

Archaos.

DURRANT'S

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FEAR THAT SHOW WILL 'TARNISH' DOWNS' IMAGE

Banned 'sex circus' looks to Weston



Judy Patterson

By John Turner and Christine Alsford

A CONTROVERSIAL French circus, which has been told it is not welcome in Bristol, may be heading for Weston-super-Mare.

The resort is one of the options being considered to replace the Bristol visit in September after the Downs Committee of Bristol City Council voted to withdraw its invitation.

Today publicity agent Mark Borkowski, at the centre of the row over a press release that said the circus contained simulated sex and violence, condemned the Bristol decision.

He said Bristol was the only city in Europe to take such action.

"They are certainly out of step with the people they represent," he said.

Trouble

"We have already sold 30 per cent of the tickets for Bristol through our advanced booking line and that is the biggest advanced booking anywhere in Europe."

Mr Borkowski said the cancellation could mean serious financial trouble for the show.

"The company could go down over this. We cannot understand the decision of the Downs committee."

But he added: "We have still not given up the idea of going to Bristol."

Merchant Venturer Mr Jim Hood who travelled to see a performance by Archaos in Manchester described it as "seedy" and "extremely noisy."

But Councillor Judy Patterson said

she had found nothing in the circus to cause offence.

"I would have no hesitation in taking older children to see it," she said. "The sex element was non-existent."

A report read out at the meeting from Archaos promoter Adrian Evans said the show contained only "harmless eroticism" and no more nudity than on our beaches.

Councillor Peter Abraham said that following adverse publicity the planned visit of the circus would "tarnish the image" of the Downs.

Mr Bob Acland, Woodspring District Council's Marketing Director, said today: "It doesn't sound like the type of entertainment Woodspring would welcome but we have not been approached."

"If we are approached and it is something that has been banned elsewhere we would have to look at it very carefully."

The circus appeared at the Pilton Pop Festival last month as part of its British tour.