

Mrs. Andrews
Page 2.

October 28, 1982

Vancouver Rape Relief
& Women's Shelter

77 E. 20th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C., V5V 1L7
872-8212



Vancouver video merchant: suppression

There is no question we have been harassed, including stickers on our windows, stink bombs, and a fire bomb. There is now a campaign to charge long distance telephone calls to our numbers. You know about this because the plan was outlined in a pamphlet called "B.C. Blackout" which also called for a planning meeting which was held on the evening of October 27, 1982. You spoke at this meeting. So did Mr. Robert Sarti, the Investigative Reporter of the Vancouver Sun. This is no great surprise, as we know from the articles he has written, or researched, that he appears to have a bias against our stores.

You have watched a wide variety of adult entertainment movies. In fact, you have said that you have a tape of edited clips of all the "worst" of these movies. We congratulate you on your diligence and your moral rectitude to not be moved to evil actions by watching all this material (which you legally rent). It's too bad that you feel others in our society don't have your strength of character, or whatever. Unfortunately, your campaign to stamp out "Red Hot", we have removed vast quantities of material from our shelves. So now you are directing an attack against a magazine. What's next, book burning?

Are you really interested in pornography or simply in stamping out Red Hot Video; and why only Red Hot Video?

You have the right to oppose the business we carry on. We have the right to apply all forms of political pressure on the elected politicians in this province. You even have the right to ignore this letter, merely, because it's written by someone who doesn't share your beliefs. But you do have the right to impose your views of society on to the rest of us. We see no Christian Charity in any of this, rather self-righteous power tripping.

As you saw fit to send copies of your letter to various parties, I have sent copies to the same parties, along with a copy of the B.C. Blackout Newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Ted Emery
Ted Emery

cc: Corporal Sexsmith,
M.L.A. Angus Ree,
The Honourable Allan Williams,
Concerned Citizens for the North Shore
The Vancouver Sun

Ted Emery, pictured here, wrote this letter to Jancis Andrews, an anti-porn activist working with the North Shore Women's Centre. He sent the letter to her home.

"Red Hot Video - We're Gonna Stop You!!!"

- Stores at:
- Vancouver:
 - 3223 Main Street (at 16th Ave.)
 - 1773 Robson (at Denman)
 - North Vancouver:
 - 965 Marine Drive
 - South Burnaby:
 - 7705 6th Street (New Westminster)
 - North Burnaby:
 - 4439 E. Hastings (at Willingdon)
 - Langley:
 - 20371 - 56th Avenue
 - Port Coquitlam:
 - 2215 Coquitlam Avenue
 - Richmond:
 - 4800 No. 3 Road (inside Video Stop)
 - Victoria
 - Nanaimo
 - Prince George
 - Kelowna
 - Penticton

taken from pamphlet produced by the BC Federation of Women's Stop Red Hot Video Action Committee 1983

RED HOT VIDEO MAKES A LOT OF MONEY OFF THE BACKS OF WOMEN

- anyone can buy the title or franchise for \$10,000
- a tape costs them \$16.00 (copied) to buy, and they sell it for \$49.95 - a 300% profit.
- if Red Hot Video rents the same tape at \$3.00 a day, they can break even on that tape in 6 days... and if that tape is rented for 20 days out of the month... they've just made a 300% profit in the first month... and about 400% a month after that.
- multiply that by 400 titles and maybe 2 to 3 copies of each title, and you have 1,000 to 1,200 tapes at 400% profit within the first few months.
- the cost to Red Hot Video in salaries, rental, and equipment purchase is minimal

taken from an early "Boycott Red Hot Video" pamphlet produced by Rape Relief, Oct. 1982

Province & Son - Oct 28/82
PUBLIC NOTICE

from
RED HOT VIDEO

- ★ Vancouver
- ★ North Van.
- ★ S. Burnaby
- ★ N. Bby.
- ★ Surrey-Delta
- ★ Richmond
- ★ Port Coquitlam
- ★ Langley
- ★ Victoria
- ★ Nanaimo
- ★ Prince George
- ★ Kelowna

- 1) It is not against the law to shop at Red Hot Video.
- 2) Due to the loyal support of our customers, we will stay in the business of providing adult entertainment tapes for private viewing.
- 3) Because of a vocal minority pressure group we have taken many items off our shelves.
- 4) Do you think this minority has the right to set the standards for our community?

