

Subject: VIOLENCE ON CANVASS I.E. SCANTILY DRESSED WOMEN WITH HAND GUNS - GEORGIA STRAIGHT MAR. 31,05.

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

Today, March, 31, the "Georgia Straight" has published a story on an exhibition of paintings in the Municipal Hall depicting quasi nude women which, in turn, has caused an outcry from all "the Saints" in North Vancouver District.

One of the local artists, with the assistance of the North Vancouver Arts Council, exhibited such women on canvass. It turns out they were not quite nude, according to the artist, but some people thought they were or might as well have been as the women were dressed rather scantily. I know that feeling - I go swimming three times a week. However, I am told this is a good thing since too many clothes could drag people down and if they are like me, they have enough problems keeping afloat without the additional weight. Also, when they shower the chances of getting clean are considerably improved with fewer clothes, I am told.

As far as the "Saints" in the District are concerned, I am a little perplexed.

On several occasions I tried to alert Council to the danger of subjecting our young people to gratuitous violence on TV. According to leading psychologists there is overwhelming evidence that repetitious, gratuitous violence on TV leads to escalating violence in our society. People are being shot, run down, pushed over walls, punched, kicked, burned and subjected to other acts of violence to maintain ratings. Violence on TV has reached epidemic proportions as muggings, stabbings and attacks have become the order of the day.

Countless studies confirm this but when I made a motion that we lend municipal support to end this kind of barbarism by demanding that corporate sponsors stop advertising on such programs, there was not so much as a word of encouragement or support from the 90,000 people in the District, not from any of the many churches, nor from any of the community organisations, not even from the "Together Against Violence" group who asked for and received from the taxpayers annually \$10,000 to expose and fight violence.

Forgive me, therefore, when I think that the opposition to a painting in which the artist is showing sparsely clad women and hand guns in an effort to expose violence is somewhat hypocritical.

However, since the Municipal Hall is a public building, I suggested that we set up a committee to give the community a chance to have a say what is acceptable to be exhibited and what is not. The motion will come up on April 11.

Ernie Crist.



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