

# Reactions to 'Amelia': Movie about incest draws praise, 'tearful reactions'

United Press International  
"Something about Amelia," a drama depicting the taboo subject of incest, was rated Tuesday one of the most-watched TV movies ever. Child abuse centers reported a flood of tearful calls, many with the theme, "I thought it was the only one it happened to."

Child care experts lauded the movie about a fictional 13-year-old girl who was forced into a sexual relationship with her father as a realistic portrayal of a widespread problem.

A heavy phone response to the movie was reported by Parents United Inc., a non-profit treatment and crisis organization with 110 chapters in the United States and Canada and headquarters in San Jose, Calif. "We have six (phone) lines coming in and they've been lit all night and morning," said spokesman Chuck Juliano. "Finally we had to just stop answer-

ing them about 3 a.m. and collapse. But we started up right away this morning."

Juliano said most of the calls were from adult women who wanted to talk about their experiences being molested as little girls.

"Most of them were crying when they called," Juliano said. "Mostly they seemed relieved. They said things like, 'I thought I was the only one it happened to.'"

Juliano said some of the calls were from girls saying they had been or were being victimized. "We advise them of the resources available to them and we turn them over to one of our counselors for further follow-up," he said.

"We got about 60 calls last night and the phones haven't stopped ringing all morning," said Lorraine Spaulding, volunteer counselor for Incest Survivors, a non-profit offshoot of

Parents Anonymous of Georgia.

She said her agency in Atlanta received calls from "a lot of mothers who suspect something is happening in their family and tried to ignore it but now want to know what to do."

Terry McGrath, spokesman for New York Department of Social Services, said a special hotline got double the number of calls usually received.

"Last night we got an additional 150 calls directly related

to the show," he said. "The majority were adults who said they had been victims of sex abuse as children and were looking for counseling."

Grace Erickson, director of the YWCA Rape-Relief Center in Frankfurt, Ky., said her agency received an average of four reports of incest a week. She called it a "common" problem in society and said, "I hope the taboo against talking about incest will be broken as a result of

last night's televised documentary."

Joyce Thomas, director of Children's Hospital's Division of Child Protection in Washington D.C., said the problem of incest was "sensitive and believably captured."

The New York switchboard of ABC Television received about 250 calls Monday night — 160 in favor of the movie and 90 against, said Tom Mackin, director of program information.

In Virginia, a Roanoke circuit

court judge Tuesday cited the movie in declaring a mistrial because of prejudicial publicity in the case of a man accused of raping his girlfriend's 13-year-old daughter.

Under questioning by Judge Ernest Ballou, most jurors said they had not read news stories about the case or seen the TV movie, but defense attorney Randy Leach argued that the case had been prejudiced by the publicity about incest.

National ratings were not in yet, but the average of six overnight markets of Los Angeles,

New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit and San Francisco was a 36.6 percent rating and 51 percent share of the viewing audience. Each rating percentage point is worth 838,000 homes, Mackin said.

"Something about Amelia" was among the highest-rated TV movies. The six-market ratings were two to three times higher than average, though lower than the 52.2 percent rating and 68 percent share for "The Day After" and the 60.3 percent rating and 70 percent share for the last episode of M\*A\*S\*H.

## No-kill animal shelter not loved by neighbors

United Press International  
CONYERS, Ga. — A judge said Tuesday "love for animals" will not influence his decision in a hearing that may determine whether 1,096 unwanted dogs, cats and rabbits live or die.

The animals, once homeless strays, are being cared for by Ann and Jerry Fields, operators of the no-kill Life for God's Stray Animals, a four-acre facility where animals that are not adopted are allowed to live out their lives.

A group of nine property owners filed suit asking the shelter be declared a public nuisance and closed because of the noise and odor. They also seek an unspecified sum for "special damages."

"The court has been bombarded with letters and communications in connection with

this matter," said Superior Court Judge Clarence Vaughn Jr., who is hearing the case without a jury. He said his decision would not be influenced by the letters and "the issue of love for animals."

Vaughn's office said it had received some 500 letters concerning the hearing, some from foreign countries. Most of the letters voiced support of the shelter and its continued operation.

The suit also includes county officials among the defendants, charging they did not enforce county laws in dealing with the shelter.

Neil Gordon, one of the lawyers representing the Fields, told Vaughn "this animal shelter is unique in this county, this state and even the nation. It allows animals to live rather than be put to sleep."

