

Internet

“Pornography in media, especially internet pornography, has forced everyone from parents, church leaders, educators, and government officials to address this issue with children and youth at a much earlier age than previous generations. This unfortunate situation has come about because certain media industries and people have brought upon every man, woman, and child, an onslaught of media pornography from every direction imaginable. There are no longer safe places to hide from it. It behooves all of us to learn how to protect and defend ourselves and our loved ones from this all out attack or war so that no one becomes a casualty”

--Charles Wakamatsu, Co-Founder of N.O.V.A. Principles LC-- www.novaprinciples.com

July 7 2005

General Information

Some psychologists that say the addiction to pornography is the most powerful addiction on earth. The reason they give for making this statement is that when a person takes a powerfully addicting drug into their body, the drug that's introduced is an artificial chemical foreign to the body, where as the naturally created chemicals released from the brain gives a person the strongest high possible.

“All the addicts that I have interviewed who have multiple addictions, and most do, cocaine, alcohol, cigarettes, whatever it is, the one addiction that they say is the most difficult to overcome, out of all their addictions, I pornography.” “Just like with cocaine, amphetamines, or alcohol, harder and harder doses are needed, not to get the same high, but just to feel normal, just to be able to cope with life.”

--Mark Kastleman speaking on “How Porn Radically Alters the Human Brain and Body”--

October 2002

Pornography has been named “The new drug of the millennium”. The natural chemicals released by the brain that gets a person “High” off of pornography has been named “Erototoxin”.

There are over 372 Million pornography web pages on the internet.

The average age of first time internet pornography exposure is 11 years old (2002 statistic). There are now some experts who say the age is now several years younger. Why or how can this be? Because children are learning how to use the computer and surf the web at a younger age every year, and due to the prevalence of internet pornography, it has come to the point that if you go on-line, you will encounter it. It's no longer a matter of if, but when.

12 - 17 year olds are the largest age group searching for internet pornography.

Some psychologists report that more than 90% of the patients they see and treat are pornography addicts.

Psychologists have been treating children as young as 8 years old for internet pornography addiction.

The percentage of Men vs. Women who view internet pornography is about 50/50. 33% of men view pornography on the Internet. 20% of men view pornography at work. 12.5 % of women view pornography at work.

The only two words entered in search engines more than *SEX* are *AND* and *THE*.

70 % OF Internet pornography traffic happens between 9 and 5.

9 out of 10 children ages 8 to 16 have been exposed to pornography.

Pornography is a \$20 billion a year business in the U.S.

It is estimated that there are between 40 to 60 million adults addicted to pornography in the U.S.. There are 40 million Americans who visit pornographic websites regularly.

Many women are seeking out companionship on the internet via chat rooms. Doing so fulfills their need to communicate. Of these women, 85 % are seeking a sexual relation and will eventually meet someone for an encounter.

Chat rooms have become nothing more than an internet sewer. The worst possible pornographic material ever imaginable can be streamed live directly over the internet.

When a teen logs in to a chat room, it is possible for a predator to:

- Locate the teen's home address
- Find the teen's phone number
- Find the names of the teen's parents
- Find the school the teen attends
- Find the teen's likes and dislikes... All within 45 minutes!

Pornography finds you, you no longer need to find it.

33% of the population in Utah say that pornography is a problem in the home.

One Utah prosecutor said, "Every juvenile sex offender has links to pornography, and they access it from home."

There are over 750,000 adult child molesters in the jail system. This has become the fastest growing social problem in the United States today, and has the highest recidivism rate as well.

More than 50% of the sexual offenders are juveniles. Most, simply act out on their victims what they have seen from pornography media sources.

Pornography images are burned into your brain. Because of this, these images become very difficult to get rid of.

Once a person has become an internet pornography addict, the recommended cure or remedy is for the addict to get rid of his/her computer and to never use one again.

There are only 3 known ways to be 100% protected from internet pornography:

1. Never own or look at a computer.
2. If you have a computer, don't turn it on.
3. If you have a computer and turn it on, don't connect it to the internet.

Filters - Blocking software - Realtime ISP services can help greatly, but none of these things are 100% foolproof.

If pornography ever pops up on the computer, "Crash and tell."

- Don't click the X button
- Don't shut down the computer the normal way (start, shutdown...)
- Power off the computer immediately and tell your parent(s).

Do not have any "File sharing Programs" (peer to peer) on your computer. These programs allow people to transfer files in and out of your computer. The following are a list of these type of programs:

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| KaZaa | Bearshare | Audio Galaxy | Gnucleus |
| Morpheus | Napster | iMesh | Grokster |
| Gnutella | Limewire | Swapnut | Aimster |

You can remove these programs from your computer by clicking on "Start", "Control Panel", "Add or Remove Programs", then scroll down to the file sharing program, highlight it, then click on "Change/Remove".

When doing a Google search or such, read the synopsis carefully before you click on an web link. However, even then this is not a guarantee that the site you click on is not a pornographic site as many pornographic sites post innocent appearing synopsis' on search engines.

When typing in a web address, be careful to make sure that you spell the web address correctly. Many pornographers are using the common misspellings of much sought after web site addresses to get you to their site.

