

Japan's Yojimbo ORIENTAL WESTERN IS "DEATH WITH A GRIN"

By PIERS GRAY
As one rarely gets the chance to see a Japanese film in Halifax, it was with great anticipation that I attended the first programme of the 1965-66 Dalhousie Film Society season. Yojimbo was the feature and it was a fine representative of that country's film industry.

Yojimbo is ostensibly an eastern western, but it is more than that; it is a stunning portrayal of death with a grin.
Directed by Akira Kurosawa, the film relates one incident in the life of an unemployed samurai in the Japan of the 1840's. The samurai (who calls himself

"mulberry-field, about 40") comes upon a small Japanese town, torn asunder with the feud of the two leading families. (The situation is familiar to that in Gunfight at the O.K. Corral.)
The samurai realizes he has a perfect situation in which to sell his talents for killing, and proceeds to play off the town's Seibites against the opposing Ushi-Tora forces.

The film builds up to an electrifying climax with the samurai, excellently portrayed by Toshoro Mifune, ultimately destroying both sides in a fierce display of swordsmanship.

Reminiscent of Shane, Yojimbo shows us the humour underlying this choice situation, and the hideous comedy of death. Mifune's excellent acting and Kurosawa's brilliant direction bring this out. He, the merchant of death, stands aloof, always aware of the situation; yet he regards his life and the lives of those around him as being a joke.

The supporting actors acquit themselves more than adequately, and again Kurosawa keeps the film's pace well in control, although occasionally allowing the camera to linger too long in a scene.

This film is one of the best westerns I have seen. Unfortunately Hollywood seems to have abandoned the great shoot-em-ups like Stagecoach, High Noon and Shane in favour of Doris Day and suburban sex. I shall now look to Tokyo in future for western adventure.

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MR. MONEYBAGS

photo by Browne

Gordon blasts off; leaves hot air

By JAMES SCHAEFER
Western Gazette

LONDON, Ont. — A big blonde looked up as he came into the cafeteria in the late afternoon. She went on staring into her coffee cup.

He stopped for a moment to smile back at the blank face. Then Finance Minister Walter Gordon glided to a back table to jaw with two dozen students.

He was in town for the day and had departed from his prepared schedule to visit the scholars at the University of Western Ontario with Donald Harper, St. Thomas area Liberal hustler, and UWO Liberal club president, Robert Weese.

"I didn't think about it and I'm sure Prime Minister Pearson didn't," he said when asked why the election act had not been reviewed before the Nov. 8 election was called.

Commenting further on the problem of university students unable to vote away from home, Gordon said some laws were clear and some were not — but a law was a law.

"Oh, that's a good answer," Weese broke in, smiling liberally.

Gordon's predictions on the forthcoming election were wordy and unconvincing to the curious bysitters.

"We'll win a few seats in the Prairies . . . not many though," He thought the Liberals would take most of Quebec but only laughed when asked how his French was. He said the Grits would increase their gains by leaps and bounds in Southwestern Ontario.

"In London?" asked a brash student.

"In London," he pronounced solemnly.

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Four turbaned students from India on an official tour of the state capitol of Baton Rouge were attacked on July 4th by a crowd at a segregationist rally. Two of them were beaten. Both were students at Louisiana State University.

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MUSIC: PATRICIA MOWAT

Sunday Concert: piano and winds

By PAT MOWAT

Last Sunday afternoon, the third in a series of Dalhousie University Concerts was presented at King's College Gymnasium. The performers in this concert for piano and winds were Monique Guesset, pianist, Margaret Norton, oboist, Albant Gallant, clarinetist, James Hansen, bassoonist, and Ronald Mackay, French horn; the last four all members of the Halifax Symphony Orchestra.

The program included works by Stanitz, an eighteenth century German composer, and two twentieth century French composers, Milhaud and Ibert.

Using winds in combinations of fours and threes, this part of the program was rather unexciting and not especially well-played. In the Stanitz quartet shaky intonation and ensemble problems marred the interpretation.

The program improved as the two trios by Milhaud and Ibert were performed. The young musicians instilled a great deal of charm and humor in these two interesting works. Their ensemble and overall playing improved in these two compositions although the feeling was still one of uncertainty and unfamiliarity.

The second half of the program was devoted entirely to Beethoven's quintet for Piano and Winds, Opus 16. This was certainly the best by far on the program. The composition although technically and musically very difficult, was well handled by the players, who displayed their full potential.

Although not in any sense perfect, this was real Beethoven. It was a controlled and steady performance played with a sensitive feeling which made one accept it as music well worth the listening.

