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The Daily Collegian

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Must the Movies Go to the Cleaners?

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court Tuesday said yes to "She Shoulda Said No." But the General Assembly is hastening to save the day.

"She Shoulda Said No" is a movie concerning a dope peddler and his manner of enticing others to use marijuana cigarettes. The film was banned in 1953 by the State's Motion Picture Censor Board but last year a Common Pleas Court judge over-ruled the ban. On Tuesday, the commonwealth's Supreme Court, in a four-to-one decision, upheld the lower court's verdict.

The 1915 law under which the censorship board had been operating for 41 years was declared unconstitutional by the high court on the grounds that its terms were vague and indefinite. The law, the court held, is a denial of the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and a violation of the First Amendment of the federal constitution. The decision followed the precedent of the United States Supreme Court decision on "The Miracle." That decision held New York and Ohio laws censoring movies were unconstitutional.

Don't bother rushing to the local movie houses: the decision doesn't mean that, at this moment, anything goes on the screen. The Supreme Court pointed out that obscene films are still subject to police censorship under other laws of the Commonwealth.

But the decision does mean that the General Assembly is about to pass an amendment to the 1915 act, removing the vague terms in the law and substituting other words which, to us, appear less vague but more undesirable.

The new law, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer, "would, in fact, give the censors greater power than formerly, since it grants them the right to disapprove movies regarded as obscene or show scenes tending to incite to crimes of violence." In addition, films which advocate the use of narcotics or habit-forming drugs would be outlawed.

A few hours after the court handed down its decision, the Senate Committee on Law and Order hastened to approve the long-pigeon-holed amendment to the act which will restore censorship. The amendment passed the House last June by a 198-0 vote. It, presumably, is perfectly constitutional.

But how desirable is it? Judging from the vote favoring the amendment, members of the House feel censorship is essential. So does Supreme Court Justice Michael A. Musmanno, the sole dissenter in the court's decision, who declared: "The vilest motion picture now devised" could now be shown. He termed the court's opinion "gratuitous and uncalled for" and one that would permit public showing of "shameless and degrading" films.

Musmanno is not alone in supporting movie

Caesar and Taxes

Beware the Ides of March. A quick look through the history books shows us that it was exactly 2000 years ago today—at 9 a.m., March 15, 44 B.C., to be exact—that Julius Caesar was assassinated.

To commemorate the occasion, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has established a new policy for filing income tax returns. Now, April 15 is the deadline, one month later than the old March 15 date.

The motive behind the change undoubtedly was to remove some of the stigma surrounding March 15.

But the tax-collectors were thwarted. Gov. Leader last week signed a three per cent sales tax into law.

Now every day is tax day—for Pennsylvanians, at least.

Beware.

—Don Shoemaker

Gazette

Today
BIBLE CLASS, The Ten Commandments, 8 p.m., Hillel Foundation
BLOCK AND BRIDLE CLUB, 7:30 p.m., 214 Hetzel Union
DAIRY SCIENCE, 7 p.m., 117 Dairy
NEWMAN CLUB Lecture, 7:30 p.m., 304 Old Main
NEWMAN CLUB TV Party, 8 p.m., Student Center
PSYCHOLOGY CLUB, 7:30 p.m., Psychology Laboratory
SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS, 7 p.m., 1 Carnegie
WORLD AGRICULTURE SERVICE SOCIETY, 7 p.m., 217 Hetzel Union
University Hospital
David Bamford, Arthur Diamond, Laura Ericson, Mamie

Henning to Address Block and Bridle Club

Dr. William L. Henning, State Secretary of Agriculture, will be the speaker at the Block and Bridle Club meeting at 7:30 tonight in 214 Hetzel Union.

Dr. Henning was given a leave of absence as head of the animal husbandry department to act as Secretary of Agriculture.

Delta Nu Alpha Initiates

New initiates of Delta Nu Alpha, transportation fraternity, are John Moffatt, Dean Swanson, William Neifert, James Jeffery, James Snyder, Robert Sargent, Ray Myers, George Mills, Dale Libensperger, Arthur French, Ronald Kozura, and Ernest Denning.

Naval Science Prof To Speak at Meeting

Capt. Victor B. McCrea, professor of Naval Science in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit, will speak at the Society of American Military Engineers meeting at 7 tonight in 1 Carnegie.

