



## BlocSport:



# Tits vs Homo-Eroticism

which is more acceptable on the crag?

Introducing our new bouldering columnist, *Jude Calvert-Toulmin*, who stands up for women's rights

Oh no it's her again. I can hear many of you shrieking in dismay, once again polluting your beloved boys' own brigade climbing world with my fluffy drivel. Smirk. Indeedly it is. Long time no pollute guys :-)

I'm addressing myself to the blokes here which may seem a tad sexist, as so many women are into climbing nowadays, but let's face it, climbing is still very blokey isn't it? And there is a gross inequality between the sexes vis-à-vis climbing. For a start, how come in quaint old Blighty lads are allowed to climb topless and women aren't, huh? I put this to the test earlier on in the year by seconding Fag Slab at Brimham topless, then posting pictures of it on the net which provoked the most laughable campaign of cyber-outrage from lonely blokes who aren't getting enough at home and women with smaller tits than mine (not that size matters, well not for a woman anyway).

My mate Marc Chrysanthou, the writer, not wanting to be outdone, then proceeded to solo it completely starkers. How much negative flak did he get for that? That's right. How did you guess? Zilcho! Nada! Not one word against him. Men are allowed to be outrageous in the (still) patriarchal and parochial world of climbing. Women aren't. We are meant to keep our clothes on, our gobs shut and know our place (i.e. at the end of a belay rope, certainly not climbing harder than the menfolk we are meant to be droolingly admiring).

So what is so offensive about a pair of tits? Beats me. All men love 'em and their function is to nourish babies. And if tits are not only acceptable but drooled over by

100% of the heterosexual male population when placed on page 3 of the tabloids, why the outrage if a woman wants the freedom to take her top off at the crag and whip them out? The feel of warm gritstone against one's breasts is actually very pleasant, liberating and, fnar, titillating to boot. Grazed nipples? Puh-lease. Men have nipples too.

I suspect that the reason there's all this hoo-ha about tits on crags is because like a pair of bulldozers steaming into a perfectly manicured

garden, their presence completely destroys the carefully balanced and delicate homo-erotic atmosphere at the crag, distracting attention from the rippling rows of muscles and intertwining limbs on parade.

For let's face it, climbing is suffused with homo-eroticism. No-one is going to tell me that a group of shirtless, honed young lads all standing round a boulder with their hands cupping some other lad's arse isn't homo-erotic, I'm sorry, but it makes a bath full of rigger players look like REAL HARD MEN and not the bunch of sexually repressed gurlies they really are.

And to heighten the atmosphere of barely repressed sexuality amongst the lads, they have developed a language of their own supposedly pertaining to climbing but actually pertaining to (the) sex (they are often missing out on), every word uttered in stony-faced seriousness. Here are just some of the beauties overheard during après-crag aperitifs and accompanied by descriptive hand gestures, as if your imagination weren't enough.

"I'm at my best when things get hard."

"I needed a good screw there."

"Well I'm standing in front of this gorgeous long crack yeah? I throw down my 'sack, pull out my nuts, grab a few Friends and begin to tackle this enormous beast, ramming a fist into the crack and yanking as hard as I can."

"I took my young friend Adam up Stoat's Chimney."

"So I lunge forwards, my heavy nuts are like clanking around between my legs yeah? Right in front of me is this bush, just been trimmed by the look of it, so I like really gently glide over it coz I don't want to pull my Rocks off. There's these beautiful jugs above me, I'm at the brink with a couple of short thrusts dude."

Need I say more.

So ladies, don't you dare try and get your tits out at the crag, it will remind the lads of what they're missing and make them feel very, very silly.



Jude out bouldering on Burbage with Kate Cooper.