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Pornography is the ‘big lie,’ professor says

When Cecil Greek speaks, a lot of people tend to get riled. That’s because he often ends up defending pornography.

The USF St. Petersburg criminologist is an authority on censorship and First Amendment issues. But his views go beyond defending the right of free speech. He contends that porno movies do not promote violence against women, but may actually promote equality between the sexes by showing women as initiators.

His views rankle some feminists who say pornography makes a sexual object out of women, at best telling men that they should be playboys and women their playtoys, at worst showing bondage, torture and rape as sexually titillating.

Greek, 37, has a ready answer. “Porn is one of the few mediums where women appear not as objects but as subjects. Women make the decision about who to have sex with, when and where. Force sex hardly ever appears in these films.”

Greek has conducted a social history of the attempts from the religious right and some sectors of the feminist movement to stamp out porn. See PORN, page 8

Bayboro Hall renamed to honor dean

Bayboro Hall at USF St. Petersburg was renamed the Lowell E. Davis Memorial Hall last September during a dedication ceremony outside the hall.

The name change was due to a state Legislative bill that became law last June. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Doug Jamerson, D-St. Petersburg.

Davis, USF’s first black dean, died in September 1989 at age 58 after suffering a stroke. He served as dean of the St. Petersburg campus from August 1986 until his death.

“Lowell Davis impressed me as a committed educator whose primary goal was advancement of the St. Petersburg campus,” said Jamerson. “He was a valiant fighter who built up the campus, and who worked diligently to provide programs that would meet the needs of the community.”

Davis came to the St. Petersburg campus after a 17-year career at Syracuse University in New York, where he was a biology professor and an administrator. At Syracuse, he served as associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, overseeing 17 schools and colleges. He did extensive research in developmental biology, electron microscopy and biochemistry. He was a full professor of biology at USF.

At USF St. Petersburg, he concentrated on expanding the campus, faculty and course offerings available to students. New buildings at the campus during his tenure include a $2.1 million Campus Activities Center, and the acquisition and renovation of the Studebaker Building which houses the U.S. Geological Survey’s National Center for Coastal Geology.

During the dedication ceremony, a bronze plaque mounted to Davis Hall that features Davis’ likeness was unveiled.

Times, Bass group provide chair in media ethics

A new endowed chair in journalism was established in August at USF St. Petersburg as part of the settlement agreement reached between the Times Publishing Co. and Poynter-Jamison Ventures Limited Partnership. The Eleanor Poynter Jamison chair in Media Ethics and Press Policy is a $600,000 chair established in memory of the late sister of former St. Petersburg Times publisher Nelson Poynter. Eleanor was a journalist, editor and publisher who ran her own newspaper in Sullivan, Ill.

The endowed chair brings expansion to USF St. Petersburg’s new graduate journalism program. The program now has two faculty positions, and the new chair will add a third professor to the staff by fall 1991, said Campus Dean Winston Bridges.

The media ethics chair complements other recent developments at USF St. Petersburg, Bridges said. A gift from Mrs. Louise Bishop established the Wally Bishop Program for Ethical Leadership Studies, and an endowment from City Council member Dr. Ed Cole created the Marie E. and E. Leslie Cole Chair in Ethics.

The endowed chair was funded equally by the Times Publishing Co., which owns the St. Petersburg Times, and by the Poynter-Jamison Partnership. The $600,000 will be matched with $420,000 from the state of Florida.
Dean's search goes national

USF Provost Gerry Meisels has formed a 13-person committee to conduct a national search for a permanent campus dean at USF St. Petersburg. Meisels named Dr. G. Michael Killenberg as chairman. The committee has devised a job description, and advertisements for the position were sent out in early November, Killenberg said. The deadline date for accepting applications is Jan. 15. A new campus dean is expected to be named by the end of spring, and be on the job by mid-summer, Killenberg said.

The committee includes a mix of faculty, staff, students, and members of the community.

Poynter Library expansion delayed

The Board of Regents (BOR) in November delayed planning funds for a new campus library until 1993-1994. The project was the top priority of the campus, and USF administrators had asked the regents for $840,000 in fiscal year 1991-92 to plan the library expansion. The regents pushed the project back to next to the last slot for all university building and other capital projects in the state for the 1993-94 priority list.