Internet Porn Is a Drug and Pornographers Are Drug Dealers

Mark Kastleman

Today, we live with more stress, pain and anxiety than perhaps any other society in the world's history. Viewing Internet porn and/or engaging in cybersex chat, coupled with self-stimulation, cause the brain and body to release drugs back into its own nervous system. No wonder so many are turning to the Internet. Based on its ability to produce self-medication, mask pain, escape reality and provide the means to achieve one of the body's most powerful peak experiences, *Internet pornography has been placed in direct competition with illicit drugs!*

As will be detailed in future articles, the structure of the male brain predisposes virtually all men and teenage boys to some level of porn attraction and/or addiction. To a lesser degree, women also are at risk. Many today agree that the greater danger for women and teenage girls is cybersex through Internet chat rooms.

For some, pornography and cybersex are simply part of the process of becoming sexually aroused and excited to the point of peak experience. Pornography and cybersex are a means to satisfy a sexual urge. Many pro-pornography activists at this point would cry out and say, “Exactly right! That’s what we’ve been saying all along. Porn and cybersex are harmless outlets for men, women and teens to satisfy their normal, healthy urges.”

If only it were that simple. To the contrary, the hard facts prove otherwise. With rare exception, once a person sets off down the path of regular pornography use and/or cybersex chat, it becomes much more than a “harmless outlet for normal, healthy urges.” For millions of men, women and teenagers, sexual stimulation is but a piece of the puzzle. Pornography and cybersex become a habit-forming drug used as an escape—escape from the pressures of life, from stress and pain, from fear, loneliness, emptiness, regret, rejection, childhood abuse and a host of other human emotions and memories. Pornography and cybersex temporarily mask the pain. They fill the “void,” the “hole in the soul,” and provide momentary “self-medication.”

Viewing pornography and engaging in sexual chat are ways to “feel good” by passing time in an all-consuming activity that blocks out the trying realities of life, the difficulties at hand.

But for pornography and cybersex addicts, exacting, time-consuming rituals leading up to the “main event” become a major part of the process. Thus a man may invent elaborate excuses for his wife as to why he is spending so many late nights at the office. He may put stacks of files in his briefcase and bring them home, going on and on about how “swamped” he is. The longer and more elaborate the ritual, the more time he can spend away from the pressing realities of his life.

A woman may neglect her home and family because she is obsessed with Internet chat rooms. She, too, will employ a litany of excuses and go to great lengths to cover up her addiction.

Whether the motive for consuming pornography and cybersex is sexual appetite, escape/self-medication, or a combination of the two, engaging in these addictions causes the brain and body to “endogenously” produce and release chemical drugs into its own system, just as if they had been injected with a hypodermic needle. These chemicals include: epinephrine (an adrenal gland hormone that “locks-in” memories of experiences occurring at times of high arousal), adrenaline, adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH), noradrenaline, norepinephrine and testosterone, among others. This at-the-push-of-a-button drug injection is dragging millions of troubled victims along in its destructive wake.

Thus, persistent accessing of porn and cybersex not only provide the addict with sexual arousal, but offers a way to “self-medicate” in order to escape the realities of life and, if only temporarily, “make the pain go away.”

Internet Porn Is Preferable To Traditional Drugs

If you think about it, in many ways Internet pornography is preferable to traditional drugs. For one thing, it can more easily be hidden from view. If you achieve your high through Internet porn or cybersex, do you stagger around, slur your words or pass out? After an Internet porn or cybersex fix, might you be pulled over and cited for DUI? What other drug can you sample for free as long as you like? (There are enough “free” and “sampler” porn sites and thousands of cybersex chat rooms available through standard Internet services to keep an addict occupied for years.) And if the free or sample drugs aren’t strong enough, what other drug could you purchase in large enough quantities—not to mention a constantly changing variety to satisfy your changing mood, craving or preference—for just the cost of your Internet connection?

Do you see the point? Can you understand why addicts of Internet porn eventually will outnumber cocaine, crack or meth addicts?

The Porn Addiction Process Is Like That Of Any Other Drug Addiction Internet porn/cybersex addiction follows a similar pathway as traditional drug addiction. In order to mask or deaden the pain of life, the porn addict seeks a quick mood change, some sort of stimulation, an escape.

Eventually he becomes powerless. He further spins out of control as the compulsion takes over his life. Even severe threats to job, family or health cannot slow down the obsession. He is caught in a cycle of the need for mood change, stimulation, escape and temporary relief, a vicious gripping cycle that both repels and draws him, repulses and arouses. Often the addict wants to change, in fact knows he must change or succumb to disaster. Virtually every porn/cybersex addict reaches the point where he realizes the craving is simply too powerful; he cannot stop without help.

Porn Addiction, Like Other Addictions, Builds Up A Tolerance

Alcoholics are notorious for their ability to consume enormous amounts of liquor; chain smokers can burn through several packs of cigarettes a day.

It is the same with pornography and cybersex chat—greater and greater stimulation is needed to produce an ever-diminishing gratification. Porn and cybersex addicts have acquired a tolerance to perverse and obscene material, material that would leave most sick to their stomachs. And the desire for harder and more explicit material and conversations grows stronger—not weaker—with each attempt to satisfy it—they've got to take a “harder drug” to get the same high. In too many cases, this “harder drug” is the addict acting out what they've seen in porn, with real people—often innocent women, teens and children.

