

~~GENCENSORED~~

ATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS
N C R O P A

FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP

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NO/DAW/DP

2nd July 1991

The Editor,
"Daily Mail",
Northcliffe House,
Derry Street,
London,
W8 5TT.

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Dear Sir,

There are three lessons which Supt. Michael Hames, head of Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Branch, would do well to learn before continuing to regale us with his highly subjective, impertinent views on so-called 'pornography' ("Daily Mail" 27th June).

The first is that 'sex' is a natural addiction - and, by the nature of things, is supposed to be.

The second is that, just as beauty is in the eye of the beholder, likewise 'obscenity' - that is it can only be evaluated subjectively.

And thirdly, it is no business of a police officer to involve himself in political matters, but merely to implement the law as it is, by Parliament, presently constituted. Supt. Hames's ever-increasing public and highly-publicised involvement in political matters of state sexual censorship is not only grossly improper, but expressly forbidden by a police officer's code of conduct.

The emotive, often neo-hysterical propaganda that he and M.P.s like Gerald Howarth persist in disseminating may tell us much about their own individual, authoritarian views, but does little to reflect the

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almost universally-held attitude to this issue of most other 'Western-World' countries, including the E.C., who have long-since discarded the kind of 'nannyist' sexual censorship laws to which we, here in the U.K., are still subject. For your article to suggest that this uniquely British, puritanical attitude is supported by the majority of "the people" is, moreover, nonsense. But even if this were true, it would still conflict with that cherished, universal, human right (for both majorities and minorities!), laid down in both the U.N. Declaration and the European Convention, of "freedom of expression".

Yours sincerely,



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