

NOTRE DAME MEN ACT TO PROTECT AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

A NATIONAL MENACE



— John Webster, '40

Put "NO SMUT" Pamphlet Through Six Printings; Send 125,000 Copies Into Battle Against Filthy Literature.

By TOM KENEDY, '42

There is still plenty of room for improvement in some of the magazines, especially in a few of the more popular pictorial weeklies. Many people still pooch-pooch the campaign for decent literature, but those who know and love Our Lord do not. He said: "*Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.*" It will be something, in fact a great thing, if our pamphlet helps to safeguard at least our Catholic youth against the insidious dangers of a pagan press. We frankly wish that even non-Catholic youth could be reached by the message contained in "NO SMUT!" because it would help them, too.

If anyone is inclined to doubt the inherent evil in bad magazines, books and movies, and incidentally in bad stories, let him read this actual letter written by a college student to the Prefect of Religion at Notre Dame not long ago:

"I have read your *Bulletins* against bad reading and movies. The don't-give-a-darns should learn a lesson early—namely, these evils don't exercise a merely monetary influence upon men. The wickedness they contain affects their after-life.

"I think I've already learned my lesson, and I think that in telling it, I can help others. Three or four years ago I was careless about *my* movies as well as my *bad* books. I was confident they would not hurt me. My confidence did not last long! At first I could go to a loose movie or read a book on the Index without its having any effect on me. I rejoiced in my impregnability. I presumed God had given me a *special gift of license*.

"But this did not last long. Soon the minutest suggestions in innocent movies and books came to have a devastating effect upon my morality. And since then I have been in constant fight against the back-wash of my former presumption. It took me long to weed out my carelessness and to realize that I was as weak as any man and had become weaker than the normal man.

"No more bad movies or books for me! They're too dangerous! I can't afford to take the chance again that requires three or four years of fighting—perhaps forty years—to regain normality. God help those who don't guard their movie or book morality."

Back awhile, Jack Willmann, '40, editorialized in the *Scholastic* on "Swingin' The Smut." It was a needed and healthy sock at some of the vulgar, double meaning records and songs that are going the rounds. As he says, "Any song that alludes cunningly to veiled meaning is certainly crying out for eradication." The jitterbug isn't half-bad, Jack thinks: "Far more dangerous is the lyric-listener who ears up to his radio or recording machine to race into mental fugues encouraged by the implications of 'pseudo-sophisticated smut'."

We wish to thank Passionist Father Theophane Maguire, editor of *SIGN*, for printing in the June number of his magazine the account of "NO SMUT!" prepared by Jerry O'Dowd, '40.

We believe our pamphlet can do a great service to American youth. It is a non-profit venture undertaken by youth for youth for the glory of God. We fill orders promptly.

HIGH SCHOOLS Should Order NOW to Assure Delivery Before School Closes!

NO SMUT!

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