Porn Addicts Suffer Withdrawal

Porn or cybersex addicts suffer withdrawal symptoms when they try—or are compelled—to relinquish their vice for any length of time. An alcoholic gets the shakes without alcohol; the porn and cybersex addict's world starts to shake when the overwhelming urge to view pornography or start up a cybersex conversation hits and he can't get online.

It's as if he might go crazy without another session. The withdrawal pains may drive an addict to find porn or sexual arousal any way and anywhere he can—often causing him to act out his needs in inappropriate ways.

With the Internet, however, it's usually all too easy to satisfy the craving (at least in the early stages of addiction) by heading for the computer screen. With such ease of access and frequency of use, how quickly do you think a porn or cybersex addiction will accelerate until it is out of control? How quickly will an addict become bored with soft-porn or tame sex conversations and proceed to the hard stuff? When compared to the rate of addiction with traditional pornography mediums of the past, Internet porn and cybersex have accelerated porn addiction to the speed of light.

CIGARETTES AREN'T ADDICTIVE AND THEY DON'T CAUSE CANCER—AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE TOBACCO COMPANIES

Until a few years ago, the tobacco companies insisted that cigarettes were not addictive and didn't cause cancer. Finally after more than 40 years of investigative research, testing and tracking, the

evidence is so completely overwhelming that the tobacco companies could no longer credibly deny it.

Of course, most reasonably intelligent people have recognized the dangers of smoking for decades. The signs and evidence were decisive. We didn't need a panel of scientists and doctors to verify the facts we saw all around us. And now that the tobacco companies have finally admitted (or at least stopped denying) that their product is a silent killer, how does that help those already afflicted with lung cancer or emphysema? It doesn't. For them it's too late. But hopefully future generations won't be so foolish.

Do you see any correlations between the tobacco and the porno—graphy industries? What do pornographers and those who support them say? "Internet pornography is just a harmless hobby." "It's a harmless way to blow off sexual tension." "What's wrong with a woman having an affair over the Internet?" "Women should be able to fantasize with porn just like men do." "Porn doesn't hurt anyone; if you don't like it, then don't look at it."

But just as with cigarette smoking, the signs and evidence are all around us. Rape, incest, child sexual abuse, teen pregnancy, venereal disease, crime rates, glazed-over fathers and husbands, aloof wives and mothers. And like second-hand smoke, ingesting pornography doesn't harm just the viewer, it damages all those within the viewer's sphere of influence.

There are now hundreds of credible medical, psychological and neurological studies which clearly show that pornography is harmful and dangerous to all involved, directly and indirectly. There is no need to wait for additional research or more millions of victims—the results are in.

Mark B. Kastleman is the author of the revolutionary new book titled *The Drug of the New Millennium—the Science of How Internet Pornography Radically Alters the Human Brain and Body—A Guide for Parents, Spouses, Clergy and Counselors*. Many leading scientists, psychologists, therapists and religious leaders consider this book to be one of the most important works ever written on this subject, and a must-read for parents, spouses, clergy and counselors. Click here to purchase *The Drug of the New Millennium—the Science of How Internet Pornography Radically Alters the Human Brain and Body*.

How Pornography Harms Children

Excerpted in part from Kids Online: Protecting Your Children In Cyberspace
by Donna Rice Hughes (Revell, September 1998)

While there are many ways that pornography harms children, I want to assure you that every child who views pornography will not necessarily be affected and, at worst, traumatized in the same way. The effects of pornography are progressive and addictive for many people. Just as every person who takes a drink does not automatically become an alcoholic, every child who is exposed to pornography does not automatically become a sexual deviant or sex addict. However, since pornography has a new door to the home, school, and library through the Internet, it is important for us to look at the many ways that pornography can potentially harm our children.

Exposure to Pornography Threatens to Make Children Victims of Sexual Violence

The Internet has proven a useful tool for pedophiles and sexual predators as they distribute child

pornography, engage in sexually explicit conversations with children, and seek victims in chat rooms. The more pornography these individuals access, the higher the risk of their acting out what they see, including sexual assault, rape, and child molestation.

Pornography's Relationship to Rape and Sexual Violence

According to one study, early exposure (under fourteen years of age) to pornography is related to greater involvement in deviant sexual practice, particularly rape. Slightly more than one-third of the child molesters and rapists in this study claimed to have at least occasionally been incited to commit an offense by exposure to pornography. Among the child molesters incited, the study reported that 53 percent of them deliberately used the stimuli of pornography as they prepared to offend.

[The habitual consumption of pornography can result in a diminished satisfaction with mild forms of pornography and a correspondingly strong desire for more deviant and violent material.ii](#)

Pornography's Relationship to Child Molestation

In a study of convicted child molesters, 77 percent of those who molested boys and 87 percent of those who molested girls admitted to the habitual use of pornography in the commission of their crimes.iii Besides stimulating the perpetrator, pornography facilitates child molestation in several ways. For example, pedophiles use pornographic photos to demonstrate to their victims what they want them to do. They also use them to arouse a child or to lower a child's inhibitions and communicate to the unsuspecting child that a particular sexual activity is okay: "This person is enjoying it; so will you."

