

In the mood for tension? try opening The Package

Entertainment

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

AT THE MOVIES

The Package is a political-military thriller in the tradition of Day of the Jackal and No Way Out. The Package is not as good as those flicks, but it is good enough. Although a little familiar at times, Package does offer a strong cast and some white knuckles. Gene Hackman stars, and that's enough for a lot of people.

Hackman plays Johnny Gallagher, a tough sergeant who has to deliver a "package" - a military prisoner (Tommy Lee Jones) from Berlin to the States. His prisoner escapes, and Gallagher quickly finds out that nothing is as it appears: his prisoner is not in fact Walter Henkie, but some imposter.

Where is the real Walter, why was he impersonated, what is going on - these are the questions Gallagher tries to answer, with the help of his ex-wife Eileen (Joanna Cassidy). The bodies quickly

mount as Gallagher slowly uncovers a trail leading to a major political assassination - the Soviet premier no less.

The action moves from Berlin to Washington and finally to a wintry Chicago, where an historic event is taking place: the U.S. and USSR have signed a pact eliminating nuclear weapons, and the president and premier are meeting there to commemorate the occasion. A bunch of renegades in the military are less than thrilled with the idea, and the Gallaghers are up against a powerful enemy with agents everywhere. Will they stop the plot? Will they survive?

Hackman is excellent (as always) as the career army man caught in something huge. Joanna Cassidy is equally strong as his army wife, with Tommy Lee Jones holding his own as a quietly determined assassin. Dennis Franz as the policeman friend and John Heard as Whitacre, an army col-

onel with an attitude, round out the cast.

The Package is a good thriller, with enough suspense and action to keep it moving pretty fast. It isn't a terribly new film in any of its ideas or images, but it is a workmanlike effort, and worth the viewing if you're in the mood for a little tension.

OUR LANGUAGE

by Jeffrey McQuain

Mangle severely injures or ruins. To spell this verb correctly, be sure to come at mangle from the right angle.

Saccharine describes anything overly sweet or sentimental. Don't get burned by its spelling - the middle of saccharine is char.

Q. Does it matter whether you use a hyphen after re- starts a word?

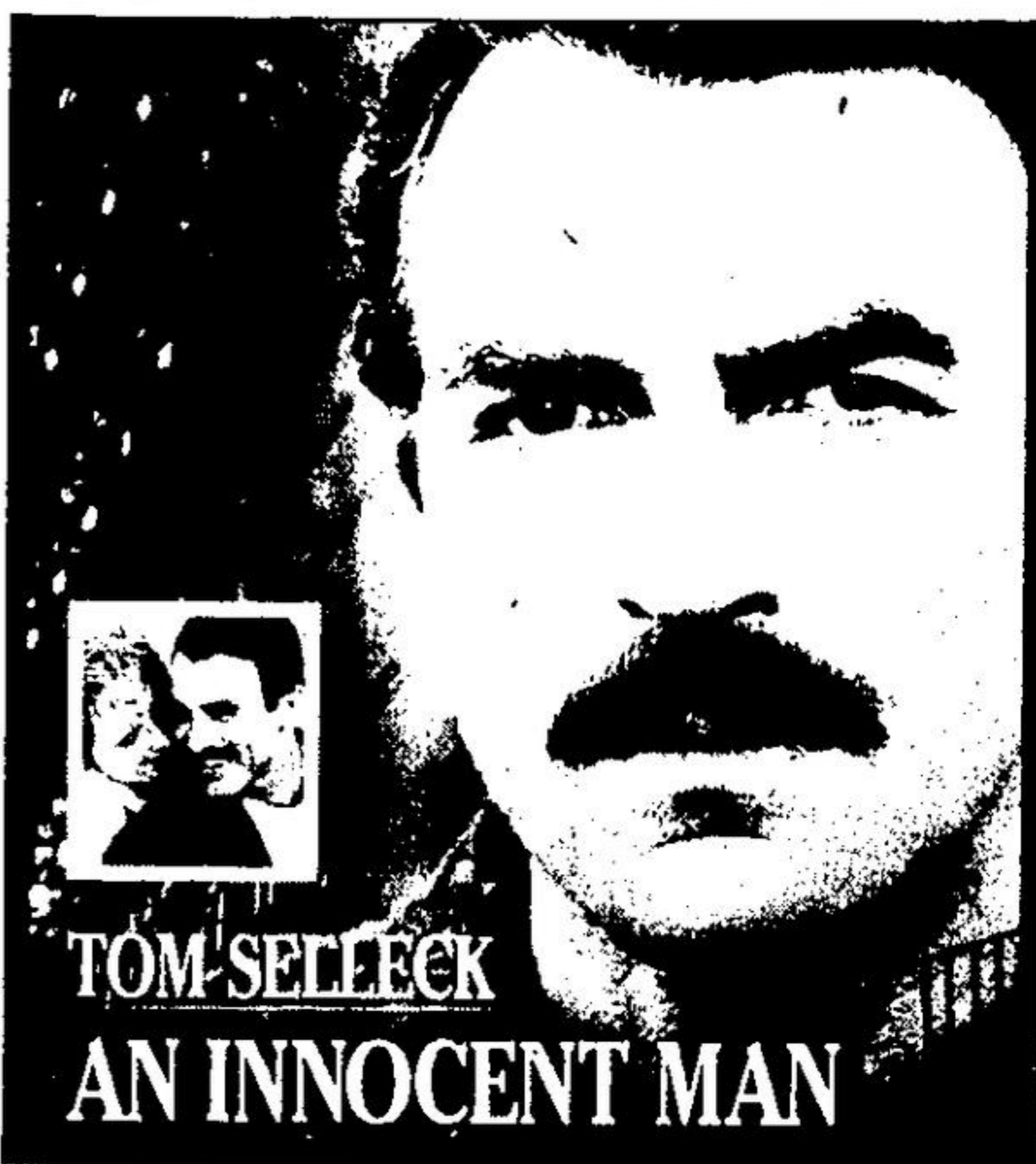
A. Most words that have this prefix are solid (written without a hyphen). An important exception, however, is re-sign, which means "sign again" or "renew a contract." If that verb had no hyphen, there would be confusion whenever a quarterback decided to resign.