\$10,000 REWARD

for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved in the attempted fire-bombing of RED HOT VIDEO, 3223 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C. the evening of October 13, 1982 between 9:10 and 9:50 p.m.

Contact Red Hot Video, 3223 Main at 874-5870 or VANCOUVER CITY POLICE.

Adult videos, the most controversial and high-profile products of the home video industry, are gaining a brand-new respectability and popularity in B.C., distributors say.

"About eight months ago, stores really started to decide they would display the boxes and market them the same way as major pictures," said Terry Roycroft, president of the U.S.-based Essex Video's 2 1/2-year-old Vancouver branch.

"More and more stores are ordering it all the time. Some stores just don't carry it, but those that do usually do because they have a lot of requests for it."

Agreed John Daneau, a director of Can West Video: "There's a growing interest in adult

movies now. They are more socially acceptable."

Daneau said the business has grown "substantially" in the past two years, generating between \$25 million and \$30 million in wholesale revenue across the country during 1984.

Roycroft said until about six months ago, his company — a major importer of erotica for distributors such as Can West which in turn supply general video clubs and stores —

brought in only tapes showing simulated sex.

For more hard-core fare, he said, viewers relied on specialty stores and pirated copies of X-rated movies.

"But there's not much demand for the simulated product anymore. We decided to get into double and triple X-rated videos."

Roycroft said between 15 and 25 per cent of the average retail store's revenue now likely comes from videos whose story-

line is laced with explicit sex.

A spokesman for Red Hot Video, the chain known for its sex-oriented shows, said adult tapes make up between 35 and 45 per cent of its stores' stock, and account for 40 to 45 per cent of their revenue.

"About 60 per cent of the total inventory is Hollywood general movies," said the spokesman, who identified himself only as Mr. James, the chain's corporate counsel.

He said business has been

steadily growing in recent years, but added that U.S. figures reporting a 30 to 50 per cent jump in sales during 1984 "sound very high for Canada. The business is still in its infancy here, compared to the U.S. market."

Roycroft, who said his imports comply with Criminal Code obscenity provisions and show neither children, violence or bestiality, said the adult video industry has grown from the days when pictures were shot on shoe-string budgets using

poorly paid, unknown stars.

"They are trying to go for more attractive people now — Penthouse and Playboy pin-ups. And they are high-cost, \$250,000 to \$300,000 productions, rather than the original \$5,000 shows."

Daneau said porn flicks cost about the same as general movies, but there are more problems with pirating. He said he keeps files of companies marketing pirated tapes, and regularly sends them letters telling them "to straighten up their acts."

"It gives us all a bad reputation, because the quality of movies that have been pirated isn't that great," he said. "The customer doesn't get what he's paid for — and it's stealing."

25¢

'Dan' Stoveman is the owner/manager of the Red Hot Video store on Main Street. According to the Registrar of Companies in Victoria, he owns only 2% of the stock. The Main Street store is also the mailing address for the cross Canada mail order business in porn videos; and the main distribution source for all the smaller video stores' porn stock. As far as I know 'Dan' has only ever appeared on television once in all the time Red Hot was in the news (1982-84), and has consistently refused any comment in the print media...unlike Ted Emery, owner of the North Shore Red Hot Video.

Regina H.

December 3, 1982

'Ralph' the detective & Peter Struk

We got a call at Rape Relief from 'Ralph', a private detective. He said he had information about the man who copied tapes (pirates) for Red Hot Video; and additional information about the original tapes came across the border. He said he could also tell me how the pirate tapes were distributed in the Lower Mainland.

