



the reactor

by Paul Azevedo

Perhaps you saw the movie "American Graffiti" at the Seavue the other day. I went because I wanted to see if it reflected my memories of the time it depicted, the early sixties.

Sure enough, it did. The movie seems to have taken every cliché and hung it up for public viewing. The drag racer—the school dance—hair styles—the teen-age hangout drive-in restaurant, cruising main street, the radio disc jockey listened to by every kid in town—they were all there.

The slang came back in a rush, words and phrases so clever then and so dated today. The movie was a useful reminder of the way things were.

WHAT WILL the 1978 version of "American Graffiti" be? When they make it, around 1990, what will it be about us and our kids that will strike the movie-goer as most dated, most cliché ridden?

Will the music of 1990 have continued its downhill slide, a slide that started in the 1950s and hasn't stopped yet?

After all, the musical groups that are most popular today are not just parodies, but parodies of parodies. What else can you call ghoulish oddballs like Alice Cooper or the Sex Pistols? Could there be parodies of Alice Cooper? I hope not, but then I thought Elvis Presley was as bad as we could go. I just couldn't believe the American capacity for self-punishment.

WHEN THAT parody film is made, extreme religions like the moonies and Hare Krishnas, and odd cults like est and the Church of Scientology will come in for their share of parody.

What else will be satirized? Probably house plants, recycling, jogging, health foods, and Jimmy Carter.

Jacqueline Onassis and Grace Kelly will be 60 years old, Suzanne Somers in her early 40s. Today's Terra Nova seniors will be about 30, most of them well into raising families.

WILL MARRIAGE return to popularity, or will today's high school kids have developed new habits of moving in together, splitting casually and repeatedly with no more thought than square dancers give to swinging their partners?

Will California's nude beaches be played for laughs? Or will nudity be so commonly accepted that wearing clothes will be parodied?

Will the abortion controversy have been resolved? If so, what will the consensus be?

WILL TODAY'S humorless women's lib advocates be ripe for satire in 1990, dated, laughable relics of the mid-70s?

Which of today's deadly serious fads will be funniest, come 1990? I wish I could know. What an insight into the future that would be.

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