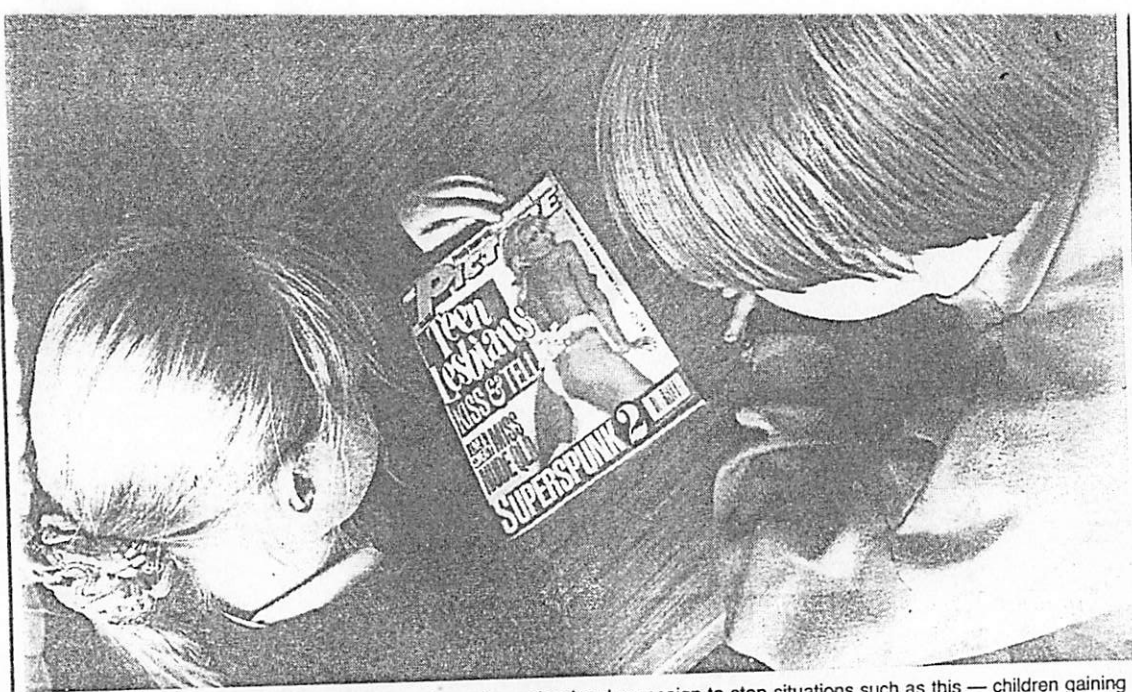


News Mail 19.8.95.



BUNDABERG churches have enlisted the services of a professional campaign to stop situations such as this — children gaining easy access to pornographic material from newsagencies and convenience stores.

Churches enlist expert in war on pornography

CITY churches have enlisted the help of a professional campaigner for guidance on eliminating pornography from Bundaberg shops.

Australian Federation for the Family's Jack Sonnerman has been brought to town by the Bundaberg Ministers Fraternal which is determined to fight against pornographic magazines being readily available in newsagents, mixed businesses and book stores.

Fraternal chair Peter Breen said the omnipresence of pornography in the city was a major

By Karen Patterson

concern of at least 15 Bundaberg churches.

Mr Sonnerman was single-handedly responsible for effectively reducing the number of pages printed by Penthouse and Playboy through his lobbying of the advertising industry, Mr Breen said.

"We're getting him to help us counter the pornography issue in the market place and retail outlets," he said.

The churches consider pornography is partly responsible for "the problem of our society's

addiction to sensuality and sex in an unhealthy sense", Mr Breen said.

"We're not prudes, we're just saying it's not appropriate for children particularly, to be exposed to women's bare bodies, and I mean it's demeaning to women," he said.

"I was given a copy of Picture magazine and I looked at it once and then it was destroyed, it took me a couple of weeks to recover — it made me physically ill.

"I mean I didn't throw up, but it disturbed me.

"I also know of a teenager who felt the same way after viewing such pornography."

Mr Breen said that because pornography was so widely available and advertised, some adults had become blasé and didn't think to shield their children from "adult magazines". Some people were so offended by pornographic magazines on newsstands they avoided newsagencies.

Mr Sonnerman will address a BYO lunch open to the public at the Northside Friendship Centre today and will speak at three churches tomorrow.