A great deal of credit for this performance is due to the superb playing and skill of Monique Guesset, the pianist. She played the difficult technical passages with great control and was able at the same time to give the sensitive interpretation Beethoven requires.

It is a source of pride to Haligonians that each of these performers are winter residents in the city and are active in its musical circles. With such performers this city is well on the way to an exciting musical life.

he didn't let on.

"We have a cabinet of 25," he went on, "which for my money is a little on the large side."

"Costs will be reduced to lower than what they would normally be," he said of car prices resulting from the new Canada-United States auto agreement.

Gordo snatched some brackish coffee, played with a key chain, pulled his left ear and said he was "all for" increasing university scholarships "if we can get them through."

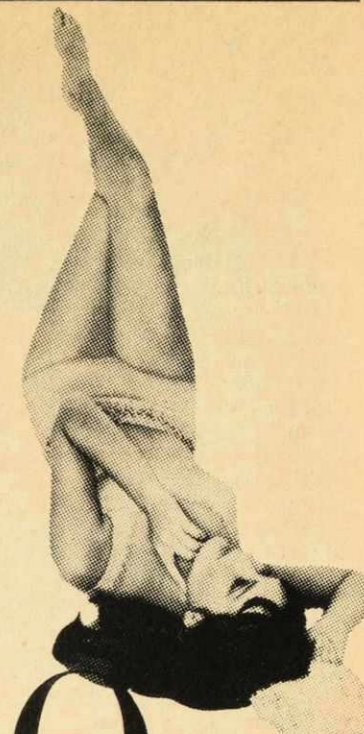
He said now was the time for

all good parties to have an election "because minority governments don't function well after the first year and a half."

He admitted the government did not function well during the flag debate and the Canada Pension Plan dispute.

Time was up, aide Harper announced, as he steered Weese and Gordo to a waiting convertible.

They bombed off leaving a cloud of exhaust fumes behind. Gordo was already late for a cocktail party.



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Social note: "The young ladies of Shirreff Hall were most pleasantly entertained last week at a punch party at Phi Delta Theta. Members of the organization served refreshments and whoever it was that poured did so with unerring accuracy." Mmmm, yes. We thank you.

From the vestal's temple

• By NANCY WHITE •



Coming to college can be almost as disillusioning as listening to a session of the P.E.I. Legislature.

We all have silly, idealized notions about a university. I know I'd thought that the students would be intensely intellectual, the professors old and tacky, and all the fans at football games roaring drunk.

Indeed, before coming to Dal last year I looked on universities as the embodiment of Free Thinking and Radical New Ideas and interesting things like that.

Maybe they are. Maybe Dal is and I've missed it because of the sheltered existence I lead.

I live at Shirreff Hall. That's that historic building on Oxford and South, where Dylan definitely did not write "The Times They Are A'changin'".

We have traditions here. Most are slightly painful, like Sunday afternoon tea. But the one that struck me funniest last year was about daffodils and it put the blonde psych major next door into a cursing, foot-stomping fury.

The occasion was the prepara-

tion for the senior banquet, a grand event to honor the residents who were graduating in the Spring. Terri, as a junior, was asked to order the flowers, several bouquets for the tables and a corsage for each graduate.

She went about it conscientiously and spent what seemed like hours on the phone haranguing with the florist to get the price down. Finally the shop agreed to make up rose corsages for about fifty cents each. A victory.

But when she reported her success to house committee, the members were askance.

"No, no, it has to be daffodils," they said.

"Huh?"

"Daffodils."

"But why?"

"Because it is always daffodils."

They didn't seem to know how far back the floral tradition went, but one girl did recall that they'd had them at the banquet as long ago as 1962.

And the president of the house committee, now the holder of a science degree, is quoted as

having said in all seriousness: "I've waited four years for my daffodil."

So Terri crawled defeated back to the phone and ordered the daffodils at a dollar each because they were out of season. They came bare — no foliage, no ribbons and not even paper wound around the stems to stop them from dripping.

The seniors all wore them in to dinner and the tradition was perpetuated.

That's Shirreff Hall.

It's an exaggeration, of course, to say nothing changes here. This term already there's been evidence of enlightenment. The T.V. set has been moved up to fourth floor and consequently works. We now have that afternoon tea only every second Sunday. But in spite of such developments I wager that, come spring, it will be daffodils again.

Belated congratulations to the Men's Residence on defeating Shirreff Hall in last month's test of brawn. It was so strong and mighty of you. But remember: the Shirreff Hall Institute of Tug-of-

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