

Guest Editorial

'SICKO' Is the Best Science Fiction Film of the Summer

By Diana Ernst

The wait is over. Michael Moore's "SICKO" has hit the theaters. For 123 minutes, the film delivers to the audience a cultural healthcare of Europe, Cuba and Canada, while denouncing the American system.

Moore calls it a documentary, but it's so far removed from reality, it really ought to be categorized as science fiction.

For example, the film repeatedly attacks America's "for-profit" health care, yet ignores the fact that 85 percent of U.S. hospitals are non-profit, and almost half of privately insured Americans have policies from non-profit health insurers.

At a recent press conference, Moore railed against the Martin Luther King Jr. Harbor hospital in Los Angeles, where a patient died of a perforated bowel after lying on the emergency room floor for 45 minutes.

Since 2004, the hospital has received more than a dozen state and federal safety citations. Hospital errors included the patient's untreated, unhealed pneumonia, which resulted in death for three of them, giving patients the wrong medications, and using Taser stun guns to restrain psychiatric patients.

This hospital is not owned by the County of Los Angeles. So much for reliable government care. Even the private insurers Moore criticizes are not free of government interference that raises the cost of their health policies. Most states force insurers to sell health policies to anyone with mandates that many individuals would not voluntarily purchase.

In some states, mandated benefits have raised the cost of individual health insurance by as much as 45 percent. In New Jersey, for example, it's ac-

OPINION

Bond's Broadcast

The first 15 days of July brought many things into my life.

Let me first say hello to you, my granddaughter, *Sadie Jo Bond*. She was born at 11:41 a.m. July 11, 2007 (11:17 on Harrison Memorial Hospital). She weighed nine pounds and four ounces and was 19.25 inches long. More on this later...

First, on July 7 Carol and Beth (more than her letter) conspired and executed my birthday present.

If ever there's a life-long Reds baseball fan you're reading his column.

I love for the Reds no matter what the record and no matter what the score. I may trade them, I don't like and especially when they're losing, I may even cheer it.

"SICKO" also ignores the Canadian Supreme Court's decision that government monopoly health care violates basic human rights.

The girls, with Amy Jo helping out, really got one over on me. I must say my wife Marilyn was also in on it. I had made big plans for Saturday and was getting ready to get started when Carol walked in the door with three tickets and said "Let's really go going to the ballpark."

I asked her, "When?"

Needless to say I was taken aback. It probably took

headed for Great American Ballpark I told the girls we could possibly eat again. No one argued.

If over this kind of mind that at this point Beth is in her ninth month of pregnancy and I'm wearing my mental walking and climbing would be somewhat limited.

She had told her sister she didn't care if she was nine months along she was going to the ballpark.

When Lito to a professional ballgame I try to arrive in time for hitting practice. I find it very enjoyable to watch the teams warm up in preparation for the ballgame.

One of those restaurants is Abuelo's Mexican Food which prepares some of the very best Mexican food I have ever eaten. It is a chain, which the Bonds first experienced in Abilene and Midland, Texas.

Carol and Beth spent some time looking over the menu but I had already made up my mind.

Abuelo's has this dish with two beef tenderloin medallions and three stuffed shrimp. Each is wrapped in bacon before they are cooked. You also get some salsa and a dish of Mexican cooked beans. I am telling you, it is a culinary experience everyone should have at least once.

I had my choice of this or eating at the ballpark.

Once we had finished and

OPINION

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky
By Charles Mattox

Eighteen hundred and sixty-two.

There in the echo of Summer marches the host of the Orphan Brigade.

Lit by their banners, in hope's best arrays.

Five thousand strong, never again hath borne might as this bears it forth in that morn:

Hastings and Cress, Nashville, Dunbar, Copens and Yorktown.

Eighteen hundred and sixty-four.

The Devil is dead and the Lord is alive.

The Devil is dead and the Lord is alive.

Rich, O God, is thy harvest.

That legion hath marched past the setting of sun: Boston's Navy, victor, and the hills they shake with the roar of their drums.

Eighteen hundred and sixty-three.

Barring Sherman's march to the sea -

Eighteen hundred and sixty-two.