He assured me that the phone line we were talking on was not tapped, because the red light on his phone had not begun to flash; and he asked that I meet him alone NOW. I stalled and after a hectic consultation with the women working in the office that day... arranged a meeting with 'Ralph' at a local greasy spoon. I insisted to him that I would bring another woman with me.

I really didn't know what to expect... we'd had some weird calls since the beginning of the campaign against Red Hot Video...one a threat to firebomb me in my apartment. So we sent two other women to the restaurant ahead to the restaurant to eat lunch and look casual. Joni and I met 'Ralph'; he looked really ordinary, no trench coat; but a baseball team jacket. He talked at length about Peter Struk; a man who had 16 or more video machines in his basement...and copied tapes all day and all night for distribution by Red Hot Video. He talked about the series of trucks, private cars, and commercial couriers that picked up and delivered the tapes around the city...always using a different route.

Then he slipped a piece of paper across the table with Peter Struk's name and address and telephone number. When I asked him what his interest was in Struk, and why he was giving us this information: he said he was investigating Struk on another matter and it would be very useful to him and his 'client' if we could arrange a demonstration in front of Struk's house on a particular Saturday morning at a particular time. I told him I'd think about it, and thanks for the information.

When we got back to the office, he phoned telling me he thought the other two women having lunch tactic was 'cute', but amateurish.

We didn't demonstrate in front of Struk's house on the date he requested, and never heard from 'Ralph' again.

Two weeks later... there was a big police raid on several Red Hot Video stores. The police seized a few tapes... and they raided Peter Struk's house... same address that 'Ralph' gave us... and seized all the machines and 'pirate' tapes that 'Ralph' had described. I still don't know if we missed the opportunity of a lifetime; or if we were being set up for who only knows what.

Regina



Porn show costly

Guilty of film porn

Porn dealer call in police

By BOB HENDRICKSON
Staff Reporter

A videotaped sex romp with two teen "nymphomaniacs" has taken a big chunk from a Surrey man's wallet.

Robert Porter, 44, was fined \$1,000 in Vancouver provincial court after pleading guilty to gross indecency.

Court heard Porter created the home-made porn tape in 1983 with two girls, aged 14 and 15, at a Vancouver apartment.

A third teenage girl blew the whistle after she was invited by one of the "stars" to watch the video.

Defence lawyer Richard Israel's claim Porter thought the girls were in their twenties. "They were able, they were advanced sexually to the nymphomaniacs."

Porter is a widower, 29, and has a young son. He was convicted Friday of making and distributing obscene X-rated movie.

Porter was one of his partners in marketing the films — Canadian and Weekend in Victoria.

After all, a criminal lawyer was one of his partners in marketing the films — Canadian and Weekend in Victoria.

Victoria Bureau Eduardo Pereira-Vasquez didn't think he could possibly get into legal trouble for the two sex movies he made in Victoria.

After all, a criminal lawyer was one of his partners in marketing the films — Canadian and Weekend in Victoria.

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By KEITH MORGAN
Crime Reporter

U.S. porno movie makers want police in the Lower Mainland to go to bat for them. They'll ask the Mounties to shut down the video pirates who are copying their most titillating titles.

"We plan to ask Canadian authorities to uphold the copyrights held by our members," says Jim Johnson, president of the Los Angeles-based Adult Movie Association.

"Our movies are protected by the same copyright provisions as those enjoyed by the Hollywood movie makers."

And that could put the Mounties in the embarrassing position of taking up the cause for such titles as Talk Dirty to Me and Debbie Does Dallas.

In the past, police in B.C. have seized similar charges from B.C. video outlets and laid obscenity charges.

In June, the RCMP seized 7,000 Hollywood-type movie tapes — believed to be unauthorized — from Lower Mainland stores. Copyright infringement and fraud charges are now pending.

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TO ALL CONCERNED
REFERRING TO: "THE WIMMINS FIRE BRIGADE".

