

NO/DAW/DP

7th May 1991

Ms. Anne Robinson,
"Daily Mirror"
33 Holborn,
London,
EC1P 1DQ.

Although I do not share your love of Clare Short, even for the very valid reasons you cited in your "Daily Mirror" article "The naked truth about porn ..." (1st May), I certainly do agree with your sound dismissal of her arguments regarding 'page three girls' and sexually-orientated material in general. This has come as no real surprise to me since I have always regarded you as 'the acceptable face of feminism' and Clare Short and her ilk as its unacceptable face.

In your piece you mentioned Rubens' painting of the "Rape of the Daughters of Leucippus". I thought you might be interested in a cutting from the USA 'sex' magazine "Screw" (4/3/91) which compliments the ACLU for its latest fund-raising poster. If only the NCCL (the ACLU's British counterpart), and of which I am a member, would afford as much priority to this serious censorship issue, which is, of course, twenty times worse here than in the States, and where censorship has reached epidemic proportions.

I agree that "pornography ... is very often in the eye of the beholder", if by "pornography" you mean "whatever turns you on" - i.e. that which stimulates sexually. I would just comment further, however, that there is, of course, nothing wrong with being "turned on" sexually, by a picture, photograph, film, video or whatever. It may not be as good as 'the real thing', but it can sure be a most delightful substitute - and it doesn't harm anyone.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

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

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Art of the Matter

We've been telling you and telling you, but you wouldn't listen. What, you can't take us seriously just because we include the *occasional* split beaver shot along with our incisive political commentary? Then maybe you'll sit still while the American Civil Liberties Union tells you: *Censorship in any form is dangerous.*

There's no such thing as "a little" censorship, or "well-intentioned" censorship. Any attempt to restrict an individual's freedom of expression or access to information is a monstrous evil. SCREW's long history of aggressive satire and scrappy First Amendment absolutism is proof of the strength of our beliefs. We'll say what we damn well please, and holler blue murder if you try to stop us. You think Al Goldstein would risk 30 years in the slammer if he was just some quick-buck smut peddler? No! He stood trial for obscen-

ity to create landmark legislation protecting the rights of all journalists. You think we like getting kicked out of every open-bar press party in town, just because we work for SCREW? No, but we grin and bear it, knowing that our place at the very edge of social acceptability keeps the bluenoses at bay. Besides, we get discounts at whorehouses, so it all evens out. (We do?—Ed.)

But the problem with SCREW is, we preach to the converted. People who buy porno magazines are, by and large, a pretty liberal bunch. The ACLU is going us one better in the good fight with this eloquent poster. It's displayed everywhere, from the toniest art mags to local Manhattan street corners, thus reaching a much broader cross-section of the population than we can.

But this sort of thing costs money. So float 'em a few bucks at 132 West 43rd Street, NYC, 10036.

IF THEY OUTLAW SEX, ONLY OUTLAWS...: The American Civil Liberties Union has entered the smut biz with their newest fund-raising poster.

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT ANY DEPICTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE SHOULD BE OUTLAWED.



Yes, it's obvious. How do you and your fellow artists think that censorship is any better or worse? No, there are no people who actually think that they should be censored. What you are doing is just what the American Civil Liberties Union has done in the past. We have fought against the censorship of books, movies, and television. Any contribution to help the ACLU fight censorship should be made to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Yes, I wish to help the ACLU fight censorship.

Enclosed is my contribution of

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
132 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036

"Screw" Magazine
 4/3/91