

BLOOD & THUNDER

What you seem to display is a fear of violence by women! The very same fear that women have been experiencing first hand for centuries from males! The world is changing my friend! Men are not going to continue their dominance of women forever, and the sooner we all get together to treat all women as equals the sooner we will eliminate the fear, bigotry, discrimination and alienation that our predecessors have passed down to us!

If you, or any male want to take your shirt off and stroll down the beach late at night, you can do it in relative safety, if a woman tries it, she stands a great chance of being sexually abused and brutalized by some pervert. In fact, women are not even safe in their own bed! (50% of all rapes occur in the victims bed!). When you go to bed, you will sleep in safety, while any female does not enjoy that same right! And you wonder why they need protection!

I do not preach violence! I strongly believe in human rights for everyone on this planet! But, the male dominated society we live in does not follow that reasoning! We have a justice system which rewards the criminals with free food, warm lodging, TV and VCR's, excellent medical care, sex (conjugal visits), etc., and if you are genuinely concerned that women are becoming violent, talk to the sexual offenders and wife beaters who have and continue to brutalize females without fear of reprisals from our justice system! Ask them why they do it! Why they are able to Rape between 5 and 100 times before being caught then why they never get more than 3 months in jail!

Women are afraid! Just as you would be afraid if you were in their shoes! One in three are going to be raped in their lifetime! (Men can't imagine how that must feel!), more will be physically abused by overbearing husbands and lovers! And they need help! And I, for one, am going to do what I can to help them to understand men better, and what to do to avoid or minimize being physically abused, even if that means instilling a little pain on their attacker!

What I suggest you do is try and imagine yourself in their place! Being physically weaker, undergoing a socialization process which stresses submissiveness, living in a male-oriented society, be repressed from early childhood, and being required after all this to fight for mere equality in jobs and advancement! Add to this the added stress of possibly being a target for sexual harassment in school, on the job or at home, coupled with knowing that the statistics point to the fact that you stand a one in three chance of being sexually attacked, with little public sympathy or support, and you might understand why women are at a point that they are not willingly going to take it anymore!

FACTs is not martial arts! It is not self-defense! It is not anti-male or violence! It is education and understanding presented in such a way that women are able to limit their chances of being a victim of male violence against them! There is more time spent on explaining why males rape than on what to do if one is in that situation, because unless females understand the antecedents to rape,

they cannot change the situation itself!

The bottom line is very simple; men should not fear women! Women are beautiful caring human beings with intelligence, compassion and understanding! Men should be proud that we can enjoy them as equals in a democratic country like Canada! And every male should allow them to co-exists as equals in safety from the very small minority of males who might want to degrade or injure them! If we did our job, there would be no reason for them to need FACTS!

John J. Williams, Moncton, NB

A few bricks short of a load?

When a woman's attempt to defend herself against a possible assault is turned around into man-hating and violence classes we know that someone is a few bricks short of a load. There is a monumental difference between being out to get all men and not wanting to get raped.

The FACTS course not only trains women how to defend themselves in the face of an attack but also how to avoid situations where an assault is possible or likely. I see no relation whatsoever between an anti-assault course for girls ages twelve and up, who are just as likely to be attacked as older women, and nazi youth training.

The fact is very simple, those who abuse have no right to try and defend themselves. Just because a woman has taken steps so that she will be able to get away if attacked does not mean that the next week she will run out and buy a gun so she can get away and kill her attacker.

The problem of rape, by a date or a stranger, is big, real and it is

not going away. Women should not have to just sit back and take it. I have only one thing to say to Mr. Sears, if his wife/girlfriend/sister/mother/daughter was attacked would he rather have her be able to fight off her attacker and get away relatively unharmed, or find her the next day, beaten, battered or possibly dead. It sounds to me like your (sic) frightened Mr. Sears, perhaps of being fought off?

Stephanie Boutilier

Retort to Mr Sears

The Female Anti-Assault Comprehensive Training System (FACTS) is just that, anti-assault; not "violence classes" as you so intelligently put it in last week's Bruns. FACTS teaches females how to avoid a potential rape situation and if one occurs, how to get out of it with not only their lives, but also their self-esteem.