The owners and principles of Red Hot Video Stores are offering to PAY UP TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) FOR THE ELIMINATION of the fire bomb threat perpetrated by the "Wimmins Fire Brigade" and it's male associates, by their own admission. This elimination will be accomplished through the legally constituted authority of the law courts. The reward monies will be paid for any new and dependable information through the Hot Line listed below. Immunity from prosecution by us will be guaranteed to the informant (s). The core people involved obviously have no respect for human life. We have already identified some of them and will deal with them accordingly.

COME FORWARD BEFORE SOMEONE IS KILLED --- SOME INNOCENT PERSON, NOT INVOLVED!!!!

DON'T END UP LOCKED UP *****LOOK AFTER NUMBER ONE!

24 HOUR HOT LINE684-8830

RED HOT VIDEO STORES



Submission to the Community Services Committee, Vancouver City Hall
 May 31, 1984
 Subject: A Review Board on Pornography

Feminists agree that pornography is about the degradation of women. What there seems to be disagreement about is what to do about, and specifically about the usefulness of the review board. In order to make our arguments as helpful as possible I want, briefly, to do a little backtracking, present some analysis, in order to bridge apparent gaps in understanding.

I want first of all to be clear that we do not necessarily consider all graphic sexual material to be pornographic. If we did then we'd have to oppose a good deal of material, written or filmed, that is useful, striving for accuracy and even beautiful; from our schools, our libraries, our minds. Surely we have all read literature or seen films which, in the context of the story, depict sex. In these instances sexual acts are shown as part & parcel of a man or woman's life which includes families, friends, politics, homes - in short, who we are and how we live and in this context the sexual explicitness can be erotic. We want more of that, not less, because it's about relationships. Feminists have been saying for years - and we'll keep on saying it - that pornography is not about sex, is not about relationships. Pornography is about degradation, humiliation, domination and not all pornography involves sexually graphic material.

What we are discussing here is the production and distribution of porn; which brings us back again to the issue of the review board.

We want to say again that we think a review board is not only redundant but potentially a step backward instead of forward. It is redundant because the Criminal Code of Canada is clear in its definition of what is unacceptable and those laws need only be enforced. The B.C. guidelines on pornography are also quite clear. (This is not to say that we're impressed but we do think they're more useful than the idea of a review board.) We do believe that if Mr. Pattison and other distributors of pornography are sincere about their stated desire to stop the flow of this material they can quite easily determine what magazines do and don't offer and promote pornographic images and ideas, written and visual. I include Mr. Pattison still in this because my information is that he has not completely disposed himself of Mainland Magazine Service; but has merely transferred it to ownership in another branch of his financial empire. At any rate the guidelines on pornography are clear and we see the review board which Mr. Pattison proposed and said was supported by women's groups as merely another loophole for the distributors and we want to be quite clear that not all women's groups support the idea. We don't.

Our other concern regarding a review board is censorship. We know that a similar board in Ontario has turned out to work against women's interests. Specifically it has, to begin with, resulted in a tremendous back-log of cases in the courts so that its usefulness in fighting pornography is effectively nullified. Worse, so far as we're concerned, the Ontario Censor Board interfered drastically with the anti-pornography film, NOT A LOVE STORY, a film that has been very effective as a teaching tool about pornography. As well they interfered with the distribution of the film, AND NOW A MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSORS, a film that makes important links about the objectification of women in advertising and pornography. No doubt that the subject matter is horrifying, but we need to face it in a critically constructive way to get rid of it, and this is what two films attempt to do and were trashed in Ontario for their work.

The other aspect of this that we're fearful about is the idea of moral protection. This idea is based on the assumption that pornography depicts the natural desires of men - in other words is based on biological imperative or necessity. We see that it follows, in that logic, that the oppression and degradation of women is a natural phenomenon. We do not believe that. We believe that the hatred of women is taught. We also know that pornography is a multi-million dollar industry in Canada (multi-billion in the U.S.A.), so we know that it is going to continue to be a tough battle because those who profit from the degradation of women are not easily going to relinquish those profits. But that's what has to be done. In order to stop it we have to make it unprofitable and a review board would not have that effect. It would merely postpone the use of the laws that are currently in place to deal with this issue of profit from my pain.

