



"If It Fitz. . ." FBI movie critic

By Jim Fitzgerald

"What you see on film is not what you see in reality," that's what Rep. Michael Myers, D-Pa., said about the FBI movie that shows him selling his political influence to an undercover FBI agent for \$50,000. Since the movie is now being shown on national TV, Myers is competing for the Emmy award as best actor in a leading role in a dramatic series.

If Myers doesn't win, he would blame the FBI, which provided a sleazy showcase for his talents.

In the first place, the movie was made in black and white. Only a movie-maker of Woody Allen's filly can pull this off successfully. In a couple of movies, Woody skipped technicolor for the sake of darkness. He didn't want brilliant hues to detract from the reality of his characters. Woody was wise

enough to realize that starkness and rosy cheeks do not go hand in hand, not even in movies rated R.

It was unfair of the FBI to make Myers appear stark. The basis of Myers' defense against charges that he accepted a bribe is that he is an alcoholic and, in fact, acted in the movie while under the influence of "FBI bourbon." A common characteristic of a drunk is a red nose. Black-and-white film deprived Myers of the opportunity to display the color of his nose.

Also, the FBI uses subtitles throughout its Abscam movies. The words printed across the bottom of the screen give casual viewers the impression they have tuned in one of those foreign films which are usually shown only in art theaters to audiences made up of espresso drinkers. Following the commandment of their bumper stickers, many TV watchers refuse to watch imported movies. It is likely that they quickly switch channels on the Myers movie, thus robbing him of the viewership most likely to appreciate his acting and to stump for his nomination as an Emmy candidate.

To compound the injustice, the FBI subtitles constantly give the correct time, ticking off the seconds as they expire. People are accustomed to seeing the clock wind down on TV only during the final moments of football games. It is natural that many viewers are dismayed when Myers doesn't know enough to wait for the two-minute warning to be

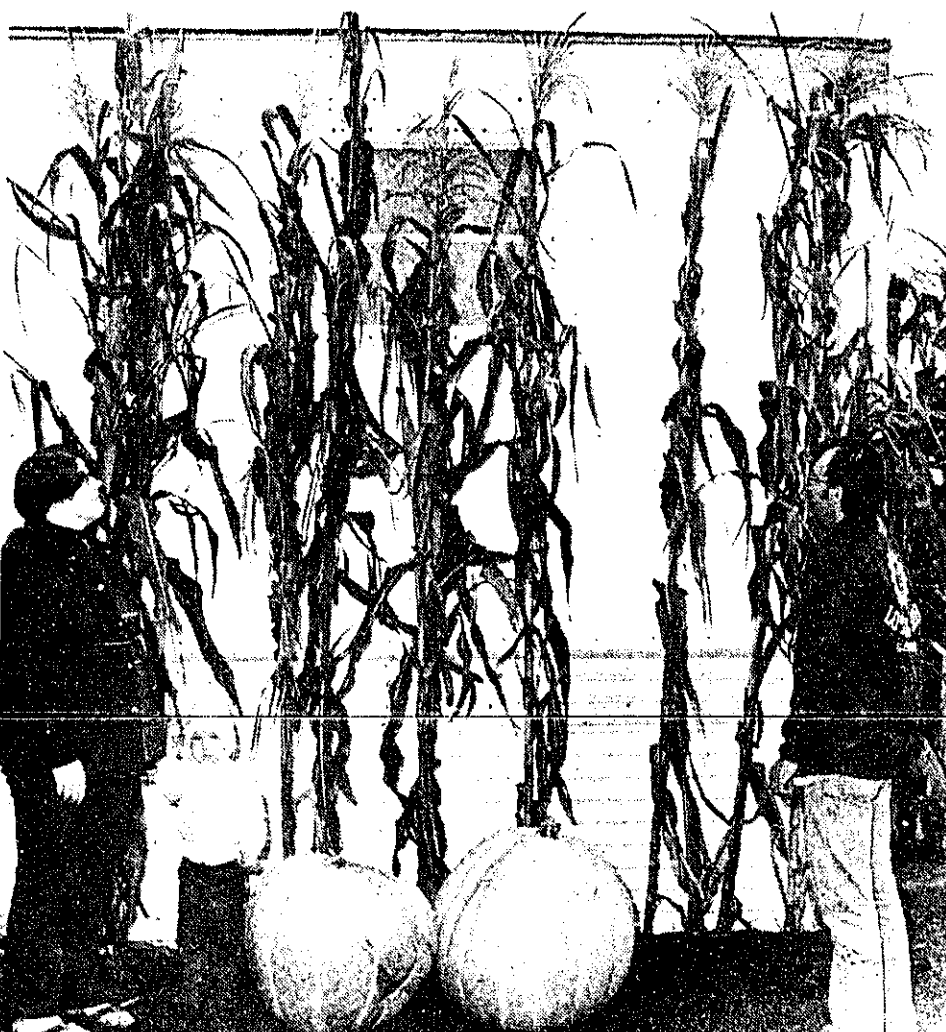
sounded before running out of bounds to stop the clock. Besides, the movie was filmed in a stark motel room (again, Technicolor was needed) reminiscent of a pornographic movie, and it's difficult for an audience to empathize with a quarterback who appears ready to strip down to black socks.