The delay in planning funds could mean the new library won't be completed until near the turn of the century. The already crowded Nelson Poynter Memorial Library has exceeded its capacity, and cannot currently house the collections necessary to support the academic programs offered on the St. Petersburg campus, said library director Sam Fustukjian.

Soon, there will be no place to store new books, Fustukjian said. Back issues of journals typically are thrown away because there is no room to house them. The space shortage currently forces the library to buy copies of these journals on microform to have them on hand for research.

"This a needless duplication of spending," Fustukjian said. The space problem has gotten so bad that the last study room for student groups was used to hold a newly purchased collection, he said.

The campus will lose nearly 23,000 square feet of space and seven classrooms in summer 1991 when "B" building is razed to make way for a new marine research facility. The space crunch would have been relieved by the construction of a new library building; the classrooms and offices in "B" building were slated to move to the existing library.

The regents reshuffled USF's building priorities for the next three years and moved Tampa campus utility improvements ahead of the St. Petersburg campus library. BOR staff members said they forwarded the utility improvements because without them no more buildings could be built.

The state Legislature could still advance the project, and strong lobbying efforts are expected on behalf of the new library, said USF President Francis Borkowski.

Studebaker Building gets award

The Studebaker Building, located on the St. Petersburg campus and home of the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) national center for Coastal Geology, won a renovation award from Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. The two-story building, built in 1925 as a Studebaker auto dealership, was honored for outstanding achievement in renovation and restoration of a non-residential structure.

The Tudor revival-style building is a historic landmark that was donated to the USF Foundation and renovated by St. Petersburg Progress in 1988 for use by the USGS. The Florida Trust also recognized architect Anet Willingham of Willingham and Associates, and USF. The award was conferred in September. Thirty USGS researchers and support staff use the facility to study coastal and wetland erosion.
It's nifty being fifty!

Alumna and President’s Council member Niela Eliason believes middle-age maturity offers a unique perspective to life. It’s a notion she shares in her newspaper column.

By Deborah Kurelik

Niela Eliason likes to say that life isn’t over at 50. It just keeps getting better.

She should know. Eliason, the wordsmith behind the Fiftysomething column that appears in the St. Petersburg Times twice a month, got her college degree when she turned 50.

Since then, her life has only gotten fuller. She writes for one of the nation’s top 10 newspapers. Her fan mail comes from readers as far away as Canada. She swims several miles a week. She’s involved in various writers’ and library groups, and she’s fascinated with the lives and concerns of people ages 50 to 70.

Eliason calls these years the “middle years.” Retirement doesn’t have to mean shutting down or slowing down, she points out. Many people simply continue to lead active lives, often freer lives less fraught with the responsibilities they bore when they were younger.

A sixtysomething woman herself, Eliason writes about how life improves as one ages.

“I don’t yearn to be 25 again,” she says with characteristic directness. She’s a frank woman who dislikes frills but likes fun. She’s unpretentious and unpredictable. She’s not afraid to wear mini-skirts, and she’s the first to tell you she is a “devout pagan.”

Her humor is unabashed and full of realistic observations.

“Things are better now that we’re fiftysomething,” she wrote in a column. “Old guys are easier to travel with because they have to go to the bathroom more often than they used to.”

She drops chunks of her life into her column that are so human and familiar they hit home instantly.

Readers responded strongly to one column about the role kitchen tables play in households. Kitchen tables, she wrote, are the heartbeat of the home — the place where decisions, big and little, are made. Funeral arrangements are as apt to be discussed there as which movie to see on a Saturday night.

“The kitchen table is where I crammed for an algebra test in 1977 when I was almost 50,” she wrote. “I threw my algebra book against the wall because I couldn’t make the numbers work and then my youngest son, also a college student by that time, helped me — the same son who made me laugh by reading the comics at the kitchen table, complete with accents and dramatics.”

She hung her USF college diploma over that same kitchen table.

“She writes for the reader, in a casual, almost chatty way. She relates her own experience in much the same way she speaks,” says Jeanne Grinstead, an editor of Eliason’s. “She gets a huge response from readers over 50 but she reaches a much younger audience, too.”

Eliason sometimes tracks the changes that have occurred in her own life as she ages. These columns are revealing.

Her musings roam in topic, from comparing the hospitals of the ’60s (when she was in nursing training in Denver’s St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital) to the high-tech hospitals of today, to relating a humorous argument she had with her husband over filling out a census form.

