

National

'Atlantic City' top winner at film critics presentation

United Press International HOLLYWOOD — "Atlantic City" edged out Warren Beatty's "Reds" for top honors in this year's awards presentations by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. "Atlantic City" was named Best Picture of 1981 and picked up a best actor award for Burt Lancaster, who played an aging gangster. John Guare received an award for best screenplay. "Reds" won three awards — for Beatty as best director, Maureen Stapleton as best supporting actress and for best cinematography. Other awards went to Meryl Streep as best actress in "The French Lieutenant's Woman," to Sir John Gielgud as best supporting actor for his portrayal of a butler in "Arthur," to Randy Newman for the score of "Bagtime" and to the Brazilian movie "Pixote" as the year's best foreign film. "Reds" finished second in the voting for best movie and its performances by Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson were runners-up in voting for best actress and supporting actor. Henry Fonda was runner-up for best actor for his work in "On Golden Pond." Melinda Dillon finished second in the best supporting actress category for "Absence of Malice," while the British movie "Chariots of Fire" was second in voting for best foreign film. The award winners, chosen Saturday, will be honored Jan. 13 in ceremonies at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

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HIM WE SHALL
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1981

Defense bill ready for action

WASHINGTON — After months of debate and wrangling, a \$200 billion defense spending bill — the foundation for President Reagan's military rebuilding program — is being readied for final congressional action. If approved as expected, the 1982 appropriations bill would be the largest money measure ever passed by Congress. The compromise bill was worked out Monday night by a House-Senate conference committee. With Congress working to adjourn for the Christmas recess by the end of the week, the defense bill was expected to receive fast action. The House voted last month to provide \$197.4 billion, but the Senate opted for a higher amount — \$208.7 billion — when it passed the appropriations bill Dec. 4. President Reagan had asked for \$200.9 billion. The conference bill provides more than \$4 billion for the MX missile and a new bomber — an advanced version of the B-1 — to replace the aging fleet of B-52s, plus money to work on the radar-evading Stealth bomber. The Senate bill was larger than the House version in part because the Senate added \$4.8 billion for military pay, and \$1.6 billion to cover inflation and cost overruns, but the Senate yielded on those items in conference. Senate Assistant Republican Leader Ted Stevens said the Senate still believes there will be added costs for the new weapons programs, "but the House has taken the position they want to see it" before increasing funding. The huge spending bill — about \$30 billion more than provided last year — represents a major step in Reagan's plan to build up the U.S. defense capability, including new bombers, missiles and ships. Reagan wants to build 100 new B-1-type bombers to replace the B-52s over the next five years, and to deploy the new MX missiles in existing silos that now hold Titan and Minuteman missiles. In addition to funds for the B1 and MX, the bill also appropriates money for F-18, F-16, and F-15 warplanes, one-new aircraft carrier, nuclear attack submarines, cruisers and guided missile frigates, Army helicopters and over 1,300 combat vehicles, including \$1.4 billion for 720 M-1 tanks. The conference agreed with the Senate's decision to provide \$34.8 million in research and development funds for the Navy's ELF (extremely low frequency) communications project which was cut by the House. ELF, to be located in the upper Midwest, is intended for communications with deeply submerged nuclear submarines.

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\$100	469	1:28,081	1:2,160	1:1,080
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Santa myth an OK lie, doctor says

United Press International LOS ANGELES — A psychologist says parents should not feel guilty about telling their children Santa Claus exists, a lie which she says helps transmit cultural values. Dr. Sally McCollum of Occidental College said Monday some parents feel guilty about lying to their kids and fostering the Santa Claus myth and resulting commercialism. But children will believe in Santa anyway, she said, until they are old enough to understand reality. "They don't pay attention to the clues that we use to distinguish reality from unreality," McCollum said. "You couldn't tell them there's no Santa until they're old enough to pick up the tip-offs (and) when they have the intellectual capacity to separate the reality from the myth." McCollum said that although finding out the truth about Santa sometimes causes a crisis, it's a healthy milestone when children learn to separate fiction from reality. She said the myth of Santa provides pleasure for parents and children, and serves to transmit cultural values. It's impossible to explain an abstract concept such as the Christmas spirit, she said, and Santa becomes a concrete symbol for the love the season should promote.

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