

At The Movies

with Bob Peek

In a previous column I compared today's movies with literature. Some movies are historical novels, some are "escape literature," some are biographies, some are pornography and some are poetry. Occasionally a movie can be something else entirely. "2001: A Space Odyssey" was a work of art, a visual and aural painting of grandiose proportions. This week a "statue" will be playing at the Palace.

The Battle of Britain is not so much a movie as it is a McLuhanesque monument to the young men who valiantly fought to defend England from Herman Goering's mighty Luftwaffe. Like its predecessor, "The Longest Day," "The Battle of Britain" is poor literature but magnificent statuary. The photography is spectacular without being distracting. The famous young actors relish playing the reckless pilots, and the even more famous elder stars obviously enjoy their roles as heads of state.

The movie's strength as a monument comes from the breadth of its coverage of the battle from the perspectives of both German and English high command, fighter pilots and non-combatant civilians. The overall effect is enthralling, for a while at least.

Unfortunately, the same breadth of coverage is also the cause of most of the show's major weaknesses. There are several people in the story who would have made fascinating detail character studies, but the movie skips from one scene to the next so quickly that they remain cardboard figures scarcely more interesting than those found in history books. Similarly, the movie lacks the unity of plot needed to combine the various subplots into a coherent whole.

Despite these weaknesses, "The Battle of Britain" is an eminently "watchable" movie, one I wouldn't want to miss. The tragedy is that it would have been so much more. Gordon Parks is one of those

fascinating people who can do almost anything, and do it well. He is a photographer, an artist, a novelist and a poet. And now he is a motion picture director.

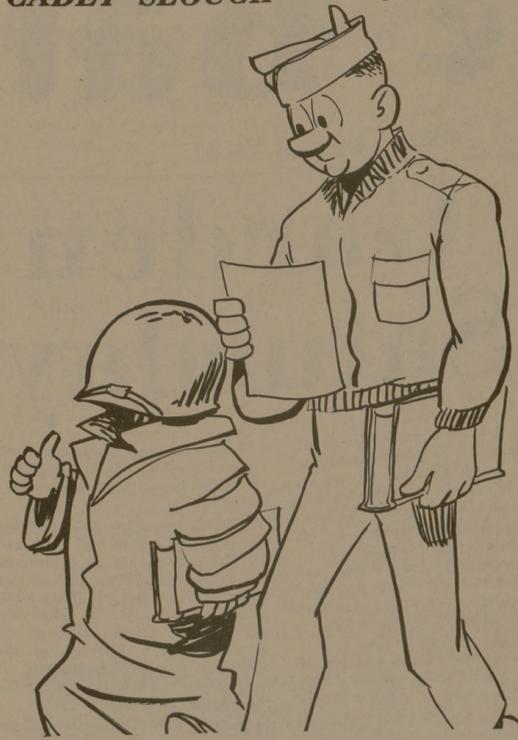
Parks' first film is The Learning Tree, an adaptation of his famous autobiography. The movie is a powerful and beautiful statement of the forces of prejudice and human nature to which every child falls victim. In the case of Parks' childhood, the experiences were perhaps more bitter than is normally the case, but that fact only increases the impact of the movie.

Weaknesses? Perhaps some scenes are overly sentimental, but who would deny a man the right to be sentimental about his own life?

Another strength of the movie is the photography. The photographic direction reflects Parks' photojournalistic background, and is an asset to the mood and movement. Gordon Parks is black. His story is for everyone.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"It's the same homework assignment given in '67, but we've got to guess whether he'll grade it with the 1968 or 1969 key!"

Campus Briefs

New ID Embossment Rule in Effect

Students who pay room and board should remember that a new rule concerning the embossment of identification cards is in effect this year, said Howard S. Perry, director of Civilian Student Activities.

The new rule allows all students to have their cards embossed at the beginning of the semester to serve them the entire term, Perry said.

The old rule, Perry said, required all board-paying students to have their ID cards reembossed after each board installment came due.

Corps Menu Panel To Meet Thursday

Corps members who have suggestions concerning the operations and policies of Duncan Dining Hall are urged to contact a member of the Corps Menu Board which meets with university officials at noon Thursday in Duncan.

The committee, established to discuss dining hall operations and menus, serves as a communications link between students and the dining hall management.