Exposure to Pornography Frequently Results in Sexual Illnesses, Unplanned Pregnancies, and Sexual Addiction

As more and more children are exposed not only to soft-core pornography, but also to explicit deviant sexual material, they are learning an extremely dangerous message from pornographers: *Sex without responsibility is acceptable and desirable*. Because pornography encourages sexual expression without responsibility, it endangers children's health.

One of the grimmer consequences of adult-like sexual activity among children has been a steady increase in the extent to which youth are afflicted with venereal disease.iv In the United States about one in four sexually experienced teenagers acquires a sexually transmitted disease (STD) every year, resulting in three million cases of teenage STDs. Infectious syphilis rates have more than doubled among teenagers since the mid-1980s. More children contract sexually transmitted diseases each year than all the victims of polio in its eleven-year epidemic, 1942-1953.v

Another obvious result of children involved in adult sexual activity is the increased rate of pregnancy among teenagers.

Research has shown that "males who are exposed to a great deal of erotica before the age of 14 are more sexually active and engage in more varied sexual behaviors as adults than is true for males not so exposed."vi One study reveals that among 932 sex addicts, 90 percent of the men and 77 percent of the women reported that pornography was significant to their addiction.vii

Exposure to Pornography May Incite Children to Act Out Sexually against Other Children

Children often imitate what they've seen, read, or heard. Studies suggest that exposure to pornography can prompt kids to act out sexually against younger, smaller, and more vulnerable children. Experts in

the field of childhood sexual abuse report that any premature sexual activity in children always suggests two possible stimulants: experience and exposure. This means that the sexually deviant child may have been molested or simply exposed to sexuality through pornography.[viii](#)

In a study of six hundred American males and females of junior high school age and above, researcher Dr. Jennings Bryant found that 91 percent of the males and 82 percent of the females admitted having been exposed to X-rated, hard-core pornography. Over 66 percent of the males and 40 percent of the females reported wanting to try out some of the sexual behaviors they had witnessed. And among high schoolers, 31 percent of the males and 18 percent of the females admitted actually *doing* some of the things they had seen in the pornography within a few days after exposure.[ix](#)

Exposure to Pornography Shapes Attitudes and Values

Most of us caring, responsible parents want to instill in our children our own personal values about relationships, sex, intimacy, love, and marriage. Unfortunately, the powerful irresponsible messages of pornography may be educating our children on these very important life issues. Just as thirty-second commercials can influence whether or not we choose one popular soft drink over another, exposure to pornography shapes our attitudes and values and, often, our behavior.

Photographs, videos, magazines, virtual games, and Internet pornography that depict rape and the dehumanization of females in sexual scenes constitute powerful but deforming tools of sex education. The danger to children stems at least partly from the disturbing changes in attitude that are facilitated by pornography. Replicated studies have demonstrated that exposure to significant amounts of increasingly graphic forms of pornography has a dramatic effect on how adult consumers view women, sexual abuse, sexual relationships, and sex in general. These studies are virtually unanimous in their conclusions: When male subjects were exposed to as little as six weeks' worth of standard hard-core pornography, they:

Developed an increased sexual callousness toward women.

Began to trivialize rape as a criminal offense or no longer considered it a crime at all.

Developed distorted perceptions about sexuality.

Developed an appetite for more deviant, bizarre, or violent types of pornography (normal sex no longer seemed to do the job).

Devalued the importance of monogamy and lacked confidence in marriage as either a viable or lasting institution.

Viewed nonmonogamous relationships as normal and natural behavior.

Exposure to Pornography Interferes with a Child's Development and Identity

During certain critical periods of childhood, a child's brain is being programmed for sexual orientation. During this period, the mind appears to be developing a "hardwire" for what the person will be aroused by or attracted to. Exposure to healthy sexual norms and attitudes during this critical period can result in the child developing a healthy sexual orientation. In contrast, if there is exposure to pornography during this period, sexual deviance may become imprinted on the child's "hard drive" and become a permanent part of his or her sexual orientation.

Psychologist Dr. Victor Cline's findings suggest that memories of experiences that occurred at times of emotional arousal (which could include sexual arousal) are imprinted on the brain by epinephrine, an adrenal gland hormone, and are difficult to erase. (This may partly explain pornography's addicting

effect.) Viewing pornography can potentially condition some viewers to have recurring sexual fantasies during which they masturbate. Later they may be tempted to act out the fantasies as sexual advances.

Sexual identity develops gradually through childhood and adolescence. In fact, children generally do not have a *natural* sexual capacity until between the ages of ten and twelve. As they grow up, children are especially susceptible to influences affecting their development. Information about sex in most homes and schools, comes, presumably, in age-appropriate incremental stages based on what parents, educators, physicians, and social scientists have learned about child development. But pornography short-circuits and/or distorts the normal personality development process and supplies misinformation about a child's sexuality, sense of self, and body that leaves the child confused, changed, and damaged.

Pornography often introduces children prematurely to sexual sensations that they are developmentally unprepared to contend with. This awareness of sexual sensation can be confusing and overstimulating for children.

The sexual excitement and eventual release obtained through pornography are mood altering. For example, if a young boy's early stimulus was pornographic photographs, he can be conditioned to become aroused through photographs. Once this pairing is rewarded a number of times, it is likely to become permanent. The result is that it becomes difficult for the individual to experience sexual satisfaction apart from pornographic images.

