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Klan's New Target -- All Kinds of Smut

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

The Ku Klux Klan is preparing to campaign against pornography.

"Other respectable social organizations" should do the same, says Robert M. Shelton of Tuscaloosa, imperial wizard of United Klans of America.

Shelton said in an interview Thursday that the war on smut is merely a branching out of activities. Over the years, Klan targets have included Jews, Catholics, liquor and racial integration.

"We're still involved in educating people to the evils of busing students, and we're behind the scenes in some court battles," he said.

Thus far in its assault on X-rated films, the Klan has singled out theaters in Gadsden, Ala., and Lake Wales, Fla., Shelton said, adding: "By spring, we'll be in full force in several states, including Georgia, Mississippi, Kansas and Montana."

The imperial wizard, who admitted that he has not seen an X-rated movie or even an R-rated one, said Klansmen who volunteer to see the films to take notes have reported their contents to him.

Bookstores have been staked out in some locations, Shelton said. He added that, from all indications, the potential visitor to a pornography shop "has a tendency to fall into the freakish category."

"We have at several smut locations across the nation hidden cameras taking pictures of everyone entering the premises of these pornography palaces," Shelton said. "Their pictures will be filed in our local offices to work in conjunction with the local police departments."

He said no police department has requested the Klan's help.

Shelton said the Klan has changed in other ways. Much of its business is conducted in luncheon-type settings with members in business suits with "no hokey-pokey ritualistic wardrobe," he said.

The "hokey-pokey stuff is reserved for special occasions," Shelton added.

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