

Communication
from Joan Collins -
Traffic Dept expressing
agreement with the
sentiment expressed
in Column 10-13-94
in Bos. Herald concerning
Art Exhibit at "Gallery
57" - City Hall Annex
written by John Fitzgerald

Joan Collins

'Art' exhibi. puts today's lack of values on display

The father didn't want his name used, which is OK because he represented many fathers in expressing his alarm over the devastation of values we are witnessing today.

"There are so many sad stories involving kids of late," he wrote. "The Rockland boys who are alleged rape victims; the 12-year-old

raped by her stepfather; the 14-year-old who may be forced to testify that her mother and mother's boyfriend sodomized her; Lewis Lent; not to mention reports of stalkers requiring kids to look over their shoulders, not only on the streets but also in their homes.

"They seem to be safe nowhere. They are not getting the chance to grow up. As a father of two girls who have acquired the skill of suspicion, I am saddened and angered. It wasn't like this when I grew up."

Each day's mail brings fresh evidence that everyday people, like this father, are repulsed by the sordidness now permeating our society.

He was right: It never used to be like this.

So what are we doing wrong?

Perhaps no better example exists than a current display at City Hall annex in Cambridge where a deviate named Hans Evers, imagining himself an artist, has placed facsimiles of penises throughout Gallery 57, an area set aside for culture.

A sign, offering insight into his alleged genius, explains: "the works in this exhibition address issues of gender and male sexual identity as well as issues of family relations.

They, of course, do no such thing.



JOE
FITZGERALD

They merely tell us Evers is perverted, which would be his problem, not ours, except someone in authority made it our problem, too, by allowing him to flaunt his perversion in a public place.

A second sign warns, "This art exhibition contains displays and symbols depicting male genitalia and other objects associated with sex.

These objects may be offensive to some viewers. Please use discretion in viewing. Because of the nature of the exhibit it may be inappropriate for viewing by minors."

Now that begs a few questions here.

Why didn't those "art professionals" who sanctioned this abomination show some discretion, too? Exactly whose best interests do they think they're serving when they serve up trash like this?

And why should a place like City Hall be festooned with advisories telling children to look the other way?

Doesn't City Hall belong to them, too? To senior citizens? To families? To students on field trips? To the men and women who work there?

Why should they all be told to look the other way?

When something's commonly owned, common de-

cency ought to prevail. That's called common sense.

Evers isn't the issue. He has no obligation to you or to me.

But those self-styled "art professionals" who have custody of Gallery 57 do have an obligation and, having egregiously violated it, should be told to scram. Surely they can be replaced by "art professionals" who have consciences.

Oh, they'll scream about their rights. Let them.

Kids have rights, too.

As that father plaintively noted, one is the right to grow up in an environment free of degradation.

It's bad enough when predators pollute that environment, but when government pollutes it, too, which Cambridge has done in embracing Evers, it's time for heads to roll.

A few years back, fans of the late Robert Mapplethorpe pulled a similar stunt in Boston.

One of his "works" showed a young girl with her skirt pulled up, exposing her vagina, igniting furious protests.

City Councilor David Scondras mocked those protests, declaring, "Freedom is about tolerating what you despise. If you can't do that, you're not American."

The fact he's now a former city councilor shows Americans aren't as dumb as he presumed. Thank goodness.

And this is what must happen: People unworthy of public trust have to be sent packing.

When you enter the main City Hall in Cambridge, you pass beneath an inscription chiseled in granite: "God has given commandments unto men. From these commandments men have framed laws by which to be governed. It is honorable and praiseworthy to faithfully serve the people by helping to administer these laws. If the laws are not enforced, the people are not well governed."

Imagine trying to have that inscribed today? Not a chance.

But it reminds us there once was a time when public leadership was defined as moral leadership, too, and until we begin moving in that direction again, the mess we're in today will just continue to fester.

Consent Comm. # 24

5-424

Comm. from Joan Collins, in agreement with the
Article in the Boston Herald written by
John Fitzgerald regarding the art display
at the City Hall Annex.

In City Council,

October 17, 1994

Placed on file