

25 January 1974

HW:

This bit by Hoppe has more local relevance than perhaps elsewhere.

Like all cities where "The Exorcist" has been showing, we've had our local quota of ladies fainting after the show after they got out into the foyer where they could be seen succumbing to the ordeal.

In addition, we had a local family in Daly City (these things always happen in Daly City) which was afflicted with poltergeist phenomena and resorted to a Jesuit priest for relief. After duly obtaining approval from the local archbishop, the gentleman from the Society of Jesus armed himself with the appropriate scriptures and bearded the devil right in his own den. Results are undetermined. The local papers had a ball with the story, and the family has gone into ~~seclusion~~ seclusion (elsewhere) so no one really knows whether the poltergeist is gone or not, because, as the priest reasonably points out, it was bugging the family, not the house, and with the family away..... Meanwhile the priest says if he conducts any more exorcism rites he won't tell the papers about it. Strangely, no one is protesting. But the priest makes it plain that he is ready to take on the Devil anywhere, any time. The archbishop has no comment.

jdw

cc: Billy Graham, Gen. Haig. etc.