



1 arising out of the prohibition on receipt of and the confiscation of subscription magazines.  
2 Plaintiff also sets forth claims regarding a failure to respond to appeals, claims against a doe  
3 defendant, and a claim for declaratory relief. On January 23, 2009, an order was entered, finding  
4 that the complaint stated a claim for relief against Defendant Adams on Plaintiff's First  
5 Amendment claim. (ECF No. 10.) The complaint failed to state a claim for relief on Plaintiff's  
6 remaining claims. The order provided Plaintiff with the option of filing an amended complaint  
7 or notifying the Court that he intends to proceed on the First Amendment claim against  
8 Defendant Adams only. On February 5, 2009, Plaintiff responded to the order, notifying the  
9 Court that he intended to proceed on his First Amendment claim against Defendant Adams.  
10 (ECF No. 15.) Defendant Adams filed an answer to the complaint on May 18, 2009. (ECF No.  
11 21.) Plaintiff filed his motion for summary judgment on July 24, 2009. (ECF No. 23.)  
12 Defendant filed an opposition to Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment and cross-motion for  
13 summary judgment on March 24, 2010. (ECF NO. 40.)<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff filed his opposition to  
14 Defendant's motion for summary judgment on August 3, 2010. (ECF No. 62.)

## 15 **II. Summary of Allegations**

16 Prior to Plaintiff's transfer to CSP Corcoran, he was housed at Lancaster State Prison.  
17 While at Lancaster, Plaintiff subscribed to, and received, publications, including the magazines  
18 Maxim, Stuff, and FHM<sup>2</sup>. Plaintiff was housed at Corcoran from April of 2006 to February of  
19 2007, when he was transferred to Calipatria State Prison.<sup>3</sup> While at Corcoran, the subscriptions  
20 to these three publications were disallowed pursuant to a policy established prior to the arrival of  
21 Defendant Adams as Warden. On September 13, 2006, Defendant Adams reviewed the policy  
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23 <sup>1</sup> On May 14, 2010, the Court issued and sent to Plaintiff the summary judgment notice required by Rand v.  
24 Rowland, 154 F.3d 952 (9th Cir. 1998), and Klinge v. Eikenberry, 849 F.2d 409 (9th Cir. 1988). (ECF No. 54.)

25 <sup>2</sup> For Him Magazine. Attachment 2 to Defendant's Exhibit C in support of his cross-motion for summary  
26 judgment. (ECF No. 41.)

27 <sup>3</sup> Court records indicate that Plaintiff was transferred back to Corcoran on January 11, 2011. (ECF No. 70.)  
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1 and removed FHM from the list of disallowed publications. Though Plaintiff did receive one  
2 issue of FHM in December of 2006, he did not receive any other issues while at Corcoran.

3 **III. Summary Judgment Standard**

4 Summary judgment is appropriate when it is demonstrated that there exists no genuine issue  
5 as to any material fact, and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Fed. R.  
6 Civ. P. 56(c). Under summary judgment practice, the moving party

7 [a]lways bears the initial responsibility of informing the district court  
8 of the basis for its motion, and identifying those portions of “the  
9 pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions on  
file, together with the affidavits, if any,” which it believes  
demonstrate the absence of a genuine issue of material fact.

10 Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986).

11 If the moving party meets its initial responsibility, the burden then shifts to the opposing  
12 party to establish that a genuine issue as to any material fact actually does exist. Matsushita Elec.  
13 Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 586 (1986). In attempting to establish the existence  
14 of this factual dispute, the opposing party may not rely upon the denials of its pleadings, but is  
15 required to tender evidence of specific facts in the form of affidavits, and/or admissible discovery  
16 material, in support of its contention that the dispute exists. Rule 56(e); Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 586  
17 n.11. The opposing party must demonstrate that the fact in contention is material, i.e., a fact that  
18 might affect the outcome of the suit under the governing law, Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477  
19 U.S. 242, 248 (1986) ; Nidds v. Schindler Elevator Corp., 113 F.3d 912, 916 (9th Cir. 1996), and  
20 that the dispute is genuine, i.e., the evidence is such that a reasonable jury could return a verdict for  
21 the nonmoving party, Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 588; County of Tuolumne v. Sonora Community  
22 Hosp., 263 F.3d 1148, 1154 (9th Cir. 2001).