“I got real tired of writing in the first person, but when I write about myself, I get the best response,” Eliason says.

She discovered writing quite by accident. While a senior at USF, she found she needed an algebra class to graduate. While still studying literature at USF St. Petersburg, she enrolled in St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) for the math. Number-crunching was not her forte.

“All the kids in the class would be muttering about how useless it was to study algebra, and the professor would tell them they would use it to solve problems later on in life,” she recalls. “I’d tell them, you’ll never, ever use this. I’ve never used any of the math I learned after the fifth grade.”

The algebra made her crazy (“we didn’t even have negative numbers when I was in high school”). She sought relief by taking a creative writing course.

Instead of working her algebra problems, she would write poetry in Shakespearean sonnet form about algebra.

Her first published story was in the SPJC literary magazine, the Obelisk. She also wrote movie reviews, “terrible movie reviews”, she now says, for USF’s student newspaper, the Oracle, and the St. Petersburg campus bulletin, the Crow’s Nest.

She got her own formal journalism training when she took a magazine writing course at USF. Her instructor was Fred Wright Jr., a free-lance writer whom Eliason calls her mentor.

“Fred taught me to write. I was floating 2 feet off the ground in another century from all my literature courses, and Fred would edit me.”

From there she wrote My View columns - without pay - for the St. Petersburg Times Evening Independent from 1982 to 1984. Then she dreamed up the idea of writing about the tremendous changes St. Petersburg was undergoing.

The City in Transition column took form, running first in the Evening Independent and later in the City Times edition of the St. Petersburg Times. At age 52, the former surgical nurse had become a paid, professional writer.

She also wrote a column for the Bradenton Herald’s Sunday magazine. Syndicated columnist Dave Barry wrote for the same magazine. A year later, in 1983, the newspaper ceased publishing its magazine.

“But the Herald kept Dave Barry’s column, which I thought was an extremely poor show of taste!” Her throaty chuckle mixes with the soft jangle of the silver bracelets she often wears, a remnant from her years of living in the Southwest.

By 1989 and with nearly six years of City in Transition columns behind her, her ideas were running dry. She longed to be a fiction writer but wasn’t having much success. She attended a writers’ conference in Key West to bolster her fiction-writing technique. But the conference backfired.

“I was so damned mad when I came back, because it seemed impossible to get fiction published. I was very discouraged.” Since writing essays was a proven winner, she decided to use her talent in a new way.

She began thinking about a column that would speak to the fastest-growing age group in the United States, the fifty and sixtysomethings. They are the group with the most spending power, leisure time and an ever-increasing amount of clout. And who better than someone of that age group to write about that age group, she reasoned.

“I threw caution to the wind and pitched my ideas to the Times, begging and whining,” her cause, Eliason says. The Times was receptive, and had been wanting a column aimed at those readers, editor Grinstead says.

Fiftysomething was born when Eliason was 58. Her column premiered in April 1989 and is still going strong - just like the fiftysomethings she writes about.
Touring Prince William Sound
‘There’s buried oil there, but it’s not obvious’
By Deborah Kurelik

When Bill Sackett recently toured Alaska’s Prince William Sound, site of the nation’s worst oil spill, he saw record fish harvests, lots of blue water and wildlife, and a booming economy. What he didn’t see much of was oil.

In fact, 17 months after the March 1989 disaster, he saw oil only twice during his two-day tour sponsored by Exxon Corp. — once when he spotted a small oil-covered rock along the coast, and once when he dug a pit in the ground and saw an oil sheen.

The Exxon tour included stops at six areas throughout the sound where holes were dug to illustrate how well the cleanup was going. The oil sheen Sackett noticed when he dug his hole was at one of the six landing sites the group was escorted to.

Sackett, a graduate research professor and chemical oceanographer in USF’s marine science department, says “There’s buried oil out there, but it’s not obvious to the layman.”

In March 1989, the Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef, spilling 11-million gallons of heavy crude oil into Prince William Sound. The spill, dubbed the oil industry’s Three Mile Island by U.S. Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, killed more than 1,000 sea otters, 140 bald eagles and nearly 36,500 seabirds.

Exxon has spent about $2 billion and two summers tidying the sound. Techniques included bioremediation, in which fertilizer was sprayed over the coastline to enhance the growth of bacteria that then attacked the oil, pressure cleaning the rocks to loosen up the goo, and good old-fashioned scrubbing.