But it's probably unfair to me to carp. The Abscam films are the FBI's first attempt at making movies for TV viewing. Up until now, the FBI's only real experience in show business was creating a scenario for a Walt Disney-type fantasy in which an actress was portrayed as impregnated by a Black Panther. Movies based on fact are tougher to make, but I'm sure the FBI will get the hang of it before too many congressmen are able to retire unjailed.

I hope the FBI is watching the baseball play-offs and World Series on TV. While ballplayers are performing, TV shows close-ups of their wives sitting in the grandstand. It is pure art to let the home audience see the changes in the wives' expressions as their husbands strike out or hit home runs. This technique would be effective in FBI movies.

Specifically, I'm thinking of Rita Jenrette, the attractive wife of Rep. John Jenrette Jr., D-S.C., who also acted as a bribe-taker in an FBI movie. In a news conference after Jenrette's conviction for bribery, Mrs. Jenrette stood behind her husband and stroked his back. She presented the most appealing picture of blind love since Mo Dean stood behind John.

Besides dropping the subtitles and adding Technicolor, when the FBI makes its next TV movie starring a congressman, it should also include close-ups of his wife reacting as he either catches or fumbles the envelope containing the money. This type of poignant, unstarred drama will surely pay off at Emmy Award time. The congressman will probably be invited to immortalize his fingerprints in wet cement in front of the J. Edgar Hoover Building.



UP AND OUT -- Jean and Bill Phillips of Grassmere Road, Grant township, like to grow things big. The two pumpkins weigh 120 and 160 pounds and the tallest of the sweet corn stalks measures 12 ft., 7 in. Holding on to her mother is daughter Beth Ann, 2.

Walbro quarterly earnings increase

Lambert E. Althaver, president and chief operating officer of Walbro Corp., has announced that net sales from consolidated operations for the three months ended Sept. 30, were \$9,838,792, compared with \$9,482,731 for the same period in 1979.

Net earnings were \$187,531, up from \$60,636 for the same period in 1979. Per share earnings were 24 cents on 778,820 shares outstanding, compared with 8 cents per share on 778,864 shares outstanding on Sept. 30, 1979.

Althaver reported that sales of Walbro's small engine carburetors, automotive products and plastics parts were lower than during the same quarter last year.

Sales of aluminum and magnesium die castings produced by Walbro's Auburn Diecast subsidiary were up considerably over the same period in 1979. He attributed the increase to automotive industry purchases and to the fact that Diecast experienced a two-month strike during the corresponding period in 1979.

Althaver pointed out that

while overall sales volume produced some increase in earnings during the third quarter compared to 1979, continued increases in costs and interest charges resulted in a drop in earnings as compared with the second quarter of 1980.

He expects sales of all Walbro product lines to continue at present levels during the fourth quarter.

The Haire Net



An active interested school board with the proper objectives can be a boon to any educational system.

An active interested school board with improper objectives can stymie the best of systems.

If that's so, the next question, obviously, is what are the proper objectives and how are they best achieved?

The objective is the best education possible for the children and the board's proper role should be the insistence upon policies that reach it.

It appears that the current Cass City board is wrapping itself in details of operation to the detriment of the school and the kids.

The current squabble over Mrs. Joyce Crouse's beef with the board and the wrestling with the question of fringes for supervisors are cases in point.

I'd agree that Supt. Don Crouse probably showed uncharacteristic questionable judgement in attempting to place his wife in the system.

The flip-flop of the board leaves a lot to be desired, too.

