

Fjm 1-23-71

# East Street Gallery

1408 EAST STREET -- GRINNELL, IOWA 50112 -- 515-236-6971

A COOPERATIVE  
GALLERY AND  
MAKER OF QUALITY  
PHOTOGRAPHIC  
EQUIPMENT

January 22, 1971

For Immediate Release

On Friday, January 22, 1971, a suit was filed in Iowa District Court in Montezuma on behalf of Henry Wilhelm against Grinnell College asking \$ 50,000 in damages for alleged libel against Wilhelm by the College. Wilhelm is a photographer and co-owner of the East Street Gallery located in Grinnell.

Wilhelm claims in the suit that Grinnell College, with malicious intent, released a story to area news media falsely accusing him of organizing a protest against a representative of Playboy Magazine, which took place at the College on February 5, 1969. During the protest a number of men and women students completely disrobed to protest Playboy's sexist policies. The students were later arrested and charged with "lewd and lascivious conduct" in a case that is now being appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The story, which allegedly accused Wilhelm of organizing the protest so he could photograph it and sell the pictures, was first broadcast over Grinnell College radio station KDIC by a student at the College, Neil Fischer. The story was later allegedly released to local and state news media by Mrs. Ruth Prescott of the Grinnell College public relations office. Mrs. Prescott is also named in the suit.

For additional information contact Mr. Wilhelm's attorney, Clark Holmes of Des Moines, who can be reached at the firm of Holmes & Ralph, 910 Fleming Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, phone: 515-288-3339. Or contact Mr. Wilhelm at 515-236-6971.