

The Great Porn Debate at SLU: Porn Pastor vs. Porn King

Meredith Durkee

St. Lawrence's greatest debate of the century took place Wednesday night in Burkman Gymnasium at 9pm. This, of course, was the touring debate team known as the XXX Porn Debate featuring Craig Gross and Ron Jeremy.

On one side was anti-porn advocate Craig Gross, the "porn pastor," originally from southern California. Gross has founded the largest anti-porn website, XXXchurch.com, which averages 1 million hits a month and over 70 million since its startup in 2002. He has also written four books promoting the Christian lifestyle and discussing the destructive effects of porn. On the other side of the debate was Ron Jeremy, legendary adult film star. Jeremy is well known for having been in nearly 2000 adult films, starting on VH1's *The Surreal Life* Season 2, and, of course, his sizeable attribute(s). The traveling

debate team started in 2007 hitting college campuses and theaters throughout the U.S. and Canada, most recently being featured at Yale University and Ohio University.

The first to speak was Gross; Jeremy stated he was "not on the attack" and that Gross had a problem with Jeremy's career, not the other way around. Gross's main attacks on the porn industry were that it destroyed future relationships, was demeaning to women, was being sold to too young an audience, and created unrealistic fantasies. Gross used his past relationships with recovering porn addicts as a source of his material, as well as recent statistics about the number of hardcore adult films made a year (around 13,000) and the age at which children first view porn (age 11). Intermittently thrown in were graphic titles to continue his point, for example Only Squirteen, which advertised very young girls, or women pretending to be young girls

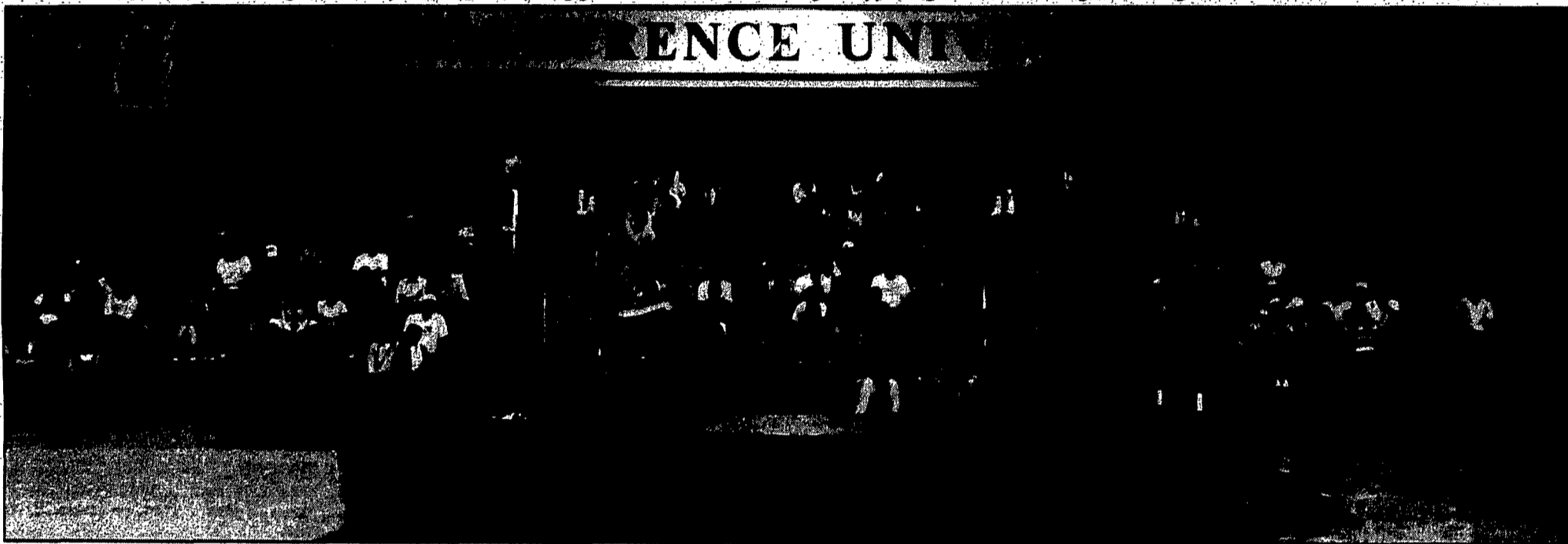
in a way of appealing to a certain genre of fantasies. Gross's argument was that this, as well as many other things, was demeaning to women and just one of the major problems with the industry. He added that "Internet women never say no," which can add to a dangerous addiction and impractical views on what women are like. Overall, Gross's statistics were recent and his thoughts were formulated clearly and to the point.

Jeremy then fought back with a quick rebuttal on all of the topics that Gross covered. He had a powerful answer to Gross's accusation that porn was demeaning to women, citing that women make much more money than any of the men in porn and that they have enough control over their careers that many of them become millionaires such as Jenna Jameson. Jeremy argued that because of the Child Pornography Protection Act anyone under the age of 18 could not be featured in an adult film and acting or appearing

underage was against that law. He also stated that the porn industry's main audience is 35-49 years old. To counteract Gross's point that pornography destroys future relationships Jeremy answered with the interesting idea that most of what is seen in adult films could be seen in music videos featuring Britney Spears or anyone on MTV and could be equally damaging to someone's relationships. Gross's final point was that pornography creates unrealistic fantasies, and Jeremy almost agreed. Jeremy's point was that adult films are meant to be fantasy and the very small minority of films are the hardcore and specialty fantasies that Gross had mentioned. Jeremy's arguments had casual and humorous tidbits thrown in to get the crowd going, and they definitely worked as it seemed clear which side the student body was supporting.

