

## 'Adult' Videos Under Fire

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*The Washington Post* (1974-Current file); Sep 21, 1989; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (18 pg. VA\_E1

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## *Sale, Rental Hurt Fairfax City's Image, Resident Says*

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By Jeffrey S. Rowland

Special to The Washington Post

For a city whose slogan is "Catch Our Spirit, Feel Our Pride," Fairfax may not be too proud of an issue raised by a resident at last week's council meeting.

Fairfax City resident Dean A. Arbs told the council that the city is the only local jurisdiction, aside from Alexandria, that allows the sale and rental of X-rated films. Fairfax City has no ordinance governing the distribution of X-rated videotapes.

Prompted by a request from Arbs for an ordinance to ban the sale and rental of all adult movies within city limits, Mayor George T. Snyder Jr. directed the city man-

ager, Edward A. Wyatt, to appoint a committee to study the issue.

"If there is a way that the council can legally ban the sale of these tapes, I am sure they will do so," said Snyder. The mayor said he did not know X-rated videos were available in the city.

Virginia state law prohibits the sale or rental of films that include bestiality, child pornography and incestual relationships, but leaves further restrictions up to the community.

Fairfax and Arlington counties and the city of Falls Church prohibit any sale or rental of X-rated videotapes. Alexandria has a series of ordinances that prohibit certain

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# 'Adult' Videos Attacked

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kinds of advertising of adult films.

Although Arbs told council members that the number of video stores selling X-rated films had increased in the city since Fairfax County banned them several years ago, he could recall only one store that had recently opened: Spotlight Video in the University Shopping Center. It opened last December near the Country Club Hills subdivision where Arbs lives.

"Of course the ability to sell X-rated movies was a consideration when we looked for a place to open the store, though not the only one," said Rick Brooks, part owner of Spotlight Video. Brooks said the store sells all types of films but that approximately 80 percent of its customers rent X-rated videos at one time or another. "If they are banned, it could put us out of business," he said.

Although no city or state law prohibits Brooks from advertising the X-rated videos he sells, "an unwritten rule and courtesy to the public" keeps the videos in a back section of the store and a numbered listing of stock stays in a book for adults to flip through and choose from. Video cases are blank so as not to offend unsuspecting customers. "We are a family operation," says Brooks.

"The point is," says Arbs, "that it gives the city a bad image, and that the sale of tapes is more widespread than the council thinks."

At least three stores in the city said they rent X-rated films: Spotlight Video, 10270 Main St. in University Shopping Center; The Video Stop, 3234 Old Pickett Rd.; and Metro Video, 11212 Lee Highway.

In other city business, the council voted against reconsidering a contractor's bid to build 10 single-family homes on about two acres off Old Lee Highway. The decision came after residents near the proposed development said they wanted to preserve the trees in the heavily wooded area and that they were concerned that water runoff from the proposed project would threaten the nearby Fairfax Oaks I subdivision.

The council first voted to deny the development on June 27. At a July 11 meeting, council member Gene Moore moved to reconsider the plan because the developer had resubmitted a new tree plan.