

The Great Pornography Debate

by Ellen Reynolds and Craig Stein

Both Susan Cole and Al Goldstein, at the Great Pornography Debate last week, evaded the definition of pornography, but the debate/discussion which did take place made for an educational and spicy evening.

Susan Cole, co-founder of Toronto's *Broadside* magazine, is a Canadian radical feminist. She studied at Harvard and has written extensively on pornography

and censorship. Al Goldstein, publisher of *Screw* magazine in the U.S., for which he was arrested in 1977 on obscenity charges, also writes, edits and reviews X-rated videos for *Penthouse*.

This was the first of two debates between Cole and Goldstein, the second of which is at Carleton University in Ottawa. The two debators were set up on the stage in the McInnes room in front of a full house. Goldstein,

wearing a bright Donald Duck t-shirt, kept everyone waiting before the start as he carefully laid out all the materials he brought with him. Each debator had a 15-minute opening statement, several minutes for rebuttal, a 25-minute discussion, and finally, questions from the audience.

"The overriding issue is freedom of choice," said Goldstein in his opening statement. "What censorship is all about is exploi-

tation." He reasoned that since he was against censorship, "I am the feminist here tonight." Goldstein then went on to say that

most feminists are "people against pleasure, against men..."

Goldstein

most feminists are "people against pleasure, against men.... What we have with many feminists are puritans." He argued that pornography is "fantasy. It is really putting a mirror up to reality" and that it is harmless.

With supporting quotations from Freud, Goldstein spoke a lot about feminists, saying that the women he knows in the pornography field are strong, assertive feminists who initiate their sexuality and enjoy their work.

Cole opened saying her basic position on pornography is that

women sell sex for survival, not for "fun"

Cole

it subordinates women and debases sexuality. She argued that women sell sex for survival, not for "fun". Cole said Goldstein was "pimping women to his read-

ers and presenting women as the sum of our parts". She said she wasn't pro-censorship but was in favour of "limited use of the criminal code" and an ordinance allowing women to sue pornographic magazines for damages.

Responding to Goldstein's freedom of choice argument, Cole said, "When women have that freedom, I'll defend it. Since (Goldstein) has rights and freedoms, he thinks everyone has them."

Cole's solution was reeducation. "Let's redefine what plea-

"... We should eroticize equality, whatever our sexuality"

Cole

sure means to us. We should eroticize equality, whatever our sexuality."

The audience which filled the McInnes Room booed many of Goldstein's misogynist remarks and his put-downs of "prudish Canadians". There were a few young men at the front who cheered Goldstein on as he scolded the men in the audience for allowing the women to dominate. Most of the questions were directed at Cole but Goldstein managed to inject some smug comments before the questions were finally cut off because of a lack of time.

No strike yet

by Geoff Stone

A strike at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design has been averted, for the time being at least.

The NSCAD faculty union and the board of governors are going before a conciliation board set up by the province in order to settle negotiations that have been going on since the summer.

The conciliation board will hear reports from the union and administration and then make a non-binding report of recommendations. "There's no guarantee a settlement will be reached," said Alvin Comiter, past president of the faculty union.

The faculty has been in a legal strike position since August, and held a strike vote before the conciliation board was set. "We felt the road was lost (to reach conciliation), so we worked on a strike," said Bob Rogers, president of the faculty union.

The faculty gave unanimous support for a strike at the time, but with the conciliation board set up, the two parties have agreed to no strikes or lockouts until a week after the board reports.

Rogers said the unanimous decision by the faculty shows an agreement with the union executives' position. "We thought that having won a strike vote was a clear indication the membership supported the union's proposal," Rogers said.

Margaret Boyle, NSCAD student union president, said the student union is presently set-

ting up a strike awareness committee in order to deal with a possible strike, and to inform students about recent negotiation developments.

Alvin Comiter said he feels the union has a very strong case to present to the conciliation board. "We are hopeful the conciliation board will examine the evidence," Comiter said.

TO STUDENTS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

The Faculty Union of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design wishes to advise students that courses may be interrupted this fall should current contract negotiations fail to result in a satisfactory agreement.

NSCAD's faculty union public service announcement published some time before the conciliation board was struck.

