

Models wanted: for the cam or scam?

by Tricia Ciaravino
Reporter

The Yellin' Rebel has discontinued David Shoen's advertisements for models.

It was reported to Richard Crow, editor-in-chief of business, that Shoen had attempted to have the women who answered the advertisement pose nude for photographs. One woman has accused Shoen of sexual assault. An associate of Shoen, whom Crow does not wish to name, telephoned The Yellin' Rebel with this information.

Crow, upon receiving the information, said he "immediately cancelled the advertisements." He then called the Better Business Bureau, the Deputy D. A. office and the Metro Sexual Assault Unit.

This is not the only accusation against Shoen. Launi Leathen, whose sister was a victim of Shoen's in 1989, has a different story.

Leathen said her sister had responded to a similar advertise-

ment Shoen placed in a newspaper in Southern California. Shoen offered to place her photographs in two swimsuit calendars, as well as set up appointments for other modeling jobs. He charged over \$500 for two portfolios, which he did himself.

"Proving criminal intent is hard to do after the fact."

Leathen's sister never received the portfolios and soon realized he had left California. She did not attempt to take any legal action.

Recently, Leathen saw a similar advertisement in the Review-Journal and decided to take action. She made an appointment and confirmed it was the same man. He offered to do a portfolio for her, for \$400. Leathen called the City Investigators Office, the Metro Police Department and Channel 8. She was told that there had already

been six complaints about Shoen.

"If six girls called in from one clip, I can imagine how many ... (other) people he took," Leathen said.

Shoen's charade is convincing, however. Leathen said, "I can guarantee that there's a lot of girls at the university who will be taken by him."

Carol Grant, of the Metro Police Department, said Shoen cannot be arrested because, although he doesn't provide portfolios, he does provide slides. No legal action will be taken, Grant said, "Unless he takes (their) money and doesn't provide." So far, police have heard from seven people who allegedly gave Shoen an average of \$400 each for photographs, according to the Review-Journal.

"The advertisements primarily drew young people with no experience in how the game is played," Fraud Division Sgt. Ken Hefner said in a recent Review-Journal article. "So far, nobody has gotten any work from

him ... but proving criminal intent is hard to do after the fact."

Elizabeth Achley, of the City Investigators Office, has also been involved with this case. She is concerned with Shoen's business licensing. Achley, however, was unavailable for

comment.

To prevent being caught in a similar situation, "It's a good idea to check business licensing before going out to see anyone," Grant said.

She also advises bringing someone else along.



Yell Photo / Marcus Clark

Scene - Alison Mendez plays her part to perfection.



Yell Photo / Marcus Clark

Playing the part - L to R., Andrea Dashiell and Heather Newkirk act out a scene.



Yell Photo / Marcus Clark

Dance in the afternoon - L to R. Claudine Hairiston, Indraneel Clarke and Carrie Vente show their moves.

Volunteers Needed

The Youth Companion Program is looking for volunteers aged 18 to 60 years old who would like to spend some of their free time with a senior citizen.

The services the companions provide are critically needed by the people they serve and the community in general. Youth Companions are invaluable for the human warmth and contact they provide. They preform the small human services that a friend would. The companions read to their clients, shop with them, take them on walks, provide transportation, write letters for them, and countless ways provide companionship. The unique aspect of this program is the ongoing and continuous one-on-one relationship that is developed between two people. For more information call Terri Anderson at 385-5147 weekdays between the 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The Youth Companion Program is sponsored by Catholic Community Services.