Further, on the issue of censorship, we have, as we've said before, concern that a review board would work to prohibit sale of information about sexuality that is useful to us as women and to society. Information about our bodies, about pleasure, mutual pleasure, is something we want continued and increased access to whether that information be about heterosexual or homosexual love. You'll find some of this material in women's bookstores, some in other wider interest stores - Duthie's for example. Sex is not pornography. Pornography is not sex.

What we want here is to hand the responsibility for pornography back to the individual men who use it, to the retail outlets and the distributors who provide it, and we want this Committee to proceed with what you began when you called Mr. Pattison and other distributors to account. We want you to put pressure on the Attorney General's office to enforce the existing laws. That's what we need - not one more bureaucracy in the form of a review board through which to fight our way.

Eleanor, 1984
 (Eleanor left the collective in 1985)



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Porn magazines still distributed by Pattison firm

By ROBERT SARTI

More than four months after businessman Jimmy Pattison announced that he was selling off one of his companies that distributes pornographic magazines, Pattison still retains control of the company.

Pattison confirmed Tuesday he has not yet divested himself of Mainland Magazines, as he said he intended to do following criticism from women's groups.

Women's groups that had been critical of Pattison for trying to turn a profit by the sale of Mainland to one of his own former business associates reacted with shock Tuesday to the disclosure that he still owns the company.

"What? I can't believe it," Megan Ellis of Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre said. "The way he (Pattison) was talking about it, we thought he got rid of it months ago."

Pattison, a prominent born-again Christian who also heads up the Expo 86 board, announced in May he was selling Mainland after women's groups revealed in testimony before the Fraser federal commission on pornography and prostitution that the company distributes about 250 "adult" magazines to Lower Mainland retail stores - everything from Playboy and Hustler to Screw and International Hooker.

The Fraser commission was told many of Mainland's adult magazines carry explicit depictions of rape and other forms of violent sex, as well as of incest.

Mainland also distributes thousands of other magazines, including Maclean's, TV Guide and Sports Illustrated.

Pattison said in an interview he has not yet reached agreement with Fred Vanstone, a one-time vice-president of various Pattison companies, on a sale price for Mainland.

Asked if the deal might not go through, he replied: "No deal is a deal until it's closed. We'll see what happens."

Pattison aide Bill Sleeman said Pattison had concluded a "preliminary agreement to sell" Mainland to Vanstone, but that the value of the company has come into question due to the vigorous competition of rival Vancouver Magazine Service Ltd.

"There is a hold-up in the closing of the sale, which relates to the performance of the company from an earnings point of view," Sleeman said.

Pattison declined to discuss his feelings on the issue, but at the time of the original disclosure he said he found the pornography personally offensive and wanted to get rid of it.

However, he said he could not just drop the adult magazines because they come part and parcel with the inoffensive material from national distributors.

Anti-pornography activist Jancis Andrews, a director of the West Vancouver United Church, said Tuesday: "Mr. Pattison is a prominent Christian and a business leader, and has told us he was anxious to get rid of these magazines, so I don't see why he is still haggling over price."

The question of Pattison's holdings also became an issue at Vancouver City Hall, with a city council committee and Mayor Mike Harcourt urging Pattison to retain control of Mainland



JIM PATTISON

... "we'll see what happens"

and to simply discontinue sale of the offensive material.

Meanwhile, another Pattison proposal - that a review board be set up by B.C.'s major magazine distributors to screen magazines for offensive content - is running into criticism from some women's groups.

Regina Lorek of Vancouver Rape Relief said she received a letter from a Pattison aide inviting her to apply for a position on the three-member panel, but she will refuse.

Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre has also refused to participate, Ellis said.

"This panel is just a way for the distributors to avoid their responsibility, which they have under the Criminal Code, to ensure that this type of material does not get distributed," Lorek said.

"They want women to take them off the hook by doing the approving for them."

