

Bow down, America, and give Al Goldstein a blow job. I can't think of anyone who deserves it more. As Editor and Publisher of *SCREW*, he invented postmodern porn in 1968, six years before *Hustler* first showed the Pink Oyster. Al's overseen more than twelve hundred weekly issues since then, jousting with censors and tweaking this uptight nation's heinie-hole. With gonadal chutzpah, he also hosts the public-access cable show *Midnight Blue*. "The life of Al Goldstein," he once wrote in his Op-Ed column *SCREW YOU*, "is a dream walk on a vast beach of pleasure."

SCREW's content is so corrosive to established tastes that newsstands sell it with its pages stapled shut. It both documents and derides the Big Apple's seamy sex industry, serving as a guide with which to sift through the lotions, dildos, and spiked objects which make our lives happier. It offers punishingly honest reviews of peep shows, swing clubs, S&M bars, and every other manner of goey entertainment palace. Its format, black-and-white newsprint, adds to the filthy aroma, with tight shots of woolly groins and snow-white jism splattered on black bushes. Phone-sex come-ons and escort-service ads dominate the mag's latter half, with deviations catering to every possible proclivity. Photos of unfinished transsexuals are a particular sight to behold, portraying firm, round breasts, chiffon teddies, and ten-inch tools dangling leadenly between hairy legs. It's what the authorities like to call "smut."



Al Goldstein: "I am the classic john, and *SCREW* is a representative, or a reflection, of my personality...."

10-minute SCREW

al goldstein is the sultan of smut.

the baron of beaver.

the lord of labia.

der kommissar of kink.

But *SCREW* veers from the porn mainstream in that it features actual *writing*, with real words and everything! It's arrogant enough to bill itself as "The World's Greatest Newspaper," and *ANSWER Me!* agrees. It contains the brashest self-referential humor in publishing, porn or otherwise. *SCREW* portrays New York as a metropolis of sallow closet jerkoffs, taking every opportunity to berate the reader for being a "milquetoast armchair masturbator." Goldstein uses full-page layouts to commit character assassinations of his enemies. Ironic photo captions recall *CREEM* in its heyday, but where *CREEM* would insult some doofus rock star, *SCREW* pokes fun at a sagging clit or a stretched anus.

We were granted a mere ten minutes to interrupt Al's hedonistic escapades—barely enough time to bust a nut. But with a caustic New York accent spoken through his nostrils, Al gave us enough pithy material to form an article. He also confirmed our suspicions that he's highly intelligent by telling us that we asked better questions than the usual nincompoops.

What's wrong with feminism?

Oh, well, there are different *types* of feminism. The feminism that has gotten the media's attention is truly fascistic tyranny—you've gotta be politically correct. In many cases it's male-hating, it's blaming, it's childish and adolescent, and mostly it's pro-censorship. But I'm talkin' about the loud media feminists. I am a feminist, because I hire people based on their abilities. When I get married or have a relationship with somebody, usually I'm attracted to intelligent women who are responsible for their actions. So I consider myself the ultimate feminist and Gloria Steinem the ultimate fascist slut.

Beautiful. What's wrong with liberals?

Oh, repeat. They're the same thing. Politically correct. The ones I hate the most are the knee-

jerk Jewish liberals who are in favor of anything sexual as long as it was written a hundred years ago. They're good little boys who wanted to make their mommies happy. Their mommies have generally emasculated and terrorized their fathers, and sadly, they're mostly Jewish. And it takes one to know one. They're pathetic, uh, they're *pathetic*. And mostly, they really don't believe in freedom. They're not really comfortable with sex. They are very disturbed individuals, and that's why I prefer the right wing. I'd rather have Morton Downey and Pat Buchanan than sixty Jewish cocktail liberals. And I keep using the word 'Jewish,' 'cause, as a Jew, I am so upset the Jews are not better than the ACLU-type legal mentality.

What's happening to free speech in this country?

