








## MOVIE RATINGS

By Mr. First Nighter

Movie	Rating	Explanation
Dances with Wolves		Another Politically Correct picture with all Injuns noble and all whites evil (except Kevin Costner, of course). Who needs it?
Mr. and Mrs. Bridge		Acting good, especially Paul Newman playing sturdy, admirable Old Culture and Old Right upper-middle-class Mid-Westerner. But you are <i>supposed</i> to be opposed to Newman's "repressed" and old-fashioned character, and the movie dribbles along, pointlessly. Joanne Woodward overrated as dim "oppressed" wife.
Godfather, Part III		With reservations. Best movie of the year but not in the same league as giants I and II. Too downbeat, too dominated by crumbling Pacino character, not enough emphasis on excellent young successor as head of the Corleone <i>famiglia</i> , Andy Garcia. Some good murder-of-Pope John Paul I revisionism, but no mention of the Masonic connection. Garcia for Godfather IV?
Pretty Woman		Pleasant little movie, bitterly attacked by Left as "unrealistic" and pro-yuppie materialism. Actually, one more invulnerable and charming whore-with-heart-of-gold-redeemed by true love tradition. So what if true love is aggressive young millionaire financier, also redeemed by true love?
The Silence of the Lambs		Features a psychotic, murderous, cannibal shrink, therefore hailed by the Left as offering profound insight into the human condition.
Alice		Woody Allen's latest, <i>not funny</i> at all. Instead, left-wing message picture. Dumpy, whiny Mia Farrow plays bored rich wife who magically Learns About Herself by taking magic potions from elderly, creaky Asiatic Healer. Therefore she scraps wealth, goes to India to commune with Mother Theresa, and learns to love the simple virtues of poverty. Pass it up.
Scenes From a Mall		Woody Allen funny <i>as actor</i> in Paul Mazurky's pleasant little movie, and meshes well with Bette Midler, fortunately toned down for the occasion. But it is too thin, one joke stretched for two hours about a married couple who celebrate their anniversary, break up, and reunite, all within the confines of a Beverly Hills mall. Predictable, throughout.

- M.N.R.

*(Hose Down...cont. from P.13)*  
ought to understand—indeed feel a kinship with—fungus, refused to listen.

Meanwhile, farmers in the central valley get federally subsidized water welfare—\$8 per acre foot rather than \$200 to non-farmers. As a result, millions of acre-feet drain away in earthen ditches and evaporate in prodigal spray systems. If farmers had to pay the real price, they would install drip-irrigation systems and line their ditches with concrete, or go out of business. But lobbying in Washington and Sacramento keeps them in water at the expense of dried-out homeowners and taxpayers in the rest of the state.

Despite what government judges have held, water is too precious to be left to the politicians. Only private, competitive water companies and a free price system can solve the water problem. That would be the *real* Big Green initiative. ●

**Water is too precious to be left to the politicians.**

## Mr. Bush's Recession

by L.H.R., Jr.

President Bush and his advisers have finally said that well, yes, perhaps, just possibly, maybe, yeah, we are in a recession. But nothing to worry about, voters.

In fact, we are in a grim economic slide that the Bush administration has made worse.

Presidents pretend that slumps are part of the natural order, like droughts or floods. They want credit for good times, but when the bad times hit, it's: "Who, me?"

In fact, busts, and the booms that precede them, are products of executive-branch monetary policy. Nor is the Federal Reserve autonomous. As Fed chairman Arthur Burns once pointed out, if the central bank didn't do what the White

House wanted, it would lose its independence (*i.e.* its lush lifestyle).

When the Fed expands the money supply, it causes a synthetic boom by artificially lowering interest rates. This causes businessmen to borrow and invest more than they would otherwise, and more than actual consumer savings can pay for. The inevitable result is a correction. Most businesses are profitable most of the time. When—all at once—many businesses become unprofitable, you know the government is at fault.

That has been the story of every previous boom and bust in this century, and this one is no different. The Fed expanded money and credit from 1982 on, creating the apparent prosperity of the 80s. Then it slowed the rate of expansion, to preserve the dollar internationally.

Yet a recession need not last long—provided the Fed doesn't expand again, and the market is left free to adjust. The post-World War I depression, for example, was over quickly

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