Anti-porn activist Donna Stewart, one of the supporters of the proposal, agreed that women would "dirty their hands" in giving approval to magazines such as Playboy and Hustler.

"Such a board is limited in its usefulness, and we've known that from the start," Stewart said. "But maybe it will slow down the flow of some of the grosser material."

Still, Stewart was critical of Pattison's decision to sell Mainland to a former business associate, a move that she described as "the right hand selling to the left."

The controversy over Mainland isn't the first time a Pattison company has received criticism for selling pornography.

In 1980, Mountain City News Ltd., a subsidiary of Jim Pattison International, was convicted of distributing obscene material in Hamilton, Ont., and fined \$12,000.

S.-Sgt. Fred Pawluk of the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police said Tuesday the magazine involved combined sex and violence with torture devices.

Pawluk said he has been on the vice squad for 25 years, and he is obliged to "look at that kind of garbage every day."

"I have to agree with the women's groups - that stuff degrades women, there's no question about it," he said.

Asked about the Hamilton case, Pattison replied: "That was years ago - it's old news now."

In the spring of 1984, Vancouver City Council started to make some moves to control the sale and proliferation of pornography. One of the first was to call Jim Pattison on the carpet.

The day before Pattison was due to appear before council; his right hand man, Seebach, called a meeting or representatives of some women's groups and some church groups. There were fights between women about whether or not to go. Some of us maintained (Jancis Andrews and myself mainly) that this was a tactic on the part of Pattison to get out of having to account publicly at City Hall (proceedings are televised).

The meeting happened - behind locked doors - presence by invitation only. Pattison was not there. After the meeting, Seebach held a press conference and announced the formation of the 'periodical review board'. The job of the board would be to screen porn magazines for material that contravened the B.C. Guidelines on pornography, and the Criminal Code. Submission to the board by distributors would be voluntary, and the members of the board would be paid by the distributors.

Pattison ('Jimmy', as our mayor, Mike Harcourt calls him) did not show up at City Council the next day... and the debate among women's groups and on the council floor became whether or not to support the review board. I spoke against the review board on behalf of Rape Relief; suggesting that perhaps we should be blockading the trucks that brought the porn from the U.S. instead.

Pattison claimed that he could not fight the U.S. distributors when they sent him porn across the border... and that distributing the whole package was part of the deal with them. He left fighting the U.S. porn distributors to the review board.

City Council eventually forced the sellers of pornography magazines to display those magazines out of the view and reach of children... behind opaque racks. This means that the magazines are not as visible, but it certainly does not cut into any money that anyone in the chain of pornography profiteers is making.

Regina J.C.

City Council lets the big distributors off the hook, and then nails the small ones, many of whom are Chinese or Indian.

Council moves on porn

Hard core pornography depicting sexual acts will be outlawed in corner grocery stores, if a city council committee gets its way.

And stores selling magazines showing nudity and genitalia must keep them out of reach of children, with the cover pictures hidden from view.

In a series of recommendations at a community services committee meeting, aldermen also called on Expo 86 chairman Jim Pattison to hold off on the promised sale of Mainland Magazines, a distributor of some sexually explicit publications.

Pattison and nine other distributing companies in B.C. will be asked to stop selling all offensive material - much of which depicts bestiality, bondage, incest, rape and torture which contravenes the Criminal Code - to B.C. retailers.

The key recommendation would see all publications depicting either simulated or real sex acts banned from sale in all retail outlets in Vancouver except in 12 adult entertainment stores licenced under a conditional zoning use by the city.

Those adult stores are permitted to sell such graphic material but must not allow children under 17 in

the store and must not display sexual paraphernalia in the window. All other stores will have 30 days - if city council approves the recommendations on May 30 - to get the sexually explicit magazines off their shelves.

"We don't have the staff to inspect every store, but we'll act on a complaint basis. Stores not licenced to sell the graphic material will violate their business licence," said Ken Armstrong of the city's permits and licences department.

Aldermen also want stepped up police enforcement of any retailer and distributor who sells extreme pornography which violates provincial and federal laws.