The question and answer session was when things started to get heated

and the two debaters really got cutthroat. They went back and forth, sometimes interrupting each other on issues like porn's connection to sexual violence, yet they agreed on issues like parents' influence on a child viewing porn being one of the main causes of viewing at such a young age. While many of the questions were about serious topics, a majority of them were directed to Jeremy in interest of his prolific career. He enlightened us with important employment information about how you don't have to be well-endowed, just able to maintain an erection, to work as a male actor in the adult industry. Jeremy also indulged the audience with his own fat bag experience, got mildly uncomfortable when asked "What are you doing tonight?" he had a well prepared answer for a question about hypothetically having he had a daughter who wanted to go into porn: "I wouldn't stop her."



Cantonite Reads New Book On Election Fraud

Peter Griffin

Richard Hayes Phillips, Canton resident and author of the newly published *A Witness to a Crime* will be reading from his book at the Partridge Café on Saturday and the Brewer Bookstore on Sunday. The book is the culmination of Phillips's personal investigation of the 2004 presidential elections in Ohio, the deciding state in 2004 as Florida was in the 2000. The official margin of difference in the election was 118,600 votes. Phillips claims to have evidence that the election was rigged. Some ballots were altered, other disappeared, and others appeared out of nowhere. In some districts, there were more ballots cast than registered voters. In other instances, ballots were handled by boy scouts instead of the Board of Elections. Top security organizations were ordered to prevent citizens from accessing public records. His book includes 1200 digital images of ballots and other voting records. Here are excerpts from an interview with Phillips:

HN - What is the general idea of the book?

RHP - It is the only book on the Ohio election based upon actual forensic evidence, ballots, poll books, voter signature books, ballot counting charts and other election records. This is not merely a compilation of previously published

accounts, nor is it merely a recount of ballots cast. This is a full audit looking at whether or not the ballots are even real, whether or not they're valid, whether or not they're altered, whether there is the right number of them. This sort of audit I don't think has ever been done before, in any election.

HN - How did you get into this investigation?

I don't know how many days I've put into this; 400, 500? I've long since given up on being able to even estimate. In my darker moments, I've said numerous times that I wish I had never done this. It was traumatic, it was time consuming; you can see the damage it did to me when you look at the photograph on the back cover. You can see I've been pained and you can see that I've been crying, but you can see that I'm still able to smile and you can see a solemn satisfaction in what I've done. I'm glad it was done but I really wish somebody else had done it and I could've enjoyed these 40 months and just bought the book. This was the FBI's job. Surely, it would have been unnerving for boards of elections to have citizens volunteer to brazenly descend upon them with digital cameras to photograph ballots and other evidence all day long, day after day as if we were the FBI, whose job we were doing because they would not do it.

This wasn't fun. I'm actually sorry to have to report all of this, but it's important. I don't even care anymore who wins elections, I just want to know that the loser doesn't win and the winner doesn't lose. I want elections that are free and fair and verifiable. An election that cannot be verified is worse than fraud. If an election is verifiable then you and I can find the fraud. But if it's not verifiable then we'll never know if the will of the people prevailed. I want paper ballots counted by hand at the polling place on election night in full public view, no matter how long it takes. Nothing else will restore public confidence in the veracity of the vote count. The minute those ballots leave the polling place, chain of custody questions arise. The minute you rely on electronic voting, even with the much flaunted paper trail, you don't know if the allegedly voter-verified paper trail actually matches the count produced by the machine, unless and until you get to look at the paper. It took us a year and a half to get to look at the paper in Ohio. I can wait all night long, or even a few days to find out who won the election. For God's sake, we now have to suffer through campaigns for two years, we don't need to know instantaneously what the unofficial results are. I would rather know that they're true and correct.

Africa Week At SLU

Wendy Matthews

"The international media has been misleading us", said panelists at a discussion about Kenyan post-election violence held on Friday night as part of St. Lawrence's Africa Week celebration.

Nine panelists of, both students and faculty members gathered to answer students' questions about recent violence in Kenya which resulted from disputes over the outcome of the 2007 election held on December 27th. Four student panelists, all whom have recently spent time in Kenya, began the discussion with personal accounts of their experiences in the country, post-election.

"We had to hide, we had to buy machetes for protection," said Peterson Maina '10, of Mombasa, Kenya.

"I had to change a lot of my plans," said Dan Shafer '08, who was doing research in Kenya near the time when the conflict arose. "I had to find safer places to stay."

While the accounts of both students and faculty included images of violence and fear, it seemed they agreed that the situation is not as hopeless as the media makes it out to be.

Panelist Jessica Fuller '10, whose parents work for the U.N. in Kenya, said that she noticed a sharp contrast between the media in Kenyan and the rest of the world. "International news is much more pessimistic," she told the students

and faculty in attendance.

Tracy Masinde '09, of Kenya, agreed that certain media could be deceiving. She said that the U.S.'s focus on extreme cases of violence caused her to worry about her parents back home. "All I saw was the negative," said Masinde. "They show one image of the city for one hour a day."

Susan Bantu, of the Modern Languages department, calls this kind of reporting "simply irresponsible." She condemned the practice of what she calls "parasite journalism" where journalists with no background in Kenya sensationalize stories of violence.

Academic director of St. Lawrence's semester program in Kenya, Abdelwahab Sinnary, who is currently teaching a course on campus, said that even in Kenya information must be double checked. "Whenever you hear a rumor, you call three or four friends and get information about it," he said.

An audience member followed up the discussion by asking what we could do in order to become good media consumers, and how to be critical about what we read on Kenya.

Bantu suggested seeking information from local Kenyan newspapers. "If you have friends in the country they can send them," said Bantu, "and you can almost always find them online."