

WIDE  
letters

## A challenge to feminists

Editor:  
Hogwash. *Excalibur* is printing more and more of it each issue.

In the November 10 issue I noticed an inordinate amount in an article by Kathe Sesto. Everything she said was insubstantial. Nothing was given support and her argument was so heavily laden with feminist rhetoric that one has to grit their teeth every third line.

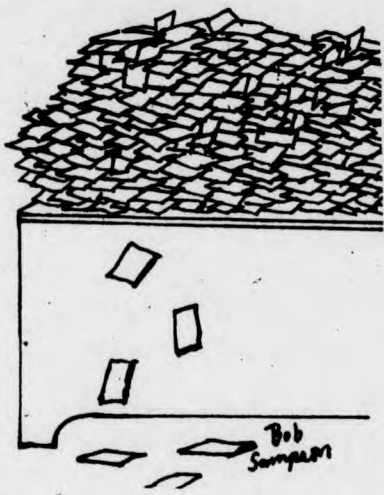
The article sheds some pretty heavy light on the whole argument of pornography. But not from what is in the article, but rather from what is left out: an equally weighted argument for the other side. Otherwise all you have is a sermon on what the writer believes in and nothing that hasn't been said by thousands of feminists before.

If the aim was to discredit pornography, which to some degree I agree with, it certainly missed its mark. To discredit something you must have something or someone presenting it from a positive point of view. Then you proceed to drill holes in the points presented. I quote: "Barlow goes around the country educating people on pornography." What Barlow does is work for the Government traveling around the country showing porn in church basements to people who probably are already dead set against it. The atmosphere those films are shown in is probably so negative that any sensible person would be too intimidated to dissent.

She says the response of the people is that the films are disgusting. What does she expect? An artistic criticism? Add the fact that the films that are shown are of the extreme variety and you have a basis for a blanket criticism for the whole genre. But when an anti-feminist tries to argue the opposite, feminists turn their backs and close us out. It sounds to me like they are psyching themselves up in an environment that can't possibly give them any feedback to prove or disprove their discussions.

In the article Maude Barlow is quoted as saying, "I'm convinced the *Playboy* concept is based on the hatred of women." I say where is the basis for Barlow's conviction?

In another example of heavy-handed manipulation, Sesto drowns a report by a York University professor showing that there is no connection between rape and porn with a much lengthier account by a professor who claims the opposite. Proof is supposedly contained in the fact that porn magazines were found in rapists' abodes. Are cops



going to be sent searching for mystery novels everytime someone poisons their spouse (or mother-in-law)?

I challenge feminists to outline a detailed stance on pornography and drop this stupid rhetoric.

—Name withheld by request

## Disarmament denegration

Editor:

Re. the letter from M.J. Strapko, B.Sc. (*Excalibur*), 1 Dec.

Mr. Strapko asks for "a reasonable explanation why all the world governments (sic) continue their arms build-up." Clearly there can be no reasonable explanation for an activity which is inherently unreasonable. His linking of the Kremlin with "the forces of evil" suggests an ignorance of the projection of his own shadow (to use Jung's term) which recalls Philip Wylie's dictum: "Let us stop pretending to be angels before we truly become devils."

The attempt to denigrate or dismiss those who are working for peace by labeling them "peace mongers" is a shoddy device but it is easier than dealing with ideas. Few people are calling for unilateral disarmament, as Mr. Strapko suggests, but many millions are calling for a balanced, mutual reduction of weapons in order to avoid a planned or accidental holocaust.

Mr. Strapko does have one excellent point: "we must stick together." I trust that by "we" he means all the people, plants, and animals on earth and not just the so-called "free world." What is at stake is not the survival of this or that ideology, phenomena which last a few centuries at best, but life itself on this planet. By means of self-knowledge, imagination, compassion and clarity of language and thought we may yet all survive. If we persist in blindness, prejudice, confused thought and a "we-versus-they" mentality, the chances are very much slimmer.

Kenneth Golby

## Corrections

In last week's *Excalibur*, the Committee Against Racial Discrimination at York (CARDY) and Professor Ato Sekyi Oto were misrepresented. CARDY did not in fact say that the Special Review Committee Report may have been defamatory. These remarks should have been attributed to H. Ian Macdonald. Professor Oto is not a member of CARDY as was implied, but merely co-authored the majority report with a CARDY member. *Excalibur* regrets the error.