23 In the endeavor to establish the existence of a factual dispute, the opposing party need not  
24 establish a material issue of fact conclusively in its favor. It is sufficient that “the claimed factual  
25 dispute be shown to require a jury or judge to resolve the parties’ differing versions of the truth at  
26 trial.” Giles v. Gen. Motors Acceptance Corp., 494 F.3d 865, 872 (9th Cir. 2007). Thus, the  
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1 “purpose of summary judgment is to ‘pierce the pleadings and to assess the proof in order to see  
2 whether there is a genuine need for trial.’” Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 587 (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P.  
3 56(e) advisory committee’s note on 1963 amendments).

4 In resolving the summary judgment motion, the court examines the pleadings, depositions,  
5 answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with the affidavits, if any. Rule 56(c).  
6 The evidence of the opposing party is to be believed, Anderson, 477 U.S. at 255, and all reasonable  
7 inferences that may be drawn from the facts placed before the court must be drawn in favor of the  
8 opposing party, Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 587 (citing United States v. Diebold, Inc., 369 U.S. 654,  
9 655 (1962) (per curiam)). Nevertheless, inferences are not drawn out of the air, and it is the  
10 opposing party's obligation to produce a factual predicate from which the inference may be drawn.  
11 Richards v. Nielsen Freight Lines, 602 F. Supp. 1224, 1244-45 (E.D. Cal. 1985), aff’d, 810 F.2d 898,  
12 902 (9th Cir. 1987).

13 Finally, to demonstrate a genuine issue, the opposing party “must do more than simply show  
14 that there is some metaphysical doubt as to the material facts. Where the record taken as a whole  
15 could not lead a rational trier of fact to find for the nonmoving party, there is no ‘genuine issue for  
16 trial.’” Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 587 (citation omitted).

#### 17 **IV. First Amendment**

18 A prisoner’s right to receive publications from outside the prison should be analyzed in light  
19 of the factors set out in Turner v. Safley, 482 U.S. 778 (1987). In determining whether a prison  
20 regulation is reasonably related to a legitimate penological interest, Turner directs the court to  
21 consider the following factors: (1) whether there is a valid, rational connection between the  
22 regulation and interest used to justify the regulation; (2) whether prisoners retain alternative means  
23 of exercising the right at issue; (3) the impact the requested accommodation will have on inmates,  
24 prison staff, and prison resources generally; and (4) whether the prisoner has identified easy  
25 alternatives to the regulation which could be implemented at a minimal cost to legitimate penological  
26 interests. Turner, 482 U.S. at 89-91.



1 because inmates are not permitted to possess altered property. (Juarez Decl. ¶¶ 2-4.)

2 Lt. Juarez declares that to permit inmates to possess altered property would jeopardize prison  
3 security because inmates can use altered property to create or store contraband. If an inmate  
4 possesses a magazine altered by the mailroom, other officers who conduct future searches of the  
5 same magazine will not be able to determine whether the magazine was altered by staff or the  
6 inmate. If the inmate altered the magazine, then there is the possibility that the inmate used materials  
7 from it to create or hide weapons. (Id. ¶ 5.)

8 Upon Plaintiff's arrival at Corcoran in April of 2006, the mailroom staff were acting pursuant  
9 to a memorandum issued on February 14, 2002, by Warden Galaza. Attachment 1 to Defendant's  
10 Exhibit C (the declaration of N. Zavala) is a copy of the memorandum. This memorandum advises  
11 all staff and inmates at CSP Corcoran that "effective immediately all "Stuff" and "Maxim"  
12 magazines are not allowed at Corcoran State Prison. This decision is based on the fact that over the  
13 past several months, numerous issues of these magazines have included articles that contained  
14 information which raised specific security concerns." (Id.) Page 2 of Attachment 1 is a similar  
15 memorandum issued by then Warden Scribner on August 14, 2003, disallowing FHM Magazine.  
16 (Id.)

