MOVIE COLUMN

Hollywood code changes along with attitudes

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—In "It Started With a Kiss," Debbie Reynolds hops in to bed nude with an air force general (Fred Clark), thinking he is her sergeant-husband Glenn Ford.

The scene evokes guffaws at every performance, as well as some raised eyebrows. Such ribaldry could never have been shown in a Hollywood movie until the last year or two.

"I think sex is all right when it's shown in an amusing manner and not done sensationally," argues Ford.

Apparently the production code office agreed, for it okayed the scene. It has been approving a lot of things that never would have been passed in the time of Will Hays. Even such words as bitch (Anatomy of a Murder) and whore (A Farewell to Arms) and subjects like abortion (Blue Denim).

THE FINAL WORD

But though moral attitudes change, the code office still functions the way it did when movie czar Hays handed Joseph Breen censorial reins over Hollywood. Breen's successor, Geoffrey Shurlock, has virtually the final say-so on what can and cannot appear in films.

Shurlock and his aides have been likened to supreme court justices. The code is their constitution. They interpret it in keeping with the times, steering between sensation-seekers and prudes.

"I think Shurlock might have let us use the word 'abortion' in "Blue Denim"," says Frank McCarthy, 20th-Fox contact with the code office. "It is certainly seen in newspapers and the front covers of family magazines like the Saturday Evening Post and Reader's Digest. But because the word was specifically banned by the code, Shurlock had no choice but to make us use 'illegal operation' instead."

Shurlock's advice is available from start to end of a film project, and even those who oppose any censorship praise his help. A studio considering a story purchase might ask his opinion of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" or "Compulsion."

SHURLOCK'S REPLY

His reply would be that the works were unacceptable in their original form because the subject of homosexuality is forbidden on the screen. The studios still might buy the stories—and did—figuring they could lick Shurlock's objections.

Producers generally send drafts or shooting scripts to the code office. If objections are raised, producers may submit, or else shoot the scene two ways, hoping the more daring one will win approval.

The actual product is the final test. A racy scene may have been saved by the good taste of the director. In it stays. The neckline of the leading lady may plunge too perilously. Out it goes.

The Shurlock office word is final, unless the producer wants to appeal to the presidents of all the companies. But the cumbersome process is seldom used.

Names in the News

STAFFORD (CP)—Racing driver **Stirling Moss** and his Canadian-born wife were admitted to a Stafford infirmary Tuesday night after a car in which they were travelling was in an accident. Moss received cuts and bruises and his wife had facial injuries. Mrs. Moss is the former **Katie Molson** of Montreal.

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LONDON — **Sir Matthew Smith**, 79, widely regarded as one of Europe's greatest living painters and noted for his striking use of color, died Tuesday.

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LONDON—**Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather**, creator of the Old Bill cartoon character of a British Tommy in the First World War, died Tuesday. He was 71. One of old Bill's sayings "If her knows of a better 'ole go to it" became a classic of the English language.

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FRANKFURT, Germany — **Peter Townsend**, former RAF group captain, says he has found his optimistic view of life again after his love affair with **Princess Margaret** went to pieces. Travelling around the world and making his film "Around the World with Peter Townsend," he said, has made him recover his personal freedom and regain confidence in his own capabilities.

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VICTORIA—West German Defence Minister **Franz Josef Strauss** said today it is abillion-dollar question as to whether East and West Germany will ever be united. The one possible solution, he told a press conference, was free elections for the whole of Germany.

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BOMBAY—Academician **L. C. Sedov**, chairman of the commission on space travel of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, is confident that "many of us will witness in our lifetime flights of human beings from one planet to another."

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LONDON, Ont.—**Edward Davidson**, 26-year-old London plasterer, and his wife, **Jane** learned Tuesday night that they have won $56,000 in the Jamaica Sweepstakes

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LONDON — **Sir Winston Churchill** says the signs of a thaw in the cold war must not mislead the West into hasty disarmament agreements with Russia. The 84-year-old statesman, addressing an election rally at nearby Woodford Tuesday night, urged caution despite indications "that the long period of suspicion and abuse may be ending."