Most of us find it difficult to talk to our children about sex in general, let alone the harmful effects of pornography, as graphically described in this chapter. We want to protect the innocence and purity of childhood for as long as possible.

A Quick Primer on Obscenity Laws and the First Amendment

What is Pornography?

The term "pornography" is a generic, not a legal term. As noted by the Supreme Court in its [Miller v. California](#) 413 U.S. 15 (1973) obscenity case:

"'Pornography' derives from the Greek (harlot, and graphos, writing). The word now means '1: a description of prostitutes or prostitution 2. a depiction (as in a writing or painting) of licentiousness or lewdness: a portrayal of erotic behavior designed to cause sexual excitement.' Webster's Third New International Dictionary [Unabridged 1969]."

The 1986 Attorney General's Commission on Pornography defined pornography as, "Material that is predominantly sexually explicit and intended primarily for the purpose of sexual arousal."

What is Obscenity?

The 1973 landmark case, [Miller v. California](#), supra (as modified by two subsequent cases) established a three-pronged test for determining whether a "work" (i.e., material or performance) is obscene and, therefore, unprotected by the First Amendment. To be obscene, a judge and/or a jury must determine:

1. That the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; AND
2. That the work depicts or describes in a patently offensive way, as measured by contemporary

- community standards, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable law; AND
3. That a reasonable person would find that the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political and scientific value.

Examples of "hardcore sexual conduct" that an obscenity law could include for regulation under the second prong of the test are patently offensive representations or descriptions of:

1. Ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated
2. Masturbation, lewd exhibition of the genitals, excretory functions, and sadomasochistic abuse.

Side note: Typical "hardcore pornography" (e.g., a magazine, video or Web site) consists of little if anything more than one depiction of hardcore sex after the other (i.e., its "wall-to-wall" hardcore sex).

Obscenity Is Not Protected by the First Amendment

In [*Roth v. United States*](#), 354 U.S. 476 (1957), the Supreme Court answered the question "whether obscenity is utterance within the area of protected speech and press." In holding that obscenity is "not within the area of constitutionally protected speech or press," the Roth Court quoted from its earlier [*Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire*](#), 315 U.S. 568 (1942) decision:

"There are certain well-defined and narrowly limited classes of speech, the prevention and punishment of which have never been thought to raise any Constitutional problem. These include the lewd and obscene....[S]uch utterances are of no essential part of any exposition of ideas, and are of such slight social value as a step to truth that any benefit that may be derived from them is clearly outweighed by the social interest in order and morality."

In [*Miller v. California*](#), supra, the Supreme Court said:

"This much has been categorically settled by the Court, that obscene material is unprotected by the First Amendment. . . . The dissenting Justices sound the alarm of repression. But, in our view, to equate the free and robust exchange of ideas and political debate with commercial exploitation of obscene material demeans the grand conception of the First Amendment and its high purposes in the historic struggle for freedom. It is a 'misuse of the great guarantees of free speech and free press The protection given speech and press was fashioned to assure unfettered interchange of *ideas* for the bringing about of political or social changes desired by the people'. . . But the public portrayal of hardcore sexual conduct for its own sake, and for the ensuing commercial gain, is a different matter." [Emphasis added by *Miller* Court]

Governmental Justifications for Obscenity Laws

Mr. Justice Harlan, concurring in [*Roth v. United States*](#), supra, said:

"[E]ven assuming that pornography cannot be deemed ever to cause in an immediate sense, criminal...conduct, other interests within the proper cognizance of the State may be protected by the prohibition placed on such materials. The state can reasonably draw the inference that over a long period of time the indiscriminate dissemination of materials, the essential character of which is to degrade sex, will have an eroding effect on moral standards."

In [*Paris Adult Theater I v. Slaton*](#), 413 U.S. 49 (1973), the Supreme Court identified several valid governmental interests that justify a prohibition on obscenity:

1. In particular, we hold that there are legitimate state interests at stake in stemming the tide of

commercialized obscenity, even if it is feasible to enforce effective safeguards against exposure to juveniles and to passersby...These include the interest of the public in the quality of life and total community environment, the tone of commerce in the great city centers, and, possibly, the public safety itself."

2. "Although there is no conclusive proof of a connection between antisocial behavior and obscene material, the legislature... could quite reasonably determine that such a connection does or might exist. In deciding *Roth*, this Court implicitly decided that a legislature could legitimately act on such a conclusion to protect the social interest in order and morality."
3. "The sum of experience...affords an ample basis for legislatures to conclude that a sensitive, key relationship of human existence, central to family life, community welfare, and the development of human personality, can be debased and distorted by crass commercial exploitation of sex."
4. "As Mr. Chief Justice Warren stated, there is a 'right of the Nation and of the states to maintain a decent society.'"

Federal Obscenity Laws

Federal laws relating to the crime of obscenity are contained in the following titles and sections of the U.S. Code:

[18 U.S.C. 1461](#) -- Mailing obscene matter

[18 U.S.C. 1462](#) -- Importation or use of a common carrier to transport obscene matter

[18 U.S.C. 1464](#) -- Broadcasting obscene language

[18 U.S.C. 1465](#) -- Interstate transportation of obscene matter

[18 U.S.C. 1466](#) -- Wholesale and retail sale of obscene matter which has been transported in interstate commerce (must be engaged in business of selling or transferring obscenity)

[18 U.S.C. 1468](#) -- Distribution of obscene matter by cable or satellite TV

[47 U.S.C. 223](#) -- Making an obscene communication by means of telephone

Sections 1462 and 1465 cited above also prohibit distribution of obscenity on the Internet.

