

Video porno suffers heavy attack

VANCOUVER (CUP) — About 100 people carrying placards and chanting slogans picketed Red Hot Video's north Burnaby store Nov. 5. Red Hot Video has come under fire in B.C.'s Lower Mainland for selling and renting video cassettes which show rape, and coercion and

exploitation of women. An ad hoc anti-porn group from Simon Fraser University organized the picket, which was supported by other Vancouver anti-porn groups. The picket lasted one hour during early evening rush-hour traffic on a busy Burnaby street.

Red Hot store manager Dan Kotyk said every one of the films protesters complained about had already been removed from the store's shelves. But anti-porn group member Diana Coulomb said the store has 400 X-rated films and a handbook to films

under subject headings like "Young Girls" and "Rape and Bondage". The picketers handed out leaflets criticizing governments for not upholding section 159 of the Criminal Code, which states that explicit sex paired with violence, crime, horror or cruelty is obscene.

The leaflet urges that a loophole in the law allowing the sale of copies made from illegal originals be closed. Jesse Martinez, manager of the nearby Manila Market clothing store, asked if the government allows it, where do you draw the line?

"If we don't like it, we should vote for a government that doesn't legalize pornography," Martinez said.

Kotyky asked neighboring merchants if they were opposed to having a Red Hot store there before he and his brother opened the franchise. But he said he did not consult community groups.

"I would like to know why they (the protesters) are only against violence against women," said Kotyk. "What about gay films?"

He said the store removed violent gay porn films from its selection.

But a rock video showing a person getting their head blown off carried by the store doesn't provoke complaints, said Kotyk.

"It's no different from Hollywood," he said, referring to videos in general. He said the store removed the films people complain about to avoid the heat.

Meanwhile, the special assistant to Judy Erola, federal minister responsible for the status of women, said the campaign against Red Hot Video is a "test case" that will effect whether hard-core porn is distributed widely in the rest of the country.

Rebecca Butovsky said her office is monitoring the situation because B.C. seems to be the first province where such material gains a foothold.

"If violent porn is allowed to take hold in Vancouver and the law can't find any way of policing it, then other operators will see the market and it will surely spread," said Butovsky.

A second X-rated video chain called Tri-colour Video plans to open its doors in Vancouver soon.

Students act as positive role models

by Gilbert Bouchard

The four university students living in the bland Citrus Court apartment complex on 109th street are referred to as "integrated non-

clients". All study the health sciences (therapy, psychology). All four-enjoy working with the handicapped and all know their fellow tenants quite well. They attend monthly house meetings

and try to serve as positive role models. Their neighbours are all recently discharged from various mental health care facilities.

Citrus Court is one of three

housing projects run by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in their Rehabilitation Housing Program. The CMHA is a national voluntary association dedicated to the promotion of good mental health practices and proper treatment of mental health problems. Their Rehabilitation Housing Program's main objectives are to integrate their patients into the community, develop skills to cope with the outside world (decision-making, independent social functioning) and provide needed post-institutional counselling services.

And that is where the university students come in. Melody Lore Viriding, Supervisor of Residences, said university students are fairly open and most willing to cooperate with their special neighbours. The whole program is strictly voluntary, the only mandatory requirement is the monthly house meeting, anything else is strictly up to the individual tenant.

The integrated tenants are carefully chosen. Ms. Viriding posts the vacancies in the med buildings, the psych building. She looks for people who understand what will be demanded of them.

Has the program been a success? Undoubtedly. In fact some visitors have difficulty picking out the integrated non-clients.

Public apathy protects poachers

TORONTO (CUP) — Poachers will extinguish 30 per cent of the one million wildlife species expected to disappear by the turn of the century, according to wildlife experts.

The other 700,000 species will be killed off because of destruction of habitat, according to Monte Hummel, executive director of the world Wildlife Fund of Canada.

Hummel spoke at a recent panel discussion on poaching at the University of Toronto.

Poaching is multi-million dollar business, said Hummel. Crocodile purses in Italy "easily fetch \$800 each."

Poaching survives on international trade and poverty, especially in the third world. Poachers in Zambia capture elephants and rhinoceroses at the rates of five and one per day respectively, said Hummel. Less than 2,000 rhinoceroses are still alive, he added.

Poaching could easily be stopped by: reducing the demand for its products, addressing problems of poverty, improving anti-poaching operations in the field, establishing reserves and captive breeding, he said.

