

Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

Dear Sir: Everyone seems to love Betty White. Does she have any enemies? Has she ever made any movies? When is her birthday? We remember her so well from her "Life With Elizabeth" show and hope you'll tell us everything you can about this beautiful and lovable woman—Kathryn Gautier, Brooklyn.

Dear Kathryn: Betty married Allen Ludden (former host of TV's "College Bowl") last year and seems to prefer married life, although she recently guested on "To Tell the Truth." She has never made any movies. Her birthday is Jan. 17.

Dear Mike: Most of your correspondents who object to certain movies are missing the point. As an adult and avid movie-goer, I resent the idea of having to sit through childish, untrue-to-life pictures. After all, European films are much more candid than ours and there is no wave of delinquency over there. What is objectionable in American movies is that to sin is to be condoned. "Splendor in the Grass," for instance, conveyed the idea that the mother is to blame for her child's psychosis because she brought her up to be a virtuous girl. Unnatural situations like these are what warp the minds of young persons, not the actual facts of life.—E.R.T., Arcadia.

Dear E. R. T.: That title is from a poem by Wordsworth: "Nothing can bring back the hour of splendor in the grass, or glory in the flower." Like most poems it has different meanings for different readers. Some might interpret it to mean that lost innocence in a child is tragic. Let's label "Splendor" and its ilk "For Adults Only," shall we?

Dear Mike: I'm glad Albert Finney didn't win the Oscar, do you hear me... GLAD! It was a dirty picture. Now maybe we'll get more like the one made by that wonderful winner, Sidney Poitier.—Frances Morgan, Woodstock, Ill.

Dear Frances: Albert isn't happy. He was all set to rest on his laurels by taking a trip around the world but now he's on his way back to scout around for something cleaner to shoot this year.

Dear Sir: "Captain Newman, M.D." is a good sample of what is wrong with Hollywood. The Leo Rosten novel was a badly written book. The picture is even worse, the usual phony Hollywood garbage. Why don't they take a good book, like J. D. Salinger's "Catcher in the Rye," for instance, and try to make an even better picture? —Albert French, New York City.

Dear Albert: Salinger refuses to sell it to Hollywood. Now you, sir, write vividly (I don't have room to run your entire letter but it IS vivid!) so why don't you crank one out for us?

Dear Mike: Why doesn't Jackie Gleason change his style? We're always reading that he's a heavy drinker. We see enough drunks in our town without seeing them on TV. And what's wrong with Liz Taylor? I feel sorry for her children. Every couple of years they get a new father. I wish they would all get lost so we'd hear no more about them. —R.L.B., Peoria, Ill.

Births have kept around the 4 million plus figure for the past 10 years, but retail sales of baby foods have climbed from \$190 million in 1953 to more than \$300 million in 1963.

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Dear R.L.B.: I wish you'd write more about those characters in Peoria. That's what Hollywood needs: REAL stories about REAL people.

Dear Mike: I am 15 years old. I want to be a professional stuntman. First I wanted to be an actor. Then, through self-analysis, I found I don't have what it takes, that certain magnetism that draws people to you as an individual. I know no one out there, yet Hollywood is part of me and, in some large or small capacity, I must be at this hospital is responsible for my being here. He tried to look innocent when he signed me in. Well, he's at the bottom of all this. He had previously threatened me with:

Dear Robert: You stay right where you are till you're old enough to vote. And then, if you still want to bust some bones, come on out. But bring your own liniment.

Dear Sir: One of the doctors at this hospital is responsible for my being here. He tried to look innocent when he signed me in. Well, he's at the bottom of all this. He had previously threatened me with:

Dear W.T.: There are worst things than losing your TV series so do what the Doctor says and get well.

Dear Mike: Please settle an argument. I say the big fat trumpet tooter is Al Hirt and the big fat TV actor Sebastian Lodge are one and the same person. True or false?—Sara Saunders, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sara: I believe you

mean Sebastian Cabot (no kin to Henry Cabot Lodge). No kin any of them, although the two entertainers do resemble each other.

Dear Mr. Connolly: I have written five Christmas songs. They are not rock and roll but are of the good old conventional style and have words and music appealing to the general public. They are "Christmas Wishes," "What Can I Give for Christmas?" "When I Ask You to the Christmas Ball," "Yuletide Tempo," "And Christmas

Angel."—Mrs. Clovis N. Tripson, Victoria, Texas.

Dear Mrs. Tripson: Make demonstration records, send them to reputable publishers (you'll find them under "Music Publishers" in the New York and Los Angeles phone books)—and pray!

Dear Mike: Did you know that Catherine Spaak, the 19-year-old actress who stripped right down to her altogether in "Empty Canvas," came up

here to Las Vegas—and they wouldn't allow her to see any of the nudie shows on the Strip because she was under age? Haw!—Virginia Twadell, Las Vegas, Nev.

Dear Virginia: No, I didn't. Haw!

(Mike Connolly welcomes all readers' questions, but, due to the volume of mail received, it may be some time before the answer to your appears in his column).

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