

EDITORIAL Con



By Penny Kramp

Cheers and jeers

Cheers: To the Black Student Association and College Democrats for sponsoring the Anti-Apartheid Protest last Friday. We salute every member of the crowd that gathered on the quad to mourn the deaths of over 700 victims of protests in South Africa.

Jeers: To administration for allowing the standards of our campus police to slide. According to a report by a state assistant attorney general, security has operated with equipment short-comings, lack of a specific budget and substandard salaries. Neglect in this manner is not only dangerous, but demeaning. When standards go down, morale, and inevitably performance, suffers.

Cheers: To the state council and the UNC Board of Governors for approving the purchase of 62 additional acres for expansion of the UNCA campus. As the smallest campus in the UNC 16-school system, UNCA's latest acquisition will allow it the chance to spread its limiting boundaries.

Jeers: To Phillips Administration for obtaining a new \$21,000 phone system while continuing to 'nickel and dime' students to death with pay phones. In Dr. Dorr's words if UNCA installed local phones, "the expense would fall on those living in the dorms." Come on — surely \$1,050 in room and board entitles students to a few basic necessities.

Cheers: To housing for keeping dormitories open over fall break. After many years of evacuating students from their "homes away from home", housing has realized the inconvenience for many students of moving out for a two-day holiday.

Jeers: To administration for holding night classes over fall break. Night classes may only meet on a weekly basis, but the students still deserve a mid-term break. We don't know of any upper-classmen who have not had to take at least one night class to complete requirements and it is unfair to penalize them because of that need.

Jeers: To the MUD 500 Initiation. Last weekend MUD members required their pledges to run from Denny's Restaurant on Patton Avenue back to campus in their underwear. As the guys made their way toward UNCA, a group of men chased down the students. Fraternity members may feel obligated to uphold a wild and crazy image, but when hijinks threaten safety — that is going way too far.

Let me make myself clear: This is not a pro-pornography column, nor is it an anti-pornography column.

This is a pro-freedom column.

Two weeks ago North Carolina passed a tough new pornography law that makes it easier for police to make arrests for obscenity.

Soon convenience stores were pulling **Playboy** off the shelves and video stores were banning skinflicks.

At first Asheville's downtown porno palace, the Fine Arts Theatre, defiantly kept its doors open. But last week, even the long-established Fine Arts, succumbed.

So what does that mean? It means much more than not having leering posters of girls named "Candy" to snicker at when we drive down Biltmore Avenue.

The deadly blow of censorship has fallen in this state.

Deadly, in that it threatens the inalienable First Amendment rights promised to us in the constitution. That amendment preserves our right to free speech, a free press -- the right to read and watch what we want to, even smut.

Now, I am not bouncing down to the

Fine Arts to catch the next run of **Hot and Bothered Teens**. That's my prerogative.

But I am not passing judgement on those who do frequent the Fine Arts. That's their prerogative.

After all who are they hurting? If you believe watching porno movies will somehow warp your mind, then no one is forcing you to watch.

This new law, however, does not even allow the public a choice of whether or not to watch. Worse than that, it is making a judgement.

I don't know about you, but I don't want a policemen deciding what is and what is not obscenity for me.

After all what is one man's art could be another man's smut. If we allow this law to continue what is stopping the state from yanking all books off library shelves that they consider sexually offensive.

Then the government might decide to ban records with explicit lyrics or shut up the "liberal" press that is always giving them such a hard time.

So I call for the Fine Arts to once again turn on its projector in protest of this unconstitutional law that threatens to strip the American public of its constitutional rights.

Dueling terminals:

Should the Fine Arts Theatre close?

Editor's note: *Dueling Terminals* is an attempt to present opposing sides of an issue. Sometimes, the columnist may argue a particular viewpoint with which he/she may not necessarily agree.



Pro



By David Proffitt

A local theatre known for its XXXrated movies recently closed its doors voluntarily as a result of a new N.C. statute that might not even apply to it.

The owners of the Fine Arts theatre on Biltmore Avenue evidently decided they would rather turn off the projectors temporarily than risk the hassle of investigations and court orders.

Area ministers, churches, and other people concerned about the morality of Asheville applauded the new statute and the removal of "obscene" publications from store shelves.

In their eyes, such events indicate a cleansing of the streets, a purging of materials that have no place in society. The morality of the general public outweighs the possible infringement of individual rights.

These people feel obscene and pornographic materials are useless to society. Magazines like **Playboy**, **Penthouse** and **Oui**, to name only a few of the more conservative ones, not only exploit women (and men) but also debase physical relationships by cheapening them into nothing more than the fulfillment of animal lusts. "What is the purpose of such trash?" they ask. It does not teach, it does not enlighten the human

experience here on earth, and its entertainment value is questionable.

Every society must draw a line somewhere when confronted by issues such as the one in question here. For years, Asheville citizens could purchase risqué magazines kept in plain view in convenience stores and publications that emphasize more vivid examples of deviant behavior were available at the nearest adult bookstore. Such establishments were nasty blots upon the city map, places to be tolerated, but never openly patronized by upstanding citizens.

Now a new breeze is sweeping across the state and the nation. The Moral Majority and other such groups are raising their voices in protest against people and practices that do not fit within the boundaries of their morality. To them, it is a moral imperative, commanded by God and granted by the Constitution. It is time to clean up the city, and although the right to free expression of ideas may get a little roughed up, it will survive.

The Pilgrims did not brave the cold Atlantic waters to set up a nation that would provide a marketplace for the products of Satan. A society that allows businessmen to turn potentially beautiful experiences into degrading pictorials of raw sexuality merely to make a dollar may be on the downhill side its existence.

THE BLUE BANNER

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The BANNER welcomes letters to the editor and articles, and considers them for publication on the basis of interest, space, tastefulness and timeliness. Letters and articles should be typed double-spaced, or printed legibly. They should be signed with the writer's name, followed by year in school, major, or other relationship to UNCA. Please include a telephone number to aid in verification.

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