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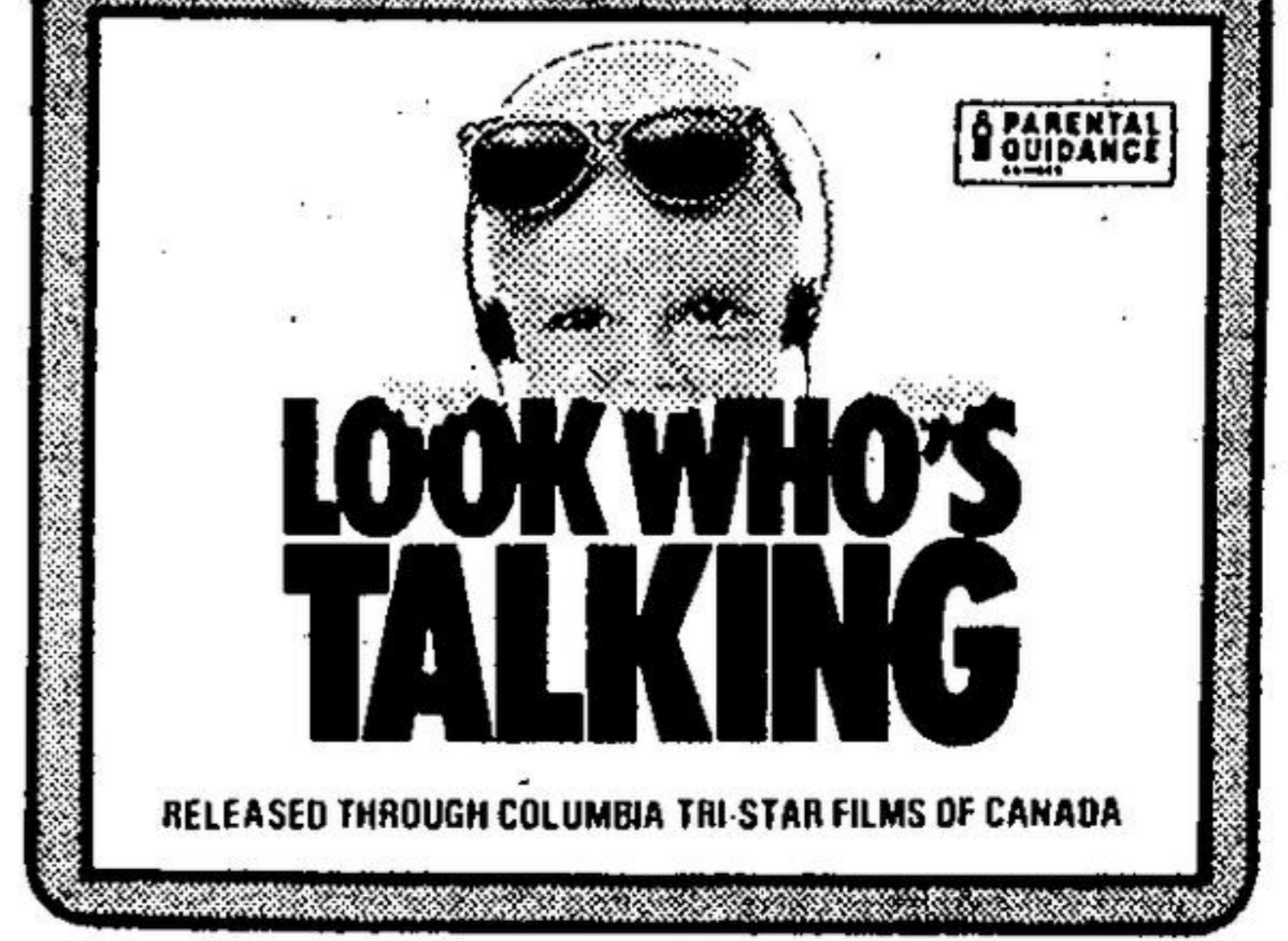


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