17 Defendant's Exhibit B is the declaration of Captain X. Cano, who was employed as the  
18 Mailroom Sergeant at CSP Corcoran in 2002 and 2003. Capt. Cano declares that during 2002 and  
19 2003, the mailroom had a general policy of reviewing each issue of an incoming magazine to ensure  
20 the magazine did not contain contraband material.

21 The three magazines at issue in this lawsuit regularly contained contraband material. FHM  
22 magazine contained articles on such subjects as how to escape from handcuffs, descriptions of  
23 assault, rape and other violent crimes and step-by-step instructions on torture methods, with  
24 diagrams and pictures, and methods to avoid leaving marks on torture victims. One issue of FHM  
25 contained an image of a nude child, with a caption describing the child in a mocking, sexual manner.

1 Stuff and Maxim contained pictures and articles similar in content to FHM. <sup>4</sup> (Cano Decl. ¶¶ 2.4.)

2 Cano further declares that during 2003, on a monthly average, the Corcoran mailroom  
3 received approximately 150 issues of FHM magazine. Between January 1, 2003, and July 2003, five  
4 of the seven issues of FHM were disallowed from distribution to inmates because the issues  
5 contained material that threatened institutional safety. As a result of the contraband contained in  
6 these magazines, mailroom staff were required to prepare and issue approximately 750 notices  
7 informing individual inmates that FHM magazine could not be delivered to them. (Id. ¶¶ 4-5.) Cano  
8 specifically declares that “preparing and issuing these notices is onerous because each form must be  
9 prepared, addressed to the correct inmate, signed by the Custody Captain, and then issued to the  
10 inmate.” (Id.)

11 The Court finds that, as to the first Turner factor, Defendant has met his burden on summary  
12 judgment. The evidence submitted by Defendant indicates that the policy in place at the time of  
13 Plaintiff’s arrival at Corcoran in April of 2006, was reasonably related to a legitimate penological  
14 interest. The magazines at issue regularly contained contraband material, such that it became  
15 onerous and overburdensome to disallow them issue by issue as to each inmate. The evidence  
16 submitted indicates that these magazines regularly contained material that was sexual or violent in  
17 nature. Prohibiting inmates from receiving such material is a legitimate penological interest.  
18 Preserving order and discipline has long been recognized as a legitimate governmental interest.  
19 Procnier v. Martinez, 416 U.S. 396, 412-13 (1974). Prohibiting inmates from receiving sexually  
20 explicit materials also serves a legitimate governmental interest. Mauro, 188 F.3d at 1059. Gang  
21 suppression, as a means to ensure the safety and security of correctional staff, personnel, inmates,  
22 and the public, is a legitimate penological interest. Wilkinson v. Austin, 545 U.S. 209, 227 (2005).

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24 <sup>4</sup> Attachment 2 to Exhibit C includes copies of the articles referred to. On April 21, 2010, an order was  
25 entered, sealing Defendant’s Attachment 2 to Exhibit C. (ECF No. 49.) Plaintiff was served with a redacted copy of  
26 Attachment 2. The Court has reviewed Attachment 2 and notes that it comports with the description above. Maxim  
27 magazine also contained an article detailing the organizational structure of a major prison gang, along with a flow-  
28 chart describing how incarcerated gang leaders issue orders to execute individuals outside prison.

1 Defendant correctly argues that it is common sense that violence, gang information, and child  
2 nudity is inimical to institutional security. Frost v. Symington, 197 F.3d 348, 365-7 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.  
3 1999)(finding the Arizona Department of Corrections was not required to provide evidence that the  
4 ban on pornography served a legitimate governmental interest under Turner, because it is an  
5 intuitive, common sense connection); Mauro, 188 F.3d at 1060 (stating that the first Turner prong  
6 merely requires that prison officials “might reasonably have thought that the policy would advance  
7 its interests.”)