"Dealing in obscene matter" is also a predicate offense under the Federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute. ([Title 18, Section 1961-1968](#)).

TO OBTAIN TEXTS OF THESE SECTIONS, GO TO: [HTTP://USCODE.HOUSE.GOV](http://USCODE.HOUSE.GOV)

The 93 [United States Attorneys](#)—appointed by the President, confirmed by the U.S. Senate and located nationwide (each state has at least one)—are responsible for enforcement of the Federal obscenity laws. The U.S. Attorneys work with the FBI, Postal Inspectors and Customs Officers to enforce Federal obscenity laws.

Obscenity and the Internet

In 1996, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in the case of [United States v. Thomas](#), 74 F.3d 701 (6th Cir. 1996), *cert. denied*, 519 U.S. 820 (1996), was presented with the issue of defining "community" in order to determine whether materials that had been transported over the Internet were obscene.

Defendants, a husband and wife, operated a computer bulletin board system (BBS) from their home in

California. A postal inspector in Tennessee became a member of their service and subsequently received images by means of a computer and by mail. These materials depicted a wide variety of sexual conduct, including bestiality, torture and excretory fetishism. The couple was convicted by a jury in the Western District of Tennessee for violating federal obscenity laws [18 USC 1462 and 1465] in connection with their operation of their BBS.

The couple appealed the case to the Sixth Circuit. Their appeal was based on the assertion (among other grounds) that the trial venue was improper because it was in Memphis, where undercover Federal agents accessed and downloaded files, not in California; and it was unclear which community's standards should apply in determining whether the contents of a nationally-accessible BBS are obscene.

In upholding the convictions, the Court of Appeals rejected defendants' argument that the materials should have been judged by the community standards of California rather than Tennessee. The Court stated (in part): "Furthermore, it is well established that there is no constitutional impediment to the government's power to prosecute pornography dealers in any district into which the material is sent."

In 2000, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit invalidated the Child Online Protection Act because the law, which restricts children's access to obscene-for-minors material on the World Wide Web, uses "community standards" in determining whether sex material is obscene for minors. In 2002, the Supreme Court reversed the Third Circuit (*Ashcroft v. ACLU*, No. 00-1293), with five judges concluding that federal obscenity laws were not unconstitutional as applied to the Internet solely because obscenity laws require application of community standards.

State and Local Obscenity Laws

Workable [statewide obscenity laws](#) exist in 40 states. In some states, cities and counties can also enact local obscenity laws. These laws can encompass both obscene materials and performances.

The prosecuting attorney of each county or judicial district (known as district, commonwealth or state's attorney, etc.) enforces the state obscenity laws. State and local police may make arrests.

Alaska, Maine, New Mexico, Vermont and West Virginia do not have a statewide obscenity law, and Montana and South Dakota have totally ineffective state laws. New obscenity laws are needed in these states.

In Oregon, Colorado and Hawaii, the State Supreme Court either invalidated [Oregon] or greatly weakened the state obscenity laws. Amendments to the State Constitution are needed in these states.

Other State Laws Regulating Pornography and 'Adult Uses'

Throughout the country, there are thousands of state laws and local ordinances that regulate the sale and display of pornography and so-called "sexually oriented businesses." These laws include:

1. Harmful-to-minors sales and display laws, which restrict minors' access to materials obscene for minors.
2. Open booth laws, which require that the doors of "peep show booths" be removed.
3. Zoning laws, which restrict the location of "adult bookstores," topless bars, etc.
4. Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) laws, which prohibit or regulate nudity in bars/bottle clubs.
5. Nuisance laws, which allow closure of all or part of "adult bookstores" and other "adult" businesses if prostitution, lewd conduct or high-risk sexual conduct occur on the premises.

6. Obscene device laws, which prohibit the sale of dildos and artificial vaginas.
7. Public Indecency laws, which require performers in commercial establishments where no alcohol is served or consumed to at least wear "pasties" and "G-strings."
8. Sex Supermarket laws, which restrict the number of "adult uses" that can exist at a premises.

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Do community standards exist in the age of the Internet?

By Robert Peters, Esq.

President of Morality in Media

July 20, 2004

Introduction

From a legal perspective, there are two dimensions to the question, "Do community standards exist in the age of the Internet?" First, there is a "constitutional" dimension because the argument is being made that obscenity laws cannot be applied to the Internet because application of the obscenity test depends in part on application of "community standards." Second, there is a "pragmatic" dimension because the argument is made that how can anything violate community standards when there is so much hardcore pornography around?

