

Truth speech not attack on candidates: Steadman

Editor:

I have recently taken a strong position on 'truth in politics,' and said so to a meeting of Rotarians on Tuesday and to the Construction Association later the same evening. I challenged both the voters and the media to hold all candidates for office accountable for the things they say, and the promises they make.



Steadman

I believe that all Prince Georgians (indeed, all Canadians) have had enough of vague, unsubstantiated promises ... and perhaps some that have strayed so far from the truth so as to be little more than theatre.

My challenge to my fellow candidates, to the voters

and to the media is for Prince George to 'raise the bar', and show the rest of British Columbia how a frank, open and accountable election process can work, and why the word 'politician' should be held in high regard!

My comments to Rotary, and to the Construction Association were not attacks on my fellow candidates. My comments were a challenge to us all to ask the questions, 'Is it the truth?' and 'Can it be delivered?'.

I plan to keep asking those questions throughout the civic election campaign. I hope you do so as well.

Sincerely,

Tom Steadman

Candidate for Mayor

Romance novels are pornography

Editor:

The Catholic Women's League's recent "white ribbon" campaign against pornography is a sad example of the hypocritical attitudes distorting public discussion of this issue.

The campaign focuses only on men's pornography and blithely ignores the fact that women's pornography, hidden under the name of romance novels, is often as lurid as anything drooled over by men. While some romance novels are virginal and innocent, many are heavily laced with sex, especially of the kind that supposedly only depraved males dream of: glamorized and romanticized abduction, rape, domination, bondage, sexual slavery, adultery, the list goes on. The explicit cover paintings of men and women in a variety of poses help those readers whose imaginations need a little extra boost. For women with more sophisticated tastes, there are, of course, the ladies erotica books featured by various book clubs. It would be interesting to know how many women taking part in the Take Back the Night march read those romances in which the kind of sex acts they are protesting play such a deliciously prominent role.

Romance novels are a billion dollar a year industry in North America; half of all paperbacks sold are romances so there can be no doubt that large numbers of women are addicted to their own, feminine form pornography. The fact that men prefer pictures to words is simply a matter of neurobiology: males are generally more sensitive to visual stimuli than to words. To condemn one form of such material as pornographic and accept another form as literature or erotica is sheer hypocrisy; in effect, it is condemning males for a natural and unchangeable fact of their neurobiology, which is no different than condemning others for the natural and unchangeable color of their skin.

If women can have their form of pornography openly displayed everywhere, why can't men enjoy the same right? What's good for the goose is good for the gander.

Ian Kluge

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