Members of the committee are Robert Harding, Dorm 2 Room 114, 5-2350; John R. Drewien, Dorm 2 Room 116, 5-2550; Terrell A. Newberry, Dorm 4 Room 218, 5-7186; Albert Kinkead, Dorm 2 Room 110, 5-1950; Charles Korbell, Dorm 4 Room 219, 5-7286; Perry R. Miyachi, Dorm 10 Room 203, 5-4258.

Three to Attend Agronomy Meet

Three students have been elected to represent the university at the annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America Nov. 9-14 in Detroit, Mich.

Louis Dusek of Holland, Texas and Garland Wiemers of Hondo will be the business delegates. Otis R. Maddox of Beaumont is entered in the speech contest.

Dusek and Wiemers will take part in the business of the society on a national level. They will also have an opportunity to run for a national office.

Maddox will be tested on his ability to prepare and present a speech in a specified time.

Puryear Receives \$500 Scholarship

Paul E. Puryear of Dallas, freshman biochemistry major, has received the \$500 Lyman Scholarship in recognition of academic

achievement and activities while in high school.

Presentation was made by Dr. H. O. Kunkel, dean of the A&M College of Agriculture.

The scholarship memorializes Dr. Carl Lyman, former head of the A&M Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics.

In high school, Puryear was treasurer of the National Junior Honor Society and lettered in football and basketball. He plans to work toward an advanced degree in biochemistry.

The student is among the first recipients of scholarships in a new program started by A&M faculty and staff members to attract outstanding young men and women to the university.

\$12,000 Awarded A&M Reactor

The Nuclear Science Center has been awarded a \$12,000 Atomic

Energy Commission grant to purchase three new TRIGA fuel elements for its reactor.

Dr. John D. Randall, NSA director, said the need for new fuel elements is the result of increased operation since the reactor power was increased to 1,000 kilowatts last year.

"We compiled more megawatt hours last year than in the previous seven years," the A&M official noted.

Randall said previous experimenters are using the facility to a greater extent and several new users have been added in recent months.

The Texas A&M reactor is the largest facility of its type on any campus in the Southwest and one of the busiest in the nation.

Randall said the NSC is providing \$2,800 in matching funds for purchase of the new fuel elements.

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT

San Angelo-West Texas Hometown Club will assemble in front of the MSC at 7:15 p.m. to meet at the home of Dr. O. L. Dorsey, 2500 Willow Bend, Bryan, at 7:30 p.m.

Port Arthur Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in Room 110 of the Military Science building.

THURSDAY

Dallas Hometown Club will discuss plans for a Thanksgiving party at 8 p.m. in Room 2B-C in the MSC.

Eagle Pass Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Zarape's. Club dues will be collected.

Host and Fashion Committee will organize and plan a "Taste-In" for Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Birch Room of the MSC.

DeWitt-Lavaca Hometown Club will discuss Thanksgiving and Christmas parties at 7:30 p.m. in Room 203 of the Academic building.

Chemical Engineering Wives Club will hear Mrs. P. T. Eubanks speak on the "Total Woman" at

7:30 p.m. at her home at 2515 Towering Oaks.

Radio Committee will discuss Bonfire plans at 7:30 p.m. in Room 2A in the MSC.

Texas A&M Sailing Club will see a film on Olympic sailing at 7:30 p.m. in Room 110 in the Architecture building.

THURSDAY

Association of Students from Mexico will discuss a December dance and view the movie, "History of the Ballet Folklorico of Guadalajara" at 7 p.m. in Room 3B of the MSC.

Baytown Hometown Club will organize at 7:30 p.m. in Room 145 of the Physics building.

A&M Parachute Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 113 of the Plant Sciences building.

Grayson County Hometown Club will meet in the at 7:30 p.m. in the lounge between Dormitories 2 and 4.

SUNDAY

Rugby Club will hold a developmental practice at 3 p.m. on the field across from DeWare Field House.

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LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced, and must be no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

1969 TPA Award Winner

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; H. F. Eilers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Asa B. Childers, Jr., College of Veterinary Medicine; and Dr. Z. L. Carpenter, College of Agriculture.

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FOOD goes BEST Spiced with SAVINGS

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PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

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