

TV CANDIDS

by Terrence O'Flaherty

The new TV season has taken shape and one fault is immediately apparent: It has failed to give us a villain we can respect.

The new private eye shows have fed us cheap psychopaths like the husband in "Follow the Sun," who killed his young bride so he could get her inheritance. The new police dramas have pitted their stalwart officers against kidnapers, sadists, arsonists, and other mentally deranged citizens wandering the streets. Almost to a man, the villains have been unpredictable and moronic, motivated largely by whim and reacting like animals.

Where, oh where, are the master criminals of yore who fought for great stakes and survived by their cunning and their wit? I don't mean the slobs in "The Untouchables" who are largely fat hoods with no imagination beyond the sawed-off shotgun.

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The villains I miss are the clever criminals who plot to steal a fortune in rubies, the master crooks who scheme to control the world's supply of nitroglycerin, and the devilish female spy who leads diplomats to their doom by a mixture of persuasion and perfume.

These villains are one the viewer can respect for their splendid guile and fear for their masterful attention to every detail, but there is a good reason why we don't have more of them; they are difficult to create because they take writers of a skill equal to the characters they draw. It's far easier to throw in a nut whose motivation is viciousness or sickness. Almost any act of violence can be ascribed to them without motive or justification.

I would rather have one Fu Man Chu than 50 hoods from 20th Century-Fox who are trying to shake down a dry cleaner. But a good Man Chu is hard to find.

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I look out my hotel window and there's Grauman's Chinese Theater looking like a big, forgotten toy among the parking lots. This permanence is very comforting in a city where landmarks come and go like movie stars.

Most of the time John Barrymore's profile in the concrete collects more cigarette butts than tourists. But one recent night was different.

The great forecourt was polished and full of flowers. The searchlights were sweeping the sky, the yokels lined the streets, and the motor cops were insulting the motorists who were caught, unwittingly, in the traffic jam.

Everything was just as it used to be when I listened to the radio as a kid as the stars were arriving for the opening of "Cavalcade" in days of yore.

The studio limousines slid up alongside the curb and the crowd applauded its favorites while some character in a tuxedo announced the arrivals over a microphone in a tremulous voice.

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Jayne Mansfield arrived with a shimmering gown, her mother, and Mickey Hargitay; Henry Fonda brought Ann Carroll; someone name "Bullets Durgon" brought Mrs. Mickey Rooney, but no one explained which Mrs. Rooney; Marge and Gower Champion danced in; Erskine Caldwell came with his wife; so did Spike Jones; also Ed Wynn, Buddy Ebsen and Nat King Cole.

But then something happened. I couldn't recognize any of the names that came over the loud speaker! It was like being cut adrift. I guess I don't get around much any more.

There were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Karp and also the Milton Feldmans. And Freddy Bell. (Mrs. Bell was wearing "an Estelle Alladale gown of shocking pink" — But I still didn't recognize her!) Shirley Scott came with Vic Auer.

As I fled into the parking lot I heard the loud-speaker announce Patricia Huston and Joe Russell! Sybil Brand came with Frank McCarthy! There was also Sol Schwartz — in case you get around in his circles.

And if you do, have him say hello to Jack Karp for me . . .

Oh yes, the picture was "Breakfast at Tiffany's." It's all about a happy prostitute. I thought last season was their year!

SAXON SIGHS

Homecoming has arrived! With all the anticipation and excitement at its peak. Wednesday, Nov. 1, the voting for the top 15 was held with Melissa Matheny, ASB vice president, in charge. The results were announced Friday at a snack pep rally.

The top 15 are: Olivia Cotta, Janet D'oliva, Dady Keays, Melissa Matheny, Carol D. Robinson, Jerry Lynn Creekmore, Lynne Weddle, Judy Taylor, Joan Warner, Barbara Woodruff, Jinx Wright, Carol Carothers, Sue Rogers, Toni Sheets, and Sandy Rayes. All of these girls are seniors except one. Judy Taylor is the only underclassman included in the top 15 and she is a junior.

FOR THE FIRST time in the history of NHS, the alumni has formed an association. The association is headed by Barbara Romero (class of '61) and has many plans for the coming homecoming game and dance. Also under consideration are many ideas for alumni assemblies, etc. for the coming year.

FOR THE first time this year! Boy, what a relief to see the sportsmanship flag a'flyin'. I guess that pep talk to the student body from Mr. Dalton, Miss Dalton, and Coach Shoup did some good, for the Monday after the assembly and South High game, there it was in all its glory flying right out in front of school. Congratulations, Saxons, but it's about time!

JERRY KURZ and Patti David were recently elected as president and vice president of the large freshman class.

It's good to have someone representing such a fine class. Jerry is already making a fine impression on everyone in student council. This entire class is really something. They were the first to turn in their float plans, and that was without a council, president, etc.

A LUAU QUEEN and Warrior reigned over the sixth annual Boys' League Luau which was held Saturday in the NHS covered patio. The attire, food, and atmosphere all followed the Hawaiian theme.

FOR THE first time this year, the senior class has its own newspaper, Delia Preble serves as the "Tattle Tale" editor with Sandra Peterson as co-editor. The "Tattle Tale" is for seniors only and carries news of the class, its plans, and activities.

THERE'S NOT much one can say in acclaim for our great football team. Why? Because it's already been said. They've done a great job all along, but I think the most satisfying game came when we literally stomped South!

I'm sure each and every Saxon is proud as proud can be of Coach Bob Shoup and his mighty team!

Jury Foreman In Noted Trial To Speak Here

Lew Allison, who served as jury foreman on the Spade Cooley trial, will speak to members of the Torrance Civitan Club and their wives at the club's regular meeting Wednesday evening.

Dr. A. F. Kline, president of the club, said Allison has been a member of the Bakersfield Civitan Club for many years.

President Kline also reported that the club was preparing for its annual fruitcake sale. Proceeds are used to provide shoes for needy children, he said.

Saxon Alumni Set Deadline

Monday morning marks the last week of alumni registration before homecoming at North High. All graduates planning to attend homecoming must register at the Alumni Assn. office by Friday afternoon, Nov. 17.

Registration fee of \$1 includes a ticket to the Homecoming dance, Nov. 17, notice of all coming events at North High, and an alumni card which entitles the holder to discount prices at school activities.

Register in the office located at the end of North High's library, 3620 W. 182nd St.

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