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Weekly VARIETY-
Affairs of Dobie Gillis
(SONGS-DANCES).

**Mild Debbie Reynolds comedy
programmer accenting youth;
for supporting bookings.**

Hollywood, May 29.

Metro release of Arthur M. Loew, Jr., production. Stars Debbie Reynolds, Bobby Van; features Barbara Ruick, Bob Fosse, Hanley Stafford, Lurene Tuttle, Hans Conried. Directed by Don Weis. Story, screenplay, Max Shulman; camera, William Mellor; editor, Conrad A. Nervig; musical direction, Jeff Alexander; dance staging, Alex Romero. Previewed May 27, '53. Running time, 72 MINS.

Pansy Hammer	Debbie Reynolds
Dobie Gillis	Bobby Van
Lorna Ellingboe	Barbara Ruick
Charlie Trask	Bob Fosse
Mr. Hammer	Hanley Stafford
Mrs. Hammer	Lurene Tuttle
Prof. Amos Pomfritt	Hans Conried
Prof. Obispo	Charles Lane
Harry Dorcas	Archer MacDonald
Happy Stella	Kathleen Freeman
Aunt Naomi	Almira Sessions

This is a mild comedy programmer slated to play off as a lower-case booking in the general situation. No effort is made to raise it above that level, although the presentation is adequate, if uninspired, to the release intentions. With Debbie Reynolds and Bobby Van heading the cast, accent is on youth, and the bobbysox trade will get some giggles from the burlesque of college life.

Campus cutups depicted are contemporary, but the song catalog used is from another era. Miss Reynolds and Van sing "All I Do Is Dream of You" in a canoe sequence; Van uses "I'm Through With Love" for a song-dance bit, and a swing version of "Those Endearing Young Charms" makes a finale bid for attention. Nearest thing to production numbers are the terp-tune stint on "You Can't Do Wrong Doing Right," in which Miss Reynolds, Van, Barbara Ruick and Bob Fosse participate, and a campus version of a jitterbugged square dance.

Innocuous plot by Max Shulman, which stirs up a few chuckles from frantic antics, is involved with seeing the two stars, plus Miss Ruick and Fosse, through the tribulations of freshman life at college and young love. Miss Reynolds' fussy father, Hanley Stafford,

can't see her crush on Van, so that's one complication. The teachers can't see the students' attitude towards study; a situation particularly obnoxious to Hans Conried, English prof, and Charles Lane, chemistry instructor. Other mix-ups, such as a separation of the young lovers by Hanley, lack of money, outwitting teachers and parents, blowing up the chemistry lab and trying to find spooning time, are tossed in to show the burlesqued involvements of youth.

Don Weis' direction of the Arthur M. Loew, Jr., production exercises little restraint on cast or story, playing the offering as broadly as possible so a few chuckles will come through. Technical credits are standard, providing an expert framework to show off the budget presentation. *Brog.*
