Fashion Focus '78

Fashion was the order of the day last Sunday afternoon in the Russell House Ballroom as the Alpha Phi Alpha Sweethearts presented “Fashion Focus '78.” The show featured the latest in fashion and a forecast of fashion to come in 1978. Jackie Greene, shown here, was one of the 13 models who presented the looks in fashion to the audience. Clothing was furnished by several Columbia Mall clothing stores.

War film has message despite foul language

By AMY SPIEGEL
Gamecock Staff Writer

“The Boys in Company C,” now playing at Bush River Mall Theater, ties drama, humor, and numerous four letter words together to show the life of one regiment in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. There is a message in the film if one can sort out the foul language.

Alvin Foster tells the story of Troop 163, United States Marine Corps, through daily entries in his journal. The viewer experiences a month of the soldiers’ lives at war. The objective of their existence is to replace other American troops in Vietnam who have not been fortunate enough to combat the Viet Cong successfully.

Before the men leave the United States, they know their chance of survival is 50 percent. The troops are told at the beginning of their training that they will fully utilize the teamwork principle. They will depend on each other just to stay alive. The facts are grim. Everyone knows it, but the commander occasionally tells the men’s minds off of war by diverting their thoughts through the game of soccer. The men don’t understand the commander’s logic at all and they soon develop a growing dislike and hatred for him.

DIRECTOR Sidney J. Purie hopes to portray life in war as it actually was. Throughout the film foul language dominates the military’s vocabulary. At times, the repetition and force of these words emphasize the ugliness of war.

In the beginning we see a crew of young men leaving their loved ones to begin training in the great Marine Corps. The members of troop 163 include a peace and love child of the ‘60s, an Italian from the streets of New York, an accomplished high school athlete, a journalist and a black civil rights advocate.

The Marines strip these men of their individuality and personality. Pozio, a young man with an overzealous libido, restores some humanity for the men when he steals Foster’s journal back from the officers after they have seized it as contraband.

The men have never seen a dead person, and their first encounter with death is a gruesome one. In training, they become used to all the silly

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Bluegrass band entertains with down home music

By TERESA MCLAIR
Gamecock Staff Writer

The finest entertainment at USC often arrives unheralded and leaves acclaimed. The Unity Bluegrass Band appeared at the Booker T. Washington Center Sunday night and played grassroots and creative bluegrass to a small crowd for two hours. Their performance was enthusiastic and they showed much talent. The concert was sponsored by the Bahá’í Club.

“DAVE AND EARL’S BREAKDOWN,” written by two of the band members, opened the concert with a fast, light-hearted note. An old Bill Monroe, “the daddy of bluegrass” tune was delivered in a clear, smooth voice by lead singer Haydy Mahr.

Some tricky cross picking on the mandolin for “Stormy Creek” was performed by mandolin player Dave Neldig. Guitarist Mark Harris strummed his guitar moving the beat into a spirited gospel, “Cry Unto the Lord.”

The band’s numbers were polished and their personal arrangement added a special flavor to “Stony River,” “The Wagash Cannonball” and “I Am a Pilgrim.” Doug Minard, one of the old favorites, “Foggy Mountain Breakdown” and “Orange Blossom Special,” Adrian McCall’s bass fiddle strengthened many of the songs especially, “Bile Dem Cabbage Down.”

Throughout the show members of the band ribbed and insulted one another. Doug Minard said his jokes were even older than those for the audience.

ANNOUNCED AS America’s favorite pastime, “Rollin’ in My Sweet Baby’s Arms,” was sung by banjo player Dave Braugman, a rough bold voice. “Satin Doll” pitted a mandolin lead against the banjo in an instrumental resembling old soft shoe numbers.

The audience joined in the last number, “Will the Circle Be Unbroken.” As with all the band’s harmonies the sound was melodious and clean.

The Unity Bluegrass Band began five years ago as a jug and string group. Mahr and Braugman are the only original members left. Their first album, released by Castle Productions, is “Gettin’ Around Tutt.” McKee said the title was what they had finally done in recording the album, getting around to it.

“WE ALL HAVE FULLTIME jobs but would like to play fulltime this summer because our music is what makes us happy,” Mahr said. This happiness was apparent in their performance.

Members of the band are followers of the Bahá’í faith and performed this free concert for the USC Bahá’í’s. Seals and Crofts and England Dan and John Ford Cooley also adhered to the Bahá’í teachings.