Aldermen were told police were not laying any new charges relating to pornography pending an appeal by Red Hot Video which was told to stop operating last year by the city.

Appearing before the council committee were representatives from the North Shore Women's Centre, Canadian Congress of Women, the University Women's Club, the Vancouver Council of Women and the Canadian Coalition Against Media Pornography.

PORN PRESSURE

By CARRIE MISHIMA
Staff Reporter

Some grocery store owners in the Kootenays say they are being pressured into selling offensive skin magazines.

Ron Franks, who runs Roadside Place in Castlegar, yesterday said a local distributor, who has the market tied up from Grand Forks to Cranbrook, refused to supply his store with any magazines unless he agreed to sell those he finds "offensive."

"When I sent these degrading magazines back, they said I could not do this. They sent them back to me and said I must mark them and display them or I won't get any magazines at all."

"That's arm-twisting... and around here you can't go to an alternative," Franks said.

"I think other small stores may be afraid to lose business and get pressed into carrying magazines they don't want."

But distributor Gus Conacher denies pressuring the dealers.

The rule is if a customer wants only certain magazines, he must pick them up at the warehouse and anything chosen cannot be returned.

Conacher, who operates Conacher News in Trail, said he does not deliver individual orders because he "cannot make any money on this kind of dealer."

He refused to answer further questions. Franks said he was given the pick-up option only after two months of fighting with the company.

Andre LaFleur, assistant manager of the Grand Forks General Store, said he faced the same problem Franks did a year ago in dealing with Conacher.

"I can't see how a magazine distributor can dictate what a store can sell," said LaFleur, who recalled the distributor got upset if LaFleur didn't display all the magazines.

LaFleur said he was never offered the pick-up option.

A Fruitvale store owner, who did not want to be identified because he's still a Conacher customer, also said he felt pressured into selling the skin magazines.

Franks said the magazines which he refused to sell included Hustler, Penthouse and Oui, as well as more obscure titles that depicted sex with violence.

A spokesman in Ottawa for the consumer and corporate affairs ministry said they can only take action against a distributor if its practices are shown to substantially lessen competition.

Ministry spokesman John Barker said he could not confirm or deny whether Conacher News has been investigated by the ministry.

Two porn sellers to face council

Sun City Hall Bureau

The owners of two "adult entertainment" stores in Skid Road who recently pleaded guilty to charges of selling and possessing obscene material will be called to city council to show cause why their business licences should not be suspended or revoked.

Council voted 9-2 Tuesday to hold show-cause hearings against Sadrudin Amlani, of 141 East Hastings, and Shamsudin Remtulla, of 169 East Hastings.

Amlani, who was fined \$200 for selling obscene material, said in a letter to city hall he was under the impression that his wholesaler had cleared all goods through Canada Customs and he was unaware the offending, plastic-wrapped book was illegal.

"I try to keep within the law and now I try to check all my books before putting them on display for sale," the letter said.

Remtulla was fined \$400 on a charge of possessing an obscene videotape for the purpose of distribution.

Aldermen George Puil and Gordon Campbell voted against the hearings, saying the retailers had already paid a fine.

No date was set for the hearings.



A.G. APPLAUDS PATTISON ON PORN

By HOLLY HORWOOD

Attorney-General Brian Smith has washed his hands of any part in a pornography-censoring review panel.

And while women's groups continue the battle against hard-core porn by threatening legal action against the Westin Bayshore Hotel carrying legally-questionable skin magazines, Smith claims it's up to the industry to regulate itself.

Responding to questions from MLA Rosemary Brown (NDP-Burnaby Edmonds), Smith told the legislature this week:

"When I discussed this matter with Mr. (Jim) Pattison, I understood the proposal to be a self-policing body which would recommend standards, deal with complaints and police the industry itself, along the lines of the (B.C.) Press Council.

"I prefer that to having the government set up some

kind of censorship board."

Expo 86 chairman, church-going Jim Pattison, has stepped into the thick of the pornography debate by promising to sell his Mainland Magazine company, a distributor of some porn magazines.

