

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



Monday, December 11, 1983 O&E

(F5B)

Pornography: Ruhlman believes it unleashes cruelty on women and children

By Sherry Kahn
staff writer

Before 1977 Jean Ruhlman had an attitude of live and let live about pornography. She thought it mainly concerned scantily clad women.

Since then she has learned that pornography today involves cruelty to women and children. Porn films are showing women being whipped or threatened with a knife to perform sexual acts. They are then shown enjoying the act.

Even more appalling, she said, "Children as young as 8 or 9 have been used in pornography films in California, where they use the phrase, 'Sex before 8 or it's too late.'"

In her talk to Family First and in an interview she said that films are being made of children being sexually abused and of children in bondage. In one case she knew of a girl was depicted with a crucifix in her vagina.

"Women are so degraded, and children are being used," she said. "The image of a man that comes across is: Unless you want to dominate, whip, beat and abuse, you're not a man. That's part of porno philosophy. The other message is that women want this."

AT A MEETING at Bonnie Brook Country Club she outlined the steps she took as she moved toward a vigorous role against pornography. The event was sponsored by Family First, an organization of about 110 women, who are pro-life and favor the traditional role of the homemaker and prayer in the schools. Hulda Piercecchi of Livonia is president.

"In 1977 at about the time the last victim of the Oakland County slayings was laid to rest," said Ruhlman, "I was driving down Woodward Ave. and saw a theater marquee saying 'Sex Under 18.' As I pondered this marquee I couldn't believe what we allow in our society. I asked my husband why no one is doing anything about this."

Her husband replied that it would probably be up to her.

Her resolve to take action grew after talking to Dr. Judianne Densen-Gerber, president of Odyssey Institute in Detroit, which rehabilitates people suffering from substance abuse. Gerber became interested in child pornography when she learned that substance abusers sometimes allow their children to be used for porn films.

The parents then use the money paid for this to support their habit.

"She showed me a magazine totally filled with pictures of children involved in sex with adults in every way, shape and form," said Ruhlman. "I sobbed."

Gerber told her: "Dry your tears and do something."



ART EMANUEL/Staff photographer

Jean Ruhlman is founder of an organization called Citizens Against Pornography.

So Ruhlman, a Ferndale mother of six, began her career as a woman who made a difference.

CITIZENS AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY was founded by Ruhlman. It now has a mailing list of more than 300 names.

"We are an awareness-type group," explained the speaker, who now gives talks to church, PTA and other groups on this topic. Its members make efforts to bring pornography theater owners into court.

They are supporting House Bill 4409, which Ruhlman says would require stiffer penalties for pornographers, and would have a theater "padding" provision for those who violate the law.

She takes an aggressive stand when anyone accuses her of being a censor or depriving people of their First Amendment rights.

"The last time we went to Lansing to lobby, the senator (Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills) who

represents our area stood up and equated us with Nazis," she said. "He claimed we were trying to prevent the expression of free thought."

The First Amendment does not protect obscenity, she said. "In 1975 the U.S. Supreme Court laid down the rules on obscenity. It is not a protected expression. We have the right under this amendment to speak up against pornography."

She said the test set by the court for obscenity is this:

- Whether the average person applying contemporary community standards would find the work taken as a whole to appeal to prurient interest.

- If the work depicts or describes patently offensive sexual conduct.

- Whether considered as a whole, the work lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

"The law protects against the very conservative element that might call everyone or everything obscene," noted the speaker.

If someone raises the issue of consenting adults doing what they wish, Ruhlman will counter that it is a non-issue. "Consenting adults do drugs, but it is illegal," she declared.

EVEN THOUGH the law is on her side, in Ruhlman's opinion, it is not always easy to take a porno theater owner to court and have him punished.

"The laws are on the book to back us up," she said. "But we have enforcement officers at all levels who don't have the background and knowledge about obscenity law. They don't follow through on what we are interested in having them do."

"We think that a more vigorous enforcement at the state level would influence the U.S. Department of Justice to enforce the law against the transport of obscene materials across state lines."

She said that a former FBI agent once said that if the federal laws were enforced, pornography would dry up in 18 months.

She added: "But since 1975 federal laws have not been strictly enforced. My impression is that an obscenity study done early in the 1970s by the Nixon administration found the effects of pornography not too harmful."

