

OPINIONS

Nude Photos Deemed Improper for Newspaper

This summer Temple University banned three photographs taken by Cecil Brooks, a PSH graduate and professional artist, because many students felt the nude pictures exploited women. Art experts ruled that the photos are not obscene, and Temple received an abundance of attention from the local art community--carrying a "censor" label into the next few months.

The *Capital Times* editors decided not to publish these photographs with the article on Brooks and his work for reasons of appropriateness--and not as an act of censorship--although the reporter and artist wanted readers to view his work with the article.

Censorship has become a far too common practice at many educational institutions, causing controversy nation-wide. However, the *Cap Times* editors must exercise good judgment and common sense when deciding which photographs and articles to publish.

The photos are simply not suitable for a newspaper--regardless of whether the photos are in fact art or pornography. We are not art critics, and are not trying to be. We are editors who make journalistic decisions about the appropriateness of photos and articles for the newspaper.

The general audience's reaction to seeing photographs of nude women in the *Cap Times* ranges from one extreme to the other. Many readers would see art and many would see pornography--a definite conflict of interest.

Photographs may need to tell an entire story since most people spend only 15-20 minutes per day reading a newspaper. Most readers only glance through newspapers to read important headlines and leads, scan news stories and features, look at photos and read the captions. Therefore, one example of Brooks' work does not do justice for an article about the artist and his work--especially if the example can be misinterpreted.

Some readers would only see the nude photograph and not read the copy, which is an essential part to understanding the photos. Viewing the pictures before reading the copy might turn away readers that would be otherwise receptive if they knew some background information first.

Our job is to report the news in an unbiased and professional manner. We gave our readers a complete article about Brooks and his work without publishing the controversial photographs that may (or may not) offend our audience. Controversy doesn't frighten us but offending our audience does. If even a small portion of our audience became offended by the photos and stopped reading the *Cap Times*, we would have failed in our goals.

The *Capital Times* reports the news; we give you the facts and let you form your own opinions. Publishing the nude photos, would give you the facts plus a sample of the artwork. But, at the same time, we shove controversial photos down the throats of readers who may see pornography and not art.

Since the *Cap Times* decided not to publish the photos, why not display them in the Gallery Lounge? We gave you the background information so you can then decide whether you want to view the photos. In this case, YOU make the choice! Art should be taken in slowly with time for understanding and digestion--if you choose to view it--and not forced down your throat.

Victoria Cuscino
Editor-in-Chief



Letter to the Editor

Did Meade Heights Forget Earth Day?

To the Editor:

Earth Day, 1990...ahh, I remember it well. A whole day filled with planting trees, creating a giant sculpture with recycled cans, music, dance, the main lobby rain forest, and the many wonderful talks on what we can do to save our precious environment.

The enthusiasm of that spring day has echoed through the halls of PSH, but never seemed to reach Meade Heights. This letter was going to bash the PSH administration for lack of following their own good advice--namely recycling. But just as I was putting pen to paper, I saw the large white bins displaying that distinct three turned arrow symbol sprouting up in the Olmsted building. Yes, PSH had finally started to recycle cans and paper.

But what of Meade Heights? Here we have a community of respectable size that still throws out cans, bottles, and newspapers (except for a select few who have taken it upon themselves to

recycle--good work).

Mandatory recycling has become an issue, and usually a law, in many of the counties throughout Pennsylvania. Now comes the riddle. Why isn't PSH, which was once the mecca of Earth Day 1990, leading the way for Dauphin County by mandatory household recycling in the Heights?

Those who do recycle up here must deal with the smell, mess, and many times bugs while storing up enough recyclable materials until it's worth a trip to a northern Harrisburg recycling facility. How much easier it would be to have those items sitting around only until the weekly pickup.

Imagine a whole campus putting their money (or more accurately--effort) where their mouth is. Imagine the future leaders of our community actually preserving that community. Realize the dream--RECYCLE!

Rich Chiavetta

Letters to the editor are always welcomed and encouraged.

Submit your letter in Room W-341 or place it in our mailbox in Room 212. Typed submissions are preferred. Please include your name...we cannot print anonymous letters.

CAPITAL TIMES STAFF MEETINGS: Please plan to attend a meeting on Monday, October 29 at 10:00 a.m. or on Tuesday, October 30 at 12:30 p.m. in the office. Attendance to one of these meetings is mandatory. If you cannot attend, please contact Vicki or Jon!