He also told Vaughn "this question ought to be decided by a jury" and renewed his request for a jury trial.

Attorneys for the shelter said charges the facility is a public nuisance are "either unfounded or grossly exaggerated." Gordon said in light of the way the county deals with homeless dogs and cats, "it really is the lives of 1,100 animals that are at stake."

Lee Parks, an attorney for the homeowners, said the shelter is located in a residential area and some residents "live within 500 feet of noise levels that are beyond any acceptable level."

He said homeowners in the area also must endure bad odors and property values have dropped.

Mrs. Fields, the first witness, testified the shelter is not an adoption agency.

### Analysis

## ABC's 'Amelia' tastefully done

by Bonnie Langford  
Battalion Staff

Another television taboo has been broken, but this time tastefully, and a local foster parent who deals with incest victims says the movie "Something about Amelia" gave an excellent portrayal of the problems of incest.

Chuck Bruegger, a foster father at Sheltering Arms, a shelter for battered children in the Bryan/College Station area, said incest is a problem that needs to be dealt with.

"People who commit incest need help," he said. "This subject doesn't need to be hidden away in a closet."

The ABC made-for-television movie aired Monday night, and touched on a subject that previously had been avoided not only by network television, but by society in general.

Though "Something about Amelia" had the potential to be sensationalized, ABC produced a sensitive piece of drama, while apparently trying to help victims of this crime.

The story portrayed an average middle class family. They live in a two-story house with a two-car garage and attend church on Sunday. The father's only visible vice is two-pack-a-day cigarette habit; the mother's, an occasional glass of wine.

But something isn't right about Amelia; she shies away from her father. She runs away from her date when he tries to dance close to her. Amelia is a tense, frightened 13-year-old girl and Roxana Zal did an excellent job with the role.

Her father, played by Ted Danson of the NBC comedy show "Cheers," seems like a great guy. He gets concerned about her first date, like any father would, but Danson leaves the feeling that there is more jealousy than fatherly concern.

Viewers aren't given proof of the true relationship between father and daughter. In fact, the audience doesn't know Amelia has been telling the truth until her mother says she believes her.

"Something About Amelia" didn't have a happy ending. With an estimated nine million Americans involved in incest, it couldn't. But it did leave a feeling of hope. ABC compounded this hope with a follow-up on "Nightline," their nightly news program. They interviewed a family faced with a similar situation, a victim of incest, a man who committed incest, and several counselors involved in helping solve the problem. All of the people interviewed seemed satisfied with the movie's presentation of the problem and the solution.

The Bryan/College Station area is not immune to the problem. Incest is shocking but real, says Bruegger.

Though Bruegger believes people who commit incest probably didn't watch the movie, he says there is hope that a victim or the mother of a victim would finally admit the problem exists and needs to be taken care of.

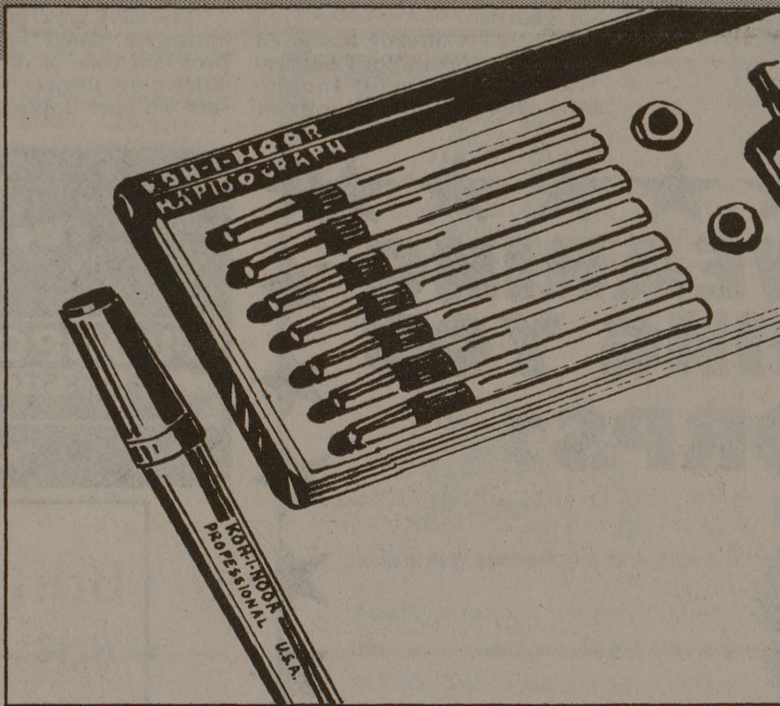
In the movie, Amelia blames herself for her father's actions, and Bruegger said that is how victims usually react.

