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Nude exhibit beautiful, sensitive

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'Nude exhibit beautiful, sensitive

After reading the *Campus* for four years, something has finally irked me enough to make a response. For a supposedly intellectual community such as our student body, the amount of close-minded, un-liberal opinions that keep surfacing is appalling. Enough has been tossed back and forth surrounding the controversy of Gay Jeans Day.

I am writing concerning the exhibit of photographs in the Union that has provoked at least two women students to get upset and publicly denounce the exhibit in the *Campus* newspaper. One compared them to pornography, such as *Playboy* or *Penthouse*, and said they were demeaning to women.

I went to the exhibit expecting to see something outrageous, and instead found a large exhibit of photographs, of which four happened to be nudes. They were beautiful and sensitive works of art, especially the nudes, which happened to all be of women. Being a woman, I suppose this opinion could cause the upset young prude to label me as a homosexual, (which I'm not). I think it shows foolish sexual insecurity for an adult woman to become so neurotic over a photograph of exposed human breasts.

Another woman wrote to the *Campus* to ridicule professor Hartgen's defense of the exhibit. She is obviously completely ignorant as to the purpose and meaning of fine art and expression. Her criticisms were totally

illogical, saying that if professor Hartgen refused to pose nude for her and allow her to display the photographs publicly, this would "amount to a censorship judgement on his part as to what art is."

Professor Hartgen is not obliged to pose nude in order to justify his defense of the photographs. His expertise as a distinguished artist and highly respected authority of art are enough to justify his opinion. I think he said it all in his interview with the *Campus*, but I would like to agree, that if someone cannot look upon the human body as a beautiful creation to be cherished and admired, but rather as something lewd to be ashamed of, their mind is in the gutter.

Elizabeth Cherneski Howard