8 As to the second Turner factor, whether there are alternative means of exercising the right  
9 at issue, the Court finds that Defendant has met his burden. The evidence submitted by Defendant  
10 demonstrates that should mailroom staff attempt to remove the offending pages and articles before  
11 forwarding the magazine to Plaintiff, this effort would jeopardize institutional security. Inmates can  
12 use altered property to create or store contraband. (Juarez Decl. ¶ 5.) Further, such a policy would  
13 run afoul of regulations, as inmates are not permitted to possess altered property. (Juarez Decl. ¶¶  
14 2-4.) In addressing the constitutionality of a similar regulation, the Supreme Court held that a  
15 regulation that barred publications that posed a threat to prison security, or to institutional order and  
16 discipline, or facilitated criminal activity, satisfied the second Turner factor because the regulations  
17 “permit a broad range of publications to be sent, received, and read . . . .” Thornburgh, 490 U.S. at  
18 418. Defendant correctly argues that Plaintiff was free to access all non-contraband material, and  
19 a universe of other magazines that did not present the unique security issues of FHM, Maxim, and  
20 Stuff.

21 The third Turner factor considers the impact the requested accommodation will have on  
22 inmates, prison staff, and prison resources generally. As noted above, Defendant has come forward  
23 with evidence that during 2003, on a monthly average, the Corcoran mailroom received  
24 approximately 150 issues of FHM magazine alone. (Def.’s Ex. B ¶ 5.) During 2003, five of the first  
25 seven issues of FHM contained contraband material, requiring mailroom staff to prepare, address,  
26 and issue approximately 750 notices to inmates. (Id.) Such notices are particularly onerous because  
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1 each one must be signed by the custody captain before it can be distributed to the inmates. (Id.)  
2 Defendant argues that over the course of a year, the mailroom would have to prepare and issue  
3 thousands of notices to inmates for disallowed issues of FHM, Maxim, and Stuff. Defendant argues  
4 that relieving staff of the burden of evaluating each issue of the three problematic publications served  
5 to greatly reduce unnecessary workload and channel mailroom resources into more productive tasks.

6 The Court finds that Defendant has met his burden as to the third Turner factor. Defendant  
7 has come forward with evidence that an accommodation that includes an issue by issue approach to  
8 banned publications would create an onerous burden and expense for correctional officials. Captain  
9 Cano's declaration establishes that, in one month alone, over 700 individual notices were issued and  
10 delivered to individual inmates.

11 The fourth Turner factor turns on whether the prisoner has identified easy alternatives to the  
12 policy which could be implemented at a minimal cost to legitimate penological interests. Plaintiff  
13 argues that staff could remove the offending images and articles from the magazines and issue the  
14 remaining portion to inmates. Captain Cano's declaration establishes that during 2003, on a  
15 monthly average, the Corcoran mailroom received approximately 150 issues of FHM magazine  
16 alone. Defendant argues that the costs associated with such an approach are not de minimis because  
17 it would require significant additional personnel hours to individually inspect, scrutinize, and  
18 remove offending images and articles from the magazines. A reasonable inference can be drawn that  
19 if the prison received 150 issues of one publication alone, a policy that directed staff to remove  
20 offending pages from publications would require significant time and cost to implement.

21 Defendant has come forward with evidence that during 2003, on a monthly average, the  
22 Corcoran mailroom received approximately 150 issues of FHM magazine alone. (Def.'s Ex. B ¶ 5.)  
23 Five of the first seven issues of FHM contained contraband material during 2003, requiring  
24 mailroom staff to prepare, address, and issue approximately 750 notices to inmates. (Id.) Such  
25 notices are particularly onerous because each one must be signed off by the custody captain before  
26 it can be distributed to the inmates. (Id.) Defendant argues that over the course of a year, the  
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2 FHM, Maxim, and Stuff. Defendant argues that relieving staff of the burden of evaluating each issue  
3 of the three problematic publications served to greatly reduce unnecessary workload and channel  
4 mailroom resources into more productive tasks. Further, the declaration of Lieutenant Juarez  
5 establishes that to permit inmates to possess altered property (in the form of altered magazines)  
6 would jeopardize prison security because inmates can use altered property to create or store  
7 contraband.

8 The Court finds that, as to the policy in existence at the time Warden Adams arrived at CSP  
9 Corcoran, Defendant has submitted evidence that establishes that the policy satisfies the four -part  
10 test in Turner. Defendant has therefore met his burden on summary judgment as to his conduct in  
11 complying with the policy in existence at the time he arrived at Corcoran. The burden now shifts  
12 to Plaintiff to come forward with evidence that Defendant Adams' conduct in following the 2002  
13 policy did not satisfy the four-part Turner test.

