

Councilwoman says America needs tough pornography law

By Brad Gifford
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

No laws in the United States deal specifically with pornography, and the penalties applied through other laws do not equal the damages inflicted on its victims, according to a Minneapolis, Minn., city councilwoman.

Charlee Hoyt told a packed auditorium at the Nebraska Wesleyan University Friday that a city ordinance she co-sponsored would fill that void in the court system.

The ordinance, which would give pornography victims legal claims against pornographers, was drafted when the council failed in an attempt to use a zoning law to block the opening of an adult theater.

When she found that the zoning law was written incorrectly and would not stop the theater, Hoyt said she knew the time had come to shape a law that could deal with the real consequence of pornography.

The ordinance is a civil law, not a criminal one, so nobody could be jailed under it. It merely is a legal avenue that would permit women to collect damages from people who "traffic" in pornography and also would force removal of abusive material from circulation. Victims would include men, women or children depicted in the pornographic material and those abused by people who are influenced by it, she said.

The ordinance was passed by two different city councils, but was vetoed each time by Mayor Donald M. Fraser, who called the measure an infringement on First Amendment rights.

The public reaction to the vetoes was either "silence or fury," Hoyt said. Women demonstrated in the streets. One set herself on fire.

A similar law passed in Indianapolis, Ind., is hinging on a future court ruling, Hoyt said, which could also determine the fate of the Minneapolis statute. Other communities around the country are considering similar laws, and Hoyt said that may warrant Supreme Court consideration.

The Minneapolis version would create a commission to act as a liaison between victims and alleged offenders. The commission would determine whether the material in question was pornographic, and if so, would approach the offender.

The existence of adult bookstores and movie theaters is not threatened by the law, but Hoyt said they "would have to be careful what they had on their shelves."

If an offender refuses to remove the material from the shelves, the plaintiff could bring a court suit against the distributor.

Obscenity laws cannot deal effectively with pornography, Hoyt said, and she dislikes the connotations attached to the word "obscene."

"The ordinance doesn't suggest women's bodies or sex is dirty," Hoyt said.

Pornography, as defined by the

measure, is the sexually explicit subordination of women, men or children. Specific components of pornography also were established.

Sex acts must be graphically depicted by words or pictures, and must show men, women or children in one of the following situations: enjoying sexual pain and humiliation; getting pleasure from rape; being tied or mutilated; posing in submissive postures or positions; performing sex acts with animals; or cut, bleeding or bruised.

If the court rules in favor of the Indianapolis version, the \$7 billion-a-year pornography industry would suffer a severe blow, Hoyt said.

"They have a lot at stake," she said. Plenty of evidence suggests a link between pornography and violence, Hoyt said.

Hoyt told of two women who testified at the public hearings on the ordinance. A 13-year-old girl scout was raped by three men who were hunting in the woods. The men had been reading sex magazines. Another woman's husband made her act out some sex acts from another magazine, which even diagrammed how to tie knots in a rope for a bondage position.

Erotic pictures, movies, books and music are combining to flood the country with pornography, Hoyt said.

"What used to be in the adult bookstores and movie theaters is now moving into the mainstream of society," she said.

purposes."

The Forestry Field Days Program will include 90-minute hayrack tours, beginning at 11 a.m. both days.

The public is invited to attend and more information may be obtained from Dennis Adams, UNL associate forester, at 472-3674.

The UNL Horning State Farm will celebrate 25 years of forestry research at its annual Forestry Field Days Friday and Saturday.

The Horning Farm, south of Plattsmouth off U.S. Highways 73-75, is a 240-acre farm bequeathed to UNL for "forestry

Forestry celebrated

Women Against Pornography: Lincoln needs ordinance

Lincoln should have a women's civil rights ordinance to deal with pornography even though it does not have the same problems as Minneapolis, a member of the Lincoln Women Against Pornography said Monday.

Anna Capek said no such legislation is being considered because Lincoln's pornography problem is not as blatant.

But it exists, she said. "A civil rights ordinance is needed everywhere," Capek said. "Because there is more to pornography than you think."

"Pornography affects women's lives in a lot of ways," she said. "On the street, on the job, it works against women. It

is the ultimate form of sex discrimination."

Although many communities nationwide are discussing such laws, Capek said, the U.S. Supreme Court will not deliberate the issue until it agrees there is a direct link between pornography and violence.

Studies prove that a "pretty direct correlation" already exists, she said.

Meg Johnson of the Rape-Spouse Abuse Center said more women who have come to the center are reporting that pornography had played a part in the violence against them.

"Until men start believing these women, the problem will go on and on," Capek said.

Association helps adults return to college life

By Susan Currey
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

through the same adjustments, she said.

The UNL Non-Traditional Student Association is the 6-year-old creation of Irene Johnson, now a retired counselor.

Johnson said she started the NTSA to help adults who were returning to college from the work force. Many adults who return to college did not know what courses to take and came to Johnson for advice. She said it was difficult for them to adjust to college and predominantly younger students. She said they needed someone close to their own age to talk to.

She decided to organize monthly luncheons for those students who needed to share their views and receive guidance. These luncheons let the students discuss the problems they were experiencing with their adjustments to college life. The luncheons were not only a place for students to discuss problems, but to meet new people — who were going

Today the NTSA network is not only for adults returning to college, but for any student seeking advice from a professional counselor and support from a group of individuals in the same situation.

The NTSA is "a social and support group and informational network. It is not group therapy," Ruth Harper, a college/adult counselor, said. "It's really for any student who wants to come."

Although the NTSA has no age limit, most members are between 25 and 40 years old, Harper said.

The goal of the NTSA is "mainly to provide a place for adults to go and meet other adults who are in school," Harper said. "It's for adults to pick up on the kind of information that younger students sometimes pick up on in dormitories and fraternity or sorority houses."

For more information on NTSA, contact Harper at 472-1392.



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