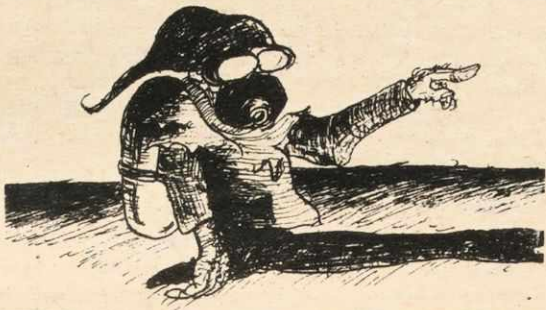


# Film details onset of holocaust



by Cathy MacDonald

"The Pentagon computer hasn't been working recently. Two months ago somebody plugged a war-game into this infallible computer. It made a mistake and monitored Soviet missiles coming towards the United States. American missiles were launched and for six minutes the world was on nuclear alert. . . . In 40 minutes we would have been extinct."

These are the words of Dr. Helen Caldicott on videotape, as she spoke to Quebec medical students last year. Caldicott's rapid-fire talk on the use of nuclear fission for bombs and energy, fuses the viewer to the chair in shock. The videotape spearheads this

week's "Safe Energy Film Festival" at the National Film Board and Video Theatre.

Most doctors are ignorant on how to deal with radioactive patients in case of a disaster, even though there are nuclear reactors all around the world says Caldicott. "The government says to hose them down." Caldicott explains that a radiation damaged cell sits quiet for 5 to 50 years, and then all of a sudden instead of splitting in two, it goes crazy and produces millions of cells, and you have a cancer. Twenty percent of uranium miners are dying from lung cancer, says Caldicott.

The doctor compared nuclear reactors to an open sewer, with abundances of in-

fectious diseases such as hepatitis, polio, etc., something that the public would attend to. However with nuclear radiation there is an incubation period before a cancer starts, which allows the public to forget about it.

Caldicott is a pediatrician, teacher at Harvard Medical School, and President of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Talking about the Three-Mile Island accident at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Caldicott says, "Of course no one died at Three-Mile Island, we don't expect anyone to die yet. It takes 15 years for leukemias and cancers to develop. "The accident has just begun, she says, as they start the 45 year clean up operation. Radioactive radon gas is already being emitted, contaminating air and water. "Hershey's chocolate is 13 miles from Three-Mile Island", Caldicott added.

Genetic explanations, the nuclear fuel cycle, bomb production, and Caldicott's perceptions of the war-game mentality observed through discussions with men in the Kremlin and the Pentagon, are among a stream of chilling facts that have their effect on viewers as they silently leave the theatre.

The Safe Energy Film Festival has more films, tapes and workshops to offer, some less intense, including the "China Syndrome" on Friday night and the humorous "Dr. Strangelove", Saturday night. (For more information see Thursday to Thursday.)

# Musical murderers

by Michael McCarthy

Two more mystery movies were presented at the Cohn Monday night. **Murder on the Orient Express**, based on an excellent book by Agatha Christie, had a phenomenal cast and was possibly the best acted movie, all round, that I've ever seen. Albert Finney, a mainstay of the English stage, appears infrequently but memorably in films (Charlie Bubbles, Scrooge), and is characteristically superb as the detective Hercule Poirot (that's pwa row'), capturing the fat, feisty, effeminate and fatuous little Belgian to a "T". Jacqueline Bisset and Michael York have minor roles as young, aristocratic lovers, and Vanessa Redgrave and Sean Connery give brief but strong characterizations as somewhat older and more non-conforming romancers. Sir John Gielgud is (as always) flawless in his role as a butler. Anthony Perkins, always underrated but always striking (remember the murderer in **Psycho**), gives a scene-stealing performance as one of the more off-beat suspects, and Ingrid Bergman is perfect as a simple Swedish woman horrified by the whole affair.

The "affair" is the murder of a rather disgusting man (Richard Widmark - need I say more?) who has escaped justice despite kidnapping and murdering a child, and indirectly causing the death of four people who died in the aftermath. The suspicion, as usual in mysteries, falls on first one and then another of the passengers of the train in which the murder occurred.

Dame Christie, however, throws a brilliant curve. The murder, as Poirot deduces, was committed jointly by all twelve passengers, who were all servants of the family of the murdered child or relatives of the family, and who wanted to punish the man who had caused such grief.

The List of Adrian Messenger also had good acting from George C. Scott (the tracker) and Kirk Douglas (the trackee, who uses various convincing disguises in his filthy, murderous pursuits). Adrian Messenger compiles a list of names, whose owners are all related in some manner, then is murdered before the meaning of the list is revealed by him. It turns out that Canadian Kirk is trying to come into an inheritance, and must silence his former P.O.W. camp-mates, whom he betrayed in the war, and whom could destroy his plans by revealing his true dastardly nature.

The story is good, but is marred slightly by a rather inconsistent ending (Scott doesn't warn the intended victim, and only closes in when he himself is threatened) and the inclusion of meaningless cameos of two "stars" (Sinatra and Curtis) in disguise, although two others (Mitum and Lancaster) added to the story in their brief spots.

The next offering of the Murder Mystery Film series is on Monday, October 20, when two Agatha Christie based movies will be shown, **Murder She Said** and **Witness For The Prosecution**.

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