Community Standards and Content that is Obscene for Minors

In [*ACLU v. Reno*](#), 217 F.3rd 162, at 175 (3rd Cir. 2000), a U.S. Court of Appeals held that the Child Online Protection Act (COPA), a law intended to restrict children's access to commercial web sites that market sex material deemed harmful to minors, is unconstitutional. The Court of Appeals reasoned that because "Web publishers are without any means to limit access to their sites based on geographic location of particular Internet users," they would have to restrict access to "any material that might be deemed harmful [to minors] by the most puritan of communities in any state." The Supreme Court in [*Ashcroft v. ACLU*](#), 535 U.S. 564 (2002) rejected the notion that COPA's reliance on community standards rendered the statute unconstitutionally overboard and remanded the case for further proceedings:

In defense of the Court's disposition, I would point out the following. **First**, there is no constitutional requirement that judges and juries in Internet obscenity cases must apply local community standards. As the Supreme Court noted in *Ashcroft v. ACLU*, 535 U.S. at 576, the government in the COPA case maintains that jurors will be "'instructed to consider the standards of the adult community as a whole, without geographic specification."

Second, we should not assume that adult standards for what is suitable or unsuitable for minors differ all that much, regardless of the "geographic location," especially when the subject is pornographic materials. I am not a parent, but I have lived in New York City for more than thirty years, and I have been reading the local papers here since the fall of 1977. Even assuming (and I don't) that the "average" adult New Yorker has come to accept hardcore pornographic content that would not be acceptable in other parts of the country, I do not think he or she has come to think that it is now OK to expose children to smut.

Third, technology continues to develop to enable website operators to block access from "geographic locations." As noted in, "New technology limits access," (*Newsday*, 7/12/2004):

"As geolocation technology improves, web sites are increasingly blocking groups of visitors and carving the Web into smaller chunks—in some cases, down to a ZIP code... The major geolocation companies claim accuracy of 80% or more for city-level data."

Community Standards and Content Obscene for Adults

In December 2001, the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom filed a lawsuit in the Manhattan (New York City) federal district court seeking to overturn a provision in the Communications Decency Act (CDA) of 1996 that prohibits distribution of obscene matter on the Internet. In part, the Coalition argued (in the words of plaintiffs' legal counsel John F. Wirenius), "Obscenity is unprotected speech, but not all material is obscene from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Material may be considered obscene in Utah, for example, but not in New York. Whose standards are supposed to be applied on the Internet?" [["New Suit Targets Obscenity Law,"](#) *Wired News*, 12/12/01] In March 2003, a three-judge federal district court panel [refused to issue a preliminary injunction](#) blocking enforcement of the CDA's obscenity provision.

In defense of the panel's refusal, I would point out the following. **First**, in [Miller v. California](#), 413 U.S. 15, at 29 (1973), the Supreme Court said that the obscenity test was intended to "isolate 'hard core' pornography from expression protected by the First Amendment;" and as I understand the law of obscenity, sex material must constitute hardcore pornography—*irrespective of what community standard is applied*. The obscenity test gives communities a voice in determining what sex materials appeal to the prurient interest and what *hardcore* sexual conduct is depicted or described in a patently offensive manner, but that voice is not unlimited. As the Supreme Court said in [Jenkins v. Georgia](#), 418 U.S. at 160-161 (1974)

"Even though questions of appeal to the 'prurient interest' or of patent offensiveness re 'essentially questions of fact,' it would be a serious misreading of *Miller* to conclude that juries have unbridled discretion in determining what is 'patently offensive'... It would be wholly at odds with this aspect of *Miller* to uphold an obscenity conviction based upon a defendant's depiction of a woman with a bare midriff, even though a properly charged jury unanimously agreed on a verdict of guilty."

Similarly, the Supreme Court said in [Smith v. U.S.](#), 431 U.S. 291, at 305-306 (1977):

"We have stressed before that juries must be instructed properly so that they consider the entire community and not simply their own subjective reactions, or the reactions of a sensitive or callous minority... *Finally, it is always appropriate for the appellate court to review the sufficiency of the evidence.*" [Emphasis added]

To constitute "'hard core' pornography", the material must also be lacking in serious artistic, literary, political and scientific value; *and this serious value prong of the obscenity test is not determined by applying community standards.* [[Pope v. Illinois](#), 481 U.S. 497 (1987)]

Second, in *Ashcroft v. ACLU*, 535 U.S. at 576, the Supreme Court noted, "community standards need not be defined by reference to a precise geographic area." In a concurring opinion, Justice O'Connor said (535 U.S. at 587-588): "Our precedents do not forbid adoption of a national

standard...To be sure, the Court in *Miller* also stated that a national standard might be 'unascertainable' 413 U.S. at 31, and 'unrealistic,' id, at 32. But where the Internet is concerned, I do not share that skepticism." In another concurring opinion, Justice Breyer said (535 U.S. at 591), "A nationally uniform adult-based standard—which Congress, in its Committee Report, said that it intended—significantly alleviates any special need for First Amendment protection."

Third, the obscenity concept would still serve its laudable purpose (i.e., to protect society without trampling on the First Amendment) if juries weren't required to apply "community standards." In an article, "Reflections on 'Contemporary Community Standards': The Perpetuation Of An Irrelevant Concept In The Law Of Obscenity" (*North Carolina Law Review*, Vol. 56, page 1, at pages 27-28, 1978), [Frederick F. Schauer](#) makes the argument:

"The concept of community standards exists in present day obscenity law only by historical accident...A rejection of the contemporary community standards concept and its partner in crime, patent offensiveness, would not decrease the protection that the First Amendment now affords...If the contemporary community standards factor is eliminated, the unpredictability of local standards and the concomitant problems raised in *Smith* are removed...The need to evaluate the impossible that occurred under the national standards formulation would also disappear. Obscenity determinations would be narrowed to the determination of appeal to the prurient interest as a physiological and psychological factor and that of 'serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.'"