Also in last week's *Excalibur*, an article on the York University/University of York exchange program erroneously stated that scholarships paid for all fees. In fact, the living expenses and books are not included. *Excalibur* apologizes for the error.

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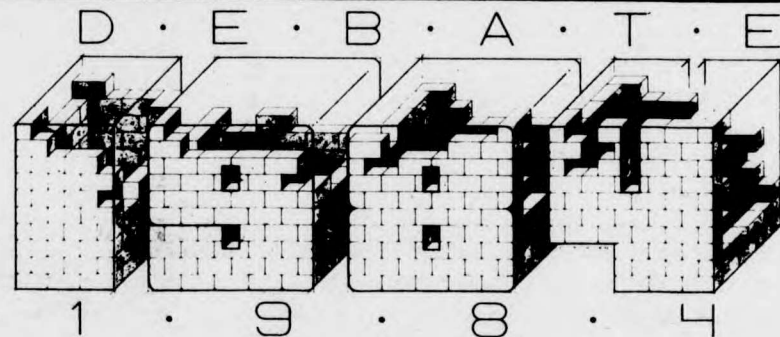
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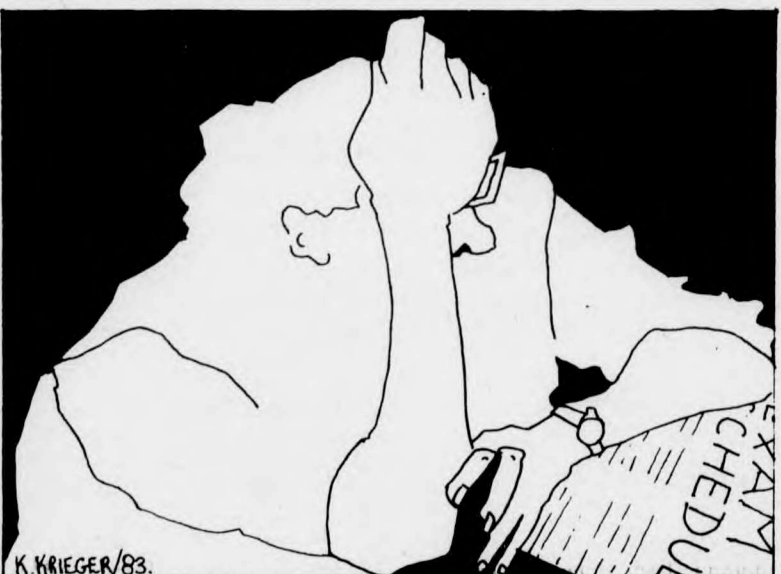


## CAPITALISM OR SOCIALISM?

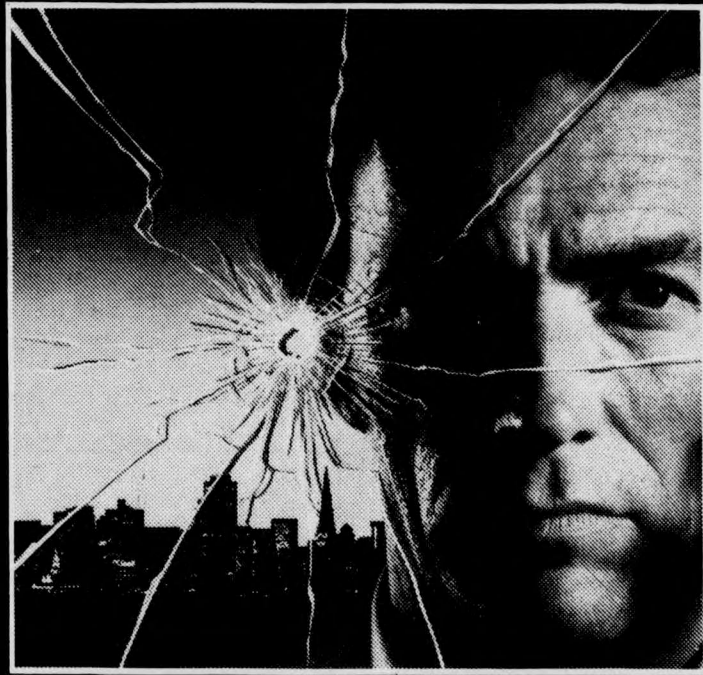
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