Well have they paid to the roll of their muffled drums.

Close up, steady! The half are yet here!

Eighteen hundred and sixty-five.

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Shaler fought on the side of the Union Army during the American Civil War. Like many Union soldiers Shaler came to admire and respect his drafted Kentucky Confederate foes that made up the Orphan Brigade.

Nicholas County native and Confederate soldier of the 4th Regiment of the Orphan Brigade, Lt. D. Young used the poem as his introduction to his book "Reminiscences of a Soldier of the Orphan Brigade."

Young dedicated his book to "All of those who were the gray, their children, and children's children," and I have been drawn deeper and deeper into the story of Young's life during the American Civil War.

Of the 5,000 members, in 1861, who began their service for the Confederate 1st Brigade of Kentucky, later affectionately named the Orphan Brigade, there would be scarcely 500 tattered and torn survivors among them at the war's conclusion.

It Young was lucky, and although he was horribly wounded at the Battle of Jonesboro on Sept. 1, 1864.

He eventually headed after six months, and at the conclusion of the war, as a prisoner of war, he then returned to Nicholas County, married Belle Davis and became a prominent farmer and respected family man.

The images of the various battlefields over which he fought and the bellish images he saw never dimmed however, and those images haunted him throughout his life.

The images of Shiloh, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Stone River, Dalton, Dallas, The 100 Days, Atlanta and Jonesboro.

Especially Jonesboro. The site of his last military engagement where he lost his two dearest companions.

He returned to the scene of that horrific battle several years after nearly perishing there, and he wrote about his memories on that return trip.

I see, in my mind's eye, the raging conflict and hear the cannon's mighty roar, the screaming shot and shell and the ping and whistle of the deadly Minnie typical of the war.

Imagine my grief on reaching the ambulance (assisted by comrades) to find my bonny friend (and by many people to be my double), Esau Robert H. Lindsay of Scott County, in the ambulance, he having received a mortal wound from which he died that night while lying upon the same blanket with myself. The reader can imagine my feelings when the dawn of morning came and I threw back the blanket that covered us and behold his noble countenance

OPINION

Veloz Viewpoints

Greetings from Nevada! I hope you are all having a great week.

I certainly am! What a week. It is official... as of Tuesday, July 24, 2007 I will be staying at home Monday full-time. And I couldn't be happier about it!

Ben and I have been discussing the pros and cons of me continuing to work versus staying at home since the babies were born, well actually since I got pregnant. Having a double in coming by the only real pro in the conversation.

But, when you factor in child care for two children, which runs about \$300 a month (not for infants) and the gas for my car to travel 125 miles a day, plus the wear and tear on my car, it really isn't a double income.

We have been working hard to get our bills to a manageable level for several months now and we believe we are there. I'm not saying it is going to be easy as far as things ever are, but I truly believe we are going to be able to make it do.

Once I had given my notice, my heart rate slowed back down to a level that I could no longer hear it. I tell you, I felt like I was in a car, then you can see their heart beating out of their chest (usually done to show they love someone). Once it calmed down I felt somewhat normal.

My face cooled back down and for the rest of the day on I just had a smile on my face. It was a tough decision, don't get me wrong, but every time I would look at a picture of my baby I would reassure me that it truly was the only decision.

Now, the air conditioning in the office, but my face was on fire. My heart was pounding out of my chest. Quitting is not easy no matter what the reason.

When I told my boss she took it very well. She told me she greatly admired my decision and we discussed my continuing to work for them on a freelance basis from home. This will be a little supplemental income for those days when I want to go buy a new pair of jeans.

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Takin' Fun from the Mountains

Franklin D. Roosevelt is the questioned asked: "This law requires a corporation to act as a protection to future administrations of the government against the necessity of going deeply into debt to furnish relief to the needy."

George W. Bush: "The (Democratic) American Revolution."

John F. Kennedy: "To announce that there must be no criticism of the president, or that we are to stand by the president, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American Republic."

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The VICISSITUDES OF WAR AND MY QUEST TO HONOR AN ORPHAN

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The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Monday.

Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@carlislemercury.com or faxed to 859-234-2032 to confirm that the letter was received.

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