



EDITORIAL

Mourning After...

There's a very fine line between fact and fiction. At what point is it that one ceases to be protecting the other from unneeded anguish? The old adage tells us, "What we don't know won't hurt us." But, in this case an exception must be made. Read on and decide for yourself what seems to be the method to this madness.

The infirmary is dispensing the Morning-After pill. Its sole ingredient is DES. No it's nothing like THC. DES is the abbreviation for diethylstilbestrol. Translated it means synthetic estrogen. DES has many weird and wonderful uses. It prevents pregnancy if taken within 72 hours after intercourse, acne, thinning hair, and pre-menstrual tension. Oh, an inevitable wonder drug. What else does it do? Among other things it causes tumors in cattle and best of all cervical cancer was found more prevalent in the daughters of women who had taken the drug during pregnancy. Yes, folks is the light starting to come on above your head? So the infirmary is dispensing a cancer-causer. But please remain calm for we know, thanks to Ralph Nader, that many things we consume can lead to cancer. But at least Ralph lets us know. The infirmary, unfortunately, does not warn women of the possible side effects of this drug. According to the Food and Drug Administration guidelines for dispensing of the drug, it should only be used in cases of emergency. They recommend that a pregnancy test be given before administering the medication and a brochure must be given to explain to women the possible effects of the drug. A reliable source who was given the Morning-After pill at the infirmary said she was asked such searching questions as, "What type of birth control do you usually practice?", "Are you sure you're not pregnant?" and "Are you sure it was last night?" She was then given the ten pills and told to return after her period. No hassles. Good? No, bad!

She wasn't told that in 1971 "Scientists testifying at Senate hearings to get DES out of beef described it as a chemical of 'bizarre and far-reaching properties, chief of which is that it is a spectacularly dangerous carcinogen' and that the minute amount present in beef liver, three-tenths of a microgram, was too high a concentration for such a powerful cancer-causer."

In August, 1972 the F.D.A. banned DES from cattle feed but did not ban the 250 milligram dose of DES taken by women in the Morning-After pill.

A woman who is taking the 50 milligram dose for five days, which constitutes the morning after pill, is ingesting 835,000 times the amount of DES that the FDA has declared "unfit for human consumption"

But some women at Geneseo are consuming DES innocent of its effects.

The dangers as listed in a recent F.D.A. study are (are you ready for this) abnormal blood clotting, visions and speech disorders, arm and leg numbness, headaches, or dizziness. Can you imagine waking up after taking the pill to find that you can not see or speak clearly? Can you imagine the fear going through the woman's mind? If the infirmary had simply given her the brochure as instructed under FDA restrictions the co-ed would not have had to undergo this trauma. At least she would have known!

And therein lies the crux of the problem. Women at this campus have the right to know how DES will effect their bodies. Not educating women of these effects is a violation of FDA codes.

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READER'S FORUM

Dear Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to answer the questions raised by Michael Holden in the February 1st edition of the Lamron. Mr. Holden claims to be a member of Kino-Geneseo, and through the tone of his letter that he is dissatisfied with many of our policies and is unsure of why they have been adopted. He further attests to having brought his questions to Activities Commission and receiving vague answers. As the chairman of Kino-Geneseo, perhaps I can shed some light on some of these mysteries.

Why do people have to wait in line for an hour to see a film only to be turned away at the door? The answer to this question lies in the principles of mass and volume. If the facility of the film is being shown it can only accommodate 400 people, it stands to reason that only 400 people can be seated. Why does Kino choose to use 400 seat facilities instead of a larger hall on campus?

Presently, there are four rooms on campus considered suitable for film screenings. Wadsworth Auditorium is easily the most sought after. It seats about 1,000 people (800 people for a movie), has fine acoustics, and can be adapted to show almost any film format (panavision, cinema-scope, etc.) Throughout the year, many academic departments hold Fine Arts oriented events in the building, and this, unfortunately, prevents Kino from screening films there. It should be remembered that this is a college community, and implicit in that is the sharing of campus resources.

