

~~CENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM  
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

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**FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP**

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HONORARY DIRECTOR - David Webb, R.A.D.A. Dip., 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London, SW3 4TD - Tel: 071-730 9537

NO/DAW/DP

1st May 1991

The Editor,  
"The Guardian",  
119 Farringdon Road,  
London,  
EC1R 3ER.

Dear Sir,

Whilst welcoming Christena Appleyard's dismissal of Clare Short's opposition to 'page three girls' ("The Guardian" 29/4/91), I thought it a pity that she mostly relied on the more minor fringe arguments to make her case, rather than basic, freedom-of-expression principles.

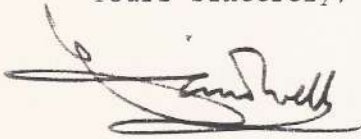
She should also have been more careful in explaining her terms. Assuming, however, that Ms. Appleyard's meaning of 'pornography' is material which is deliberately produced to try and stimulate the viewer sexually (and not the literal dictionary definition), the point is not, as she states, that " ...what is pornographic is decided by society", It is rather that what is "pornographic" is decided by individuals, many of whom then further pontificate upon its/<sup>non</sup>justification to a legal existence. These are entirely subjective judgements and thus where all the trouble starts, because some arrogant individuals, like Clare Short and Mary Whitehouse, demand that their own judgmental standards are legally imposed on all others. Such curtailment of freedom of expression by state censorship machinery can never be defended. One person's 'porn' is another person's 'art', and vice versa, whilst yet another will not be concerned with whether it is either, only with its effectiveness.

It was also regrettable and unnecessary for Ms. Appleyard to drag in what she described as "the appalling horrors and depravity of the pornography industry" in Soho. For a start, there is virtually no "pornography" industry in this country, but if she has unearthed traces of one and found it to be so 'horrible' and 'depraved', I would suggest it is only so because it is obliged to operate outside the law as a result of our absurd, draconian censorship legislation. It is this kind of repressive legislation Ms. Short seeks to extend still further. The implication that the issue of 'page three girls' and press freedom has nothing to do with what she calls "that morass", sadly illustrates the double-standards by which Ms. Appleyard herself operates, alongside Ms. Short. That is the "real problem" which needs confronting in this hypocrisy-ridden, censor-obsessed country.

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continuation/.....

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Webb", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

David Webb,  
Honorary Director,  
National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts