

MORE THAN A WOMAN'S ISSUE

Tom Hanley responds to Alexandra Fremont's "Reflection on a Tragedy"

I agree that the atrocity that occurred in Montreal was just that, an atrocity. I feel outrage for this and other senseless slaughters. I also feel that such acts of aggression and brutality cannot be blown out of proportion but it can, and has been blown out of perspective.

This incident was the product of an insane person, not indicative of the majority of people. After the "Son of Sam" slayings not all men were labelled satanists because this person was insane and not representative of the majority. The idea that feminism was to blame is ridiculous. Only through the warped, insane mind of Mr Lepine could that be seen as to blame. No one really believes it was the cause. Mr Lepine could have as easily come to see Blacks, Hispanics, Asiatics or any other recognizable group as the cause of his failure. Had events in his life been a little different he may have singled out one of these groups and not women.

I am interested in knowing where Ms Fremont got the figures she quoted in her article last week. Also I am curious as to the context from which her quotes are taken. Is it possible that the officer was expressing his exasperation at the difficulty of convincing the abused wife to testify against her husband? The quote used is not even a complete sentence and therefore there is no way of determining any contextual meaning.

"Why is the oppression of women an acceptable practice in our society." It is? Any act of "oppression" in this society meets with immediate attention while true oppressive acts in other societies (ie. South Africa) may go unnoticed for extended periods of time. Here, in this society, race, language and sex "oppression" are found out and dealt with daily, forcing publicly visible employers to establish applied "equality", which is not equality at all, merely so that the numbers look good. True oppressive acts against women are committed by the minority.

As far as the funding of a "date" rape committed 3 Amana House is concerned I years ago. Men and women am afraid I must plead first do play sex games, and my ignorance and second my unfortunately the "tease" is interest. I would like to one of these games. know some exact figures Consequently I am made comparative to the alcohol very uncomfortable by the and drug abuse center for possibility of men and also similar misinterpretation. facilities in other Therefore myself and all provinces. More others must realize that importantly I might ask "no" must always mean why on earth is it necessary "no".

The residences are the focal point of this campus, at least socially. If Ms Fremont were as concerned with other issues, she would realize that any rally/event which comes on campus is in competition with the residences. I'm also pretty certain that all of the marchers in no way made any actions that could have incited or egged the residences on in any way. The harsh reality is that any event on campus within earshot/stereoshot will receive an audible challenge of some sort.

I agree that conviction rates and length of prison terms for wife abusers are ridiculous, but one would agree that there are cases of husband abuse and the prescribed punishments are even more ridiculous. Spousal abuse, both mental and physical, is an area of law in which there must be some change for the better.

There must be some way for society to bring husbands and wives out from behind the wall of abuse so that they can be helped.

Concerning public breastfeeding by mothers and the negative reaction they encounter, I would say that this is a result of social discomfort with public nudity. Just as many women as men would find this disconcerting, maybe more. It in no way is indicative of oppression of women by men.

Now onto "Frosty the Snow Butcher", the cartoon from UNBSJ. First, I believe that a full apology was printed in the Daily Gleaner for any misinterpretation of the cartoon. Was the intent of this cartoon to glorify "Frosty" or to depict him as the warped, unnatural, butchering monster he is. I interpret it as the latter and if anything I would say that the decapitated liberated woman is the image of the martyr. The martyr is symbolic of the sacrifices the initial feminists made. These are the women who present ones revere so highly. The message is not that liberated women should be killed but that to do so is unnatural, making the target the fictitious monster-butcher. Is it possible this cartoon's intent is actually pro-liberation?

Concerning toxic shock syndrome and the unfortunate death of the young lady from Nova Scotia let me begin by expressing my deepest sympathies to her family. Now is this a case of oppression? I don't think that this is the result of some subversive chauvinist effort to slowly kill off women through internal poisoning. What it is the result of an abysmal bureaucratic oversight. As far as comparing tampons and condoms, and Fremont's belief that condoms were not used internally, I would ask what she thinks happens after the man puts the condom on. I think maybe one will be a little more appreciative of their

being tested now. They are not just used by men, but many women have a vested interest in the dependability of the condom.

Concerning thalidomide I would like to point out that these "thalidomide" babies were both male and female and had loving fathers as well as mothers who were both deeply hurt. I'm not well informed on this issue, but I would love to know more. The problem lies in the lack of federal health testing and safety standards. It seems that there is a monthly announcement of some new carcinogenic or that the insulation in some building is slowly killing its occupants or that some new herbicide renders men impotent and leaves dioxins in mothers' milk. These sort of health testing shortcomings affect everyone. The gender specific problem of toxic shock syndrome is a part of this more encompassing problem. Shall we attempt to amend this more encompassing problem or shall we leave it a "look out for yourself" kind of deal? For the record, I support Fremont's view wholeheartedly that feminine hygiene products should be tax free and offer my voice in any constructive support necessary. Taxing these products is utterly ridiculous.

I feel that the feminist movement set out to end the male view of the stereotyped woman. Obviously this end is nearing fruition but please let us not taint this budding success by embracing that stereotype of the chauvinist pig as representative of males. Fremont's solution may come at the cost of establishing a stereotype as blatantly wrong as the one she had sought to rectify. All social revolution must start with a "radical" view. As the revolution gains acceptance, the revolutionaries must become clear to the center and the whole society

becomes one and integrates the new order. It is time to begin the ending of the segregation of men and women and begin a partnership for equality. Our help is here to be enlisted, take it and bring the objective fully into reality. The majority of men see women and men as equals. Women must not make enemies of their supporters by committing the sin they seek to cure.

What I am asking is that women see the Montreal massacre for what it is: the act of an extremely disturbed person. I hope that these comments will be taken as they were intended. I would like to propose that Fremont's new column, "The Women's Room" be changed to "The Common Room" where people's issues could be discussed. I would be more than happy to co-author/co-edit (as equals of course) just such a column. If this does not suit Ms Fremont, I would like to ask the Bruns Executive if I might venture to take on such a column on my own but I would really like to tackle this in partnership with Ms Fremont.

Mr. Lepine could have as easily come to see Blacks, Hispanics, Asiatics or any other recognizable group as the cause of his failure

Was the intent of this cartoon ("Frosty the Snow Butcher") to glorify "frosty" or to depict him as the warped, unnatural, butchering monster he is?

I feel that the feminist movement set out to end the male view of the stereotyped woman...but please let us not taint this budding success by embracing that stereotype of the chauvinist pig as representative of males...



Mike T. dances



Pete R. Sports