

## College Radicals as Social Phenomena are

*Editors Note It had to happen that Hollywood would come out with a series of movies on the social phenomena of this generation. The college radical, several films such as Getting Straight and Strawberry Statement were produced and reaction has been heavy in other centers, other than Fredericton. Of the two Strawberry Statement is credited with being more aware and realistic.*

*This article by the playwright who prepared the film for the stage wrote this article in answer to charges that the film was "counter-revolutionary." This is a reprint from the New York Times.*

by Israel Horowitz

Place this article against a window-pane. You're in for a treat. You have just witnessed, in scientific terms the worth of a newspaper, when seen in the light of day. Ain't much, is it?

My very own Sunday Times a couple of weeks back featured an article against my first and only film, "The Strawberry Statement." Presumably, I am "answering" the slur against my good name wasn't even mentioned in the article. So ostensibly there's nothing to answer.

However, a horrific reality surfaced in the story that must be dealt with. Nixon's boys just now must be the most together group since the day the Beach Boys went two octaves higher in "Good Vibrations". The Movement as in no small way evidenced by the "Strawberry" article, is a mess. Radical celebrities are pushing harder than starlets, stepping on each other like lemmings. Madison and Hamilton, the radical politicians, must be spinning in their graves with disgust.

I have yet to figure out whether I am, as a playwright, a member of the show business community or the literary power structure. Given a choice, I choose neither. I just seem to continue writing. But I have never written a play, a story, a poem or my one film—anything—unless something was troubling me enough, wrecking me, in fact, to drive me back in to the absurdity of writing. Unlike the Oedipal comfort of the corporate structure, the writer is a very silly, very solitary figure. The man who is dumb enough to write plays or films is truly a fool. In ten words, before I write anything, I'm in almost blind rage. Ten.

The film, "The Strawberry Statement," only went through ten drafts and two years before completion which, I'm told is remarkable for a film. The thing that drove me to the typewriter wasn't quite that

easy.

My great grand-parents (maternal) are buried in Massachusetts. I spoke at a peace rally last month in my home town. Outside the window, in clear view from the stage, were the graves of my grand-parents, (paternal) aunts, cousins, etc. A large cement bench (who the hell sits on it?) runs the length of the family plot. One word emblazoned in stone: Horowitz. May they rest in peace.

The rally was far more significant than last month's biggie in Times Square. This one after six weeks of advertising, scooped up barely a hundred for an audience.

The call to arms was kindly stated, tepid: "Let's discuss the possibility of a mobilization committee, for peace."

I was headliner (I'm now news back home) and my speech was tempered beneath my lightest dreams, I asked the kids to sit-in on Main Street and I asked for a within-the-system referendum, a peace vote on the next town ballot. The kids of Wakefield, Massachusetts, will not sit-in on Main Street. To quote one very pretty 15-year-old girl, "we'd get a reputation."

Remember the 1950's? Remember what it meant to a teen-age girl to get a "reputation?" Kind of like being 95, with a "condition": vague even mysterious, but guaranteed to hurt. As for the referendum, we had one, right there at the K.C.'s. (Knights of Columbus Hall, \$50 rental for peace rallies, free for Republican Town Committee Meetings.) Peace has become a word, not an ideal. And peace, the word, is likened to something even ajax couldn't scrub.

Ah, the paranoia of the New Left. "There's the Jew-Fag-Commie-Rapist trying to tell us how to run Our Town. The New Yorker, yet! And Show Business! Movies! Long hair! His father's no good either.

Never was!"

Cut from black-and white back to color.

"It's a racist war. I don't mean to even imply that it began for racist reasons. Nothing that sophisticated. Money started it. But it continues as a

racist war. Imagine if you will, that our "enemy" was Australia, not the Vee Cee. Would we so quickly condone the slaughter of nice white mothers and babies? When their cries of anguish resound with May-fair accents?"

Much mumbling here.

Mind you, I am no dumping unmercifully on my little town. Wakefield has produced me, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Dave Dellinger, my father and his father. It's a good, town, full of good people.



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