



by Stephen Mills

"The Omega Man," now at the Paramount, is a good film because its producers state clearly what they wish to do and then they do it.

The purpose of the film is to show convincingly that one man, through love and dedication, can save humanity. This is done by taking a novel by Richard Matheson (the writer responsible for one of America's few genuine science fiction films, "The Incredible Shrinking Man") and translating it faithfully to the screen.

"Omega Man" is the story of a scientist, played by Charleton Heston, who survives a biological war in 1975 because he has discovered a serum effective against the war-plague. Others have survived the war also but, unlike Heston, have the disease and are dying from it. These survivors fall into two groups; the first being a gang of homicidal barbarians called "The Family" who feel it proper to burn and destroy every remnant of pre-war society, the second two young people and a group of children living outside LA, the city where most of the action occurs. The film is primarily concerned with Heston's efforts to save the second group

while surviving the first.

Heston portrays the Christ figure well, which is not surprising considering his background. Mathias, the leader of the Family, is effectively played by Anthony Zerbe, and the part of the young black girl is handled competently by Rosilind Cash. The remaining cast members are well-chosen and provide satisfying support.

However, "Omega Man" has more than a sound plot and a solid cast. The direction and photography are both excellent. The opening shots of a deserted and decaying Los Angeles evoke the feelings of loneliness, suffering, and desolation the principal characters must feel. The use of religious symbolism — light, blood, the cross, suffering, dying, and rebirth — is not overdone, and this intelligent restraint lends to the over-all impression the film makes.

Set-design, costume, make-up, color, and musical score are also worth mentioning, the director combining them to maintain throughout the theme of sacrifice, at once sad and joyous.

You should see this film. It makes you think about society and yourself. It is also a sincere artistic effort and thereby deserves your respect and contemplation.

* * *

Films coming up you should watch for —

Gone With The Wind This is not a classic by my standards but was certainly one by the standards of its day. View it in this light, and you may benefit from it.

Carnal Knowledge The critics are split on this flick but generally seem to think it could be much better. It catalogues the sexual careers of two young men played by Jack Nicholson, who turns in a fair performance and Art Garfunkel who is weak. Mike Nichols directed it. Jules Feiffer wrote it. Good or bad, it should be interesting.

Shaft A super-black Mike Hammer in what seems a straight forward action picture.

Diamonds Are Forever James Bond is back and so is Sean Connery. It seems to me Bond is passé but the reaction to this film, the sixth in the series, should tell.

Next week — a critique of Metro theatres, more coming abstractions, and whatever develops between then and now.

Report recommends CRISIS

(cont'd. from p. 7)

"Such a concept, although perhaps reassuring, is clearly too simplistic. No doubt, a 'normal' gap occurs when the child perceives his parents' failure to wed theory and reality. But the presence, number, variety and strength of alternative models widen this gap."

"POP CULTURE" provides much consternation for adults but the Report finds it amusing that adults should be so concerned about it. Much of this new culture is fun or just another way of expressing

dissatisfaction with phony standards.

The Committee says one pop culture symbol is the pop festival. "Publishers sell newspapers and parents acquire ulcers by fulminating about the frenzy, freakiness, dope, nudity, unsanitary conditions, sex, and damage to tourism that they associate with pop festivals. Notwithstanding all this public concern, the young generally have an ecstatic time at these concerts."

There is another pop expression that seems to send shivers down every parent's

back, and that's 'free love'. The Report feels that "to many parents, the liberation of sexual mores brings a devaluation of something exceedingly precious, which should only be shared with a spouse. Prolonged childhood exposure to the more general adult prohibition may still make the young feel somewhat guilty; but even so, they still tend to regard the parental view as a 'hang-up'."

Further to the developing of the P2 agency, the Report recommends that a network of youth hostels be established with adequate provision for additional services, and that suitable facilities be investigated.

Regarding the cadet programs, the Report is extremely critical. "As it exists, the cadet movement is a cross between the Boy Scouts and an Armed Forces recruiting program. In neither case does it justify the expenditure of at least \$10 million annually."

The reasons for this feeling are that interest is declining and youth generally strongly oppose militarism, which they see in school administrators. "In funding the cadet program so heavily, the federal government is giving disproportionate support to an activity which is, to youth, philosophically

questionable." The committee recommends that federal funding of the cadet movement cease, and that such funds be

the formation of another committee to investigate stress in society. It believes that the growing split in social values,



diverted to alternate youth activities within P2.

Arts and cultural activities for youth fall mainly into the hands of the Canada Council. This organization provides grants to national art groups such as orchestras and theatre schools as well as to individuals who show promise and are involved in the field. The Report commends the Council for its modus operandi — consulting the artists about what they want and setting policy accordingly.

THE COMMITTEE FEELS THAT, with increased funding, it could benefit more young people and "could contribute so greatly to national unity and identity."

The Committee recommends

as reflected in very ordinary things such as clothes and lifestyles, could lead to conflict.

As well, unemployment being so high, many youth take to the road, and many people and communities become angered at this way of life and appearance. As a result, the police are called in to remove the "unemployed transients"; the youth view these actions as the enforcement of a certain social philosophy and not just the law. This could in turn lead to violence. Thus it is recommended:

a) that research and action in the area of conflict resolution (The Committee to Investigate Stress in Society — CRISIS) be undertaken,

b) that CRISIS would engage in direct action at the request of parties in conflict: this action would include mediation, and a public report evaluating the situation,

c) would encourage and provide funds for organizations or individuals directly involved in research or in action.

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