The history of poaching in Canada is "a horror story of dwindling wildlife," said Robert Allison, an author, journalist and biologist formerly with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Bighorn sheep, deer, falcons, grizzly bears, moose, narwhals, polar bears, walrus and waterfowl are all victims of Canadian poachers, he said.

The fact that American buyers are "willing to dole out substantial sums" for polar bear hides and trophy heads illustrates the great demand for our declining wildlife population, he said.

"Hunters are concerned with ethical conduct and wildlife managers

with wildlife, while poachers are concerned with neither," said Ken Brynaert, executive vice president of the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

"Efforts should be made to make commercial and habitual poaching

punishable under the Criminal Code," he said.

Public apathy provides a screen for the poacher's activity through its lack of concern about the problem, Brynaert said.

Naivete surrounds Lebanon

by John Roggeveen

Canada could play a "marginal" role in the solution of the Palestinian refugee problem in Lebanon, said Howard Adelman Wednesday, November 10.

Adelman, a York University philosophy professor, described his own proposed solution to the Palestinian refugee problem as "exercise in naive idealism." His proposal is for Canada and other nations to receive some of the Palestinian refugees, and put pressure on Lebanon and Jordan to accept others.

Adelman also spoke earlier in the day about Palestinian refugees, but he described that as "naive realism" because he dealt primarily with facts about the refugee problem and not with solutions.

Adelman said that "humanitarian interests should have priority over political interests." He also commented that it is unlikely his proposals will be implemented.

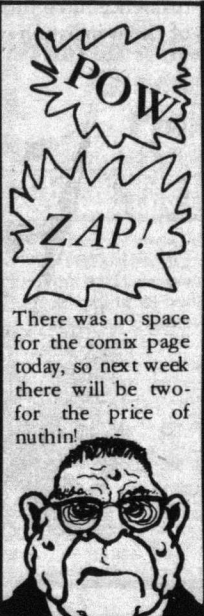
Adelman has recently travelled in Lebanon, and said a Palestinian homeland is "of secondary or tertiary importance for the (Palestinian) people in Lebanon." Some Palestinian people Adelman spoke with in Lebanon said they would not want to return to a Palestinian state on the West Bank or in the Gaza Strip, but Adelman cautioned that these people may not have been representative of the majority of Palestinians.

Adelman said that, in terms of figures, the war in Lebanon was a

"marginal war." "The war in Iran and Iraq is far more significant."

According to Adelman, the cost of the Iran-Iraq war is \$150 billion. The war in Lebanon, he said, was only one-tenth as costly. Also, there are about 1,000,000 refugees from the Iran-Iraq war, and about 50,000 from the Lebanon war.

Adelman said media reports distorted facts about the number of dead and the number of refugees in Lebanon. There was a "predisposition to see Israel as the bad guy," because the media people disagree with the Israelis' policy in the West Bank and Gaza, commented Adelman.



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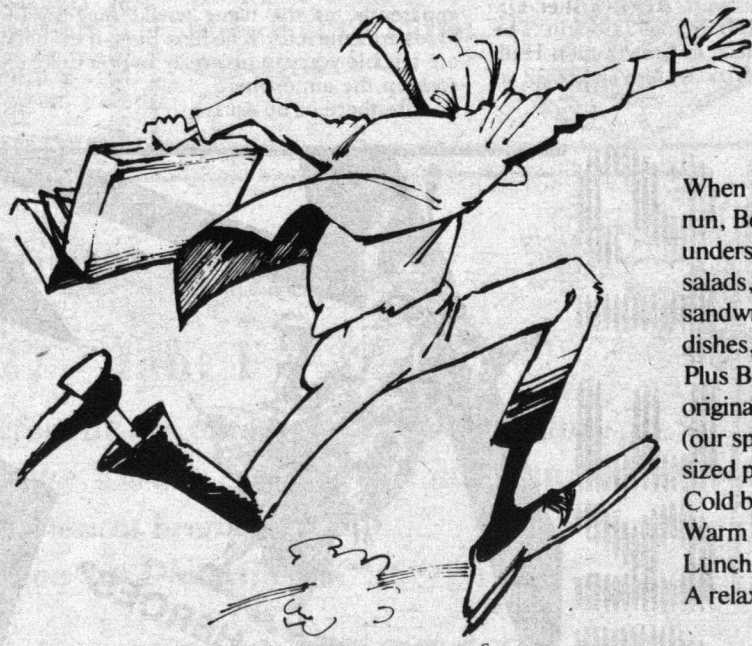


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