

Obscenity Charges Filed; Professors Steen Faces Court Trial Recognized By Regents

By Julie Morris
Senior Staff Writer

The owner of the Heroic Bookstore at 236 N. 12th St. said last week that "nudist magazines are not obscene" and that he plans to fight a criminal case brought against him by the county attorney.

William Steen, a former employee of a campus bookstore, has been charged on six counts of advertising and selling obscene literature. Steen's case has moved to the state district court. The case will probably not be heard for three or four months or more, according to his attorneys John and James McArthur.

Steen was charged with selling three specific nudist magazines, a nudist calendar, a novel, "Candy," and a book, "Lesbians In White."

Steen opened a bookstore in his apartment last spring and expanded it in the fall, moving to another location. In November he moved to his present address and expanded his offerings. He sells mostly paperback books.

Steen said law enforcement officials gave him little trouble until he was notified about a month ago that he would be charged on the obscenity counts. The case was brought by County Attorney Paul Douglas.

The McArthurs, Steen's lawyers, are contending that the Nebraska obscenity laws, under which Steen is being indicted, are unconstitutional and that the material Steen sells is not obscene.

Law Revised
James McArthur said the Nebraska law was revised in 1961, to set up standards to judge obscenity. "Our basic point is the standards they set out aren't effective," he said.

The state obscenity laws define obscene literature as material which "... to the average person the dominant theme of said material taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest, which is to excite lustful thoughts or a shameful or morbid interest in nudity, sex or excretion which goes beyond the customary limits of candor."

McArthur said the state law is not in accord with recent Supreme Court rulings on obscenity which set up three standards to judge obscenity.

These standards are:
—That the dominant theme of the material must appeal to prurient interest in sex.

—The material is patently offensive to the community standards in general.

—The material is "utterly without redeeming social value."

The Nebraska law "ignores" this last standard, McArthur said.

While Steen's lawyers are concerned with the constitutional issue of the case "We are not by any means admitting the material is obscene," McArthur said. "From what I understand the stuff Steen sells isn't the typical pornographic material," he added.

Steen maintained that the nudist magazines and other books that he sells are not obscene. "People who think nudist magazines are ob-



BOOKSTORE SIGNS . . . advertise book and magazines which may be purchased at Steen's Heroic Bookstore.

scene are mentally confused," he said. Steen said he sells the magazines "because there is a demand for them."

Roped Area
The nudist magazines the bookstore owner sells are displayed inside a roped-off area where those under 18 years old are not allowed to go. An employee at the store said the rule is strictly enforced.

Steen said he had anticipated a possible case against him for selling the material. He engaged the McArthurs about a week before he was charged, McArthur said. Steen said he had also approached the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union (NCLU) on the matter.

To date, Steen has not received any formal aid from the NCLU, but the group's executive secretary Rev. Charles Stephens said there is "a possibility" that the NCLU may enter the case if an appeal is made.

McArthur said if the district court ruling is unfavorable, the case will definitely be taken the next legal step up, to the Nebraska Supreme Court.

McArthur said the entire obscenity controversy revolves around the problem of whether or not obscenity

falls within the protections of the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution which provides freedom of the press.

Based On Belief
All obscenity laws are based on the belief that obscenity does not fall within this protection, McArthur said.

Stephens said that a "further question that is not being raised in this case is whether one has the right to sell anything he wants whether or not it is obscene," McArthur pointed out that the Steen case does not pretend to argue the question of the protection of the first amendment but to question the constitutionality of the Nebraska law.

McArthur said that, to his knowledge, the Nebraska obscenity laws had been challenged only once, in 1964. He said, however, that the lawyers do not feel that the case in question adequately raised the issue of the laws' constitutionality and they are bringing their case on this basis.

The United States obscenity laws are basically federal provisions and that the states may provide "stricter, but not more liberal standards," than the federal standards.

Two University professors have been named Regents professors, an honor given to outstanding teachers by the Board of Regents.

The two are Dr. Campbell McConnell, professor of economics, and Dr. Francis Haskins, professor of agronomy and acting chairman of the agronomy department.

McConnell was named the Carl Adolph Happold Professor of Economics. He is the first to fill the position created last fall. A University faculty member since 1953, McConnell is the author of nationally recognized economics textbooks and pioneered the use of closed circuit television in his beginning economics courses at the University. McConnell is a graduate of Cornell College.