## 14 **2. Plaintiff's Evidence**

15 Plaintiff's undisputed fact number 8 asserts that "Adams was aware of the 'ban'  
16 memorandums and did not lift them all although they were contrary to policy." Plaintiff refers the  
17 Court to "Defendant's Admission, Response No. 2." Plaintiff attaches the discovery to his  
18 memorandum of points and authorities in support of his opposition to Defendant's motion for  
19 summary judgment. In Request for Admission No. 2, Plaintiff asks Defendant to admit "that in  
20 2006 you established a ban on particular publications at Corcoran State Prison because your position  
21 as Prison Warden vested you authority to do so." Defendant admitted that "certain issues of specific  
22 periodicals were disallowed at Corcoran State Prison in 2006." Plaintiff's evidence establishes that  
23 certain periodicals were disallowed. That certain publications were disallowed does not create a  
24 triable issue of fact as to whether Defendant Adams violated the First Amendment. Defendant has  
25 come forward with evidence that the policy disallowing Stuff, Maxim and FHM magazines complied  
26 with the four part test in Turner. Defendant's Response to Plaintiff's Request For Admission No.

1 2 does not establish evidence to the contrary.

2 The Court has reviewed all of the exhibits attached to Plaintiff's opposition and to his  
3 statement of disputed and undisputed facts. Although Plaintiff argues that the policy established in  
4 2002 and 2003 was unconstitutional, he offers no evidence to support such a claim. It is undisputed  
5 that Defendant, upon arrival as Warden at CSP Corcoran, followed the existing policy. Defendant  
6 has come forward with evidence that the policy comports with the constitutional requirements set  
7 out in the four-part Turner test. Although Plaintiff clearly disagrees with Defendant's view of the  
8 policy, he offers no evidence that it is unconstitutional. The gravamen of Plaintiff's argument is that  
9 the policy should have been modified to allow for an individual determination, magazine by  
10 magazine, of a publication's compliance with the policy. Defendant has come forward with evidence  
11 that such a practice would be unduly burdensome, expensive, and violate regulations prohibiting the  
12 possession of contraband material, including altered publications. Judgment should therefore be  
13 entered in favor of Defendant Adams regarding his conduct prior to September of 2006.

14 **B. Rescission of Policy**

15 Defendant's evidence establishes that in July of 2006, after learning that FHM magazine was  
16 not allowed at Corcoran, Plaintiff filed a prison grievance asserting that the memorandum banning  
17 an entire magazine at a prison is unlawful, and contending that he was entitled to receive notice of  
18 each specific issue that is disallowed. (Compl. pp. Ad.-1-Ad.10, Attachment 1 to Pltf.'s Statement  
19 of Disputed and Undisputed Facts (copy of Inmate Appeal No. COR 06-03721.)) On September  
20 13, 2006, in response to Plaintiff's complaint, Defendant Adams rescinded the ban on FHM  
21 magazine at Corcoran State Prison. (Def.'s Ex. C, Attach. 1; Compl. Ad-8.) The memorandum, in  
22 its entirety, follows: "This memorandum is to advise you that effective immediately 'For Him  
23 Magazine' (FHM) will be allowed at California State Prison-Corcoran. If you should have any  
24 questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Mailroom." (Id.)

25 Plaintiff received the December 2006 issue of FHM magazine. (Pltf.'s Depo. 20:6-8.) FHM  
26 magazine ceased publication in December of 2006. (Id., 18:-25.) Plaintiff was transferred out of  
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1 Corcoran State Prison in February of 2007. (Id.) On June 14, 2007, Defendant issued a  
2 memorandum rescinding the ban on Stuff and Maxim magazines at Corcoran State Prison. Ex. C,  
3 Attach. 1.)

