

## Institute for the Humanities Spring 2003 Lecture Series

### Violence and its Alternatives: A Continuing Series

*Attention to violence and its alternatives forms a major element in the mandate of the Institute for the Humanities. Many SFU Faculty are also researching specific aspects of violence and our responses to it in our culture. This spring we present the work of three SFU faculty members with long time interests in socio-cultural violence. Each presentation will take place at SFU's Burnaby campus. Please join us for this continuing series.*



#### Evaluating a Media Risk Assessment Strategy For Children and Adolescents

Stephen Kline and Kym Stewart,  
School of Communication, SFU  
Thursday, January 16, 2003  
12:30–1:30 pm (Reception to follow)  
Halpern Centre, SFU Burnaby

This project will allow for extensive investigation into the media risk factors through literature reviews as well as a pilot project in collaboration with the North Vancouver School district. The research will attempt to provide the schools, teachers, students, parents and surrounding community with media risk reduction strategies which may be used to analyze the role media has in issues of bullying and anti-social behaviour, decreasing health and fitness levels and decreasing school achievement and reading levels among school aged children.

*Stephen Kline is a faculty member in the School of Communication at SFU and his areas of particular interest include social communication of advertising and children's culture.*

*Kym Stewart is an MA candidate in the School of Communication at SFU who is focussing on children's culture, interactive media, and more recently New Media usage in South Korea.*

#### Hitting, Hurting and Having Fun: Why Violence is Essential to Life and

#### Different from Aggression

Ehor Boyanowsky,  
School of Criminology, SFU  
Thursday, January 30, 2003  
12:30–1:30 pm (Reception to follow)  
Halpern Centre, SFU Burnaby

Calls for the end of violence permeate the media, university courses and seminars such as this one. Part of the problem is that the terms violence and aggression are used interchangeably even in so called "scientific" textbooks, though some merely refer to violence as a nastier form of aggression. Nothing could be further from the truth. Violence is often railed against and bemoaned as ubiquitous in human society. Well, indeed, it is and for good reason. Without it nothing would exist, including life itself. In this study, I use the concept of *mens rea* to examine a wide variety of natural and social phenomena putting them into a multidimensional model that demonstrates the relationship among them and hopefully provides insight into the basis for our attraction to violence.

#### Twisting the Cross: Terrorism and the Construction of American society

Michael Fellman, Graduate Liberal Studies and History, SFU

Thursday, February 20, 2003  
12:30–1:30 pm (Reception to follow)  
Halpern Centre, SFU Burnaby

Terrorism haunts our dreams and dominates our national and international policies. 9/11/01 crashed on North America like a horrible visitation from afar. Yet terrorism is not always foreign, nor has its use always been considered an undivided evil, especially when employed by significant elements in society, including the state. Not only is terrorism often effective in causing social change, not only is it not to be dismissed as the exclusive provenance of crazy antisocial forces, it is often an extension by violent means of mainstream values and goals. Rather than surveying all forms of terror deployed during that century, I will focus on four nationally transformative episodes in American history.

*Michael Fellman is Director of Graduate Liberal Studies and Professor of History. He is author of seven books, mostly on the American Civil War. His textbook, This Terrible War: The American Civil War and its Aftermath, was just published by Longman's. His lecture will derive from the earlier stages of his next book project, about terrorism and the American mainstream in the nineteenth century, tentatively entitled Twisting the Cross.*