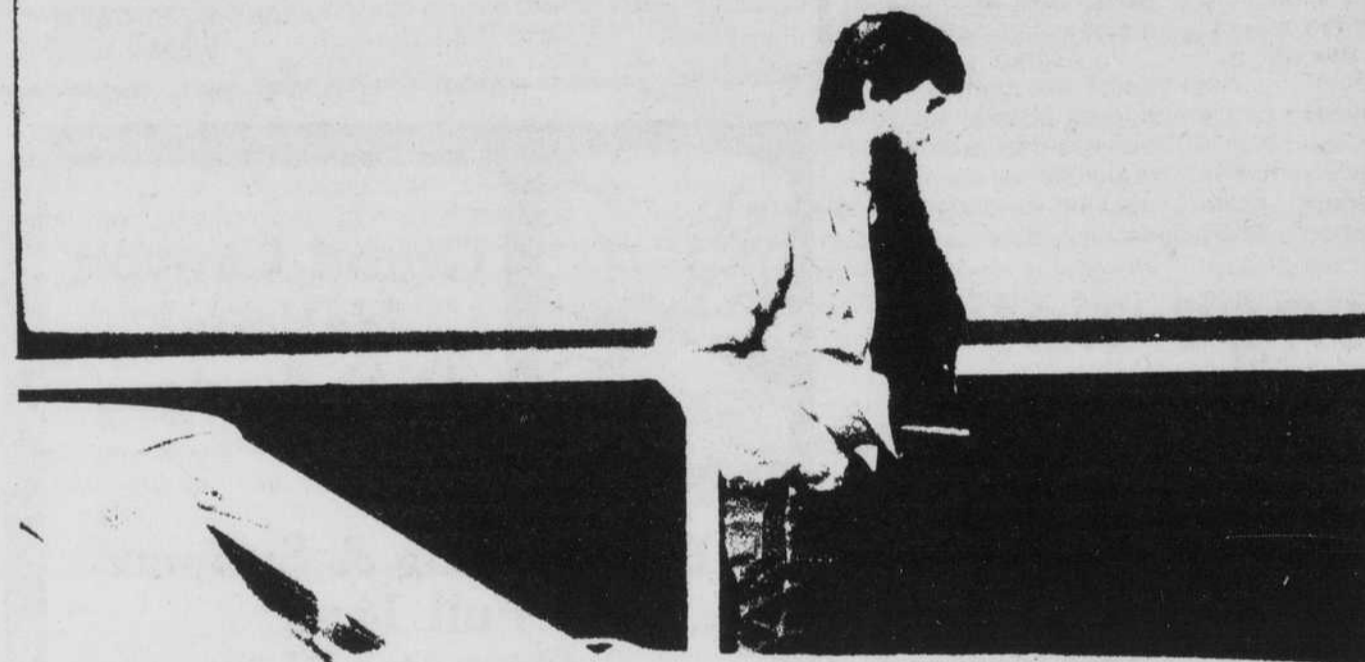


FILMS NOVELTIES



YOU MUST BE
OF LEGAL AGE
TO ENTER



*If nudity offends
YOU
Do not enter.
I.D. required
Must be Legal age.*

"If nudity offends you, do not enter," the sign warns the two women who cautiously enter Adult Books on Franklin Boulevard.

At first they both stare at the floor to avoid the overtly sexual items that jumped out at them, so to speak.

But their modesty soon gives way to curiosity.

A soft-spoken young man sits smiling behind a glass case that displays a wide assortment of sexual novelties. The older woman walks to the counter while the other woman giggles at the novelties displayed on the wall.

"Do you have any books that could actually help my husband and my sex life?" she asks timidly.

"I might," owner Mitch Hutchinson answers. "What are you looking for?"

After she describes her problem, he pulls out a few sex manuals with plastic covers that contain graphic photos and explanations.

"I don't think that's what I'm looking for," she says, flipping the pages. "I don't like this kind of thing."

"I think I understand what you're looking for, and to be honest, you won't find it here," Hutchinson says, advising her to try the public library. There's not much demand for those sorts of books, he says.