4 That Defendant Adams rescinded the policy does not, of itself, create a triable issue of fact  
5 regarding the constitutionality of the earlier policy. Nothing in the exhibits submitted by Plaintiff  
6 indicates that the decision to rescind the earlier policy was based on any finding that the earlier  
7 policy was improperly promulgated or implemented. Plaintiff may not simply rely on an inference  
8 that the earlier policy was somehow defective. As noted above, inferences are not drawn out  
9 of the air, and it is the opposing party's obligation to produce a factual predicate from which the  
10 inference may be drawn. Richards, 602 F. Supp. at 1244-45.

#### 11 **V. Plaintiff's Motion**

12 Plaintiff also seeks summary judgment. "[A] party seeking summary judgment always bears  
13 the initial responsibility of informing the court of the basis for its motion, and identifying those  
14 portions of [the record] which it believes demonstrates the absence of a genuine issue of material  
15 fact." Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986); see also Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.,  
16 477 U.S. 242, 256 (1986). As the party with the burden of persuasion at trial, Plaintiff must  
17 establish "beyond controversy every essential element of its" his affirmative claims. S. Cal. Gas Co.  
18 v. City of Santa Ana, 336 F.3d 885, 888 (9th Cir. 2003) (quoting W. Schwarzer, California Practice  
19 Guide: Federal Civil Procedure Before Trial § 14:124-127 (2001)). The moving party's evidence  
20 is judged by the same standard of proof applicable at trial. Anderson, 477 U.S. at 242.

21 Plaintiff must demonstrate affirmatively (by admissible evidence) that there is no genuine  
22 issue of material fact as to each element of his claim for relief, entitling him to judgment as a matter  
23 of law. Plaintiff must also demonstrate the lack of any genuine issue of material fact as to  
24 affirmative defenses asserted by the defendant. But here, Plaintiff need not provide any evidence.  
25 He may simply point out the absence of evidence from the defendant. Fontenot v. Upjohn Co., 780  
26 F.2d 1190, 1195 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1986); Zands v. Nelson, 797 F.Supp. 805, 808 (S. D. Sal. 1992);

1 Grimmway Enterprises, Inc. v. PIC Fresh Text, 548 S.Supp.2d 840, 845 (E. D. Cal. 2008).

2 Here, as detailed above, Plaintiff has failed to come forward with any evidence that the policy  
3 under which Adams was acting at the time of his arrival at CSP Corcoran was unconstitutional. Nor  
4 has Plaintiff shown that Adams' decision to later rescind the policy was based on any belief that the  
5 existing policy was in any way deficient or in violation of the First Amendment. Although Plaintiff  
6 need only point out the absence of evidence from Defendant, such is not the case here. Defendant  
7 has come forward with evidence that the policy in existence at the time he arrived at CSP Corcoran  
8 comported with the four-part constitutional test in Turner. Plaintiff offers no evidence to the  
9 contrary. Plaintiff argues that mailroom staff could have removed those portions of the magazines  
10 that violated the policy but, as noted, Lt. Juarez's declaration established that to allow inmates to  
11 possess altered property would jeopardize prison security. Plaintiff also contends, and Defendant's  
12 evidence establishes, that Plaintiff did not receive the December 2006 issue of FHM magazine after  
13 Adams rescinded the policy in September of 2006. However, Plaintiff offers no evidence that  
14 Defendant Adams was in any way responsible for the failure of Plaintiff to receive the December  
15 2006 issue, which magazine ceased publication in December of 2006.

16 **VI. Conclusion and Recommendation**

17 Defendant has come forward with evidence establishing that the policy in existence at the  
18 time he arrived at CSP Corcoran was constitutionally valid, and that he acted pursuant to that policy  
19 in banning the publications at issue. There is no evidence that the policy was unconstitutional, or  
20 that Defendant Adam's decision to rescind the policy regarding the Stuff, Maxim and FHM  
21 magazines was based on any constitutional infirmities in the earlier policy. The gravamen of  
22 Plaintiff's complaint is that because the magazines were allowed at other prisons and because the  
23 policy regarding Stuff, Maxim and FHM was eventually rescinded, he was unconstitutionally denied  
24 the right to receive those publications. Plaintiff offers no evidence that Defendant Adams's conduct  
25 in following the earlier policy or in rescinding the policy violated Plaintiff's First Amendment rights.  
26 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment be  
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