And Pattison also won consensus from B.C.'s 10 magazine distributing companies for the idea of a Community Standards Review Panel which he says would be funded by the distributors, with panel members named by the government.

Pressed by Brown, in the legislature, as to why Smith would not establish a panel on behalf of B.C. residents, the Attorney General said: "I guess I shouldn't be surprised that the member would want to create yet another government body to supervise, regulate and look into something..."

"It seems to me that what Mr. Pattison is trying to do is give a lead to the indus-

try and give them a signal to clean up their act. I applaud that and I applaud Mr. Pattison."

The Westin Bayshore Hotel, meanwhile, has come under fire from women's groups for selling at least a half dozen sex publications including the latest issue of Hustler which shows women in bondage and behind cages and cartoons on incest and child molestation.

Donna Stewart of the North Shore Women's Centre said she suspects the magazine contravenes federal obscenity laws and charges against the hotel are being considered by her group.

"Stuff the ordinary person could only view as degrading and sick is being sold by a reputable hotel," she told The Courier.

Responded Monica Hayes, director of public relations for the hotel: "It's a really touchy issue."

"The hotel has virtually no jurisdiction over its retail

outlets - in this case the United Cigar Store which carries these magazines as part of its regular inventory."

But Hayes added: "The situation is being evaluated... the only question would be whether the hotel wishes to make changes in its licensing policy to give it control over what its retailers sell."

The Westin Bayshore was on the hot seat this week as it hosted a two-day conven-

tion of magazine distributors and publishers from across Canada and the United States.

Jack Shapiro, spokesman for the 38-member Periodical Distributors of Canada, told The Courier his organization is leery of any bid to stop the flow of hard-core pornography through an independent review panel.

"My job is to bring the stuff to the people - whatever they want to read."

"If the credible distribu-

tors are stopped from getting the material to the readers, the publishers will find some other way... There will be a real proliferation of secondary distributors, guys who will run the risk of law suits and whatever."

Added Shapiro: "If that happens, we want the support of the Attorney-General. I don't know what he can do for the legitimate distributors, but we want him to back us... we want to be let off the hook."

Gillian Riddington
Review Board Member

To clarify, briefly, some of these points:

1. The board liaises with both the Periodical Distributor's Association and the A-G's office, but is functionally independent. We make our own decisions; our standards are the A-G's guidelines, current case law, and our judgement of "community standards", based on our work in women's and/or community groups. We send the results of our deliberations each week to both of the above institutions; we also send our reports to community groups and feminist organizations who wish to be involved in monitoring to ensure that the periodicals which we suggest should not be distributed, do not appear on newstands.

3. The distributor's association had no input into the selection of board members; a number of women's groups did. The A-G's department supplied liaison services, but was not part of the selection committee; neither body has rights to dismiss board members.

4. The distributors who are part of the association do not distribute only pornographic material; they also distribute all the regular magazines, from Time to Sesame Street, that are in general circulation throughout B.C. Board members are paid through a trust fund set up by the distributors, so that we can retain an "arms length relationship" with them. Since the distributors are the ones who make the money from the magazines, it seems appropriate that they should be the ones that pay for our work. The distributors support the board because it allows them not to distribute some magazines, without jeopardizing their contracts for other high circulation periodicals. Under the criminal code, (s. 161) they can not be forced to distribute material if they have reason to believe it is obscene. Our presence allows them to hold back some pornography, while maintaining their contracts for other periodicals, because we give them "clout", and give credibility to a claim that a specific magazine may be obscene.

This system breaks down when the top levels of the federal government usurp our function and decide that a magazine is not obscene, before we have had a chance to give our opinion. This was the case with the January Penthouse, which had been approved by the Departments of Justice and of Revenue in Ottawa prior to being submitted to us. In that case, we refused to give an opinion, because our powers had been overridden. That's frustrating. But we still feel that our efforts to date have been worthwhile, and have done a little to improve the social climate for women and children in British Columbia.