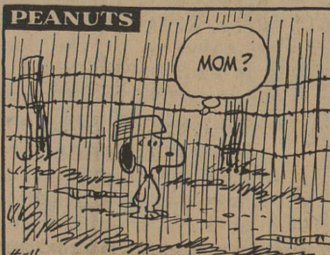
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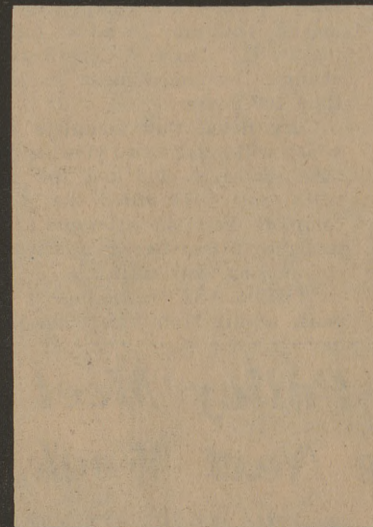
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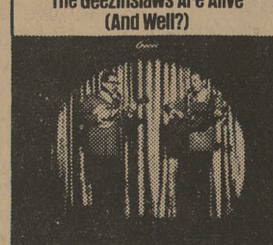
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