

# Courier-Journal

## METRO

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### Courthouse rally decries pornography

#### Speakers seek hiding of many videotape jackets from children

By RICK McDONOUGH  
Staff Writer

Marie Rosser of Hikes Point is concerned that Louisville-area children are being exposed to pornography when they view some magazine covers in grocery stores and the jackets of some movies in video-rental stores.

"It's time to get it out of the children's faces so they don't grow up to be corrupted adults," she said yesterday.

Carrying a sign that read "Help stop pornography now," Rosser was one of an estimated 250 to 300 people who attended a noontime anti-pornography rally in front of the Jefferson County Courthouse.

A dozen speakers addressed the gathering, including County Judge-Executive Harvey Sloane and John G. Heyburn II, a Republican candidate for county judge.

The rally was organized by the local chapter of Citizens for Decency through Law to demonstrate frustration with city officials' efforts to enforce laws on obscenity and adult entertainment.

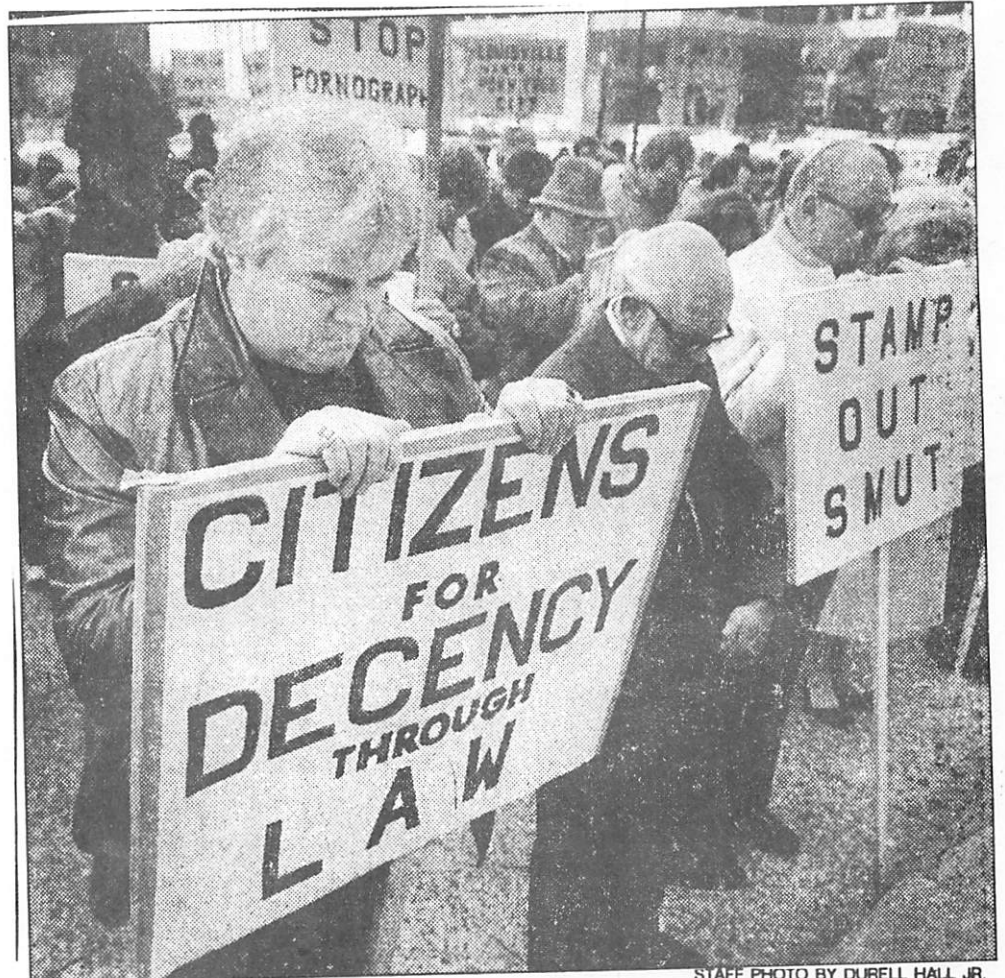
"We are here today because pornography continues to fester in our community," said Lily Bifone, the local president of the group.

Sloane thanked Bifone for her leadership and announced that he plans to introduce a new county ordinance that would limit the display of sexually explicit material where it could be seen by children. He also promised tough enforcement once the law is on the books.

The city has had a similar law since 1977, and it was updated last year to address movie-cassette jackets in video-rental stores.

However, Bifone said the city's law is not being enforced. Last week, she asked city Public Safety Director Thomas Kuster and J. Michael Brown, director of the city's Department of Inspections, Permits and Licenses, to begin tougher enforcement.

Bifone also said the city and county



STAFF PHOTO BY DURELL HALL JR.

Michael Alsman and others prayed at an anti-pornography rally yesterday to demonstrate their frustration with officials.

should enforce obscenity laws by prosecuting the sellers of videotapes, films and magazines that appear to be obscene. And she criticized the city for not enforcing a 1987 adult-entertainment ordinance that requires adult-entertainment facilities to remove the doors from peep-show booths.

Kuster and Brown said they have not received any specific complaints about video stores in more than six months; they promised to check out and report back to Bifone on any complaints she has received.

Bifone said she wants city enforcement officials to visit all video stores and require the owners to remove or cover any sexually suggestive movie jackets that are in view of

minors. She said that movie jackets displaying buttocks, breasts and nearly nude people in suggestive poses are in nearly every video store.

"The video operators are having a heyday," she said.

Brown said, "The issue boils down to your definition of what is sexually explicit." Some people might be offended by Jane Fonda's pose on the jacket of one of her workout tapes, he said.

The city ordinance says that material must be "patently offensive to prevailing

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### Hundreds rally against pornography

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standards in the adult community with respect to what is suitable material for minors."

The ordinance was updated last year primarily to prevent video stores from displaying the jackets of so-called adult movies. That followed Board of Aldermen action requiring video stores to get an adult-entertainment license if they displayed sexually explicit movies in a room set aside for adults only.

Brown said most stores have complied by keeping "adult" movie jackets in a book out of view of children.

"People of all walks of life go through video stores every week," Brown said. "I think we would have heard about it" if most adults

thought movie jackets in view of minors were sexually suggestive and patently offensive.

The same law that forced many video stores to remove adults-only rooms required adult-entertainment businesses to remove the doors on peep-show booths and to position the booths in view of management.

However, shortly after the city passed the law, it was challenged in federal court. Brown said city lawyers are attempting to settle the case out of court. In the meantime, the city has agreed not to enforce the section on peep shows.

Bifone said the law could still be enforced now, even though the city has been sued. "The law is constitutional until it's found to be unconstitutional," she said.