

# Colonists Fight Change in 'Fratricides'

THE FRATRICIDES by Maurice Edelman; Random House; New York; 1962; 206 pp.; \$4.95

Reviewed by MARIAN TRAINOR

Too often change is equated with defeat. This unfortunate truth embodies the theme of "The Fratricides," a powerful novel depicting the struggle of a group of French colonists who refused to accept the change from French domination in Algeria to Algerian independence.

The time is 1962. The scene, Algeria in the last terror-ridden weeks before the Evian peace agreement. The French had ruled Algeria since 1830. After the Second World War the demands for independence

of the Moslem population became translated into political and military movements.

In 1964 under the leadership of the FLN Front de Liberation Nationale) Algeria was emancipated.

However, settlement was thwarted by the OAS (Organisation de l'Armee Secrete) who inhabited that Algeria was French and must always remain so.

In order to deal with this French rebellion, the French Government had to rely on trustworthy elements in the army, including an undercover body known as Bar-bouzes. These men incurred the hatred of the OAS, which was intensified by the fact that members

of each body had fought side by side in the French Resistance during the Second World War.

This fratricidal year in Algeria resulted in thousands of casualties. In March, 1962, 70 per cent of the French population abandoned their native Algeria for Metropolitan France.

THAT IS HISTORY. How the events which shaped that history tragically affected individuals is Edelman's story.

His most vividly drawn character is Dr. Hassid, an Algerian Jew. Dr. Hassid is kindly, learned and wise. He is a dedicated man who is determined to treat the ailing regardless of their nationality.

He deplores the violence which is rampant and wishes that his countrymen would put their energies to constructive work.

"How many cathedrals have we built in France? How many have we built in Algeria in this century?" he asks. France's chief ambition today is to build nuclear weapons. We live in an age of nihilism.

SHARING HIS home is Eliane, his daughter who is married to a leader of the OAS. Her life becomes complicated when she becomes involved with a counter-intelligence agent sent from France to fight the OAS.

Eliane's situation is accentuated because she is her father's daughter and shares his gentle nature. She is terrified and puzzled by what Algeria has become.

"I'm frightened in Algeria," she cries. "I'm frightened because of all the children who no longer go to school and the men lying dead in

the street. I'm frightened at all the terrible things that are done in the name of goodness."

EVEN DR. HASSID is roused to denounce a society in which the assassin is an object of hero-worship, in which self-interest and betrayal are a matter of course, in which treason masquerades as patriotism. He pleads:

"The bloodstained pavement is a familiar aspect of our city. Killers, hirelings, deserters and adolescents, who do not understand the cause in which their hands are stained, terrorize the streets. Once upon a time, they could claim they fought an alien enemy. Today their enemy is their own kith and kin. They kill and burn blindly and indiscriminately. Algerians. Shall Algeria live or die?"

AND FINALLY when a society whom he has befriended and loved demands that he betray his own life, he patiently observes:

"You have accused me of treason to France. Those words are painful to a man who shed his blood, who would have given his own life and gave his son's for his country. Treason is a word with subjective significance."

"The Fratricides" is an exciting novel. There is the suspense of espionage, the confusion of plots, the terror of torture, but basically, it is a thought-provoking story, a penetrating comment on a changing world.

The first official United States census was taken in 1790. The population at that time was 3,929,214.



## Topic: Shakespeare

Virginia Brose, curator in charge of education, Detroit Institute of Arts, will present a lecture and slide program on "The Age of Shakespeare Exhibition" at the Bloomfield Art Association at 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 20. She has been with the art museum since 1948. Educated at Cornell and Columbia Universities, she formerly was an instructor at the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts from 1955 to 1960.

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## Movie Guide

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**MOVIE**

|                        |        |     |
|------------------------|--------|-----|
| The Cardinal           | A-MY   | A-3 |
| Under the Yum Yum Tree | A      | SC  |
| Eye Bye Birdie         | A-MY-Y | A-3 |
| Colossus of New York   |        | A-2 |
| Space Children         |        | A-1 |

\* recommended as superior entertainment especially for children

**CODE GREEN SHEET**

These audience symbols are intended as broad guides to selection, and do not indicate either recommendation or non-recommendation of films to which they are applied.

**A Adults**  
**MY Mature Young People**  
**Y Young People (12 years to 16 years)**  
**C Children (unaccompanied by adults)**  
**GA General Audience**  
**NATIONAL LEGION OF DECENCY**  
**A-1 Morally Unobjectionable for General Patronage**  
**A-2 Morally Unobjectionable for Adults and Adolescents**  
**A-3 Morally Unobjectionable for Adults**  
**B Morally Unobjectionable in Part for All**  
**C Condemned**  
**SC A separate classification is given to certain films which, while not morally offensive in themselves, require some analysis and explanation as a protection to the uniformed against wrong interpretations and false conclusions.**

March 19, 1964 THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC 3-D

### Junior Salesmen Vie for JA Honors

Christian Flanders of Groves High School, and Larry Ross of Brother Rice, will compete for the title of top Junior Achievement Salesman at a sales banquet which will feature Connecticut Governor John D. Lodge.

Miss Flanders is associated with the Polax Company, which produces Safi-Lite. Ross is with the Bizex Company, manufacturers of place mats.

### Mrs. Berg to Speak

"The Importance of Rhythm, Dancing and Expression for Children" is the topic of Mrs. Harriet Berg at the March 23 meeting of the Mayfair Nursery School beginning at 8 p.m. at the Church of the Shepherd King.

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