

Porno flicks shown over city and police protests

The Cabaret Theater started showing sexually explicit films Nov. 28 amid vows by Southfield police and city attorneys to close the establishment for alleged violation of either obscenity statutes or zoning law.

Seven weeks later the theater remains open until midnight seven days a week in the Beech-Elm Shopping Center.

On Dec. 3, Southfield Police arrested the theater manager, Norman Wilson, 49, of Dearborn Heights and ticket-taker Karen Jackson, 22, of Detroit for distributing obscene material to minors.

Police said the arrests were made after officers observed two 15-year-old Redford Township youths leaving the theater.

A preliminary exam on the charge began last Friday in the courtroom of 46th District Judge Clarence Reid. Reid is viewing confiscated prints of the films "Barbara Broadcast" and "Naked Came the Stranger" to determine if the material is obscene, under the statute, for viewing by minors.

The examination will resume at 9 a.m. Jan. 25 in Judge Reid's courtroom.

POLICE and city officials, as well as Charles Grenadier, shopping center landlord, say they still don't know the name of the person operating the theater.

The lessor of record, Ed Shumate of Westland, claims to have sublet the theater to Michigan Cabaret Theater Inc. Numerous phone calls to Shumate by this newspaper are answered by a woman who invariably answers "he just stepped out." Shumate hasn't returned any calls.

Assistant City Attorney Phil Poole said the Michigan Cabaret Theater, Inc. was incorporated as a business in the state of Michigan on Dec. 26, 1979, more than a month after the theater reopened with adult movies.

But the names of the officers of the Michigan Cabaret Theater Inc., Poole said, are people who

work for a company called "The Corporation Co.," with offices at 615 Griswold, Detroit.

The Corporation Co. acts as a resident agent for other companies.

"Which means we can't tell who the real people are who incorporated," explains Poole. "Three dummies, so to speak, sign the corporate papers."

The three names listed with the state incorporation papers are James Mulvihill, Sharon Gahlan and Rebecca A. Landers, according to Poole.

Michael Sandborn, a Lansing attorney, is scheduled to represent Michigan Cabaret Theater Inc. in court this week in a corporate arraignment on another charge for operating a theater without a license. The company has applied for a theater license from the city of Southfield.

City legal officials claim it is against zoning laws to show adult movies in a residential shopping zone. The shopping center landlord said the lease was violated because the theater is in violation of city ordinance.

"We'd all be happier if he was out," said Glenn Grenadier, of the shopping center management firm. "I always thought Southfield was much stronger. Last time someone tried this there was quick enforcement. The cops confiscated the film and the operator backed out."

"Deep Throat," another adult film, was shown at the Cabaret for two days in January 1973, by a group known as New South Cinema Ltd.



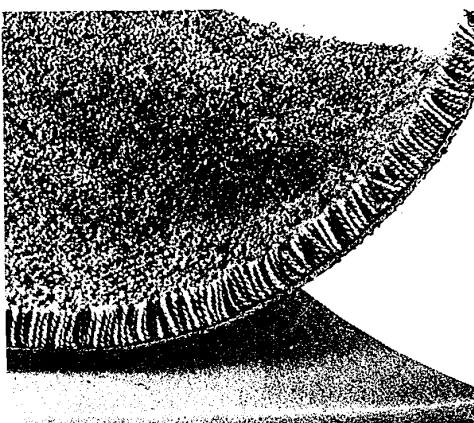
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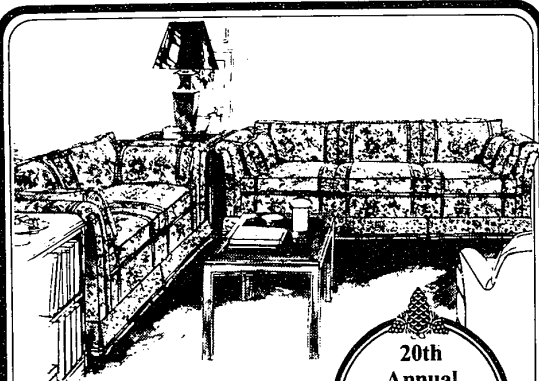
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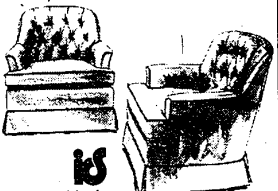
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