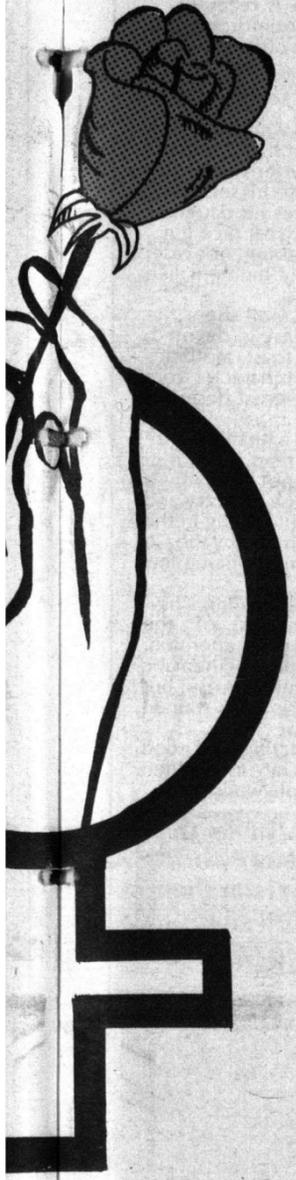


ay... The struggle continues



emotional) with females, are as off-base as computer correlations 'proving' people with blue eyes are better at math than those with another colour.

There are different events in history that can then be viewed as central, epoch-making ones. He cited as examples the time when women in Britain became eligible to own property, and the time public access to birth control advice and devices became legal.

Women's studies courses help give women knowledge of themselves and "give us permission to reinvent ourselves," he said.

Hosek feels men should participate in Women's studies courses but said any real progress is going to take a long time. Women's own attitudes, as well as men's, need to be changed, and we can begin by learning not to suspect the motives of a few men who do enrol in these courses she said. Hosek pointed out that there are even many women who don't want to sign up for these classes.

MacIntosh said there are many obstacles facing women who want to pursue higher education. He said the problem begins in childhood when girls are applauded for being docile and are encouraged to indulge in creative little "feminine" pursuits.

One subtle unfairness we can guard against on-campus according to MacIntosh is sexism in language. He said that we live in a society where very, very sexist language exists, and it is reinforced every day by the media in textbooks and lectures people attend.

MacIntosh and every time friends or others around us use sexist language, they should be corrected. One of the worst is calling women 'girls,' he said.

Other problems women face is sexual harassment. Hosek said verbal sexual harassment of female students by male professors is a very real one. As an example, she related an incident that took place at the University of Toronto. A medical professor described an abortion with great relish. He used extremely graphic descriptions and there was a tinge of malice in his voice. Some of the women who attended the lecture told Hosek about the incident and they said that they sat clutching their abdomens thinking, "My God, that's my body he's tearing apart."

Hosek also recounted another problem, that of female professors suffering from the "Queen Bee Syndrome." She said these professors feel they have fought hard for what they have attained and will "use their position (as a professor) to reinforce the differences between men and women" to prove how special they are.

Inequalities still exist in our educational system and not very many people are aware of this. Although women are not longer banned from the library or reprimanded for shortcutting across men's turf, there is still room for improvement and much-needed change.

Pornography: art or cancer

by Marna Simmons (with files from Leslie Smith) reprinted from The Charlton by Canadian University Press

"Pornography is one of the most restricted of the literary arts. I was even about to say one of the Purest." — Clifton Fadiman.

"Pornography is the cancer of society: it must be excused from the body politic if the nation is to survive with wholesome vigour." — Richard Kyle-Keith.

The pornography debate is endless and frequently heated and it's a complex subject involving a number of issues.

First is the question of freedom of speech and expression. Would pornography related laws constitute infringement upon the individual's rights of expression? And would such laws set a dangerous precedent?

Carleton journalism professor Wilfred Kesterton doesn't think so. He says pornography should be regulated to protect the young.

"I don't think they should have carte blanche as far as the young are concerned," said Kesterton, who teaches media law.

For adults, the problem is more difficult. The idea of free choice may be perfectly valid, noted Kesterton, but he cited the example of a movie theatre: People can voluntarily go in the theatre to watch X-rated movies. But what about those people who are walking past the movie's advertisements outside?

"A distinction must be made. People

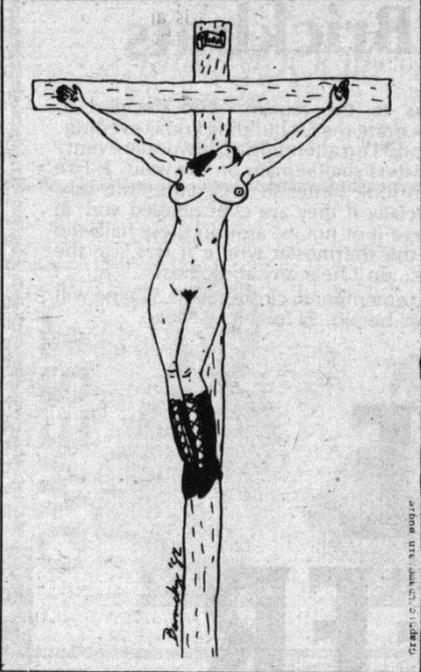
should be protected from having pornography and obscenity thrust gratuitously on them," said Kesterton.

Kesterton said he does not believe that by legislating pornography, a dangerous precedent will be set.

"If you believe that then you can also believe that the making of any laws could lead to the making of totalitarian laws. I must say even though I'm immersed in Mill and Milton, I'm disquieted by pornography," said Kesterton.