Interested students may attend.

censorship. But Pennsylvania is practically alone in maintaining it. Only four other states—New York, Kansas, Maryland, and Virginia—have motion picture censorship laws. And the others haven't, as far as we have been able to determine, gone to the dogs without it.

Maybe the reason is that the people of the 43 non-censoring states have imposed their own extra-legal censorship on out-of-bounds films. Church groups, such as the Catholic Church's Legion of Decency, have promoted this type of self-control. Motion picture theatres themselves have refused to show pictures which they have felt to be in bad taste. And Hollywood, through the Johnson office, has proven adequate to police itself.

This type of censorship is far superior than state censorship. How effective it is has been demonstrated by the comic book ban, imposed not by states, but by families. Parents showed themselves to be more able to curb sales of comic books picturing sadistic crimes than state agencies could be.

And both the comic book industry, and the movie industry, have demonstrated that they are super-sensitive to public criticism.

It is the public, not the legislatures, which set public standards and tastes. But the General Assembly undoubtedly will persist in feeling it must protect the morals of the public.

In so doing, we hope the General Assembly gives the public a larger role than it now has in determining what is immoral, what is obscene, what tends to incite crimes of violence, and what advocates the use of narcotics.

The way to do this is to increase the membership on the Motion Picture Censor Board. There are now only three members, hardly a representative cross-section of Pennsylvania's populace. We suspect that a board of 50, with widely varying backgrounds, selected from as many areas of endeavor, would reflect the tastes of the people of the state with more accuracy.

Since the principle behind movie censorship is one of "we-must-protect-ourselves-from-smut" it seems only logical that a cross-section of the people should do the protecting.

The state would have no trouble, we're willing to bet, in finding citizens willing to devote themselves to the job—and to do it without compensation, too. Almost everyone at one time has observed: "I wish I were a movie censor."

We don't think people say that because they feel a need for public service. People say it because they want to see uncensored movies. But we must protect ourselves.

Movies are better than ever, Hollywood claims. They have to be good if the public is going to continue to pay to see them. But they have to be good in another sense of the word if the censors aren't going to shear them. And that's not so good.

—The Editor

Safety Valve

A Job for Cabinet

TO THE EDITOR: I have recently seen Robert Spadaro's position on the campus book store issue and I am in complete agreement with him. I believe he summed it up nicely when he said that apathy toward student government and other related activities is well deserved. Student government should serve the needs of the student. I would like to know of a better student need than a campus book store.

Talk has been going around that a campus book store would harm "free enterprise". If this is so, then the University should stop housing and feeding students. After all, isn't this fundamentally the same type of interference with "free enterprise"?

Why do we have student government? It seems that if they really want to do something, they can. The passing of student compensation is an example. We need a campus book store and it is the duty of the elected representatives of our student government body to act! If they do not act, how do they know whether or not we can have a campus book store?

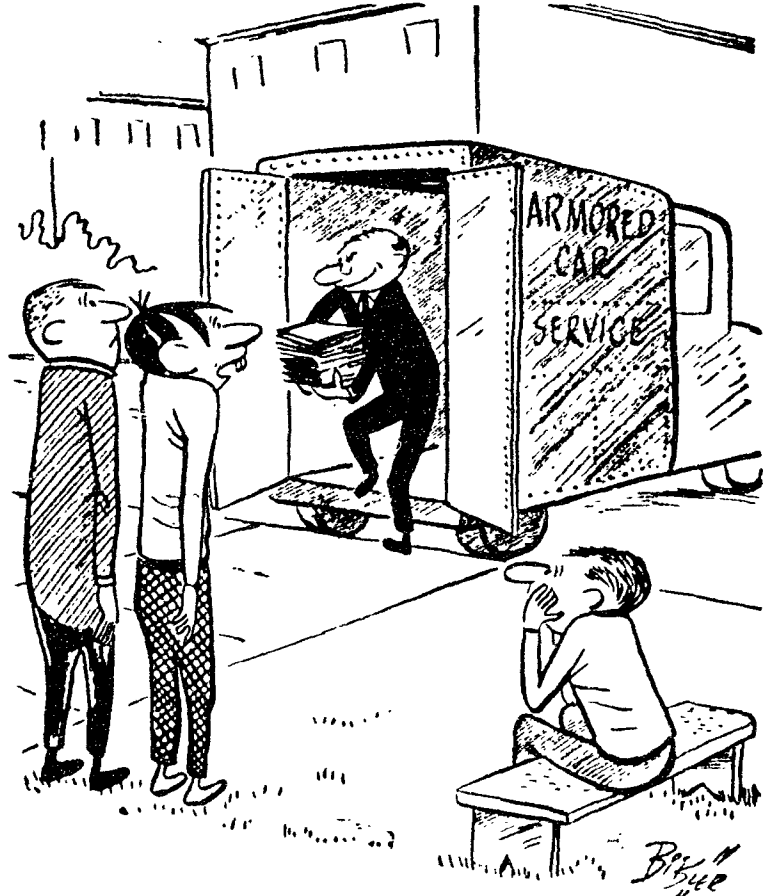
I would like to see many letters written, both pro and con, to see if we can get a much needed campus book store at Penn State.