When I stated that twelve year olds can be trained, my point was that the program requires no real physical strength to perform the basic moves required for this self-defense course. Though I am not training children, this is not a bad idea; especially given the fact that one in four females will be assaulted by the time they reach twenty years of age.

While I am not a radical feminist, I do believe that we have the right to learn to defend ourselves; at least until physical abuse becomes a thing of the past. I absolutely refuse to apologize for ensuring that women are being given the opportunity to learn self-defense. Tell me Jon, if we are attacked, should we lay down and 'take it' or should we try to save ourselves and our self-respect by trying to get away? Which would you yourself do Jon?

I guess the FACTS program has been retarded in its evolution

from forearms to firearms - we (the instructors) strongly discourage women from carrying any weapons. your assumption that we are preparing ourselves was a correct one. We are preparing to defend ourselves, not to go on a personal manhunt. However, there is one that I would be interested in meeting - but I just want to ask him exactly why he is so worried unless of course, he plans on attacking one of these girls. If that is the case, I would like to give him a tip - go elsewhere, because one of us just might know what to do if he decided to assault us.

I apologize for the fact that this article may not be an adequate retort to Mr. Sears' point from last week - but the article was not clear enough to make out exactly what his point was.

I would like to add that at the end of each FACTS session we offer various coupons for free crewcuts, blonde hair dye, and blue-tinted contact lenses. Oops, I let that slip, I guess you had me pegged after all.

Patty Smith, FACTS instructor.

Defensive not offensive

Let's put the FACTS straight. If Jon Sears had taken the time to look into the course he criticized, perhaps he might have been able to dismiss some of his misconceptions. The course is offered free because university students are at the greatest risk and usually lack the funds to be able to attend such events. Women are sometimes placed in situations that may lead to sexual assault or rape, this course is modelled to aid women successfully escape these situations.

If Mr. Sears had gone through the trouble of contacting a course instructor for information he could have relaxed his fears. If after this he was still unsatisfied he could have seen the course after a police background check and an interview with the course instructor(s). The course is geared towards women and the possible situations they may have to face in case of a rape situation. The course is generally not shown to males as a rapist could gain access to the escape techniques.

The issue of age is brought up by Mr. Sears. Unfortunately rapes and sexual assaults do occur to people who haven't even hit puberty yet. So the need for a method of self protection becomes necessary. Age 12 is used because individuals at this age can actually comprehend the methods of escape they are learning. As for the terms Mr. Sears

Celebrate
Spring Break '92
At SUMMERS
ft. lauderdale beach,
florida



10am-6pm Poolside Parties
Live D.J. Emceeing Poolside Contests
Water Volleyball • Swim Relays • Bellyflop Contests
Climax the Day with Summers Sexy Contests

7pm-8:30pm College Happy Hour

UNIV. NEW BRUNSWICK PARTY
Tuesday, March 3rd
Free Spring Break '92 T-Shirt
with paid admission for above college students
between 7pm-8:30pm with proper college I.D.
Enjoy Summers Drink Specials!

Live Music Till 2am Nightly
6 Bars to Serve You ... Plus Seventh Heaven
(formerly Fury) Ft. Lauderdale's Hottest Rock & Dance Band
To Keep You Partyin' All Night!!!

UNIV. NEW BRUNSWICK PARTY
Tuesday, March 3rd
One Free Bar Drink, Draft, or Soft Drink
Good From 7pm-8:30pm Nightly
(Limit One Coupon Per Customer)

Summers on the Beach • 219 S. Atlantic Blvd • Fort Lauderdale, FL
(Located 1/2 block north of Las Olas Blvd. on A1A)
For More Information Call • 305-462-8978
Admission Policy: 18 & older always welcome
Spring Break '92 at Summers!

CONTACT LENSES

STUDENT SPECIAL
SOFT CONTACT LENSES

159.

REG. \$250.00

EXPIRES MARCH 15/92

GUARANTEED FIT
EXTENSIVE
FOLLOW-UP
CARE

COMPREHENSIVE
SERVICE PROGRAM
CLOSE TO CAMPUS
& HIGH SCHOOL

CERTAIN
EXCEPTIONS APPLY

DAVID G. HARDING
CONTACT LENS SPECIALIST
SUITE 504, 1015 REGENT STREET
FREDERICTON MEDICAL CLINIC
458-0270