"Pornographers took that as license to produce even more films which became more violent with descriptions of violent sex behavior. I'm sure children had been used before. But after that point they became more evident in porno films."

"The fact is that these innocent, fragile bodies are being subjected to the sexual perversions and preferences of adults. To think that children of such a tender age are into this type of adult activity makes you wonder how they can ever undo that experience and have a warm loving relationship."



Art work by Marvin Teeples

Stay sober with 'Great Pretenders'

Holiday party givers who want to creatively quench the thirst of guests without making them tipsy and unable to drive should serve "The Great Pretenders," according to the Automobile Club of Michigan.

"Pretenders" are alcohol-free drinks created by professional bartenders for the Auto Club's annual holiday traffic safety campaign, "First A Friend, Then a Host." Advice to party givers and the

drink recipes appear in a free booklet available to all motorists at the Auto Club's 60 statewide offices and claim centers.

"Our purpose is promoting alcohol-free drinks to encourage party hosts to offset liquor consumption at parties and to provide an alternative for non-drinkers," said Michael Wild, Auto Club Corporate Relations director.

"During the Christmas and New

Year's periods, eight out of 10 motorists will drink and then drive and party hosts who serve alcohol have a duty to make sure those who have indulged arrive home safely," Wild said.

In addition to the alcohol-free drink collection, the Auto Club booklet lists recipes for alcohol-absorbent hors d'oeuvres which party hosts can add to their menus. Entrees include curried chicken, pasta salad and spicy popcorn.

featuring recipes from Michigan gourmets.

Fruit juices, ice cream or cider are

Please turn to Page 8

Hills author honored



ANN STRAY

Constance I. Young autographs copies of her book at a recent Oakland University party.

Constance I. Young of Farmington Hills was honored at Oakland University Dec. 8 with an autograph party celebrating the publication of her new book "Inscape: My Search for Meaning."

The party for the 83-year-old author was sponsored by the Continuum Center where Young has worked as a volunteer since 1973, and by Gerry Pine, dean of the School of Human and Educational Services. The Continuum Center arranged for publication of the book.

"Inscape" traces the author's life from a childhood spent in a 17-room house on 130 acres in the Cornwallis-Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia to her education and growth of self-confidence at Mount Allison Ladies' College.

The career that followed graduation was far from typical for a young woman of that day. Young went on to become a missionary teacher in Trinidad, a religious education director in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, dean of Mount Allison, and a pioneer in an innovative learning program in Oak Park, Mich.

YOUNG SAYS, "Looking back, it seems to me that whenever I came to believe that I had arrived, it was time to move on, to go deeper."

Alexis Lolax, former professor of education at Wayne State University, writes in his forward to the book, "The story begins as a childhood journey and carries you on a lifelong pilgrimage to know personal meaning and to know God."

Elinor Waters, director of the OU Continuum Center, says, "Since 1973 we at the Continuum Center have been privileged to have Connie work with us. We feel truly honored that she has allowed us to publish her story. We know that her former students and friends will find the book fascinating and inspiring."

The book can be obtained by writing to Oakland University, Continuum Center, Rochester 48063 with a check for \$3 including postage and handling. For more information, call 377-3033. The book will be in area book stores soon.



GODIVA.
Chocolatier

IN BIRMINGHAM,
PURCHASE \$19 OR MORE
OF GODIVA CHOCOLATES AND RECEIVE AN
ADDITIONAL 1/4-POUND IN THE GOLDEN BALLOTIN BOX
Now through December 24...take advantage of our special offer
of an additional one-quarter pound of the world-famous
Godiva chocolates when you purchase one pound or more.
Made from master Belgian recipes using only pure, natural
ingredients, the candies are shell-moulded and then filled in
accord with an ages-old technique. Shaped like plump little
hearts, leaves, truffles and fluted shells, and filled with a hint
of cognac or Grand Marnier, hazelnut praline or caramel,
they are perfect gifts for very special people. Buy them
individually selected, or hand-packed in holiday boxes
or the golden ballotin box. One pound, \$19.



Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge Card or The American Express' Card.

FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING CONVENIENCE, NEW EVENING HOURS:
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY UNTIL 9:00 P.M., SATURDAY UNTIL 6:00 P.M.