



Anne Robinson

WHY YOU CANNOT BAN SEX

Even on Underground posters like this



Beautiful or obscene?

THERE is a cinema round our way that shows a considerable number of French films with Polish sub-titles, or perhaps they are Spanish productions translated into Dutch.

I do not know exactly because I have never been there. I doubt, for that matter, if I will ever wish to go.

But if tomorrow someone told me that I was banned from going or that the cinema was to be banned from showing these films, I would be very annoyed indeed.

I do not like things being banned. I do not welcome others, however well meaning, deciding what I should or should not see.

And I feel much the same way about attempts by the Women's Committee of

the Greater London Council to ban sexy ads on the London Tube.

As it happens, I find some pictures of near-naked women stunningly beautiful to look at.

Rape

Others where the female form roughly resembles the shape of an over-inflated, life-size rubber doll, I find obscene and yes, degrading to women.

Even so I am not con-

vinced that sexy pictures are the major reason why women are violently attacked and raped.

But if it is the case, then I consider my fourteen-year-old daughter is probably as much at risk if she finds herself alone with a young man who has just watched the Benny Hill Show as she is with one who has recently travelled from Tooting Bec to Belsize Park on the Northern Line.

And surely that's the point. Our tastes vary enormously and we can-

not go around abolishing everything some of us do not like.

What is more, I despair, yet again, that a bunch of feminists who genuinely spend much of their time working hard and intelligently to improve the plight of women have come up with an idea, tailor-made to invite ridicule.

"Knickers" was the popular response from men last week to the proposed ban.

"I like what I do" was the general opinion of a string of young models

who've discovered that taking their clothes off and being photographed can result in an income not unlike that of their bank manager, their doctor or even a cabinet minister.

You cannot, the Women's Committee of the GLC must realise, ban sex in London.

Cash

It would mean shutting down the National Gallery so our minds remain uncorrupted by old masters.

Closing half the West

End theatres, censoring every pop song, forbidding each poetry reading and insisting that all cinemas be converted into yoga centres.

Not a nice task for women concerned about liberty.