

Letters

Censorship

Editors—

I think it's downright queer for the Gay People's Alliance to advocate censorship. Presumably they value free speech for themselves.

Perhaps a more fruitful course for them would be to try to educate rather than to blind the public.

—Jerome Nelson
Journalism

Bomb again...

Editors—

I am writing in regard to the Playmate controversy that some of the more vocal feminists and their supporters are lambasting. I am really disappointed that the controversy has degenerated to subjective rhetoric on women being exploited "for sex purposes only." The Bomb and its staff have never made any allusion to the fact that the Playmate would be obligated to get it on with every man, woman and animal that crosses her path.

It seems to me that when there are so many important issues to be discussed and acted upon, the question of whether or not the Bomb is being sexist is irrelevant as far as this issue is concerned. If the Bomb were actively discriminating against women or any other minority as far as wages, positions of authority or presenting a one-sided point of view, then I would say the issue needs airing. The fact that the editor of the Bomb is a woman and that in the same issue as the Playmate contest there is a section entitled "Ms." dealing with what women are accomplishing in the university community says a lot for the Bomb right there.

I think it's time that the feminists on this campus grew up and realized that the Playmate contest is nothing

more than a photogenic search much like that that goes on every time a comment is made appraising a passing male or female. When it gets to the point that some women are so insecure of their womanhood that they can't appreciate beauty when they see it, I find that very sad indeed.

—Denise Bouschor
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...And again

Editors—

In a recent letter to the Daily, Carl Moss, who called himself a professional photographer, made some very interesting if logically deficient claims concerning the aesthetic values of beauty and-or sex contests.

Moss begins by stating that all women who are exploited by these contests and by playboy-type centerfolds, sincerely desired the attention she received from it. No doubt this is true. The question is—What is the nature of the social values which are impressed upon a woman that make her desirous of this kind of attention—a kind of attention that men do not seem to need? The constant social pressure placed upon women to behave as sex objects results in

their efforts to be successful in this way; there is no inborn desire in women to display their bodies publicly for general male approval.

Mr. Moss next proposes that a beautiful face and form do "not just normally happen." Is it true that only made-up and posed human bodies are beautiful? Must a body (particularly a female body) be artificially decorated and labored over before it becomes beautiful? If we could all come to think of our bodies as naturally beautiful, women might not feel so pressed to cultivate sexually oriented beauty. Moss does unwittingly make a rather astute observation when he compares this sex cultivation to horsebreeding. The analogy drawn between women and animals tells a lot about Mr. Moss' attitudes toward women.

Mr. Moss continues his argument by comparing the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo with playboy-type sex contests. The question of whether the creators of these objects were sexists is irrelevant. The point is that the context of the works is entirely different. Venus and Mona are portraits endowed with love and respect as well as prominent sexual organs.

Finally, Moss implies that

women who object to sex contests are envious of their more attractive sisters. Here he tells us a little more about his real attitudes. He compares beautiful women who are male-pleasers to harlots. Mr. Moss, harlotry does not require beauty nor does beauty militate toward harlotry. Mr. Moss' arguments are typical of those designed by men

who want to keep women immersed with man-pleasing activities, rather than intellectual or spiritual ones. A final question: What real beauty is possessed by a woman who feels she has only her body to offer in return for the attention or admiration of others?

—Gerry Cocks
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