

from PORNOGRAPHY page 1

one else to find. "Personally, I wouldn't feel comfortable doing it," she added.

"The students and library staff are complaining legitimately about the violation of their privacy and sense of decency," University Librarian Sherman Hayes said in an e-mail interview. "If someone is using one of our closely clustered research stations, most individuals do not want to view offensive material next to them. While we in the library believe in open access to information and the right of individuals to look at legal material in the privacy of their homes, (child pornography is illegal, and we contact the police if someone notifies us of viewing of such content), we are trying to balance several competing factors with these particular library computing tools."

Lt. Mitchell Cook of the UNCW Police Department was asked about police involvement in this issue. In an e-mail interview, Cook said, "Reports of anyone viewing child pornography would be investigated. Any controls on the computers in the library would have to come from the library; the police department does not control them in any way."

Because viewing pornography is not defined as improper under university policies, the only advice any librarian can offer to students who witness someone viewing pornography is to move away from the computer. Unfortunately, this means that those who are uncomfortable with this material must choose move to another location or remain uncomfortable.

The library came to a short-lived resolution over spring break that involved filtering the 34 open-air computers most easily viewed by anyone.

"While everyone agrees with the student's desire to not have to inadvertently look at pornography in the library's public computers, my filtering solution now seems too aggressive," Hayes said. "The librarians asked me to slow down because they are concerned that filtering will reduce their ability to help students with all resources. Filtering does filter some things that are good and legitimate sources."

Currently, Hayes and University Provost

Paul Hosier are considering creating a monitored area for non-UNCW community viewing. Both said action is being taken but that such actions are best made slowly and that the issue should be resolved by this summer.

"There are many complex issues involved here: censorship, the suppression of women's sexuality, production of pornography and sexual exploitation and cultural beliefs about gender and sex," Women's Resource Center Director Susan Bullers said.

Student Savak Allen studies at the Randall Library often. "I think that if someone is in the library that they should be here for schooling and educational purposes. In my opinion it is not the correct place to be viewing porn Web sites or printing out obscene pictures." Allen left the library, adding, "I don't feel comfortable here."

"If I find that offensive, I should be able to say please go to a different site, turn off the computer, or whatever I need to say to have the porn off the computer." Cody said. "They are hogging up a computer that a student needs to use to study."

**Results from last week's online poll:**

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- 41 % They can pry the extra quarter from my cold, dead fingers
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- 9% I'll do what I have to do to support the community
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**Go to theseahawk.org for this week's poll:**

What is your opinion on people viewing pornography on Randall Library computers?

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