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HALIFAX—**Charles A. Vaughan** was re-elected by acclamation Tuesday to his third one-year term as mayor of Halifax.

Bolshoi in Peking

TOKYO (AP) — Russia's world famous Bolshoi Ballet gave its first performance in Peking Tuesday night, Peking Radio reported. The group is there in connection with 10th anniversary celebrations of China's Communist government.

Nose cone lost

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A camera-carrying rocket nose cone was lost at sea Tuesday after streaking 85 miles up to photograph hurricane Gracie. A plane sighted the cone in the Atlantic within an hour after it hit the ocean but it was gone by the time a destroyer reached the scene.

SHIRLEY ANN FIELD is among several new young actresses appearing in the Stanley Donen production for Columbia, "Once More, With Feeling," starring Yul Brynner and the late Kay Kendall. The film, made on location in France, is in color.

SUDBURY, Ont. (CP)— The United States steel strike has forced Moose Mountain mine, 35 miles north of here, to stop shipment of iron ore to the U.S. The mine is stockpiling its production, officials said.

B.C. ROUNDUP

Civil servants seek new fund management

VANCOUVER (CP)—Representatives of 11,000 provincial civil servants in British Columbia will be asked at convention this week to approve a resolution urging a change in the administration of their $50,000,000 superannuation fund.

A resolution to present at the annual meeting of the B.C. Government Employees' Association here Friday and Saturday asks that the cabinet and legislation provide for a three-man commission, one an elected employee representative, to administer the fund.

Win salary boost

VANCOUVER (CP) — University of B.C. professors have won salary increases ranging up to $2,200 a year. The increases have gone into effect for the present academic year.

The increases bring basic salaries for full professors and deans to $11,200, associate professors to $8,500, assistant professors to $6,600 and instructors to $5,100.

Seek wider bridges

PENTICTON (CP)—The Similkameen Social Credit Association will ask the party's provincial convention in Vancouver next month to ask the government to adopt a policy of building four-lane bridges on highways.

PTA founder dies

VANCOUVER (CP)—Funeral services will be held today for Mrs. Thomas Conlan, 85, one of the founders of the Parent-Teacher Associations in British Columbia. She died Monday.

In 1916, Mrs. Conlan and the late Mrs. James Muirhead modelled Vancouver's first PTA group.

Convention set

VANCOUVER (CP)—Plans for a campaign to offset "employer propaganda and restrictive labor legislation" will be one of the major topics on the agenda of the B.C. Federation of Labor Convention opening here Monday.

Girl dies of polio

KAMLOOPS (CP)—A five-year-old Indian girl who had received three anti-polio vaccine shots has become British Columbia's fifth polio fatality this year.

Won't back curfew

VICTORIA (CP)—Victoria's police commission Tuesday indicated it is not prepared to enforce a curfew bylaw aimed at keeping children off the streets after 9:30 p.m. Police Chief John Blackstock said enforcing the bylaw would "tie up all the men on the force."

Record heat

MONTREAL (CP)— Hot weather in Montreal Monday and Tuesday broke three temperature records, the Montreal weather office at suburban Dorval said. Tuesday's high of 85.9 degrees, the low was 66.1 and Monday's high of 82.8 degrees all topped existing marks.

Fidel Castro plans to curb Cuban thirst

HAVANA (AP)—Fidel Castro has set out to convert Cuba, once the gayest spot in the Caribbean, into a land long on public beaches and museums—and short on liquor.

For a country where liquor long has flowed free as the Caribbean breezes, the change may be difficult, if not impossible, say Cuban critics of the prime minister.

The bearded rebel chief, a near-teetotler, has taken a drastic step to put the bottle outside the reach of most Cubans. He slapped an almost prohibitive tax of five cents on a bottle of beer, more than $1 on a bottle of rum, and up to $1.80 for brandy, whisky and sparkling wines.

"The abusive use of alcohol is as immoral as the use of heroin drugs," the premier told a television audience in explaining the tax. He added that he imposed it to curb drinking, which he said had increased 300 per cent since January 1.

The money yielded by the tax, he said, will provide work for 20,000 more Cubans a year. He did not explain how.

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