—Boris Stoiancheff

Fehnel, Malvin Goode, Sidney Grobman, Daniel Harting, George Koch, Jean McGarry, Kenneth McKee, Mills Merabon, Roy Miles, Roger Panfil, Richard Phillips, Ann Richards, Dale Smith, Glen Thierwechter, Samuel Valentine, Vern Vanorder, Diane White, and Joseph Zimmerman.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"That's just a ten minute quiz. You should see him when he's giving a blue book."

Will Nixon Run?

Ike Announces They're Buddies

By J. M. ROBERTS

Associated Press News Analyst

President Dwight D. Eisenhower and a lot of people in New Hampshire have made one thing very clear—they like Richard Nixon.

The President moved at his news conference yesterday to lay any idea he might be connected with those who would like to dump Nixon. They have, he said, as much chance of driving a wedge between him and Nixon as of driving a wedge between him and his brother. He'd be glad to be on any political ticket with his vice president.

That, following Republican Chairman Hall's word that Nixon is satisfied to go by the proprieties which the President endorses, waiting until the convention to decide about the vice presidential nominee, was intended to put a quietus on what was developing into a full-sized Republican hassle.

Any Republican who tries to keep the issue alive now will be going against the wishes of the President. That doesn't mean he can make it stick.

The Nixon write-in in New Hampshire was rather amazing, since there were no formal entries and no campaigning. Republican state leaders want it to appear spontaneous. But there was an inkling of it in advance of the vote, and somebody must have done some work on it. Considering the difficulty of getting voters to take the initiative of a write-in, however, the testimonial is impressive regardless of how it was obtained.

The Kefauver showing in the Democratic primary also was impressive, but discounted in advance by the fact that Stevenson declined to campaign. New Hampshire Democratic leaders remain, by and large, in the Stevenson camp.

In a decidedly Republican state, with no formal contest beyond the individual candidacies of Stevenson supporters for convention seats, there was just no organized campaign for him.

Political observers mostly took the line that the whole business showed only that Kefauver is popular in New Hampshire, where he made a vigorous campaign. In the nation he was still a Southerner with a tough tradition to break to get the nomination, and still the second-ranking candidate.

A much more decisive contest between the two will be decided in Minnesota Tuesday, when Kefauver runs up against a Democratic leadership really organized for Stevenson. A good showing there would give his campaign a big boost.

Neither primary, however, carries as much portent for the Dem-

ocratic party as does the new rift over civil rights, now centering primarily around the Supreme Court and race desegregation. The manifesto signed by Southern members of Congress, urging resistance to the court order on schools, broke a three-year truce on a subject which party leaders had hoped could be kept in Pandora's box.

Study Rooms Used By 4 Each Night

Approximately four students each night have used the study rooms in Willard Hall, a University official in the registrar's office said yesterday.

The University recently designated 107 and 204 Willard as study rooms. The rooms are open from 7 to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The study room plan had been presented to University officials by students who felt there was a lack of adequate study facilities.

The University official said he will give the plan more time before he makes a statement condemning or approving it.

Candidate Distributing Directories to Students

William Clark, Campus party candidate for All-University vice president, is now distributing directories containing names of presidents and members of major campus activities.

Clark is distributing the 14-page booklet, which was prepared by Campus party, as he makes his campaigning tours to fraternity, sororities, and independent groups.

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES

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|-------|------------------|
| 7:15 | Sign On |
| 7:20 | News |
| 7:25 | Sports |
| 7:30 | Starlight Review |
| 8:00 | Jazz Club |
| 8:30 | Just Out |
| 9:00 | Man on the Mail |
| 9:15 | News |
| 9:30 | Scenario |
| 10:30 | Sign Off |

To get a free program schedule, send a postcard with your name and address to Program Schedule, WDFM, Sparks Building.