

arts: arts: arts: films:

butterflies are free

For those of you seeking an action-thriller film, forget it; most of the film is set in Don's apartment. Don (Ed Albert) is cast as a blind man who moves into his own place in an attempt to liberate himself from an overprotective mother (Eileen Herkart). Ed Albert is convincing in his role. Eileen Herkart's portrayal, however, is less forceful as she too readily changes from the overtly protective mother to one who deeply regrets this past behavior. At one point she forces Don to 'go it alone', when he faces an emotional crisis.

Goldie Hawn, the girl who Don falls in love with, is at her best in comical situations. Unfortunately, this levity is carried through to the dramatic scenes.

One particular shortcoming was the lack of time unity, in that the clothes and styles were of the psychedelic era while the language contained nothing that would denote a 'now' lifestyle.

The lack of action, interesting photography, musical score, and good dramatic acting (especially on Goldie Hawn's part) leaves this movie resting on the laurels of its theatrical counterpart, the excellent play by Leonard Gershe.

There are some good laughs, but you won't leave the film illuminated by any great revelation. (Read the play). Ted Shandro



books:

choose!

Pierres Vallières is a Quebec separatist whose passionate ideological support of the F.L.Q. appeared in 1966 in his sensational book 'White Niggers of America'. Evidence of the extent of his practical commitment to those ideas is that most of his time since 1966 has been spent in jail or on bail facing charges including contempt of court and counselling to kidnap and murder.

Thus it was with a great deal of

surprise that the public learned, through a letter by Vallières published in 'Le Devoir', that he had performed a political about-face, totally rejecting the F.L.Q. and casting his support instead to the separatist Parti Québécois (P.Q.)

His latest book, 'L'Urgence de Choisir', which has appeared immediately in an English translation by Penelope Williams as 'Choose', is a polemical essay which attempts to account for this about-face and rally other separatists to the same position.

He interprets the events of the Quebec crisis of October 1968 as an excuse, seized upon by the federal government and Pierre Trudeau, to liquidate the F.L.Q. He believes, with almost paranoid fervor, that the federal government is presently awaiting a similar excuse to deal a decisive blow to the entire Quebec independence movement. The targets, according to Vallières include citizen's committees, union centrals, and even the P.Q. It is because an F.L.Q. incident could provide the necessary excuse, that he categorically denounces the F.L.Q. and aligns himself instead with the P.Q. He takes further pains in his essay to lay the F.L.Q. to rest, by posing, amongst others, the argument that since the electoral process is still viable the F.L.Q. cannot be what it thinks it is - a focal point for revolution. One is left with the suspicion that Vallières has other motives than the ones he gives for damping the F.L.Q. Could it be that he realizes that the F.L.Q. is too radical at the present time and therefore only alienates potential separatists? For him to admit so openly would constitute an admission that in his first book he had incorrectly assessed the effects of the F.L.Q.

Rather than admit to any such error in his earlier ideology he presents his new position as a rational evolution of ideas, as a tactical realignment necessitated by the 'Quiet Revolution' of the Sixties.

He sticks to his old theories of socialism and provides a lengthy analysis of Quebec history, Marxian ideology and contemporary reality to demonstrate that there can be no economic emancipation in Quebec without socialism. As he sees it, socialism is the only means of thwarting the capitalistic cum imperialistic mode of production because it is the only expression of a **collective** desire for liberation. Because Quebec separatism is small and must face the twin monsters of American and English-Canadian exploitation, liberation can only succeed collectively. In accord with this viewpoint he also includes a plea for unity amongst separatists, decrying the suggestion that a second separatist party, the worker's party, be established in Quebec.

Besides suffering from a slight lack of lucidity (which may be the fault of the translator) and from a lack of concise organization, the work appears to contain a fundamental contradiction: Vallières states that Trudeau and the federal government will allow separatists to use democratic means to promote political and social objectives, provided they fall short of independence. When a real possibility of independence occurs, Vallières thinks that the federal government will use special powers to quash the movement. Why then does he put his faith in the P.Q.?

Vallières never faces this contradiction directly, at least not in this book, but perhaps the resolution of it is provided in a statement he makes in passing, that if the P.Q. can once gain a majority by a democratic vote, then the federal government will have qualms about repressing the P.Q. Or perhaps Vallières secretly suspects that the federal government will be foolish enough to invoke the War Measures Act against the P.Q., thus providing what the F.L.Q. always lacked, a rallying point for a real armed revolution.

Arthur Savage

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