

Director of Meese commission: Anti-porn laws must be enforced

By Daniel A. La Bry
Staff Writer

The executive director of Attorney General Edwin Meese's Commission on Pornography discreetly used gory stories, statistics and recorded facts in an attempt to convince an audience of about 50 people that the majority of pornography is harmful and that society would be a better place without it.

"The bottom line is, a society free of harmful forms of pornography is not going to be a perfect society, but we believe it will be a better society—a place with less rape, less sex discrimination, less violence against women," said Alan Sears during the MSC Political Forum program Thursday night in Rudder Tower.

"The message the pornography commission is wanting to get across to the American people is far beyond anything about what law can do or what private citizens can do to get this stuff out of stores, grocery markets and so forth," he said. "It is to teach people that it is unacceptable to view a woman or a child as an object to be bartered and sold in the marketplace."

Sears, now with the legal staff of Citizens for Decency through Law, Inc., said the present laws are more than adequate to combat pornography if they are aggressively enforced.

"As far as the illegal material, the law is adequate to resolve the problem," he said. "Any community that chooses to do so can enforce its laws and send these guys to the slammer."

Sears said the commission concluded that pornography is a civil rights violation and paralleled it to 19th century slavery. He said once the American people become fed up with pornography, it—like slavery—will no longer be tolerated.



Alan Sears, left, discusses the pornography program with Barry Haggard at a Thursday press conference.

The commission's findings were divided into five categories: child pornography; sexually violent material; degrading, humiliating or subordinating material; mere sexual activities and mere nudity.

The first three categories make up the majority of pornographic material available in the marketplace and were linked to aggression and violence, Sears said.

Mere sexual activity—sex with no violence, degradation or humiliation—was found to make up a small segment of the market. He said it

usually contained no evidence of harm, except when exposed to children.

Mere nudity—just naked bodies, no sex, no violence, no degradation and no children—was found to contain almost no evidence of harm, except when inappropriately exposed to children.

The commission made 92 recommendations as to what federal, state and local governments could do in the investigation and prosecution when dealing with pornography.

"It's our conclusion that if we had

an all-out campaign, any community can rid itself of hard-core, harmful pornography in about two years by aggressive law enforcement action," Sears said. "We found the biggest problem with the present law in a lot of areas was under-investigation, under-prosecution and under-sentencing."

Cities such as Atlanta, Ga. and Cincinnati, Ohio have totally eliminated obscene and harmful material from their city limits by using aggressive enforcement, he said.

One-man show gives life to stories, fables, cartoons of Thurber at A&M

By Karl Pallmeyer
Reviewer

"It's better to go nowhere slowly than somewhere fast."

That was the opinion of one of the characters in a fable that William Windom, as James Thurber, told to an audience of about 1,100 people in Rudder Auditorium Thursday night. The fable was about about two police dogs on the trail of an escaped circus leopard, and that line is also a pretty good description of the program. Windom took the audience on a slow and enjoyable tour of the stories, fables and cartoons of Thurber.

"Thurber I," one of Windom's two one-man shows based on Thurber's works, was sponsored by MSC Town Hall Broadway. For the first half of the show, Windom stood be-

hind, in front of and around a desk, the stage's only decoration. After intermission, the desk was moved to the right of the stage and the curtains were drawn back to reveal a screen on which slides of Thurber's cartoons were projected.

Windom began the evening with Thurber's accounts of his "wanderings" around the world. Because of poor eyesight, Thurber couldn't wander too far. When he did make it to exotic places, he was surrounded by bead salesmen and large elderly women carrying postcards instead of finding the excitement and romance Joseph Conrad used to find during his travels.

The audience seemed a little uncomfortable at first with the extrava-

gance of Thurber's language, but the fable about the police dogs gained the first round of hearty laughter from the crowd. In the fable, one of the dogs, a German shepherd named Plunger, was real gung-ho over his job and ran all over the place trying to follow the leopard. The other dog, an easygoing bloodhound named Plod, was more cautious about his role in the chase. He saw no reason to hurry.

Plod's discreetness paid off in the end when he refused to follow the leopard into a house. Plunger did follow the leopard and ended up being embarrassed. The moral of the story was that you should be careful about what you chase because you just might catch it.

Emmy winner enjoys life of acting despite lack of public recognition

By Debbie Monroe
Reporter

Actor William Windom is at home with himself and his career. Strolling to-and-fro on a nearly empty Rudder Auditorium stage, he alternately calls out instructions to the crew setting up for his one-man show, and tells his audience of one, a reporter, a humorous tale about an English actor with no talent. Despite his nonchalance, Windom's professionalism is apparent. His storytelling is smoothly interrupted with an occasional word to a stagehand, and neither his co-workers nor audience feels neglected.

"(Acting) gives me a chance to do something I'm good at, and perhaps can contribute with," Windom says.

"I'm not much better (at selling insurance) than the guy who normally sells insurance, not that much better at driving a truck than the guy who drives it."

"But I am a little bit better than some of the actors I've seen, so why not do that (act), where I'm a little bit better, in my own opinion."

"An actor has got to feel that way or he'd better not be in there (in show business)."

Sitting at the simple wooden table that is one of the few props he'll use during his performance as author James Thurber, Windom lazily smiles as he answers questions about himself. The silver-haired, 64-year-old actor is dressed for comfort in green coveralls. A round Texas

A&M patch is pinned to his front, and a tuba mouthpiece swings from a string around his neck. The mouthpiece, which he occasionally toots, is the only indication he gives that he's heard the questions and said the answers before. Windom blows on it, he says, to pass the time and relieve boredom.

"I still audition (for roles) because now all the producers are 24, and they don't know me from Adam," he says. "I'm not sorry."

"There's no use being huffy. You can't go through life saying, 'Who are they that they haven't heard of me before?' I've been around 50 years."

See Windom, page 14

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