In Canada, civil libertarians are still divided over censorship and the European or American ideas of freedom of speech.

The European theory holds that no one is permitted to restrict or suppress the freedom of speech of anyone else. There are strings attached to this freedom,



however. The purpose of the person in question comes under scrutiny. If the pornography's aims are exploitative of women and someone wishes to change the situation, then that person will probably receive more sympathy.

In the United States, civil libertarians have a different approach. There, the first amendment to the constitution guarantees the freedom of speech. A person might express almost anything. It is up to the viewers or readers to choose whether they wish to expose themselves to the material.

In an article in *Screen Education*, Gregg Blachford notes the differences in the ways men and women are portrayed in heterosexual magazines. Male models, says Blachford, are real people — "sensitive, creative individuals, absorbed in their own activities, thoughts, and bodies." For example, he says, typical captions for male models run like this: "Shep, a soccer goalkeeper finds the joys of sex in sport." Blachford writes, "There is usually at least one outdoor shot to establish how healthy and natural, how basic they really are."

"Women, on the other hand," says Blachford, "are most often displayed as being conscious of being looked at by men, as being passive, waiting for a man. Little is known or said about them personally and what is said is bland and mundane." He says captions for the female models are like this: "Sexy Susan is a secretary and loves looking after her boss."

"But compared to her self-consciously exposed breasts and genitals, her personality fades into relative unimportance," Blachford writes.

Denmark, where the liberalization of pornography laws occurred in the 1960s, has been the subject of studies to determine the correlation between pornography and crime.

Bert Kutchinsky of the University of Copenhagen, states in the *Journal of Social Issues* that sex crimes in Denmark decreased dramatically since 1967. From 85 cases of sexual offenses per 100,000 inhabitants the number fell in three years to an average of less than 50 cases.

Many pro-pornography advocates cite this example as proof of the "safety-valve theory". In this theory, pornography, instead of triggering crime, gives the potential offender an outlet.

These figures are difficult to interpret, however. Many crimes of this nature go unreported. Changing attitudes towards sex must also be considered. Lesser sexual offenses such as peeping toms, and flashes frequently are ignored or treated lightly in a more liberal society, according to Kutchinsky. And, most significantly, while sexual crimes like child molesting and exhibitionism appeared to decline, rape in Denmark did not.

"Pornography is the theory; rape is the practise" is a slogan found on some anti-pornography buttons.

An American research project in 1970, the Goldstein Study, examined exposure to pornography and its relationship to the sexual activities of sex offenders. The study discovered that rapists were the group reporting the highest "excitation to masturbation" rates by pornography both during the adult years (80 per cent) and the teen years (90 per cent). Fifty-five per cent of the rapists stated that pornography excited them to the point of sexual activity. In fact, 30 per cent of the rapists reported that they engaged in sex, immediately or shortly after exposure to pornography.

But something more disturbing has been emerging. On Dec. 2, 1982, the *Citizen* quoted Ontario Censor Board chairman Mary Brown, who said a new wave of sexual violence is showing up in movies submitted to the Board. "I'd call it aggressive, soft porn that eroticizes violence and can be extremely dangerous to normal viewers," said Brown.

Neil M. Malamuth and Barry Spinner's content analysis of sexual violence in the pictures and cartoons of *Playboy* and *Penthouse* magazines from 1973 to 1977 also notes this trend. Their study showed sharp increase in the frequency of sexually violent visuals, particularly in *Penthouse*.

In a study by Diana Russel, women were asked if they had ever been upset by someone attempting to get them to repeat something they'd seen in pornographic movies or books. Ten per cent of the women interviewed responded yes to this question.

One woman commented, "He tried to make me have oral sex with him. He said he'd seen far-out stuff in movies, and that it would be fun to mentally and physically torture a woman."

A second woman told of her experience. "He'd read something in a pornographic book, and then he wanted to live it out. It was too violent for me to do something like that. It was basically getting dressed up and spanking. Him spanking me."

Graphic descriptions of these violent movies were given by Jillian Ridington and Barb Findlay in a paper about pornography: "One of the first hard core things I saw showed a woman's buttocks. A cane was inserted in her rectum, a male hand held a cigarette to the skin of her thigh."

But the dilemma remains. What do we do about pornography? Do we ignore it and hope that people will tire of it and that it will go away? Or do we make pornography illegal? That idea would probably only create a prohibition-like situation where no one benefits except those in organized crime.

I am a journalist-in-training and, like Professor Kesterton, I have always been an admirer of the ideals of Mill and Milton.

I am somewhat reluctant to restrict the freedom of those who pursue pornographic material without being struck by the urge to rape or inflict other cruelties upon women. But at the same time, I am a woman and I find myself resenting the restrictions on my safety and freedom to go when and where I wish without that fear of rape forever lurking in my mind.

Society has a responsibility for the safety of half its population. Thus, I must place my vote, but judiciously, with the anti-pornography advocates.

country, the 14-year-old boys performed better than the girls of the same age. However, in a cross-tabulation, different results came to light said Hosek. Hungarian and Japanese girls performed infinitely better in some areas than boys from all other countries except their own. Other studies show that women who go to all-girls schools are more likely to take sciences and do better at them than women in co-ed schools.

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This then suggests that cultural and social factors cause these differences, rather than any biological gender factor.

Jack MacIntosh of the University of Calgary's philosophy department said he thought it was a "gross unfairness" that people are told that men have certain intellectual abilities and women don't.

He said studies associating the left hemisphere (logical, mathematical) of the brain with males and the right (creative,

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