

CENSORSHI PIT-4

LE'S FIVE

CHRIS Finch writes:

At Marlborough St, Magnesian Court, on Nov. 28 Robert Fraser was found guilty of using an indecent exhibition to raise the artistic value of the art work concerned. It seems that even the limited protection afforded in the Act published by the Obscene Publications Act does not extend to specimens of art shows.

Prosecution emphasized that it was not suggested that the drawings and sketches were in themselves OBSCENE, but, it was argued, the exhibition as a whole was INDECENT. That is to say it was likely to offend the decency of ordinary viewers of the Queen's Highway. Police witnesses insisted that the subject-matter of the pictures could be easily recognized from the street and that, on one occasion, the work (UN) could be read from outside the gallery. No very searching effort was made to verify this disputed fact.

Prosecution suggested that the exhibition had been indecently hung, male genitalia being female and between these a collage representing the actual composition of these organs. Fraser explained that the pictures had, quite simply, been hung in series and objected that the collage used to represent copulation was a purely artistic composition.

The magistrate was disturbed by the fact that the male genitalia had been portrayed larger than life and that their colouring was thought to be nature. He remarked that a expert witness would be brought in, but was unable to persuade him that this was not an indecent exhibition.

A fine of £20 was imposed, with 21 days' costs.

THE Lord Chamberlain said this week he is tired of reading many plays he'd rather spend his time seeing to see them.

For years now, nearly every one has agreed that the point of theatrical censorship was its absolute "ineffectiveness" in Seventeenth Century England has been dismissed among the ages. We don't "censor" any more.

Lord Coblentz, the present Lord Chamberlain, was once asked to single out a category which he would censor right off without discussing the merits of the play in question. To which

he answered "regicide." Pass Shakespeare, Pass Jerry!

It is generally agreed that the censorship should be put into knowledgeable hands. The Lord Chamberlain has traditionally always been to nothing about Theatre. But Lord Goodman of the Arts Council has the worth of his part of it. The Greater London Council has suggested that

he should "regicide." Pass Shakespeare, Pass Jerry!

AT the University of Massachusetts in Boston, Negro students are trying to remove Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* from the list of required reading. Their claim is that the book presents a false image of the Negro. Of course, by saying so, one is indeed claiming that there is an image of the Negro. Certainly Mark Twain wouldn't be so stupid enough to make this claim.

Besides history and literature have got to be seen in their proper context. *Huckleberry Finn*, one of the most liberalized American novels, serves to expose false images and opens the closed eyes of the American conscience. Hemingway said all American literature follows from this book. Perhaps American history too. Not to read this book means to shut out one of the big bright lights left on the American panorama.

WASHINGTON—The U.S. government Job Corps announced last week it was discontinuing its series of articles on sex education because the subject was "too cerebral" for the written word. Sex education is an organized American way of making intercourse go away. One teaches it away in schools, writes it away in government pamphlets. One has public meetings. The amount of newly-acquired American sexual wonder is incidental with the first clear print last week of the surface of the Moon. The Job Corps newspaper said: "Sex has an important place in everybody's life, but it is not as important as movies and commercials on radio and TV would lead people to believe."

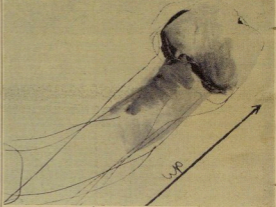
WASHINGTON police last week were ordered not to use pejorative ethnic terms to citizens. The post men in blue are being forced to keep their mouths shut. They are asked to slow forward to have to say they are dirty haulers. Herber, get against the wall. The cops must also refrain from openly criticizing the police. In short, they are being asked to let their brains freeze, instead of the general, though hat size guys are they. Naturally, any move to halt the ravaging arrogance of an American cop is welcome.

But they are being denied their right to speak as they choose. The one consolation is that no one has shipped them from physically mistreating minority groups as a long as they don't use nasty names. The words they aren't supposed to use are: NIGER, WOP, CHINK, DAGO, POLACK, BOHUNK, LEMMY, FROG, and KRAUT. Most curious is the omission of that great American verbal pastime, NIGGER.

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ABOVE: London 15 (collage, pencil water colour)

LEFT: Detail from Dine-Paolozzi No. 4 (collage)

BELOW: Thorpe-Le-Soken 2 (collage, pencil watercolour).

A parliamentary suggestion has been made designed to lift the ban on the sale and advertisement of contraceptives in France. Anyone buying without a prescription, however, would be subject to strict arrest penalties. The most interesting recommendation is that users of contraceptives be reimbursed under French Social Security. **MORT AUX ENCHANES!**

THE Catholic Index of I-banned books like smoke from famous Catholic fires of not so long ago, is virtually dispersed into fresh air. Only one error has remained on the list to damn the eternal soul of any Catholic who reads his name. His name is Jean-Paul Sartre. You may have heard of him. Somebody's SCARED!

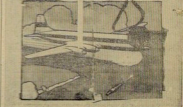
FROM Sunshine Superland: Michael McClure's place in the Beard, in which a man partakes of a lady's pubic hair for dinner was stamped out of performance by San Francisco cops.

CITY Lights Bookshop (Fertlingbell's place) in San Fran was busted recently for selling a copy of Lester Kandle's *The Love Book* to a plainclothesman, who said "I had one perorography if I ever saw it." The trial begins Dec. 16. One City Light guy writes: "Preparation 16 (censorship) failed to pass a recent election. Well, with Reagan as governor I guess the police don't need a censorship law." It may keep where to get copies of the *Love Book* soon, but it isn't talking, yet.

ON RAMPAGEAUNIA - Mr. Phil Solomon has decided to give in to pressure from the Board of Deputies of British Jews over the Oberammergau Passion Play (which is anti-semitic). He has left the promotion in the hands of a por. Mr. John Mulvey. So perhaps there is more of a chance the real play will reach England's green and pleasant shores. As for Mr. Solomon's contractual, we can only say: Shalom.

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BOOKS

