

CINEMATERS

by Charlie Moore
 "Melody", now showing at Scotia Square Cinema, is a very refreshing change from the usual overworn cliches of the sex and drug scene being used to pad so many weak plot lines. This film is a love story with a difference — the principals are two ten-year olds played by Mark Lester and Tracy Hyde. Although this sounds incredibly bad, the film is actually very entertaining and only a hardened cynic would not enjoy it. The kids go through a series of humorous episodes getting to know each other and later

find that their rather obtuse parents and stuffy teachers don't take too well to their decision to get married. Most of the action takes place in and around a typical English public school. The regimented chaos inside this anachronistic institution gives rise to many of the film's funnier moments. Jack Wild, whom you may remember from "Oliver", plays Lester's buddy and deserves special mention. Anyone familiar with "Friends" which played recently at the Hyland will naturally compare it with

"Melody". Both films are built around the same general idea, but the two are only superficially similar. In "Melody" the two kids stay on the platonic level except for rather timid holding of hands which makes the story more credible than it might have been. The musical score consists of a collection of oldies by the Bee Gees and Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young which blend in quite well. Direction and photography are both acceptable. All in all, this is a fun film well worth seeing — so go see it.

Gesundheit!

by Uncle Walt
 Religion is the opium of the masses.
 Television is the opium of the masses.

—Karl Marx
 —Uncle Walt

Television is a medium which, in numerous ways, undermines physical health as well as emotional and intellectual well-being. It's combination of picture, sound and "live" immediacy ("I saw it on TV; it must be true") makes it an excellent medium for lying. The one-way communication encourages indoctrination. The distortion which can be accomplished by clever narration and selective editing of video-taped "news" is limitless. Dramatization and animation add even more possibilities.

As a centralized communications source now reaching people not only at home but in taverns, schools, and even bus terminals (individual screens attached to plastic seats, 25¢ per half-hour), it has been successfully exploited by Big Business and Big Government, the medium's owners and controllers, to exalt the status quo.

Program content and commercials reflect the nature of the medium. Recently, immense sums have been spent to convert to colour, the public as always paying the bill through taxes and hidden advertising costs in product prices.

How does TV affect your health? First, it is indeed an opiate, acting hypnotically on viewers. (See how hard it is to keep from

watching a TV set which is on in the same room, or to tune one off in the middle of a program.) Unlike the cinema, TV programming goes on and on from morning till late at night.

Second, TV keeps you in your living room, and restricts activity more than listening to music, and the like. Muscles, unlike machines, get stronger with use and shrivel away (atrophy) with disuse.

Third, TV strains the eyes. The picture tube's fluorescent coating flashes on and often many times a second, emitting glaring blue light (short wave lengths) and, from some colour sets, X-ray radiation.

Fourth, TV indirectly promotes bad health by advertising countless products injurious to health, from patent medicines to "soft" drinks to pesticides to automobiles, plus that gastronomic abomination, the TV dinner.

Finally, and perhaps most important, TV messes up your head. This damage cannot be measured, but certainly includes deteriorated social relationships (try talking to someone watching TV and watch hostility flare up), fuzzy thinking (stereotype of the suburban "whiter than white" housewife, for instance), and general lack of initiative.

The "spectator syndrome" which TV encourages was vividly illustrated once when Uncle Walt came upon a man in downtown Vancouver lying motionless on the sidewalk surrounded by several people. They stood watching: neither walking by, attempting to help the man, nor calling help on the pay phone that was only steps away; in B.C. one can reach the operator without a dime.

A recent survey reported that many people talk to their TV sets when they are alone. (Do you?) Some kids now in their teens spent their whole lives in front of a TV set which their parents used as a babysitter.

Chuck out that television set and have a healthier, more meaningful life. Live directly, not vicariously through an insidious rectangular glass tube.

Freaks lose welfare

KITCHENER (CUP) — Local officials have found a new rationale for removing young people from the city's welfare rolls.

"... there are too many needy persons requiring welfare assistance for money to be given out to people who really don't want a job and are spending the taxpayer's money

on drugs," said city welfare administrator J. A. Bernstihl about the "hippie types on the welfare rolls".

Seventy-three unemployed youth have been chopped from the welfare lists and reviews are being made of the cases of 100 others.

"In the last few months we have been averaging about five

cases a month who require payment of hospital bills resulting from treatment for bad trips. We are compelled to pay hospital costs, but we are certainly going to look into taxpayer's money being used to purchase drugs," said the crusading Mr. Bernstihl.

He went on to say that the reason for the removal of the 73 from the welfare rolls was that the young men were obviously not actively looking for work as welfare regulations demand. "After all," he said, "to get a job a person has to make himself a bit presentable."

"I know for a fact the larger Kitchener industries won't even bother handing out any applications to grimy, long-haired youths. Today more than any other time companies can afford to be choosy."

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