

ence of pornography: prof speaks out

was quite biased and contained some serious distortions. "They showed this slide presentation, pretty much standard S&M fare, mostly bondage and humiliation - needles through the nipples and stuff like that."

As shocking as Dr. Christensen's seemingly casual approach to S&M pornography may be, he is quick to point out that he personally has no use for violence, "I have a very low pain threshold and to get pleasure from pain just sounds insane to me."

He feels sado-masochists are not normal but they deserve to be understood just like anyone else with an emotional problem that they didn't ask for. This was the basis of his

feminists and somehow these women (extremists) are getting all the publicity."

Dr. Christensen also feels that there are plenty of mainstream feminists who do not agree with some of the views put forth by the extremists but they are too worried about group solidarity to break away.

"Women will know that men are finally regarding them as equals when men stop patronizing and pandering and start getting good and goddamned mad at being called rapists and animals and all these things. That's the way that an awful lot of men have been hurt in this culture. A lot of that hurt has come back to women."

"There is far more alarm over child pornography than is justified, and the reason for this is that people have this view that sex is horrible for children to engage in — all the evidence that I have says that the truth is just the opposite."

objections to the presentation at the pornography forum.

"I hadn't intended to say anything because Anne McGrath (a local anti-porn activist) was there and I suspected that there might be a fight - which there was. I pointed out that it is not a message that women want anything, it is these people's way of vicariously satisfying a need that they have. One young woman said that she did not believe there was any such thing as a masochist, Anne McGrath jumped in to say that it didn't matter, others jumped in and it got very hot. Someone asked Anne what she thought pornography was and to get back at her, I said, it's whatever she doesn't like. It definitely was not a very academic discussion, I think the two of us would just as soon punch each other out."

When asked about his feelings toward feminists, Dr. Christensen explained that he quite knowingly and deliberately distinguishes between what he calls "extremist" feminists (or in other contexts "hate-mongers") and "mainstream" feminists.

"There are so many intelligent, reasonable

Christensen elaborated by stating that women's aversion to pornography is mostly learned in the first place. He feels that the solution lies in getting rid of the original aversion, not getting angry at men.

"People accept all kinds of things that they don't like in order to please other people, that's not necessarily bad, how else are we going to live with one another? I should stress that I certainly sympathize with those who feel threatened by portrayals of violence."

Judging from cross-cultural and historical evidence, Christensen deduces that violence and pornography are natural.

"Violence is built into human nature, it's not inevitable, but there are tendencies toward it. This by itself doesn't make it good, but being natural is one little piece of evidence that something is healthy."

Probably the most common complaint from anti-porn activists are the unrealistic physical and situational depictions of women in pornography. Christensen claims we see these kinds of women in pornography

because they are the kinds of women that men already fantasize about.

"There's something about people in general, they like to fantasize things better than they are in real life. Something in human nature tries to make the world better than it really is and I think that's a legitimate thing to want."

If those women are "better", why aren't more men bringing home leather lingerie-clad, hyper-orgasmic nymphomaniacs to meet Mom? The answer lies in what psychologists refer to as the whore-madonna syndrome. Translated, it means that a man seeks to marry a 'wife and mother' but he sexually prefers 'other types' of women. This is another aspect of male sexuality which Dr. Christensen believes has a biological or natural basis.

"Biologically there are a lot of species which try to keep their mate chaste or faithful while they fool around if they can," then added, "If that male can both guard his wife and get his genes spread around and trick other males into raising his offspring, then he will have more offspring - his genes are being spread both ways."

Christensen is very enthusiastic about this type of analysis.

"Sociobiology is great stuff, I love it. A lot of feminists and Marxists hate it - the perfectly malleable human being that they want to believe in just goes out the window if sociobiology is right - which is hard to say at this stage."

The nature vs. nurture debate rages on alongside the pornography debate and many more questions remain to be asked as well as answered.

One of the most important questions which is all too often ignored both by anti-porn feminists and porn defenders are the

effects of child pornography.

"There is far more alarm over child pornography than is justified, and the reason for this is that people have this totally unnatural and unhealthy view that sex is horrible for children to engage in - all the evidence that I have says that the truth is just the opposite," he said, and cited writings about certain Micronesian groups.

"They talk about some of the old men who are impotent and can't get their jollies any other way so they will have cunnilingus on little girls and everybody thinks it's kind of cute and the little girls enjoy it and it's no big deal."

Christensen goes on to describe some Polynesian and Balinese tribes where women will fellate or masturbate a fussing baby boy. "Rather than sticking a pacifier in his mouth and ruining his teeth, they do something sensible like giving him sexual pleasure."

All the evidence that Christensen claims to have about sex between adults and children is it's not *intrinsically* harmful as long as it's not coerced. "Anything that's coerced, including eating, is bad."

At its worst, Christensen's explicitness induces nausea, at its best it provokes food for thought which is always necessary when attempting to make informed and responsible decisions about sensitive issues.

If nothing else, Christensen is a very unique individual. Asked to comment on his own relationships, he replied, "From the day I was born, I've been very emotionally independent. I have no nesting instinct. This is one reason I'm more willing to speak out. Somehow over the years I didn't even get jealous feelings, I think it has to do with the fact that I've never experienced what they call love - I don't know what that is."

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