“You can’t reverse the damage that was done biologically,” Sackett says. “But you can show that the oil has been cleaned up.”

Most of the oil that oozed from the Valdez spill ended up on the beaches and rocky coastline, not in the deep water of the sound, Sackett says.

Joining him on the 13-person tour were biologists, the president of Texas A&M University at Galveston, the president of the National Academy of Engineering, and other scientists.

“The group’s consensus was that little oil was to be seen on the coastline,” Sackett says. “In fact, wildlife is abundant around Prince William Sound.”

Yet nearly two years after the spill, the United States still lacks the capability to react swiftly to such calamities, Sackett says.

“Even the best plan falls apart,” he says, referring to the plan developed 13 years ago by Alaskan and oil industry officials, who found it to be obsolete when it came to the test.

“How would you like to be all ready to clean up a spill and then nothing happens for 13 years?”

Ten quick-response teams, one in each Coast Guard district, was set up recently after Congress passed a bill establishing a $1 billion oil cleanup fund. The fund is financed by the oil industry.

Exxon claims that only four of the 1,100 miles of coastline sullied by the ooze still need cleaning, Sackett says. The U.S. Coast Guard is monitoring the cleanup, and the “Coast Guard will probably soon let Exxon stop” its efforts, he says.

Sackett concedes it is a lot easier to clean up the rocky coast line of Alaska than it would be to clean up the sandy shores of Florida. Some 500 Valdez-sized tankers carrying oil products such as diesel fuel travel Tampa Bay every year, leaving the area vulnerable to a catastrophic oil spill, Sackett says.

“It’s a very risky situation in Tampa Bay.”

He should know. In 1985, as co-chairman of a National Academy of Science’s steering committee charged with updating the status of knowledge on petroleum in the marine environment, Sackett found transportation accidents to be the biggest polluter of waterways.

Nature vs. concrete: Robert Thiele’s sculpture, untitled, 12-16, is almost architectural in nature.

New sculpture dedicated

A sculpture by Miami artist Robert Thiele was dedicated in October during an open house at USF St. Petersburg campus. The sculpture, untitled, 12-16, faces Bayboro Harbor and includes a 12-foot concrete vertical column with an open cavity in its center that carries water, 2, 12-foot horizontal concrete pieces representing sea walls, a berm and four cypress trees. The trees flank the two horizontal pieces, while the berm is the centerpiece of the seawalls. The seawalls can be used as benches, and are meant to be used and viewed as an avenue leading to the vertical column. Thiele says the piece symbolizes the relationship between water and land.

“It’s an open-ended piece, but I’d like viewers to make their own discoveries about other possible relationships,” Thiele said. It took him a year and a half to design the sculpture, and he created it specifically for the campus.

Thiele has exhibited paintings at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., in Miami galleries and at the USF Art Museum in Tampa.

Another of his sculptures is installed on the USF campus adjacent to the USF Art Museum, and six of his paintings currently are in the USF traveling art exhibit, Made in Florida. Thiele also teaches art at Miami-Dade Community College and has a studio in Brooklyn, N.Y. He has made concrete sculptures for 20 years.

The $18,000 project is part of the Art in State Buildings program, in which one half of 1 percent of new construction money is used to purchase art for state buildings. Untitled, 12-16 was funded from portions of various campus construction budgets.
"Transportation activities are a far more important source of oil spills than the oil drilling and production activities that seem to worry the people in Florida so much," he says. "But no one seems to pay attention."

Plans to sell oil-drilling leases in the Florida Keys were rejected by state officials last year.

"The best-case scenario would be to discover an oil field offshore and pipe the oil onshore to be refined and transported over land. This would eliminate the 121-million barrels of oil products transported through the Florida Keys were rejected by state officials last year.

The best-case scenario would be to discover an oil field offshore and pipe the oil onshore to be refined and transported over land. This would eliminate the 121-million barrels of oil products transported through the Florida Keys."
Borkowski to conduct Florida Orchestra

The St. Petersburg campus is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a number of events, including a special Florida Orchestra concert conducted by President Francis T. Borkowski.

On Jan. 17 at the Bayfront Center's Mahaffey Theatre, Borkowski will be warming up to the classics with the Florida Orchestra's Coffee Concert Series. Some of the featured music will be suites from Carmen, The Nutcracker, Handel's Water Music, and the Wedding March from A Midsummer Night's Dream.