Schneider Resigns Post For 'Irresistible' Offer

One of the eight resignations announced at the Board of Regents meeting last Friday was that of Dr. Carl J. Schneider, chairman of the political science department. "It was a very, very difficult decision for me to make . . . I spent an extremely unhappy Christmas vacation trying to decide . . . but this was an irresistible offer," said Schneider, who has been on the University faculty for 19 years and has headed the political science department since 1962.

Schneider will head the social science division at Kirkland College in Clinton, N.Y., beginning September 1967. His resignation takes effect at the end of August.

According to Schneider, Kirkland College, an all-female liberal arts college, will not open until September 1968. It is a "sister" school of Hamilton College, also located in Clinton. Hamilton was founded in 1812.

"This will be an extremely interesting job — different than anything I've done. It will mean starting from the beginning to develop a curriculum and help organize the school in a sound way."

As head of the social science division, Schneider will be responsible for the political science, sociology, economics, anthropology and psychology departments at Kirkland.



THE KAPPA ALPHA THETA'S . . . provide a sneak preview of their upcoming skit for the Coed Follies presentation.

Six Sororities In Coed Follies

Six sororities have been selected to re-create Nebraska's pioneer past in Coed Follies "Centennial '67" February 24 in Pershing Auditorium.

Alpha Delta Pi, Chi Omega, Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma and Zeta Tau Alpha sororities have begun skit practices this week, according to Steph Tinan, Coed Follies chairman.

An orientation will be held Wednesday evening at 8:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union for coeds interested in auditioning for travelers acts. Tryouts will be conducted Feb. 8 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Ideal Nebraska Coed (INC) and Outstanding Collegiate Man (OCM) will be announced at the AWS-sponsored production.

Candidates for this award must have junior standing and a 2.8 minimum cumulative average. From an initial interview Feb. 9 seven finalists will be selected on the basis of scholarship, and general all-around ideal qualities as a University student.

A final interview Feb. 16 will determine the winners, according to Miss Tinan. Coed Follies tickets may

be purchased for \$1.50 a person from AWS workers beginning Feb. 13 or at Pershing Auditorium for \$1.75 the night of the performance.

Following a historical theme, the skit entries include "Women, It's Time to Live," Alpha Delta Pi; "The Beef State," Chi Omega; "A Happy State of Affairs," Delta Gamma; "A Capitol Idea," Kappa Kappa Gamma; "Truce or Consequences," Kappa Alpha Theta; and "Cloud Over A Century," Zeta Tau Alpha.

Trophies will be awarded to the first three winning skits and to the first and second place travelers acts.

Conventions, Speakers, Elections Highlight Young Republican Plans

Conventions, speakers and elections highlight the plans for the Young Republicans (YR) this spring, according to President Cathie Shattuck.

Sen. Charles Percy, Illinois Republican, will be featured speaker at the Founders Day convention in Hastings, to be held in May.

The State YR convention

New Officers of Angel Flight are, Judy Mahara, commander; Jane Klimes, executive officer; Joa Bredthauer, administrative service officer; Karen Jones, comptroller; Jodie Brumm, deputy chief of training; Susie Sitorius, information officer; Mimi Baker, historian; Sheri Sicklebower, liaison.

New members of Alpha Lambda Delta include: Nancy Abraham, Susan Black, Barbara Boczar, Suzanne Broz, Donna Bush, Marica Chase, Susan Duncan, Cheryl Dunlap, Beverly England, Mary Ellen Flack, Roseann Fowles, Loree Gerdes, Patricia Hampl, Deanna Herron, Mary Hunt, Cindy Hunter, Diane Islay.

Pamela Johnson, Mary Keim, Elizabeth Madole, Kenzie, Wanda Nelson, Linda Olmstead, Linda Poland, Kristi Rapp, Romelle Schaefer, Sherie Mons, Luanne Smith, Phyllis Swedlund, Sonja Terwilliger, Marilyn Thackeray, Marcia Thorton, Gayle Weeks, Susan Weyers, Connie Zuercher, Lavon Nordquist.

will be held in South Sioux City in March. The University will send 16 delegates. Omaha will host the national YR convention this summer, added Miss Shattuck.

Elections of next year's officers and a speaking appearance by Secretary of the State of Nebraska, Frank Marsh, will also take place this spring.

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