

### Letters, con't

tiensen's desired goal: history shows that scientists often share in the prejudices of their time, even in their area of specialty (cf. *The Mismeasure of Man*, Stephen Jay Gould).

A more serious omission lies closer to the heart of Dr. Christensen's essay, although it also does not invalidate his main point.

He notes that many women are unsympathetic towards male sexuality and towards such manifestations of it as soft-porn, and ascribes this to a failure of understanding resulting from the different nature of their own sexuality, which they naturally assume applies to men as well.

I think that women have good reason to be unsympathetic to male sexuality. To a man, sex is a basic drive; the urge to engage in the sexual act is as basic as hunger or thirst. Assuming that sex is a somewhat less urgent matter for a woman, what are its consequences for her? Let us ignore consequences of cultural origin: we will assume we are talking about a married woman, fully authorized to engage in sex with her husband.

Between 100 and 5000 years ago, and even now in many parts of the world, sex means maybe getting pregnant. Getting pregnant meant hours of excruciating agony . . . and a very real chance of death.

The question, therefore, is not whether or not women have a lower sex drive. The question is whether or not any woman in her right mind would submit herself to sexual intercourse . . . unless she had no choice.

The history of women's oppression has been the story of men's efforts to make sure they had no choice. Basically, two strategies were used:

- a) Women could be "drafted" into marriage, say while they were 12-year-old girls, with no opportunity to withhold consent, or
- b) Women could be systematically denied economic opportunity, having no opportunity to feed themselves except by satisfying men, either by marriage or through the 'oldest profession'.

Thus, while Islamic countries seem very backwards in their treatment of women, as they rely upon the direct strategy (a) unlike squeamish Anglo-Saxons, under Islam women have long enjoyed the right to own property and run businesses, rights which are only decades old in our part of the world.

Can a natural, innate drive be "bad"? Having desires that are innate, and not of one's own volition, cannot be a morally culpable act. But a natural desire can still be *problematical*: i.e., a sweet tooth in a world where sugar can only be produced by oppressing and starving the poor. (No, I'm sure that Frances Moore Lappe is aware of the sugar beet industry; this is just an illustrative and hypothetical example.)

Therefore, it is not feasible to raise the male sex drive to the same level as other healthy, innocent natural desires in its repute. Its negative consequences are all too real for this to happen.

Yours sincerely,  
John Savard

### BFA fame

After reading Suzanne Lundrigan's article in the Sept. 17 issue of *The Gateway*, I feel obliged to offer my own kudos to the Fine Arts Department.

I am not presently, nor have I ever been, involved with that department and am therefore not in a position to comment on the course content or level of instruction. I do, however, have first-hand knowledge regarding the products of this program.

Since first coming to Edmonton several years ago I have attended a lot of live theatre (this certainly is the place for it) and I frequently find that those people whose work I most admire, be it on the stage or behind the scenes, turn out to be University of Alberta BFA graduates. For me, one of the best examples of this was Northern Light Theatre's production of *The Bacchae* last season.

There can be no question that the quality of life in Alberta's capital is enhanced by the presence of these

people but, unfortunately, not everybody can see this. Unless the citizens and government of Edmonton wake up to this fact, an increasing number of U of A-trained actors, musicians, set designers, directors, and playwrights will be forced to leave. It will be a shame, but it will be what we deserve.

Laura Winopol  
Department of Physics

### Abortion appeal

Dear co-worker:

Since opening in November, 1984, we have by the Grace of God and the prayers and love of many counselled nearly 500 women.

And in keeping with the teachings of the Church and the best interests of both Mother and Child, we offer all the possible alternatives to the "unspeakable crime" of abortion.

Our work is a tough apostolate; we are NOT social workers. This is why we must pray DAILY, esp. the Rosary and the Mass.

Why not send us \$100.00 to buy pregnancy tests for six (6) weeks?

Or \$300.00 to pay for our Yellow Pages ad for one month?

Or \$50.00 to buy our Centre coffee and juice for one month?

Thank you for your generosity in advance.

Yours in the Holy Family,  
Gerard Liston  
New Director, Co-Workers for Human Life

P.S. We will be issuing tax-deductible receipts for 1985.

### Ouch!

TO: Editor-in-Chief, Suzette C. Chan  
FROM: Education Student's Association  
Executive Members — 1985-86  
RE: Headline Quotation

## The Gateway

Thursday, September 19, 1985

Those who can't do,  
teach...

...those who can't teach,  
teach gym.  
Woody Allen

If you can read this  
...thank a teacher!

If you can read this, thank a teacher!  
If you read this paper — blame yourself!

Executive Members,  
Education Student's Association

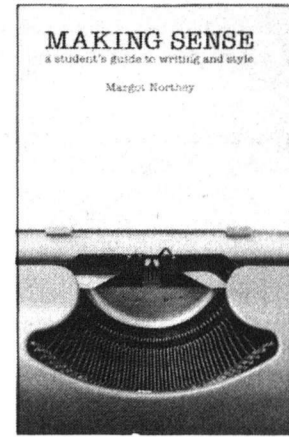
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## SU RECORDS CORRECTION

The Gateway incorrectly printed the price of Bruce Springsteen's album "*Born to Run*" at \$4.95.

The correct price is \$7.50.

We apologize for any inconvenience this mistake may have caused.