

Union Board votes to place signs warning about magazines' contents

By Colleen Kenney
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Union Board passed a resolution to display a sign in the union warning that some magazines sold there contain sexually exploitive and violent subject matter. The resolution was passed 6-4 Tuesday.

At a board meeting last week, a related resolution failed. It would have discontinued the sale of magazines such as Playboy, Playgirl and Penthouse at the Nebraska and East union information desks.

The sign will read: "Some literature available for purchase may be considered sexually exploitive

and violent in content. Your discretion is advised."

Board member Sue Hansen said the move "gets rid of the guilt" of the Union Board for selling these magazines. Hansen said the board was taking responsibility for selling the magazines, but "we are not here to try and curb the problem," she said.

The resolution was proposed by Dan Bigbee, faculty board representative. He said the sign will remind magazine buyers that they can choose what they buy and read.

Board member Brigid O'Neill disagreed. She said a posted sign will draw attention to these magazines.

"People are going to use their own discretion anyway," she said. "We don't need to tell them how."

Board member Phil Karsting said exploitation and violence, which the sign warns about, is subject to individual perception. "Not everyone views bondage as violence," Karsting was referring to the current Penthouse magazine sold now in the union that has pictures of the former Miss America, Venessa Williams, in such a pose.

Robert Brand, complex program director for Selleck Quadrangle, compared the sign to the warning label on cigarette packages. As a former smoker, Brand said, "I may still have opted to buy it, but I was more aware of it."

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Ad policy . . .

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A man with the coalition opposed this option.

"You want to protect everyone from discrimination. That's nice . . . but probably these eight or nine people in this room cannot protect everyone," he said. "You do away with the education value of the ads" if all descriptions and preferences were eliminated.

Welsch said this option would make roommate ads ineffective.

An arbitrary policy was immediately killed because it would be the least fair and most difficult to enforce, according to the board.

A policy of self-description only, proposed by Welsch, would have allowed advertisers to describe themselves any way they wanted to, but would have eliminated all roommate preferences or exclusions.

"Self-description," Welsch said, "is a better service to our readers because the purpose of our roommate column is to find a compatible roommate. It says 'this is who I am . . . I'm looking for someone who can accept that.'"

Self-description does not exclude or discriminate against anyone, Welsch said.

Bernstein opposed the option because it "ducks" discrimination.

The gender option, proposed by board member and Lincoln Star editorial page editor Bill Dobler, finally won board approval.

The option is not an ideal solution, Dobler said, but "it's the lesser of all evils."

Welsch opposed the policy, but has agreed to abide by it until his obligation to follow the policy is discussed at the next board meeting later this month. Welsch's obligation to follow board policy is unclear.

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M. Copple...

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thought Douglas was nervous in a meeting he attended with the attorney general, a U.S. attorney and other FBI agents.

Campbell said FBI officials had called the meeting because both Douglas and Gov. Bob Kerrey had told the media that Commonwealth had failed because of poor management and risky loans. The agency's probe had uncovered some possibly illegal loans as early as October 1982, he said.

The agency's letter was mailed to the State Banking Department in March 1983 and a copy sent to Douglas, according to Campbell. Douglas told the people at the meeting that he had forgotten about the letter, he said.

Copple said he never told his father, former Commonwealth

President S. E. Copple, about the letter because he felt that S. E. already had to much on his mind.

Campbell said that at the Nov. 8 meeting Douglas also discussed the Fox Hollow property he bought from Marvin Copple. Campbell said Douglas told the group he had purchased 10 or 12 lots.

Copple's Wednesday testimony further documented the payments he made to Douglas. Copple said they totaled \$40,000. Douglas has maintained that the amount was recorded in his books as \$32,500 because of an expense write-off and a bookkeeping error.

Copple said he paid Douglas \$7,500 so Douglas could buy a new car; \$5,000 to repay a Commonwealth loan; \$5,000 for a friend; and \$5,000 for something he could not recall.

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