

Taking a stand against porn

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STAR-EXPONENT CORRESPONDENT

Pastor Mark Jarvis, of Open Door Baptist Church, plans to call two Culpeper video stores daily until he sees some results.

Jarvis, along with over a dozen other local pastors, will be asking C&P Video and Video Club of Culpeper to remove all pornographic videos from their shelves in an effort to stop the pain they claim pornography causes.

Jarvis and 11 other pastors and a local attorney staged a protest in front of Video Club of Culpeper

Thursday morning to get their latest campaign against pornography moving.

"The pastors in our community are making a statement that pornography causes pain," said Kevin Walzak, pastor of the Alliance Bible Church in Culpeper, as he addressed a small group of onlookers. "Our main purpose here this morning is to educate our community and show how pornography causes pain."

Reading six different stories from around the region, Walzak told how pornography has been connected to several crimes.

"A 10-year-old boy in Isle of

Wight, Virginia was charged with raping and sodomizing a six-year-old girl," Walzak said. "He told the sheriff that he was just imitating what he saw in a video, which the sheriff said could have been obtained from a video store there."

Walzak and the group, standing orderly in front of the Video Club in their suits and ties, said they were there to remove by persuasion or by prosecution the pornographic videos from the two stores.

"We believe these sales violate obscenity laws," said Walzak, who

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noted his belief that every aspect of pornography is in violation of God's laws. "This behavior is wrong and we want to educate our community in that way."

Attorney J. Michael Sharman, of Culpeper, was on hand to say that it is morally wrong and illegal.

"We've seen too much pain to see it go on any longer," said Sharman, who told of other towns and cities that were able to successfully ban pornography. "It's time to stop. The place is here, the time is now...There's no reason why (pornography) should not be able to be prosecuted successfully in this town."

Jarvis said he would be persistent in his efforts to help remove pornography

from the two local video stores.

"We're going to call these two businesses every day," he said. "We're not going to quit until (the pornographic films) are removed...I just encourage people not to support these two businesses by purchasing their videos."

While Jarvis is determined not to give up, it will take the law to convince George Oravec, owner of Video Club of Culpeper, to remove the movies from his store.

"(Pornography) is not something we promote," said Oravec, in a telephone interview Thursday. "We don't advertise it, we don't promote it...If the law told me I'm not allowed to have (pornographic movies) I'd definitely go by (the law)."

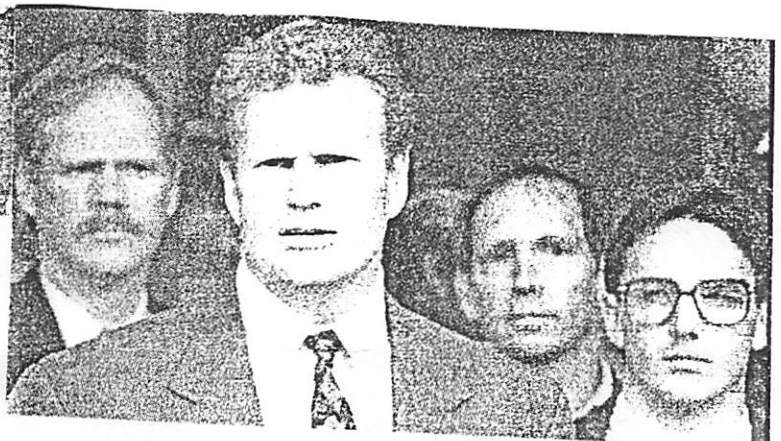


Oravec said he doesn't "push pornography and it is up to his customers to choose whether or not to rent the films if they are of age.

"It's their choice," said Oravec, who keeps the pornographic films locked in a special section of the store to prevent young people from looking at the films. "We're very desecrate about it. We keep it in a different room."

Darrell Payne, owner of C&P Video on North Main Street in Culpeper, was not available for comment at the time of publication.

Pastor Kevin Walzak, (at right) of the Alliance Bible Church addresses the gathered media as he and other local ministers kick off their "Porn is Pain" campaign in front of the Video Club of Culpeper Thursday morning. Below, Attorney J. Michael Sharman lends his support to the protest.



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