

their devotion, they crawl painfully towards one another until, caked with blood and dust, they are close enough to fall into a final passionate embrace. This triumph of glands over matter is the crudest assault on human dignity which I can recall seeing in a fiction film.

Duel in the Sun opened simultaneously at two theatres in Wellington. There are no doubt sound business reasons for that kind of tactic—it presumably enables you to fool twice the people in half the time.

THE BISHOP'S WIFE

(Goldwyn)

COMMAND performance or no Command performance, *The Bishop's Wife* is, I suspect, going to cause a certain amount of spiritual discomfort among those who take their Christianity seriously. And that is a great pity, for, apart from the one lapse which overshadows the picture, *The Bishop's Wife* is a gentle and amusing piece of fantasy.

The lapse from good taste of which the producer is guilty (it can hardly be called blasphemy, since that implies the intent to blaspheme) lies in presenting Cary Grant as an angel, and then threatening to involve him as the eternal angle in a triangle.

By drawing its supernatural visitants from Mount Olympus, or more indeterminate celestial regions, Hollywood has in the past managed to produce some quite passable fantasies — most filmgoers will have pleasant recollections of Mr. Jordan and his associates—but that particular brand of pixilated whimsy does not fit very happily into the pattern of revealed religion.

As a sort of plainclothes Santa Claus (it is a Christmas story) Cary Grant is a pleasant if somewhat sentimental person. The Rt. Rev. David Niven seems a little nervous and unsure of himself for a Bishop (it is possibly a more

nerve-racking job in the States), but Wellingtonians at least could enjoy the problems he encounters in trying to raise money for a cathedral. Loretta Young makes a demurely attractive bishop's wife, Monty Woolcott—Woolley, I mean—is all one expects of him, and there are James Gleason and Elsa Lanchester for good measure. The cast, in short, is good, and even though the story were hock-deep in whimsy, I might have been pleasantly entertained by it had Cary Grant not, on his first encounter with the Bishop, announced quite cheerfully, "I'm Dudley—I'm an angel. No wings at the moment," and then gone on to remind Mr. Niven that "we are interested even in the lowliest sparrow."

I won't deny that most of the dialogue was harmless and some of it was good. I will admit that once or twice I laughed loudly (when, for example, Dudley remarked that if any letters came for him the stamps would be worth saving), but the vestigial remnants of a congenital calvinism kept me in a constant prickle of discomfort. I'm sorry that what might have been a pleasant film was spoiled for some (others may find it quite acceptable), but I am more sorry that those who wrote the story and produced the picture did not have the savvy to realise that what they were doing could cause offence.

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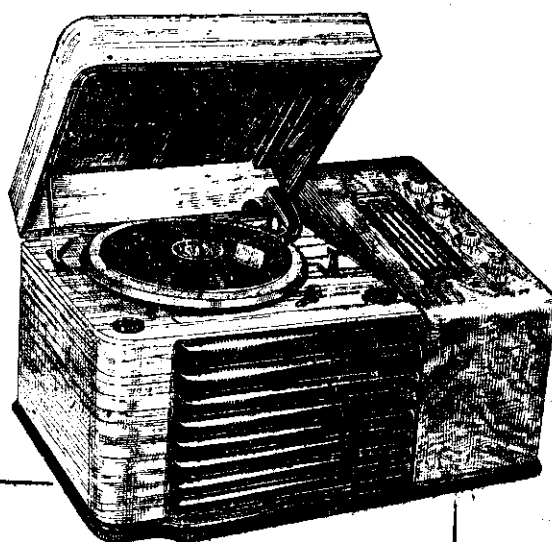
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Stations, Frequencies, Wavelengths and Times of Transmission: VLQ, 9.66 mc/s., 31.06 metres (9.0 a.m.-2.0 a.m.); VLH5, 15.23, 19.69 (11.30 a.m.-5.15 p.m.); VLH3, 9.58, 31.32 (8.30 p.m.-2.0 a.m.); VLR, 9.54, 31.45 (10.30 a.m.-8.15 a.m.); VLR2, 6.15, 48.78 (8.30 p.m.-2.0 a.m.).

Headlines in the Programmes: The Harmoniques (8.0 p.m., Sunday, VLQ), Guest of Honour (9.15 p.m., Sunday, VLQ), Australian Walkabout (10.0 p.m., Sunday, VLQ), Cinemusical (11.30 p.m., Sunday, VLQ), Radio Repertory (9.30 p.m., Monday, VLR2), Wilfred Thomas Show (10.20 p.m., Monday, VLQ), Discussion (10.45 p.m., Monday, VLR2), Moods and Melodies (11.15 p.m., Tuesday, VLQ), ABC Hit Parade (9.15 p.m., Wednesday, VLQ), Nation's Forum of the Air (10.0 p.m., Wednesday, VLR2), Harmony and Hokum (9.15 p.m., Thursday, VLQ), The Screen Presents (10.0 p.m., Thursday, VLQ), Bob Dyer (9.15 p.m., Friday, VLQ), Radio Rodeo (10.0 p.m., Friday, VLQ), Over to Youth (10.30 p.m., Friday, VLR2), Saturday Night Concert (10.0 p.m., Saturday, VLQ), Village Glee Club (11.15 p.m., Saturday, VLQ).

At 8.30 p.m. daily (except Sunday) Sportscast—a review of the day's sport—is broadcast from both VLQ and VLH3 and the daily programme summary is heard from VLQ (Inter-State) at 8.55 p.m. and VLR2 (National) at 8.58 p.m. each day.