The concert will mark Borkowski's debut as guest conductor of the Florida Orchestra. Borkowski is a symphony conductor by training. He earned his bachelor's degree in music at Oberlin College in Ohio, his master's in conducting at Indiana University and his doctorate in music from West Virginia University. He has conducted the Ohio University Symphony Orchestra and established and conducted the West Virginia Wind Symphony.

The Coffee Concert is a mid-morning program that starts at 10:30 a.m. over coffee and pastries in the lobby of the Mahaffey Theatre. At 11 a.m., the music begins.

Tickets for the concert will be $14.40 per person. The price includes a 20 percent group discount for USF alumni and friends. For information and reservations, call 893-9160.

Dates to remember

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<td>Feb. 7-9</td>
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Call 893-9160 for more information about these events.

On the greens: The Silver Anniversary golf tournament, sponsored by USF's Pinellas County Alumni Club as a benefit to raise scholarship money, drew 72 golfers from Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. The tourney took place at Bardmoor's North Course in Largo. The benefit will become an annual fall event. Pictured from left are alumni Lee Patouillet, Merrilee Welling, Richard Turnbull and Richard Lane.

Social and political activist James H. Meredith spoke on campus in October. His talk traced his 25-year personal evolution from supporting Democratic liberals to supporting the Republican party. Meredith, now special assistant to U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, was the first black to attend and graduate from the University of Mississippi. His involvement in the black freedom struggle dates back to 1951, when at age 18 he won an American Legion essay contest by outlining his plans to make black Americans free. Meredith said his party switch had more to do with being conservative than being black.

Veteran staff and faculty of the campus gathered for a 25th Anniversary "Old-timers" luncheon.
Bridging The Bay With Your Support!

U.S.F.'s 3-year goal of $111 million dollars is getting closer as each day passes. We now have $100 million dollars. Our thanks to you, Tampa Bay. We have $11 million dollars left to go and we're working hard to achieve our goal at an earlier deadline.

The upcoming Super Bowl marks a great time of community accomplishment. We hope that our total goal of $111 million will be reached at this momentous occasion.

SUPER GOAL BY SUPER BOWL

Campagne:

USF:

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHAPE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

Francis Borkowski
President
USF

Rudy Michaud
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Campaign USF
USF Senior Vice President
Metropolitan Life

Hugh Culverhouse
Co-Chairman
Campaign USF
Owner
Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Crucible of Liberty
200 Years of the Bill of Rights

Today, 200 years after its inception, the Bill of Rights remains a subject of controversy and compelling interest. Gun control, abortion, capital punishment, the rights of criminal defendants, the protection of privacy, flag burning and radical political dissent, prayer in schools and the separation of church and state, pornography and obscenity, mandatory drug testing — these and countless other public controversies require an ongoing consideration of the meaning and implications of the Bill of Rights.

As part of the national bicentennial celebration of the Bill of Rights, USF St. Petersburg is offering a free, 12-week public lecture series and interdisciplinary course.

Each Monday night beginning January 14, a leading constitutional scholar or practitioner will explore a specific aspect of the history and contemporary meaning of the 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Four major contemporary civil liberties controversies also will be examined in point-counterpoint sessions: obscenity and the limits of the First Amendment; gun control and the Second Amendment; drug testing, search and seizure, and the right of privacy; and capital punishment and the Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments.

Each presentation will include a question-and-answer format.

“We anticipate a lively intellectual exchange that will bring the Bill of Rights to the attention of a broad cross-section of the local community,” says Ray Arsenault, a professor of history and director of the Bill of Rights series.

“Our experience last year with a similar series on the city — a highly successful series that drew between 300 and 400 people each week — convinced us that the community is eager for this kind of intellectual stimulation.”

Participants may enroll in the course for credit or audit. Or, simply join us each Monday night at 6 p.m. in the Campus Activities Center and enjoy the lecture. Brochures are available for any groups that might be interested in attending. Call 893-9160 for more information.

