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By NELSON GEORGE

"The Warriors" has been the most controversial film of 1979. While some critics have praised the film's cinematography and overall technique, other voices have damned it as a sadistic, overly violent film which romanticizes gangs and their actions.

Three deaths have been attributed to those who have seen the film. One occurred in a subway station in Boston. The other two were in California and happened in the theater. All have sparked negative feelings toward "The Warriors" and concern in the Black community that the film will increase gang activity in New York. During the early 1970's Black gangs like the Tomahawks and the Jolly Stompers were popular among school students.

John Gould, Director of Marketing Administration for Paramount Pictures — the company releasing "The Warriors" — feels "these incidents are isolated" and "that the film is not violent." He also

admitted that Paramount had, in an unusual move, pulled the film's entire original advertising campaign.

"The ad was misleading and gave many people the impression that the film was very violent. It is not violent as films go. It was the language that got the film an R rating, not the action."

In *Variety* magazine last week "The Warriors" was listed as the nation's number one box office attraction. One member of the Paramount staff noted that the aura of violence surrounding the film has helped its sales.

Young Blacks interviewed outside a Times Square theater where the film is playing were either unaware of the violent incidents linked to "The Warriors" or didn't care about it. The original ad campaign was cited by most as getting them interested in viewing it.

"It looked like there was some action to it" said one young man. "I like movies where something is happening, you know. I tell you. I liked it better than 'Roots'."



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