



**TWO SIDED COIN...** Rocky Mount has been permeated with pornography in bookstores and theaters. Lieutenant Joe Brown, department of statistics, has many letters objecting to sale of pornography, but he says that many more will be needed for a town the size of Rocky Mount. It appears that the pornography question isn't a respecter of class structure for upper, middle, and lower class people have written in, some with a very formal style letter and some ripped off a coffee stained napkin. [Photos by Bulluck]

# X-Movies Pull 100

In Rocky Mount, small city that it is, obscene and pornographic materials are available. Book stores and movie theaters display obscene and pornographic materials.

Reporters approached one of this area's pornographic movie theaters and felt a strange atmosphere. The people who ran the theatre appeared uneasy when reporters were present. However, the reporters were able to get some information. The manager suggested that **The Gryphon** not use his name in the article.

The man in charge revealed that he had been instructed by the owners not to say anything about the pictures, but he still gave his personal views on pornography. He said that there was nothing wrong with it, if that is what the public wants to see. The theater does not advertise in the local paper, and the manager said they would not try to drag anyone in to see these movies. It is strictly up to the individual according to the manager.

Furthermore, he stated that there had never been any violence because of their movies. Many people have tried to sneak into the movies without paying, but the people who usually come to see the movies don't give them any trouble. The manager stated also that a proof of age is required. Attendants ask for

driver's license as identification. The legal age to attend X-rated movies is 18. If a person does not have sufficient identification, he will not be permitted to go in according to the manager.

Oddly enough reporters discovered that on a rainy day, the attendance is greater than on a sunny day. The weather is an important factor because on a rainy day farmers and businessmen are not able to work well, so they go to the movies to relax. On an average day approximately 100 people attend the movies. The percentage of women attending is low. Women generally attend the movies in couples (with a boyfriend).

Recalling recent articles about Child Abuse, reporters asked the manager if the showing of children or animals in sexual acts were permitted. He stated no.

Reporters also were told that since the opening of the Adult Book Store in Rocky Mount, more attention to the X-rated

movies has come from priests and churches, and he stated that the Book store could be a hazard to the business. "Obscene material is a material which deals with sex in a manner appealing to prurient interest." Recently in *Miller v. California*, the Supreme Court stated that for a work to be considered obscene it must be "judged as a whole, not just in terms of isolated words or phrases; judged in terms of the standards of the values of a highly sensitive individual."

Random House Dictionary has defined pornography as "obscene literature, art or photography especially that having little or no merit." The Supreme Court gave the right to the state, which passed the right to the local community to define obscenity according to this criterion (1) that the dominant theme taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or social value. Other laws say a person may not buy, acquire, or export obscene material.

## Law vs. Porno

The new Adult bookstore on Tarboro Street has apparently propelled the potency of the potion from the putrid, prurient puddle of pornography, and apparently some Rocky Mount people want to dispose of that puddle altogether! Rocky Mount Chief Arthur Butler has been receiving letters that he will use in his case to close down places which sell pornography.

Mr. Butler says that according to the Supreme Court obscenity is the hard-core pornography that is obviously offensive to anybody. In order to close down these "hard-core" bookstores and theaters the court must declare something as obscene based on community standards. Nudity alone, according to the Supreme Court, is not obscenity. "Personally, I would like to see the pornography filled bookstores and theaters gone all over America," says Chief Butler. "It has been linked to organized crime." Chief Butler closed by saying, "I would encourage the young reader to realize that this community is his community and that this is just one

more thing that does not make Rocky Mount a better place."

District Attorney Frank Brown said that there is a two stage procedure to disposing of obscene literature and movies. First an advisory hearing is held to bring in obscene materials. Then based on the amount of pure evidence the judge finds a bookshop or movie house as either obscene or not obscene. Based upon a finding that rates a place as obscene, the bookstore cannot sell that objectionable material without chance of a criminal violation of law. So apparently the pornography question will have to be repeatedly taken to court to get what some Rocky Mount residents call "a clean town." The city officials and the district attorney hope to reach a decision in a couple of weeks and "get something done about this," stated Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown said that he thought it was bad in his own personal opinion. However, the District Attorney's job is to use the law to bring about the most effective way of answering questions of obscenity in Rocky Mount to a proper end.

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