"Most victims feel responsible and carry guilt about the incident," he says. "Even though it is the fault of the authority figure, people go through life with this guilt. Adults ... (also) can carry the guilt; these people need counseling also."

Locally there are several places to turn for help with current or past incest problems. Among them are: Rape Crisis Hotline — 779-7273, Texas A&M Counseling — 845-4427, Mental Health-Mental Retardation Authority of Brazos Valley — 696-8585 and Twin City Missions — 822-7511.

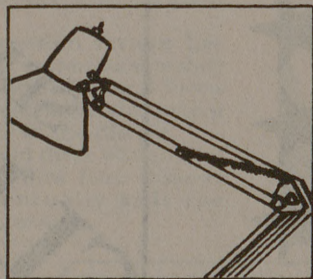
## SUPPLIES FOR SUCCESS!

Spring Semester Savings at EOS

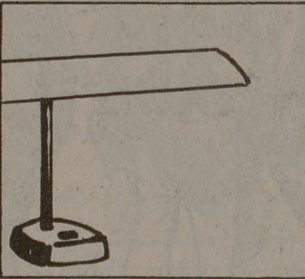


**Kohinor Pen Set**  
7-Pen Set 3165 Series  
**\$49.95** Regular \$78.50

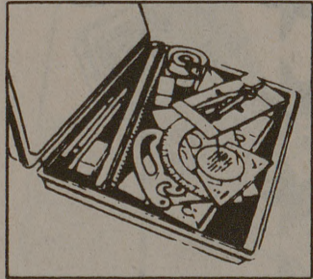
**Professional Series Individual Pens**  
**\$11.25** Regular \$12.75  
#000-#4 #3165



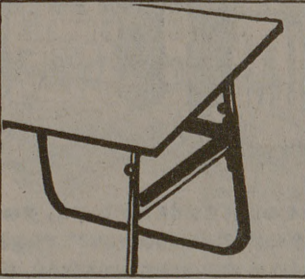
**Luxo Crownlite**  
Only **\$19.95**



**Study Lamp**  
**\$16.95** #PT3103

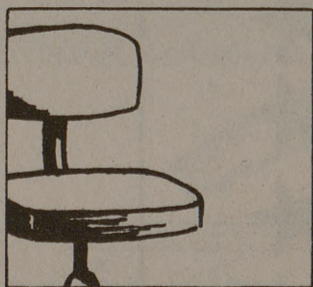


**Staedtler Mars**  
**EDG Kits**  
Soft Pouch **\$27.95**  
Hard Kit **\$34.95**

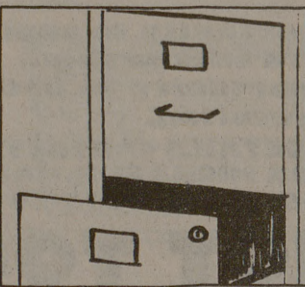


**Charvoz "OMNI"**  
**Drafting Tables**  
24" X 36" - **\$144.50**  
30" X 42" - **\$155.95**  
36" X 48" - **\$184.95**

FREE Charvoz lamp or vinyl board covering with purchase of table.



**Drafting Stool**  
With Casters #775  
**\$103.10**



**File Cabinet**  
**\$56.00** #112L - W/Lock

**EOS ENGINEERING & OFFICE SUPPLY**  
1418 Texas Ave. S., Redmond Terrace Shopping Center, College Station, 693-9883  
Mastercard/Visa Accepted

## PROFESSOR PUBLISHING

Here's how it works :

Professors organize a selection of class readings (check copyright law for legal use of material) and drop the master off at Kinko's.

- Kinko's will -
- Duplicate it
  - Assemble Custom Notebooks
  - Distribute them to your students at a reduced rate

Our Professor Publishing Plan is available at no cost to you or your department.

**kinko's copies**

201 COLLEGE MAIN  
846-8721