January 14
Madison, Jefferson, and the Bill of Rights: Liberty and Authority in the New Nation

January 28
American Democracy and the Rights of Minorities in the 19th Century: the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments

February 4
Civil Liberties and American Life, 1890-1945

February 11
The Bill of Rights and the Culture of the Cold War, 1945-1969

February 18
The Bill of Rights at 200 Years

February 25
The First Amendment and Freedom of the Press

March 4
The First Amendment and Academic Freedom: The Johns Committee and USF

March 11
Under God? The First Amendment and Freedom of Religion

March 25
Point-Counterpoint Obscenity and the First Amendment

April 1
Point-Counterpoint Drug Testing, Search and Seizure, and the Right of Privacy

April 8
Point-Counterpoint Gun Control and the Second Amendment

April 15
Point-Counterpoint The Death Penalty and the Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments

USF St. Petersburg’s Fitness Center is offering a reduced annual fee of $90 to USF alumni who are members of the Pinellas County Alumni Club. Non-alumni may join for $120 a year.

The Fitness Center has a full complement of the latest-model Nautilus equipment. Cardiovascular equipment, including exercise bikes and a stair climber that feature digital computer readouts, also is available.

The center holds classes in aerobics and stretch and tone year-round. Members can also participate in a walking program. Yoga classes are sometimes offered, depending on demand. The Fitness Center is located in the Campus Activities Center. User cards can be purchased in Coquina Hall room 102. Membership to the alumni club costs $25 a year. If you are interested in joining the club, call 893-9160. For more information on the Fitness Center, call 893-9111.

Pornography from page 1

nography in the 1980s. He currently is writing a book with William Thompson comparing British and American anti-pornography campaigns. “A false picture of pornography has been painted, and it’s filled with rape and the degradation of women. The genre as a whole is painted as demeaning.

“What I’ve discovered from reading other people’s work and from seeing some of these films myself is that you can’t find these types of depictions.”

During the 1970s, when mass market pornography films were available for the first time, an attitude of experimentation led to depictions of a wide variety of sexual practices.

But in the mid-’80s, Greek says, the Adult Film Association of America

Weight training instructor Sheri Beaudreau pumps iron in the Campus Fitness Center.

Fitness Center open to alumni
(AFAA), a group of about 200 producers, distributors and exhibitors of X-rated films, bowed to pressure from detractors and law enforcement agencies by setting up formal guidelines within the industry.

They agreed not to portray bestiality, rape, or child pornography in their films. "Now they're basically making mainstream Hollywood porno films," or erotica that would be acceptable and make money, Greek says.

But one person's erotica is another's pornography, and AFAA's efforts didn't assuage the critics.

Moral guardians - the Christian Right and the police - only increased their attacks on pornography. Groups such as the American Family Association openly crusade against adult bookstores and nightclubs. Preachers are pitted against civil libertarians over the issue.

Nationally, the U.S. government has formed an obscenity task force that's trying to nail the producers and distributors of this material, Greek says. Meanwhile, profits in the adult entertainment industry are soaring.

One of the most significant attacks on pornography occurred in 1986, when the Meese Commission report on pornography quoted certain studies done by experimental psychologists the Meese Commission claimed showed a relationship between violence and pornography. However, Greek said, the researchers who conducted the studies disavowed the way the Meese Commission overstated their research.

"There have been dozens of studies done on the effects of pornography and sexual violence, and they are all very inconclusive." Greek says it depends on the way the studies are conducted.

Most studies don't test the person's attitude toward women before he views the material, Greek says.

"If someone is sexually violent to begin with, and you show him any picture of a woman, he might visualize the body with a knife in it. He doesn't need to view sex scenes to visualize his fantasies." Some pornography studies even show pro-social effects. Researcher Kathleen Kelly found that people who were shown pornography were more likely to adopt a Good Samaritan attitude toward women than those who weren't exposed to smut, Greek says.

"You can find anything you want in these studies," he says. "It's the attitude people bring to pornography that determines what they get out of it."

Greek concludes it is a political and moral position that pornography is degrading to women, not a social scientific stance. He calls it the "big lie."

"Often it's the women in these films who initiate the sexual activity, not the men. The men are shown to be kind of surprised about what is to occur."

Greek, who calls himself a feminist, says porn films are male fantasies.

"Pornography is the male equivalent of female fantasies - soap operas and romance novels which depict men acting in ways they do not act in ordinary life."

In soap operas, he argues, men are interested in intimacy and deep conversation. "You get the ideal man, a female fantasy. In porn films, you see the opposite - men and women wanting instant sex with no conversation. It's a male invention and that's why it's such a frequent theme in porn movies."

