



Philosophy department's Dr. Ferrel Christensen photo Bill Doskoch

In defence

by Kathleen Beechinor

Some might know him as the author of the manifesto for SPERM (Society for the Protection of Equal Rights for Men). Others may have read his pamphlet *Pornography...The Other Side*. Still more people probably know of him by his reputation as a man who dares to fan the flames of one of today's hottest issues.

Manipulative, vague, genuine, pragmatic, warm, provocative, confusing, deranged... To describe Dr. Ferrel Christensen as an enigmatic individual is to refer to West Edmonton Mall as large.

"Pornography is not trying to make a statement about all women any more than a Robert Redford movie is trying to make a statement about all men. It's just something that some people like," says Christensen.

To compare a film like *The Great Gatsby* to *S.S. Girls* or *Truckstop Women* may seem a tad ludicrous to some, but it should be kept in mind that there are as many different types of pornography as there are people who buy it.

"A lot of people say that there's pornography and then there is erotica. What it really amounts to is that erotica is what a certain group of women like. It's just another way of saying that if I like it it's good, if you like it it's bad."

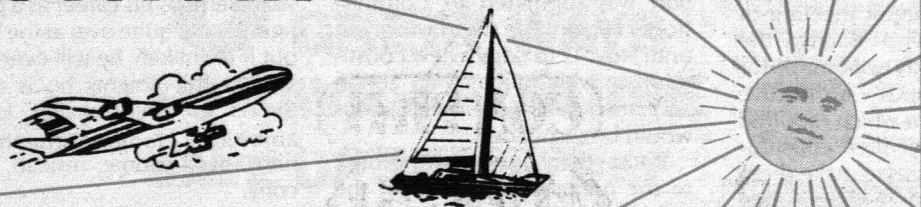
However, it would appear that Dr. Christensen's opinion about "what a certain group of women like" is questionable. A 1984 cross-sectional survey of Edmonton area men shows 82 per cent believe there is a difference between erotica and pornography. (Eighty per cent of the same sample believe there is a connection between violent pornography and sexual assault.)

Dr. Christensen points out "there's a lot of paranoia these days, like this latest flap about the child kept in the cage in the basement - it's a perfectly innocent and reasonable thing and yet people are so frightened."

When asked if he'd attended the recent forums on pornography presented by the Women's Centre, Christensen replied with a chuckle, "I went to the first one and caused something of a flap."

Apparently he felt that the presentation

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Please note that there will be a special **Academic Affairs Board Meeting** To discuss the following policy statement on the **Writing Competence Test:**

- 1) We demand that all decisions be communicated to the student and the Registrar's Office before December 31st. and that no registrations be cancelled until the appeals are decided.
- 2) In all cases, Appeal Committees should be taking into account students' past written performance in university courses, especially English courses, as well as relevant extenuating circumstances.
- 3) In all cases, a copy of a student's exam should be provided upon request of the student and should be considered that student's property.
- 4) We call on the Administration to provide a course, open to all students, equivalent to English 214, in which a pass in this course will be considered equivalent of a pass on the W.C.T.
- 5) We demand that the remedial course now offered NOT be considered a requirement for rewriting the exam.
- 6) We command the University for working towards changes in the English 300 Departmental exam in order to make it an alternative to the W.C.T. but ask that much more work be done quickly towards this end.
- 7) We call on the Testing and Remediation Centre to provide the Students' Union and all G.F.C. members with a detailed budget for the costs of running the W.C.T.
- 8) We are committed to helping students whose academic careers might be adversely affected by the W.C.T. and therefore are committed to the establishment of a free clinic service in order to better prepare students to write the exam.

The meeting is at 6 pm on Thursday November 7th in SUB 270A. Any interested students are welcome.