

**Subject: RE: Paintings**

**Date:** Thu, 24 Mar 2005 22:17:44 -0800

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "Pat Heal" <pheal@nvsd44.bc.ca>

**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

Dear Ms Heal:

The artist did not commit any violence nor did he glorify it in his canvas. He showed that this IS a violent society. He showed that women are the primary victims not only of violence but also of sexual exploitation. It is the height of hypocrisy to punish the artist as being the culprit for exposing it in his canvas. I find it interesting that when I asked to support those concerned about corporate sponsored gratuitous violence on TV which is poisoning our Youth they did not even support this effort to the extent that it could be debated.

The real issue however is that there are no guidelines for artists nor for the Arts Council nor for the public to go by. The only measure we have is the opinion of persons many of whom who do not accept art as an instrument of social critique and are unwilling to establish any measure as to what is acceptable to be displayed in the Municipal Hall and what is not.

This is why I made a motion to that effect. THE Councillor clearly does not understand that, neither would he, in my opinion have the fortitude to stand up for it.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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From: Pat Heal [<mailto:pheal@nvsd44.bc.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2005 3:43 PM

To: Mayor Harris; Jim Cuthbert; Richard Walton; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Alan Nixon; Lisa Muri; Ernie Crist

Cc: John McPherson; Dennis Back; James Ridge; cathyadams@canada.com

Subject: Paintings

Mayor and Council,

At the request of Councillor Cuthbert, I got in touch with Cathy Adams about her concerns about the artwork in the foyer at District Hall. Jim the had contacted me in my previous role as the Chair of Together Against Violence Network. Today, Thursday March 24th, I went up to the hall to see for myself. I must say that I am not in favour of these violent paintings being displayed in our District Hall. It would be different if they were displayed in a gallery where people would make a choice to view such violent work. In a space open to the general public, the subjects seem pretty extreme to be forced to view. It is in such contrast the the display inside the front door of tolerance and a violence free society.

I hope that council will reconsider the showing of this art work in such a public place.

Pat Heal

School Board Trustee

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