

Notes

The letter reprinted below originally appeared in the May 1, 1981 Marquette Tribune. A copy was sent to us by "a slightly beleaguered" Strother Purdy, the instructor of English 180A.

Enough of this . . .

To the Editor,

The following is a quote from a text for English 180A, "Literature and Technology:"

He kneels with his arms up holding the rich cape. A dark turd appears out of the crevice . . . He leans forward to surround the hot turd with his lips, sucking on it tenderly, licking it along its lower side . . . thinking of a Negro's penis . . . With his tongue he mashes shit against the roof of his mouth and begins to chew. . .

This is from Thomas Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow. There is plenty more in the rest of the text--incest and sadism, just as gross as the above passage. Pynchon also believes there is no place for religion in the world.

It seems to me that at a school where birth control literature is censored, and where "unacceptable" movies are banned from the theater, we wouldn't have to put up with crap like Pynchon. I guess Marquette is more concerned over what happens in the theater and in the Union than what goes on in the classroom.

English majors have my sympathy; they are required to take this course to graduate, and this book is what the whole course is centered on.

Then again, this book may have some good points. If you are on a diet, read it before every meal. You'll never want to eat again.

Anonymous