

Penthouse women not just pets

By Scott Whitcomb

Penthouse magazine, the leader in newsstand sales of men's magazines, primarily is run by women, the magazine's vice president-director of advertising said Thursday.

Marianne Howatson, who has been with Penthouse for six years, said at a press conference in the Lincoln Hilton Hotel that the magazine has only two men employed in the sales office.

The editor and publisher of Penthouse are men, she said, but the rest of the executive positions are filled by women. She added that she "actively goes after women" to fill vacant positions on the advertising staff.

Howatson, a native of Scotland, said the advertisers try to stress newsstand sales, which account for 93 per cent of total Penthouse sales.

She said current newsstand sales of Penthouse range from four and one-half million to five million copies a month, sometimes overselling its closest competitor, Playboy, by as much as one million copies.

Howatson said Penthouse's appeal is that it is a magazine of the 1970s.

"Penthouse is up with the times," she said. "We have much more current pictorials and editorials (than other men's magazines)."

Howatson said the publicity surrounding the lawsuit against Hustler magazine, published by Larry Flynt has increased Penthouse sales.

Flynt was convicted of violating community obscenity standards in Columbus, Ohio, with his magazine.

She said the publicity of the obscenity in Hustler

"makes Penthouse look much classier."

However, she said the stereotype of obscenities in men's magazines have caused problems for Penthouse in small communities.

"It is difficult for a national publisher, especially when a particular community can censor the magazine."

Howatson said local sheriffs or officials of communities sometimes have outlawed Penthouse from newsstands, but said the magazine has won all legal cases concerning its distribution.

She also said that women sometimes have protested the distribution of the magazine.

"Some women have demonstrated in front of the building (headquartered in New York). It is a question of who is being exploited. There are much more sinister connotations these days of what you can and cannot publish."

She said that despite letters from irate women, Penthouse will not change its format in the future.

"We feel we are doing something right," Howatson said, referring to Penthouse sales. "We don't feel there is any need to change our formula."

She said most of the letters to the editor commenting on the magazine's policies are "usually written in praise" and that the letters all are valid.

Howatson said an investigative reporter once tried to see if all the letters were valid and "he found that they were 100 per cent genuine."

"He was shocked at some of the letters he saw come through our mail room," she said of the reporter. "There are many letters that we can't even publish."

Petition gains about 200 signatures

Between 180 and 200 signatures were on a petition presented Thursday to the Faculty Senate Computational Services and Facilities Committee complaining about recent computer turnaround time, said Kasi Bhaskar, a computer science graduate student.

The petition was circulated by a group of graduate students because the time from when a program is sent to the computer until it is finished has increased recently, Bhaskar said.

The committee said it will look into the group's proposals, he added.

Bhaskar and the group of graduate students have charged that programs to be run are improperly scheduled. Bhaskar said administrative jobs that should be run at night are being run during the day when many students could be using the computers.

Bhaskar said Thursday he has figures which show the number of programs submitted each day has not increased significantly in the past four weeks. However, he said the turnaround time has increased three to four times.

"If something isn't done," Bhaskar said, "when the end of the semester comes there's going to be a big crunch."

Bhaskar also said he has been unable to confirm whether the grant from the National Science Foundation which originally provided money to buy the computer stipulates that academic use of the computer has priority over administrative use.

George Nagy, Computer Science Dept. chairman, earlier said the grant was given primarily for research, but it is only part of the conditions for the grant.

Reading classes offered

Preliminary meetings for summer reading classes will begin April 4 and run until April 22, said Edor Ellingson, coordinator of evening classes.

Students can earn college credit while at home by taking up to two of the summer classes through the UNL division of Continuing Study, Ellingson said.

A list of the classes will be published after spring break, he said.

Ellingson said 45 regular departmental classes in more than ten areas, including English, economics, forestry, math, political science and history, are being offered. They will be taught by university personnel.

At the preliminary meetings, instructors will explain course content and requirements, Ellingson said.

Meetings for each class are offered at two times. Students may attend as many meetings as they want, he said. Enrollment depending on the type of course, is limited from 20 to 50, Ellingson said.

For classes that fill up fast, such as some English classes, permits will be issued to students who attend the spring meetings. These students have priority and can register early April 20, 21 and 22 at Nebraska Hall. Regular registration runs from April 15 to May 20.

Most courses are regular departmental classes offered for the standard amount of credits. Tuition is \$20 per credit hour for residents and \$54 for non-residents, he said. Tuition must be paid at registration. Students have until July 22 to cancel the class and be refunded all but \$10. After July 22 there are no refunds, Ellingson said.

Work for the classes is done during the summer and is completed in the fall at meetings starting after Labor Day running until mid-October.

At these meetings, evaluations are made to determine grades, Ellingson said. Evaluations could be by examinations, papers, or individual or group discussions, depending on the instructor, said Ellingson.

Mistaken identity

Bellwood Sen. Loran Schmit was incorrectly identified as Waverly Sen. Roland Luedtke in a picture in Thursday's Daily Nebraskan.

Schmit was talking to Neligh Sen. John DeCamp in the picture which accompanied a story about abortion legislation before the Nebraska Legislature.

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