Nothing new. I mean, again, people are always looking for some new trend. Nothing new. It's always the battle of the people who are not afraid of freedom, or are willing to be afraid of freedom but still not stifle it, and those who want to control and limit and curtail. So this battle is forever. It never stops. It's no different this year than ten years ago, than a hundred years ago, than the Inquisition, than it will be in a hundred years in the future. So it's not a new trend. It's always the humanists against the yahoos.

You're described in a recent issue as "the publisher of the first split beaver shot ever to be printed on these hallowed shores." Tell the tired old story of what got you into the porn business.

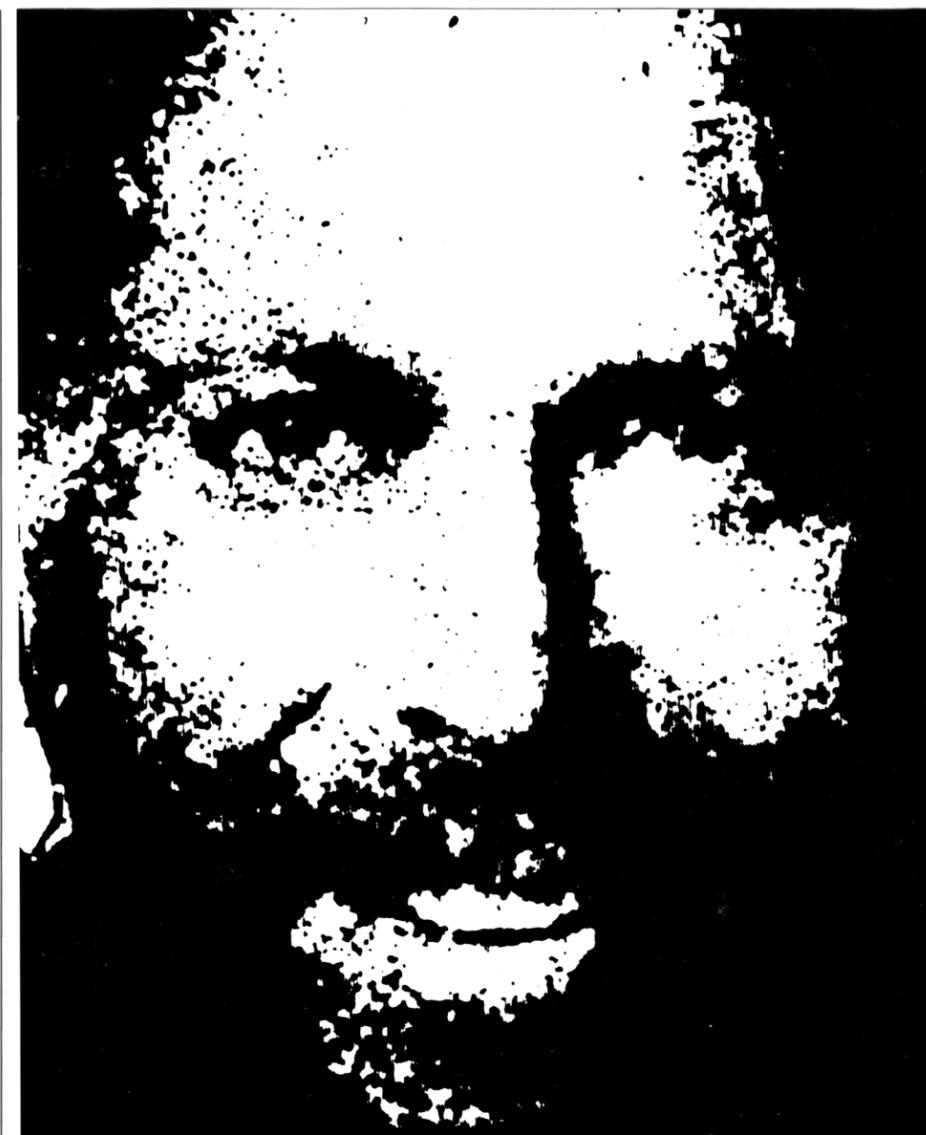
Basically, for me, I was a *consumer* of pornography. When I was sixteen, I was exposed to Henry Miller and Frank Harris, and I always

