

Pornography — A Matter Of Interpretation

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Just when I thought Grossmont College was the ideal community college in the state, with the highest accreditation and cleanest campus, some faculty members have to sully Grossmont's reputation by subscribing to a pornographic magazine

Currently the English Department and the Library subscribe to Playboy magazine. Although Librarian Tom Hepp and the English Department chairperson, Dr. Mary Donnelly, claim that "the magazine is used only for the students reading purposes," I find this hard to believe since Playboy's main goal is to degrade as many "cheap" women as they can. With this magazine on campus, brought forth by demands of some faculty members, and the power it has to persuade, Grossmont College could just as easily turn into another rape campus like San Diego State University.

Says Dr. Curtis L. Stevens, Learning Resource Center Librarian, "It's a good magazine to read. In this academic environment adults here have the right to

read or see anything they want. Because someone does not agree that is their right, they have no right whatsoever to restrict what adults read. This magazine had good articles and there's a lot of good literature."

Stevens says, "I'll be the first one to nail anybody who will try to censor a publication on the basis of their definition of pornography. I don't consider it to be pornographic. We all have the right to see and read and I'm not going to let anybody tell me what I can and cannot read."

If Stevens does not consider Playboy to be pornographic what does he consider centerfolds to be? A piece of photographic art?

Said Paul Gomez, L.R.C. multimedia technician, "I don't know why we subscribe to Playboy; it has to be for the educational purposes. The magazine used to be donated, but at the request of an instructor, the budget is now paying for the subscription."

"We have had some girls ask why we don't have Playgirl magazines. I guess the literature isn't as high quality," said Mar-

sha Theroux, L.R.C. multi-media clerk.

The magazine isn't as high quality or does the budget only allow student to view one sex? The budget should at least be fair.

Said Mary Donnelly, English chair, "I think the subscription to Playboy magazine indicates the diversity of the requests of the department members. It was requested because Playboy is one of the forerunners in presenting science fiction stories. Mr. Homer Lusk (English teacher) was one of the individuals who requested this magazine to be purchased by the department. He was most interested in seeing this magazine available to students. As an English Department we are only looking at the magazine because of what it presents in the field of writing. I don't read it; it isn't a magazine that I'm interested in."

Says Librarian Tom Hepp, "We try to offer a very broad selection of materials in books and magazines. Somewhere along the line somebody on the faculty staff

selected Playboy and it has stayed on the shelf. I believe there is no true reason to screen Playboy because of its content. However, I do believe because money is short I'd like to eliminate it because of other materials we need. I'm not personally as excited about things which deal with sex as I am with things that deal with violence and war. I find Playboy's taste a little low and degrading to women. As a matter of fact, it was my personal recommendation a couple of years ago to have Playboy dropped from the shelves, but the department outvoted me."

There seems to be not on logical reason, other than for literature purposes, to have the English Department and the Library subscribe to this magazine. Only when more and more students (and possibly faculty members) complain to the District concerning Playboy magazine being taken off the shelves, will Grossmont College realize the useless money it is spending. Maybe even some teachers who still uphold the need for Playboy will realize the mistake they have made and learn to respect the female body once and for all.