

Stag film enforcement concerns local police

The prosecutor's warning that video store owners risk prosecution for continuing to stock obscene films has local police agencies in a quandary.

"They want to enforce the law. But should they abandon or downplay other crimes in order to go after places that rent stag films?"

"It's a matter of time and priority," explained Lawrence Carney, chief of the Troy Police Department. "But there are other things we have to take care of as well."

"We'll investigate complaints. And I wouldn't rule out a sting operation," said Carney. "Other than that, we'll keep 'em guessing."

Carey and other chiefs of police in southern Oakland County say they will uphold state and local laws. But they frankly admit they don't have enough officers.

"I'm not having my people go out and start looking at video tapes in stores," West Bloomfield Chief Ronald Cronin said last week. "We've got more important things to

do than that as a police department."

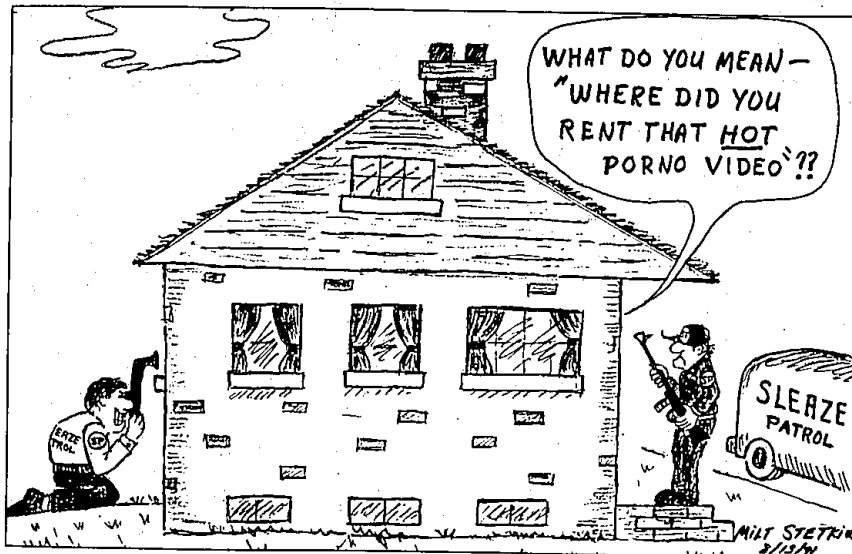
In Southfield, Jerry Tobin, director of public safety, said his department — like others in metro Detroit — has its share of murders, assaults, robberies and drug-related crimes to investigate.

"So we'll uphold the law. But keeping video stores from selling stag films is not a high priority."

In Farmington Hills, public safety director Frank Lauboff said his community "is committed to cooperating with the prosecutor and will aggressively investigate" any complaints.

But as of last week, the city had received no complaints. Lauboff said, although they got calls from 14 nervous video store owners concerned about material on their shelves.

In Birmingham, police Chief Edward Oslin said his department will cooperate with the prosecutor. "If a violation of state obscenity laws comes to our attention, we'll take appropriate action."



County park hosts programs

Over the next 10 days, Independence Oaks County Park near Clarkston will offer a variety of interesting programs.

Saturday, Aug. 17, for example, storyteller Barbara Schultz-Greber will lead a program about the lives of American Indians and Pacific Islanders. Her program deals with the creation of birds and islands as well as fire — and why days are long or short.

The program is 7-8 p.m. in the Cohn Amphitheater, adjacent to the Independence Oaks Nature Center.

"Canal Boat Captain" Michael Doren will revive the days when people traveled from New England to Michigan via canal boat 1-2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25. Doren uses the banjo, concertina, bones and penny whistle to recreate Michigan history. Each program costs \$2 per person, or \$8 for the entire family. Pre-registration is suggested, but not required.

Senior citizens will have a special day at Independence Oaks Wednesday, Aug. 21 with "Senior Bavarian Jubilee Fest," the annual picnic in the Twin Chimneys picnic area.

The menu for the day includes chicken, bratwurst, knockwurst, German potato salad, stollen sauerkraut and butterhorns. Also featured are Bavarian dancers and sing-alongs.

A shuttle bus will provide rides to the park's nature center for a slide presentation on Germany.

The cost for the fest is \$8 per person. Additional information is available at 588-4945 or 625-6473.

In case of bad weather, the fest will take place at the Springfield Oaks Youth Activities Center, Davisburg.

Independence Oaks, located about three miles north of I-75 on Sasabaw Road, is run by Oakland County Parks and Recreation which was founded in 1966.

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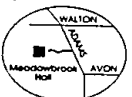
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