Those things happen. It's over and what we have is face-saving holding up the final solution. Let's sign the apology and get on with the business at hand. It would be very hard to rationalize an expensive court case for the system for such a meager cause.

It's the same with the fringe benefit question. It would be hard for the board to justify a decision delay to taxpayers if it resulted in union organization of all the supervisors in the system.

But the problem facing the board is greater than these issues.

It appears that some board members are attempting to involve themselves in the day-to-day running of the system. That's something which they are unqualified to do even if they are willing to devote the hours necessary to do so, which they haven't in the past.

It's mandatory that the board let the administrators run the school.

If that's so, why have a board at all? There are plenty of areas where the board can be effective. The

board has a right, a duty, to see that the administration looks for new avenues for a better education.

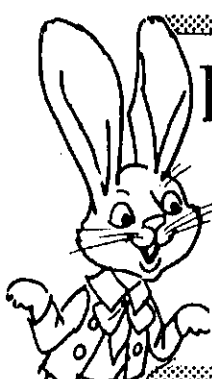
For instance, if a member takes the time to study a system for a special course for bright children that's effective in another school he can bring it to the board and the members can insist that the program be studied for the system.

Then when the cost is known, the board can reject or accept it in the light of what it perceives is best for the kids and the community.

It's true that the present administration has not been overly active in this field. It's equally true that it's very doubtful if this community wants to pay for more than the basic system.

That's the only conclusion you can come to when you consider the reluctance of the voters to vote one more mill for operation at the time when the operating cost per pupil was among the lowest in the state.

That shouldn't be an excuse for either the board or the administration to stop trying. They need to work together for a better education and forget about personalities and petty differences.



Rabbit tracks

By John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

We don't know how the figure is obtained but Marty Rauscher, vice-president of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, says that one industrial job breeds 7 more in firms serving the industry.

I always pause for a second when writing about girls' basketball. I pause when talking about defense. Should I say man-to-man or not?

My mind was made up when I heard one of the girls shout to the team, "Watch it, man-to-man defense." If it's good enough for them it's good enough for me.

Fritz Olson is one who feels that Michigan should have the oil in the Pigeon River State Forest. Is an elk worth \$5 million, Fritz asks?

My answer is no, but the people's right to determine how their land heritage is handled is.

Olson, a reasonable guy, can see both sides to the question and we both agree that a series that ran in the Detroit News early this week laid it all out for Michigan residents.

If there were a race of Cass Cityans on a course from here to Reese my money would be on Doug Grezeszak, teacher at Cass City Schools.

Ron Nurnberger, a health buff himself, reports that Grezeszak ran in the 26-mile marathon in Detroit last week end. . . and finished.

After watching the football game against Marlette Friday I thought, wouldn't it be great if high schools had a 30-point two-quarter rule much like baseball's 10-run agreement.

If at the end of 2 quarters the margin is 30 points or more pack it in for the night.

The weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Wednesday	50	38	.51
Thursday	54	42	.02
Friday	54	39	.15
Saturday	64	35	.13
Sunday	57	38	0
Monday	56	31	0
Tuesday	54	31	.07

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Cass City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on its proposed zoning ordinance amendment allowing living quarters in buildings in the B-1 Community Business District. The meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. October 27, 1980 at the Municipal Building, 6737 Church Street, Cass City, MI.

Joyce LaRoche
Village Clerk

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION ON OUR OCTOBER CLOSING TIME

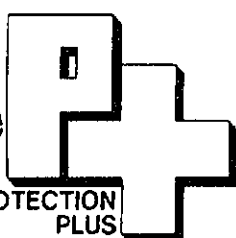
After 50 years in Cass City it's time for us to quit. Our thanks to all of you for your patronage and consideration.

Randy Bergh, our associate, will service the electrical needs of the area in a business of his own.

Our best wishes to him and to each of you.

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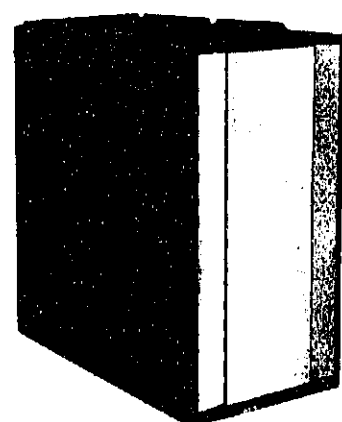
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