

Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

Dear Sir: Trashy movies and TV shows are to blame for all the marijuana smoking, drinking, and LSD "trips" among our youngsters today. I'm 60 years old and I know what I'm talking about because I have seen the Slaughter of the Innocents. Before the movies, we lived in an Age of Innocence; after the movies, it became an Age of Degeneracy. The only solution is to put Hollywood out of business. — Anita L. Penton, Albuquerque.

Dear Anita: While you're about it, put the publishers of your so-called Age of Innocence out of business too. I mean the ones who taught you and your fellow Innocents — how to face life in the "good old days": "Jurgen," "Ulysses," "Winesburg, Ohio," "Cytherea," "This Side of Paradise," "The Well of Loneliness," "Sodom and Gomorrah," "Flaming Youth," "The Sheik," "The Vortex," and "The Green Hat." All published, dear lady, between 1919 and 1929, all about as "innocent" as the Marquis de Sade. Look to the parents of today who let their kids run wild, Anita, not to Mary Poppinsville.

Dear Mike: Why are you always ribbing Richard Egan? I think he is a real nice guy. Has he got a brother named Leo and does he drink discreetly too? Tell me something about Richard — where he was born, etc., and say something nice about him. I hope when his baby comes it's a boy. — Ann Conway, Greenfield, Mass.

Dear Ann: Richard says he likes to be ribbed by me, as long as I spell his name right. His only brother is the Rev. Willis Egan, head of the Theology Department at Loyola University here in Los Angeles. He was born July 29, 1921, in San Francisco, where I attended his wedding in 1958 at the Star of the Sea Church, to Patricia Hardy. They, too, want a boy.

Dear Mike: You'd better straighten out your reader, Emma Baessler of Philadelphia. The song "More" did not win an Oscar. It was won that year by my favorite, "Call Me Irresponsible." By the way, do you know if Trevor Howard and the late Leslie Howard were related? — J. Miller, Norwood, Pa.

Dear J.: If Emma's read-

ing, she's straightened out. Trevor Howard (real name, Trevor Smith) is no kin to Leslie Howard (real name, Leslie Steiner).

Dear Mr. C.: Would you be kind enough to let me know if the baby which the delightful Elizabeth Montgomery has in "Bewitched" is her own? Since she is married to Bill Asher, the producer of that show, I would say nepotism starts early. — Eric Stearne, Berkeley.

Dear Eric: You would be wrong to say that because the baby, John Allan Jr., isn't related to them. Like his daddy, he is a card-carrying member of the Screen Actors' Guild.

Dear Mr. C.: I read your comments about Eleanor Parker and her Oscar nominations. Whether or not she failed to win an Oscar because she failed to promote herself is not important. I resent the comment that Vivien Leigh, Judy Holliday, and Anna Mag-nani, who beat her, were better actresses. It may be true they gave better performances those years; that, however, does not make them better actresses. There are many who believe her performance in "Caged" was better than Miss Holliday's in "Born Yesterday." I was shocked that she wasn't nominated for "Sound of Music," as she was outstanding in a very difficult role. I'm anxious to see "The Oscar," even if it is a sordid, bad movie, if only to see Eleanor Parker give her usual memorable portrayal. — John Bertrand, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.

Dear John: I'm glad you spoke up for Eleanor. It's much better for others to rave about her than for Eleanor to do so or to make sour-grape remarks. She's brilliant in "The Oscar," so good she went right into "An American Dream" with Stuart Whitman and from that goes into "The Warning Shot" with David Janssen.

Mike Connolly will try to answer your questions in his column. He gives no personal replies by mail.)

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