Adult Books carries magazines featuring most sexual fantasies, including gay sex and explicit bondage. "Kiddy porn" (magazines picturing nude persons under 18-years-old) and bestiality (people having sex with animals) are violations of the law.

Novelties include dildos, pornographic playing cards, French ticklers, love oils and

'Hell, it's pornography'

gags — such as a penis passifier for the baby in the family.

He also sells movies, greeting cards and T-shirts.

Hutchinson doesn't hesitate explaining why he's in the business. It's the money. "Let's face it, that's what everyone who has a business is in it for."

He doesn't read the material that he calls "literary garbage." But Hutchinson says he is helpful and doesn't judge his customers.

People from all walks of life come into the store, he says. Some are lonely, some curious, some bored with their marital sex. Some buy magazines, some buy novels and some buy gadgets, and "they're having fun with it."

Some magazines show violent sex. But Hutchinson says people who fantasize their perversions "maybe won't have to go out and live them."

"The person that does it (sexual violence) was going to do it anyhow. You've got to lay the blame on the individual," he says.

Two theories apply to violent pornography, says Marcia Kraus, coordinator of the University Women's Referral Center. The first explains that pornographic material is cathartic — that fantasies act in place of reality.

The other theory explains that people react from what they see.

Sex material that illustrates mutuality between two people can be helpful, Kraus says. But material that shows one person doing sex to another is pornography. This emphasizes women as objects that "men can derive pleasure from," Kraus says.

Because the woman is shown merely as a

body and not a whole person, it dehumanizes them.

Showing "sex as mechanical, cold, and calculative takes the totality away from it," Kraus says, and "makes it organ-to-organ instead of person-to-person."

Pornography that pictures bondage perpetuates the myth that women enjoy being suppressed in sex, she says. Continual exposure to such material legitimizes this concept.

A Eugene psychologist, who asked not to be identified, says that since adult book stores are considered unacceptable in society, the atmosphere perpetuates the idea that sex is dirty.

"To hell with it, it's pornography," says Hutchinson. "If you don't want it, don't buy it."

He says he supplies products at a profit, keeps his books and pays taxes like any business.

But this same book store was closed in June 1979 under different ownership when Lane County Circuit Court Judge Edwin Allen ruled the store was a public nuisance. Allen alleged the store's owners allowed sexual acts between men while viewing coin-operated movies in enclosed booths.

The owners, Daniel Cosset and Thomas Shaw, both of Portland, were permanently enjoined from allowing "lewd activity" in the store. The order also read that the owners couldn't use the premises for one year unless they posted a \$62,500 bond. The suit was civil, not criminal.

The bond wasn't posted and the store remained closed for more than a year. In September 1980, Hutchinson leased the

store from the previous owners and began the current business without the coin-operated arcades.

Hutchinson also applied in September for a licence to operate 24 coin-operated movie arcade machines. The city has yet to decide on the license application.

The city is moving slowly on the issue because it wants to be sure the same offenses aren't repeated, Eugene Police investigator Mel Olson says.

Clear-cut violations of Oregon's obscenity laws, such as bestiality and "kiddy porn" are easier to enforce than touchier issues involving constitutional guarantees of free expression.

In 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that local community standards should determine what material is obscene and therefore not protected by the constitution.

Because Eugene hasn't established a community standard, Eugene police officers rely on state statutes to determine what materials are against the law.

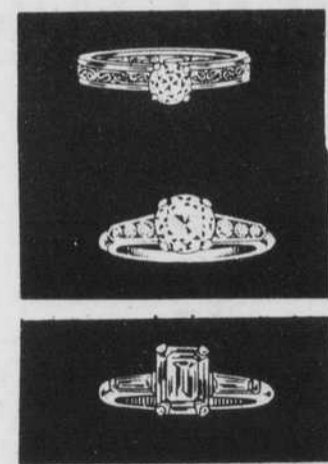
Oregon statutes already prohibit kiddy porn, bestiality and live shows. It also prohibits sale of "obscene" material to minors.

