

# Nude models, topless dancers: the same thing?

By DeAnna Rudisill

Is Donatello's nude masterpiece *David* a piece of perverted trash?

The controversy over nudity and art has been addressed time and time again, and the same answer has always emerged: The human body is not something to be ashamed of; it is a beautiful and complex subject that many great artists have studied and glorified in their works. Study of the human figure in art education is considered fundamental to artistic development and has been since the time of the early Greeks.

Although nude models are now an accepted and common practice in all of the art institutions and most universities, ECSU does not currently sanction the practice. Dr. Jenny Macintosh, head of ECSU's art department said, "There re-

ally isn't a policy against having nude models in the art department, but we have just been leery in the past. It's kind of a ticklish situation," she said, "and I personally do not like the idea." Macintosh did say that she might permit leotards or bathing suits, but that nude models would not be allowed on this campus.

When reminded that several of the department's art students wanted to study the human form and that an art instructor already employed here at ECSU would not be squeamish about teaching the class with live models, Macintosh said that if Chancellor Jenkins were to approve of such activities, then, "we at the art department would definitely not stand in his way."

When the Chancellor was asked about this matter, he responded with, "If I let

nude models in the art department, then I'd have to allow topless dancers in the cafeteria."

Some ECSU art students say they are feeling shortchanged by not having access to drawing classes with nude models.

"Having the experience with the human form would put us in better competitive standing," said ECSU art major Alec Harding, "and if we do have a class with nude models, then we will be looking at the subjects from the mature point of view of art majors."

Jim Sanders, Chairman of the Board of the Sawtooth Center for Visual Arts in Winston Salem, said that not allowing students to draw nude models is detrimental to the art student's career. "You can't teach life drawing without being able to see the human form," he said. "And you can't understand the human form when it is clothed."

In a recent interview, The Chancellor, along with several other administrators, commented that ECSU is set in "a conservative community," in explaining their opposition to classes that allow nude models. The Chancellor said that the campus needed to reflect the same moral code as taxpayers, and he argued that allowing the classes could jeopardize governmental funding of the University. "Jesse Helms is against nudity in art," he said.

Well, for all our sakes, I really hope we didn't elect someone to serve as our US Senator who might do something as politically disastrous as punishing ECSU for adding some new classes to our curriculum that are currently in practice at UNC-Chapel Hill and other universities in the UNC system.

Ironically, a fraternity on campus allowed members to strip down to their g-strings and "athletic supporters" to strut their stuff for a screaming crowd of titillated female Vikings. This liberal form of expression has happened every fall semester for the past five years on our "conservative campus."

When informed that this activity took place on campus, the Chancellor said, "The University does not condone this type of activity." He added that the fraternity had rented out Moore Hall under the misleading title of talent show.

"Talent shows usually consist of singing, dancing and other such performances," said one administrator, "and if there had been a strip show, then someone would have told us."

The fact that the University would allow students to have a completely uncensored "talent show" on campus for entertainment but not give the art department the same respect for education's sake seems like an unjust double standard.

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has employed, that's all in his imagination. We have been trying to achieve our goals through peaceful demonstrations, petitions, and informing the student body. Where is the heavy handedness or siege mentality in that? As long as there are students at ECSU who are concerned about the state of emergency that the African American community is in, there will be a CBAC fighting for the liberation of the African American.

Tarik Scott

Columnist responds:

Mr. Scott feels free to ascribe to me the attitudes of a bigot. He should do his homework. It would tell him, for example, that I was an active member of the Gantt camp before the primary, or that I recently won a small victory for civil rights when I introduced, and saw passed, a resolution forming a redistricting committee in Gates County's Democratic Party. He might also have found that I contacted the Justice Dept. months ago seeking a Voting Rights Act enforcement in Gates

County. He would know that Jim Hunt and I were the only whites in a recent meeting of the First District Black Caucus. And only one of us was seeking office.

I am sure that Mr. Scott, if he were ever to know me, would know I fight for what I believe in, even at great personal risk. For example, I rode on the bow of a frequently attacked ferry on the Rio Escondido in Nicaragua, when that country was still under US embargo and still faced a US war-by-proxy from the Contras. But then, Mr. Scott doesn't know me.

Europe has a centuries old history of cruelty and oppression. Those traits are found on every continent, but the Europeans were the best at it. I can't change that. But I can stand in the trenches with you when you fight today's battles.

I hope that with time Mr. Scott will realize that not everyone who disagrees with his tactics is his enemy. And I am sure his elders will tell him that no one wins when he attacks those whites willing to take a stand—those whites, like me, who dream of a day when all men and women are viewed as equal.

J. Gary Brinn

## Compass' new format praised

To The Editor:

Congratulate you and the staff members of *The Compass* for a job truly well done! The Centennial issue was an exceptional example of good layout and content. It's no wonder that this publication has been acclaimed by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association! I was most particularly impressed by your new "tab" format, which I genuinely believe lends unlimited opportunity for creativity—very apparent in this issue.

It is perhaps unfortunate that the majority

of our students and faculty members are unable to grasp the amount of pre-planning, late night hours and plain old "back-breaking" hard work that went into this achievement; I do, and I fully appreciate your efforts. You can be justifiably proud. It is with pleasure that I "tip my professional hat" to you and your staff.

With regard to the University's continuing quest for excellence, allow me to reiterate... Well done!

Diane Patterson  
Director, University Graphics

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