The two sets of fantasies, one created for a female audience and one created for a male audience, are polar extremes.

"This shows that males and females have very different ideas about intimacy and sex. We need to talk about why these fantasies are so different rather than dismiss pornography as immoral."

Tell that to the feminists.

"Feminists are not against the proper use of sexuality," says Ruth Whitney, a USF St. Petersburg adjunct instructor who teaches women's studies at the campus. "Pornography is domination with a conqueror and a victim, and sex is used as a weapon against women."

Another "myth" about pornography that Greek refutes is the one about snuff films, movies that reportedly show an on-camera killing during a sexual act.

"There's no such thing as a genuine snuff film. There has never been one made, and nobody has one of these films," he says. He likens snuff films to commercially made films like the Texas Chain Saw Massacre, which shows people being decapitated and cut apart by chain saws.

"It didn't actually happen, it was a movie."

But what of the charge that pornography causes violence against women when the men who watch it force their partners to imitate what is on the screen?

"You can't blame it on the porn," Greek says. "That is the particular man's fault. Compare it to alcohol. There is a tremendous amount of abuse of women and children by men who drink, but 90 percent of the people who drink, drink alcohol safely and do not abuse their close relatives."

"Alcohol is a legal drug in our society. The problem is people who abuse it. Similarly, there are people who rape and have seen pornography also, but the overall majority of people who watch these films don't do these things. So then you have to blame the individuals."

He cites the Canadian sociologist T.S. Palys, whose 1986 study compared hardcore pornography to R-rated movies.

"Palys found there were many more depictions of violence against women and rape in the R-rated films than in the hardcore porn films. The feminists are attacking porn, and yet these images are virtually non-existent in porn."

Greek sits on the executive board of the local American Civil Liberties Union, and is a founding member of the newly formed Friends of the First Amendment, a group that is striving to counter the rise in censorship attempts throughout Florida.

He's worried that recent crackdowns by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office on adult bookstores and the subsequent guilty verdicts on owners and clerks who rent the X-rated videos are proof that pornography won't be tolerated in Pinellas.

With the 2 Live Crew controversy in Miami and the T-back bathing suit flap in Sarasota, Florida is rife with conflict about where to draw the line over public speech concerning sex.

"Florida is now seen as a hotbed of censorship-type activity, including pornography. From a civil libertarian view, these are seen as fringe topics, and by protecting these types of things the core is protected. It keeps censors from going into schools, libraries and museums and attacking materials there."

But Greek is heartened that some state constitutions, such as Hawaii and Oregon, are granting greater privacy protection than the U.S. Constitution. Those two states grant the right to adults to own any pornographic material that is available, as long as it's not illegal, like child pornography.

"Because adults in those states have the right to this material, the stores that sell it have a right to exist," he says.

Florida has opted not to grant extra privacy rights to adults. A recent state Supreme Court ruling determined Florida's right to privacy didn't protect adult bookstores.

Recently, a public opinion poll in Pinellas County found that nearly 60 percent of residents felt there should be no legal restraints on the availability of pornography for adults, Greek said.

"Unfortunately, in Florida, you have the right to have pornography in your home, but you can't legally sell or purchase such materials without fear of the law."
Let USF St. Petersburg help you in 1991

By Julie Gillespie, director of development and university relations

Happy New Year!
The beginning of a new year is a time of rejuvenation and revitalization. January is the month to give renewed spirit to our personal and professional goals.

If USF St. Petersburg can assist you in meeting your goals, come see us. We offer tremendous educational opportunities at this campus, from free public lectures to very focused classes that can help you advance professionally or enhance you personally.

And remember, This Is The Year! As Super Bowl XXV celebrates its Silver Anniversary at Tampa Stadium, USF St. Petersburg is celebrating its 25th anniversary as a community resource in Pinellas County. Since the fall of 1965, thousands of students have graduated from this campus. Today, more that 11,000 USF alumni reside in Pinellas County. The numbers show that this university truly has made a significant impact in the Tampa Bay area.

We have many volunteers, donors, friends, faculty and staff who are committed to the future of this campus. I would like to open this column and invite each of you to consider sharing with us your recollections, memories and testimonials to USF St. Petersburg.

Please write to me and we will print your letters here. 1991 is the year to "spread the word" about USF St. Petersburg, and you can do that best!

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Support USF St. Petersburg in the New Year.