Wads Aud is always busy, and Kino requests as much time inside as possible. It must be remembered, however, that Kino is not the only organization on campus and others have an equal right to the building. Incidentally Kino is back in Wads for two weeks of weekend movies.

Due to past experiences we have found that Newton 202 proves to be the second best screening facility on campus. Although it is small and the screen could be larger, the acoustics are fair and the room generally unoccupied. People often ask, that if we are showing a very popular film in Newton, that we schedule more than two shows. This is a fine idea, and one we would like to see implemented, however it does pose a problem. The people who make up Kino are totally student volunteers, with homework and laundry and the desire for a social life. It would not be fair to them, if they had to spend their entire Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings working. This is why there will definitely be only one showing of movies scheduled for Saturday evenings.

Would you like to be stuck at Wads Aud. from 6 p.m. to midnite on a Saturday evening. At present they are working three to four days a week, as much as seven hours a night. Why not pay them regular salaries? That question has been raised several times over the last two years by former-chairmen of Kino, Glen Caron, and myself. At present, Kino pays it's student cashiers, (rules state people must be paid, if they are to be "Bonded"). To save the cost of paying a Janitor the six dollars an

hour it took for having a show in Newton, two students are payed four dollars a night, to clean up the mess you movie goers made with your cigarette butts, soda cans, and other trash. All of this big money averages out to about fifty dollars a semester for the 20 hours a week of work put in by the people. However, Activities Commission decided that they would sooner see Kino show fewer films per week than pay people for doing what they consider to be "fun". Kino has elected not to cut back, but rather to increase its schedule. Kino has quite often asked our fun loving student body for volunteers (Lamron advertisements, etc.), but it seems as there are very few students who want to join in the "fun and excitement".

The other two facilities on campus are the College Union Ballroom and MOJO. The Ballroom seats more people than Newton but suffers from poor sightlines and has had unreliable acoustics. At present, work is being done to try to correct the acoustical nightmares that have been experience in the past. MOJO is simply too small to show films in before midnight; and often, just too small period.

Why people need bring their I.D.'s and fee cards is a question that Kino has answered many times, both on these pages and elsewhere. Aside from the fact that the college requires all students to carry their I.D.'s at all times, Kino is required by contract to admit no one from outside the college. It is the feeling of the film distributors (Universal, Columbia, United Artists, etc.) that college screenings have unfair advantage over public theatres. We are not subject to many taxes, large payrolls, or huge overheads. It is their fear that by opening our doors to the general public, and making films available at a lower price, we would ruin commercial theatres. The college I.D. is our only means of verifying that a person does indeed attend the college. The fee card on the other hand, is asked for so that we may

offer the bearer a discount on the price of admission. Students pay \$70.00 a year in activity fees, a small part of which goes to supplement the cost of screenings. Those people who do not present a fee card, are generally charged an additional 25 cents. The charge of only an additional 25 cents is because the people not presenting the fee cards is supposedly a Graduate student, Faculty, Staff, or a visiting guest of a student.

As to why people are not given succinct and honest answers when they confront Activities Commission about inconveniences that occur at college activities. I can only give my opinion. Activities upon this campus are run by students. As students, they are entitled to mistakes. They learn from their errors. There is only one question in my mind. Are you getting the best, or at least what you deserve for your Activities Commission is not an elected body, (elected groups have proven not to work on other campuses) nor is it a group that is hired or fired. Yet still, this is a group of people dealing in dollar amounts containing five zeros or better. At one time, such an amount would have been considered a lot.

Michael also referred to Kino as a service. It is not. Kino is a student organization (something like a club), but this doesn't mean Kino can't become one. I also like to correct Michael, in that film selection is done totally by students.

There are twenty eight days in the month of February, and twenty three Kino films. More than ever in the history of this campus. It costs a student only 75 cents (with I.D. and fee card) to see a film on Sundays if it is in Wads. Better films are coming to campus sooner than before. No one likes sellouts, but as chairman for Kino, I can tell you its the best compliment we've gotten this year.

THANK YOU FOR THE SPACE.
Wm. E. James
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