

Police probing continues

Bookstore owner says it's election-year routine

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

A Eugene Police Department investigation into possible ties between a local pornographic bookstore and organized crime may be just another election-year ploy, the store's owner says.

The investigation, which began two months ago when Adult World Bookstore opened at 490 E. Broadway, has so far produced no firm connections between the bookstore and organized crime. It has found that the store does have ties to a Portland distributor who is suspected of having the connections, says Sgt. T.M. Kline of the Eugene Police Department.

When the bookstore opened for business in the downtown area in July, it caused a wave of reactions throughout the community. That controversy hasn't ended, says Dale Anderson, the store's owner.

"Let's face it, this is a very hot potato right now," Anderson explains.

The controversy began last May when the political battle over the Eugene Gay Rights ordinance reached its peak, Anderson says. There was some fear among opponents of the ordinance, who claimed that if the ordinance survived the recall vote, pornographic book stores catering to the gay community would become

commonplace in the downtown area.

That hasn't happened, Anderson says. But when the Adult World bookstore opened, those same people saw it as a sign of decay.

Although the shop was the first pornographic store to open in the downtown area after the Climax Book Store on East 13th Avenue lost its lease in February, the controversy surrounding it occurred before, Anderson says.

"I know for a fact that the He and She Bookstore (on River Road) went through the same thing," Anderson says, "and the Climax store went through the exact same thing."

The investigation of the pornographic bookstores has been a part of the EPD function for some time, Kline says. The investigation of the Adult World store was little more than a routine background check until the Eugene Register-Guard reported some connections between the store and a distributor who was suspected of having links to organized crime.

"Let's face it," Kline says, "They're selling stuff that is at least objectionable to some segment of the population, so we decided to check the business out."

Part of that investigation may include the use of plainclothes

policemen who keep an eye on the store, Anderson says.

"I have plainclothes policemen in here all the time. I can usually spot them."

Other than being in the middle of the local political scene, Anderson's business has been doing very well.

"Everything seems to be running very smoothly right now," Anderson adds. "I don't want to make waves because the police are just doing their job, I guess."

"The pressure is always on these kinds of places around election time anyway."



Photo by Dennis Hickok

Dale Anderson is the owner of the Adult World Bookstore, which has faced controversy since opening last July. Anderson believes the issue is a "hot potato right now," since it's election time in Eugene.

Students back Chalmers

Don Chalmers' campaign for the Legislature took a step forward Thursday with the formation of "Students for Chalmers".

Loren Simonds, head of the group, kicked off the effort with an early morning press conference in the Dad's Room of the EMU, and cited "a growing student interest" in the Chalmers campaign.

Chalmers, director of the campus Office of Student Advocacy, faces incumbent Rep. Dave Fronmayer, a University law professor, in the District 40 race.

"We've had 10-15 people at each of our steering committee meetings since Chalmers announced his candidacy on March 8," Simonds said. "People I didn't even know have come up to me, expressing an interest in working on this campaign."

Those interested in helping with the campaign may contact Simonds at 686-0336.

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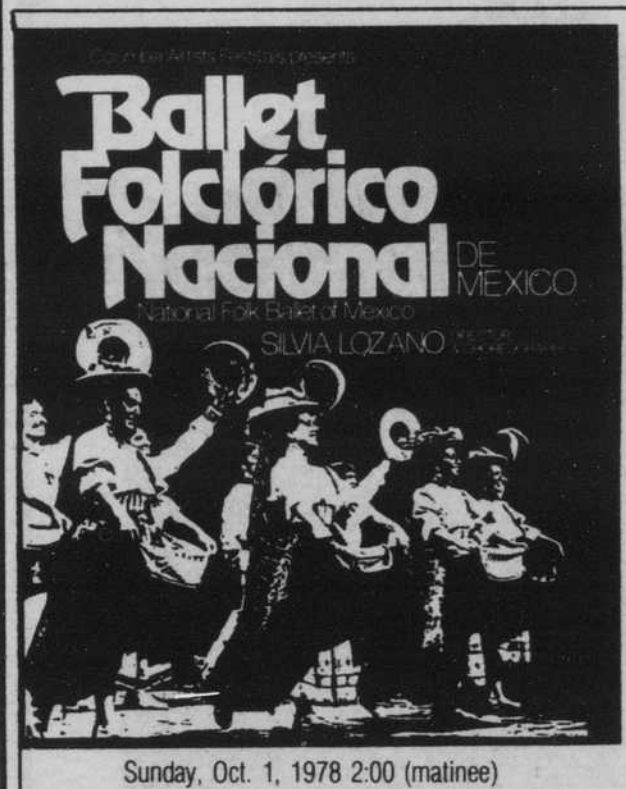
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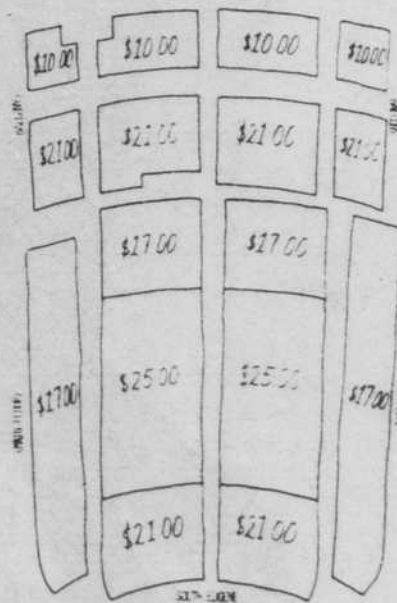
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