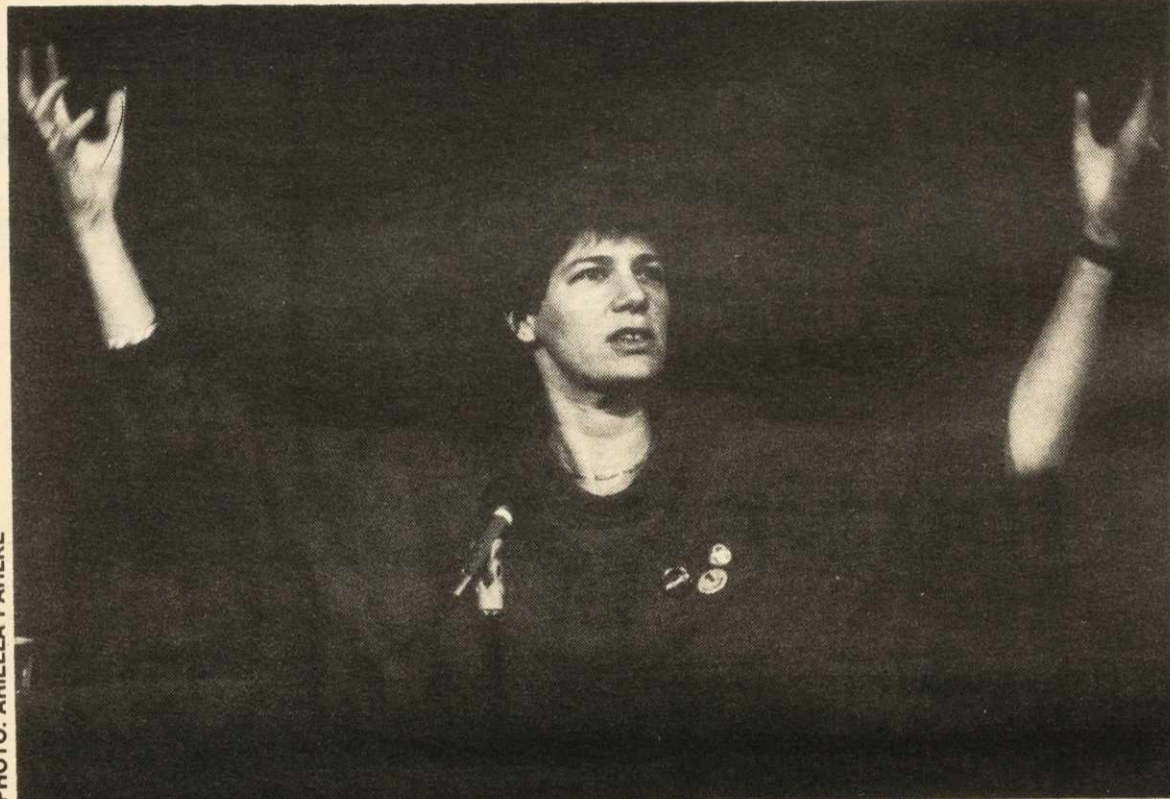


PHOTO: ARIELLA PAHLKE

Susan Cole raised her arms and rolled her eyes more than once.

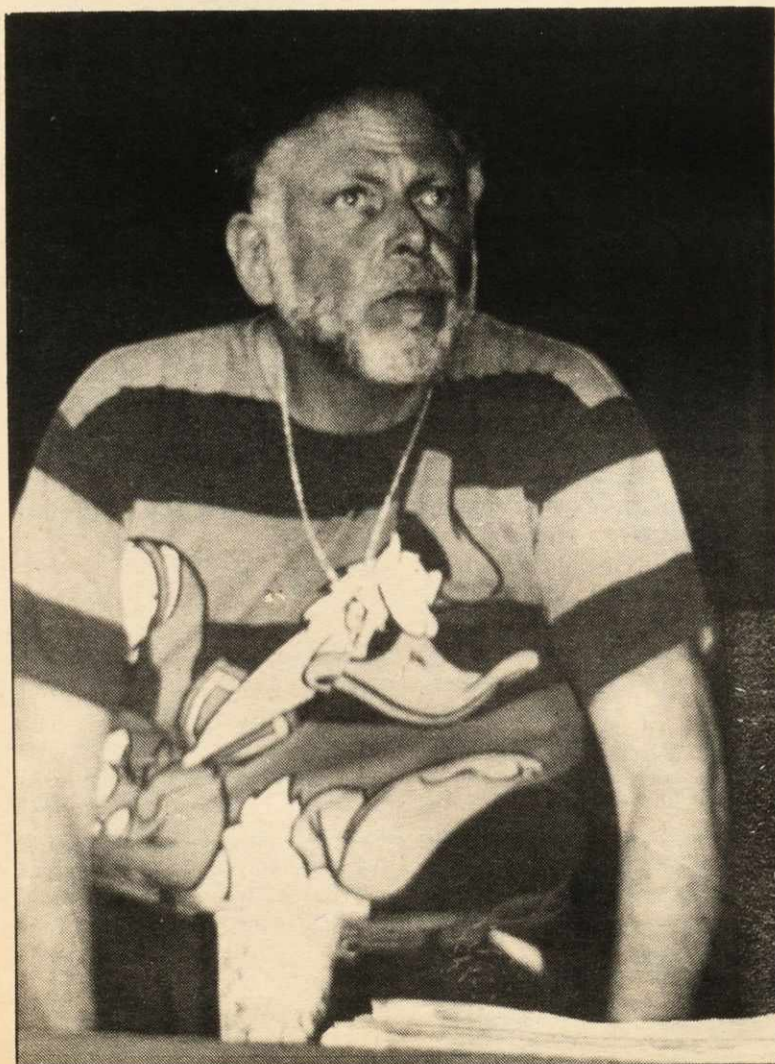


PHOTO: IAN MARDON

Al Goldstein in one of his more intense moments.