Another statute declares material obscene and illegal if it depicts in a "patently offensive manner" sadomasochistic abuse or sexual conduct.

Olson says police officers only file reports with the district attorney's office when a community member complains or the material is "obviously" obscene and unlawful.

Story by NancyAnn Lotgren
Photos by Steve Dykes

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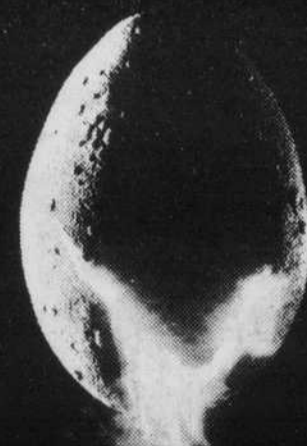


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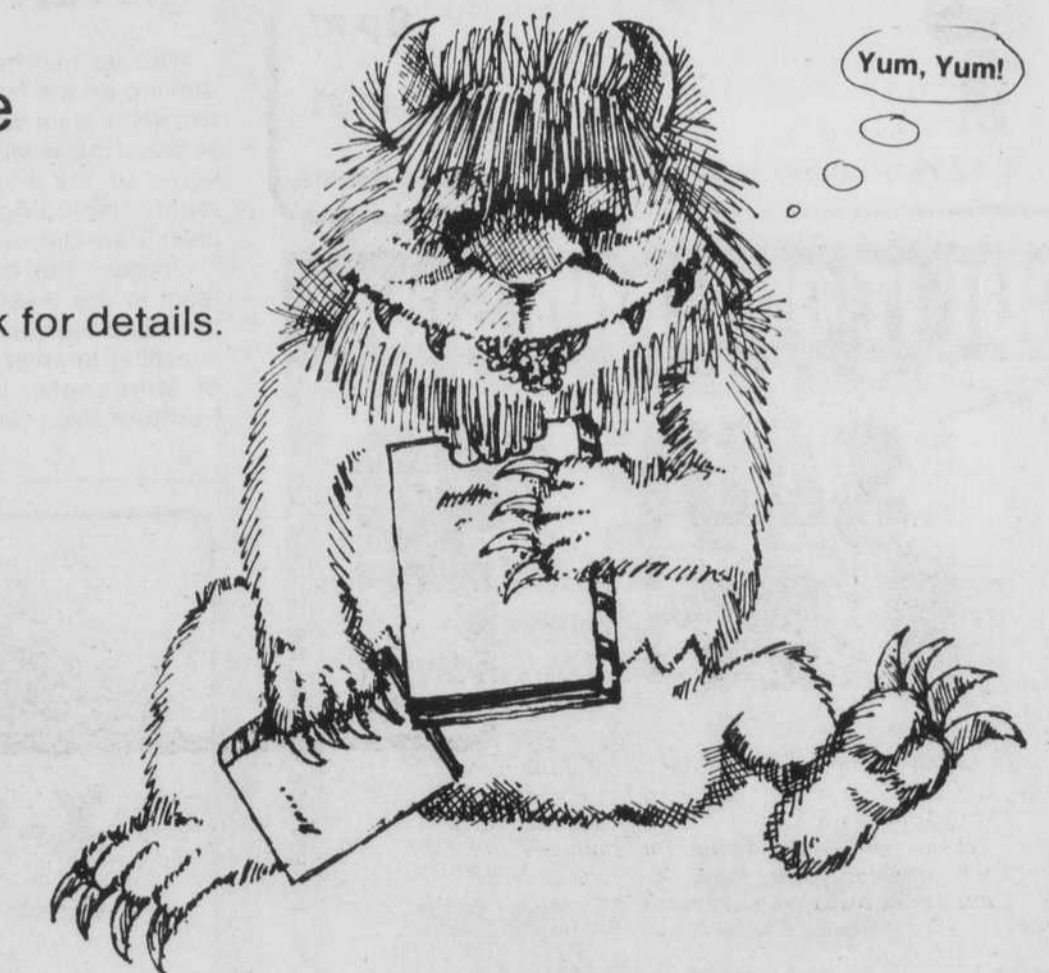
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