

PennStateCollegian

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 1913

The motion picture machine in itself is most innocent in appearance. It impresses one as being merely a piece of mechanism of average intricacy. Yes, even in the films themselves, one cannot discern a factor which might wield effective influence upon the morals of mankind. They are merely a continuous tape made up of countless little pictures, one appearing to be identically the same as the one next to it.

When, however, these two insignificant products of man's ingenuity are made under his guidance, to combine their activity, we have as a result one of the most potent influences of the present day cast upon the screen. The trashy novel has been denounced years ago; the deteriorating effects of the offensive melodrama have long been recognized; but it yet remains to be decided satisfactorily if the influence of motion pictures is as bad as some would have it.

In the treatment of such a subject, no hard and fast rules may be laid down. There is no doubt about it, that certain motion pictures are extremely beneficial, because they cultivate the audience to a knowledge of foreign lands, and to a better knowledge of its own country. Then again there is another class of pictures, which by portraying certain emotional scenes, cultivates certain ideals of moral living.

In considering the class of pictures which remains, however, we have an entirely different phase to deal with. This category includes the pictures whose influence is distinctly non-beneficial. We have scenes which portray the committing of crimes, gambling, drinking, western shooting frays and all sorts of suggestive subjects. It stands to reason that this type of picture may not have a good effect, especially upon the younger generation, for it may put all sorts of foolish ideas into children's heads, and may certainly have a marked influence upon all sorts of easily influenced people.

We have the power of suggestion really manifested in these moving

pictures, and as this power is daily being recognized more and more of infinite strength, it is apparent that something should be done to apply it most beneficially.

Of course from a college man's standpoint, the pictures themselves merely exemplify a form of amusement. It is not conceivable that a college student should aspire to become a bandit or a cowboy, inspired by the suggestions of the motion picture screen. The moral interpretation and attitude toward such pictures are, however, very often clearly announced, and it is just here that a man may forget himself, giving way to the strong influence of suggestion.

A word to the wise is sufficient.

The class of 1915 took an important step in the advancement of student regulation last May by the election from the class of a committee composed of representative men whose duty it was to hear complaints against freshmen breaking college customs and then to recommend suitable punishment. At a recent meeting of the class a motion was laid on the table to abandon the committee, the reason being given that leniency was shown in too many cases. From the viewpoint of men outside the class, the hazing committee has been a success. Fewer acts of disrespect or any of the other breaking of restrictions by freshmen have been noticed this year than possibly in many years. For this the sophomore as well as the freshman class is to be congratulated. Just as every phase of college life is changing, so the broader view is being gradually applied to freshmen relations. However the committee has been greatly hampered in its decisions by members of the class. The whole trouble appears to be lack of cooperation on the part of the class and the committee. On the other hand individuals not selected by the class have frequently tried to interfere with decisions made by the committee. Now, the lack of cooperation in the class makes it possible that, unless wise action is taken by the majority of members who believe in the right thing, the old form of our "barbarity" will be started again. Hazing in the old form was a decided failure, the new form has possibly not worked out satisfactorily in every case, but give it a try. A suggestion would be, give the committee free say and then let the class abide by the decision.

We have in this institution one custom established by precedent which according to modern ethics and conception is not justifiable. This custom is the present system of electioneering, which is practiced in the vicinity of the polls, shortly before and during the time of election. The fact remains undisputed, that a number of men may be found in Main Building and in its vicinity during the time of college and class elections, who try to prevail upon the individual voter to cast his ballot in favor of one candidate or another.

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Although electioneering in itself cannot be attacked if carried on in the proper manner, nevertheless such practice as this, is indefensible. It not only is an embarrassment to the voter, but a distinct form of obnoxious competition and the development of insincere promises results.

A weak minded-man will promise to vote for many candidates, while a man of strength will not answer these requests, or he will refuse to vote for certain candidates. As a result of this procedure, the first man's self-respect is impaired, while the second man does not say the least increase his circle of friends.

The functions of each individual student may be compared with the activities of a citizen in a municipality. The ethical principle involved is identically the same. In the municipality, the candidate for an office may be made known to a community in a number of different ways. A nomination speech may be employed; the candidate may speak for himself; or his friends may electioneer and write for him in the public press. Notwithstanding all these methods, positively no electioneering is permitted within the zone of the polls, for it is recognized that such a custom bears evil results as fruit.

It is not difficult to comprehend that our present method is not the best, and for that reason it should be done away with. In advocating reform some better method should be substituted, it is however difficult on the spur of the moment to name any definite one. As was said before, electioneering previous to an election is justifiable, as long as it does not encroach upon the zone of polls, or upon election night.

Why not substitute nomination speeches, and in this way make the student body acquainted with the candidate? Why not publish a brief summary of the candidate's qualifications, including scholarship, personality, fitness and previous experience, in the college paper?

The whole college and the individual classes should act on this matter. Some practical solution of

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a. m.	p. m.	a. m.	a. m.	p. m.	a. m.	p. m.	a. m.	p. m.
1.00	9.00	Lv NEW YORK Ar.....	2.18	10.15	7.17
4.23	11.35	Lv PHILADELPHIA Ar.....	6.23	7.50	4.40
8.00	3.40	.....	Lv HARRISBURG Ar.....	2.25	5.15	1.55	.....	.....
7.58	3.00	.....	Lv PITTSBURG Ar.....	2.10	5.52	.....	.....	.....
11.42	7.15	.....	Lv ALTOONA Ar.....	11.00	2.52	.....	.....	.....
12.25	8.15	.....	Lv TYRONE Ar.....	10.25	2.15	.....	.....	.....
11.10	7.10	.....	Lv WILLIAMSPORT Ar.....	12.15	2.55	10.55	.....	.....
12.10	8.15	.....	Lv LOOK HAVEN Ar.....	10.20	2.10	9.15	.....	.....
12.00	10.15	10.50	Lv BELLEFONTE Ar.....	8.50	12.50	6.00	.....	.....
2.07	10.20	6.55	..... COLEVILLE	8.40	12.50	5.50	.....	.....
2.12	.....	6.58	..... MORRIS	8.37	.....	5.47	.....	.....
2.17	.....	6.48	..... STEVENS	8.35	.....	5.43	.....	.....
2.21	.....	6.46	..... HUNTERS PARK	8.31	.....	5.40	.....	.....
2.26	10.34	6.50	..... FILLMORE	8.28	12.18	5.35	.....	.....
2.32	.....	6.55	..... BRIARLY	8.24	.....	5.30	.....	.....
2.35	10.45	7.00	..... WADDY	8.20	12.10	5.25	.....	.....
2.50	.....	7.12	..... AT KRUMHINE Lv.....	8.07	.....	5.07	.....	.....
3.20	11.10	7.55	..... STATE COLLEGE	7.43	.....	15.00	.....	.....
.....	a. m.	a. m.
.....	7.27 STRUBLES	7.45	30
.....	p. m.	7.31 BLOOMSDORF	7.40
.....	7.35 PINE GROVE MILLS	7.35	19.20
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