found it sort of an incongruity that someone like a writer such as Henry Miller—*Tropic of Capricorn*, *Tropic of Cancer*—in the back of these traveler's-companion books, there was a little line saying, "MUST NOT BE IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES OR ENGLAND." Seemed so strange that here were books without pictures, but ideas that were so frightening to the Establishment that they were not permitted. So I actually grew up reading about sex, but reading about it in a secretive way. Because I grew up in the Joe McCarthy era. I joined the American Civil Liberties Union when I was fifteen. I'm now, actually I'm fifty-six *today*, so I've been a member of the [American] Civil Liberties Union for forty-one years. So I'm not some Johnny-come-lately hiding behind the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. I've always not hidden, but am proud of the Bill of Rights. Anyway, point being that I was sexually, I guess, liberated and knowledgeable and knew about the battles against censorship.

And as a consumer of pornography, I was amazed how hard it was to obtain and how hypocritical we were, whether it was a *Playboy*—they would use words like 'cunnilingus' and 'fellatio.' The *Reader's Digest* only pushed marriage. Oral sex was only a foreplay. Masturbation was a sin. Again, I paid for sex all the time and have never stopped. In all my marriages, I paid for sex. No one gives me money, or no one has ever bought me dinner. So I am the classic john, and *SCREW* is a representative, or a reflection, of my personality and the reality of sex—that guys don't say, "Uh, God, she reads Spinoza." They say, "Boy, she sucked my cock, and it was wonderful. I ate her pussy. I brought her off four times." So *SCREW* is an extension of the dishonesty I saw in 1968. It was like the emperor was naked and no one admitted it. *SCREW* not only admitted it, but glorified it.

Great. What would the country be like under President Al Goldstein?

Probably healthier. I would not be wasting my time on crimes of morality or immorality—you could substitute the words 'morality' and 'immorality' for 'religion,' or a kind of religion. I would really try to put the bad guys away. Every time I see a *60 Minutes* or *PrimeTime Live* or *20/20*, I see about the greedy people who exploit us—I would really try to protect the interests of *most* people and not have the gibberish of, say, the war on drugs, which is a joke. We should legalize drugs the same way we legalize alcohol and smoking, and then let those people have to deal with the consequences of their actions. But you can't prohibit it—it doesn't work, it didn't work in the twenties, it doesn't work today.



PHOTOS COURTESY AL GOLDSTEIN

Uh, *I would not have all the answers*. But at least I would be entertaining, and unlike George Bush, who pathetically collapsed [after vomiting in Japan], I would probably faint at a deli 'cause I tried to eat ten pounds of pastrami. I would be honest and entertaining, and I would leave prostitutes alone, gays [alone]. I'm in favor of free choice, I'm in favor of abortion. In other words, it would be something that's never happened in America—an honest, sane government. But that's why it *will* never happen, because Americans like to give lip service to lies, self-deceit.

That's a good one. In your eyes, how does *SCREW* stand apart from the other porn publications?

It's the most honest. It's the difference between a fire and a firefly. The other ones are like, I don't know—are we the fire or the firefly? I like to think of us as the fire in terms of the honesty of genitalia, of passion, of caring.

Whatever few lies I am probably guilty of in the last twenty-three years, it's less than any other publisher. And *SCREW* is not pornographic, but it's about where to *get* pornography. And I think we do it with literacy, and humor, and hopefully a perspective of not taking ourselves that seriously. We take the fight for *freedom* seriously, but not ourselves seriously.

Last question—generally, does it take you longer to cum or to do an interview like this? About eight minutes so far.

Equally quick. No, generally, I cum in about twenty seconds. Hopefully, when I'm in California, you will feel obligated to me and throw up to me sort of, as one gives to the gods, some damsel, your girlfriend, who will just turn her back on you, who you'd throw up to me as tribute. I would say that's the least you could do.

You're a genius.

Thank you. ■