Availability of Hardcore Pornography Not the Same Thing as Community Acceptance

Defenders of hardcore pornography say that the widespread availability of this material is proof that communities now accept it. If that were true, no jury could ever find any sex material to be obscene—because to be obscene sexual material must violate community standards. But as the Supreme Court noted in [Hamling v. United States](#), 418 U.S. 87, at 125-126 (1974):

"As stated by the Court of Appeals, the mere fact that materials similar to the brochure at issue here 'are for sale and purchased at book stores around the country does not make them witnesses of virtue.' Ibid. Or, as put by the Court of Appeals in *U.S. v. Manarite*, 448 F.2nd 583 (CA2 1971): 'Mere availability of similar material by itself means nothing more than that other persons are engaged in similar activities.' Id., at 593."

Undoubtedly, there is a large market for hardcore pornography; but just as with other addictions, a large percentage of hardcore pornography is presumably consumed by a relatively small percentage of people (young and old) addicted to it.

Furthermore, the mere fact that an individual looks at pornography does not mean he or she approves of the materials viewed (many are ashamed of themselves) or of the full array of degrading, perverse and violent hardcore sex materials available on the Internet.

According to an article in *USA TODAY* ("Online porn often leads hi-tech way," 3/9/04), "one in four Internet users in the USA visited porn sites in December." What the article didn't say is that many visits were by individuals who are addicted to pornography, who are under 18 years of age, or who accidentally went to porn sites while looking for other sites. Even then, 75% of Internet users (a

large majority) didn't visit a porn site in December.

In [March 2002](#) and again in [March 2004](#), MIM commissioned [Wirthlin Worldwide](#) to ask a question in a national survey about enforcement of federal Internet obscenity laws. Eighty-two percent of adult Americans surveyed in March 2004 said that the Federal laws against Internet obscenity should be *vigorously* enforced. In a virtually identical question asked by Wirthlin in March 2002, 81% said yes to that question. The question read as follows:

"Since 1995, the World Wide Web has expanded rapidly and is now estimated to contain as many as 40 million [*the 2002 poll cited "20 million"*] websites. A large number of these Internet websites contain hard-core pornography. The Supreme Court has said that those who distribute hard-core pornography can be prosecuted under obscenity laws. In 1996, Congress expanded federal obscenity laws, making it a crime to distribute obscene materials on the Internet. In your opinion, SHOULD the federal laws against Internet obscenity be vigorously enforced? And do you hold that opinion strongly or just somewhat?"

To help dispel the notion that obscenity has become as mainstream and acceptable as apple pie, MIM attorneys drafted a [Concurrent Resolution](#) expressing the sense of Congress that "the federal obscenity laws be vigorously enforced throughout the nation." In November 2003, the Senate adopted [S. Con. Res. 77](#) by *unanimous consent*. Yes, Senators may have had this year's election in mind, but if obscenity were as popular as some say, there is *NO Way* Sen.Con.Res.77 would have been adopted by unanimous consent.

Tricks Pornographers Play

By: Jerry Ropelato

There was a time when tricking a teen into viewing pornography meant that his pals pasted a Playboy centerfold into his locker. On the other hand, if he went looking for it, he could've gotten hold of a magazine or two through an unscrupulous store clerk or a friend's older brother. But once those few pages had exhausted their appeal, there was no full-scale blitz to deluge him with more.

Times have changed. Not only is pornography today more lewd and provocative, but its peddlers (now part of a multi-billion dollar business) are much more aggressive in their recruitment of new customers. For both sides, the Internet has offered up a crucial ingredient to the burgeoning industry--anonymity. No need to leave one's home to purchase pornography. Now, a never-ending supply of ever more erotic and interactive pornography can be accessed and experienced in a completely private world. And now, teen boys aren't the sole target. To a pornographer, anyone with a computer is a potential addict.

Just about anyone who has used the Internet--from 7--year-old boys to 80-year-old grandmas--knows that pornography is just a click away. But most Internet users still believe that unless they go looking for porn, it won't find them. What they don't realize, however, is how aggressively pornographers are implementing new strategies in marketing and technology to actually push pornography to unwitting users, without their consent, and often even without their knowledge.

DECEPTION The most common technique for tricking the Internet user is by sheer deception. When you walk into your neighborhood grocery store, you expect to find groceries on the shelves.

But if, instead, you find thousands of explicit pornographic videos, you would be outraged. If the store appeared just as it did yesterday with the same name and same signs, wouldn't any unsuspecting shopper assume it was the same grocery store and not a porn outlet? Sound far-fetched? Not on the Internet!

Porn-Napping It is a common practice among pornographers to purchase expired domain names when the original owner forgets to renew the current domain name, a strategy known as "porn-napping." After purchasing the expired domain name, they then redirect the expired URL back to their own porn sites. Porn-nappers sometimes offer to resell the domain name back to the original owner for an exorbitant fee that borders on extortion.

Thousands of well-known companies have learned the hard way how critical it is to keep tabs on their domain registrations. Due to an unfortunate clerical error, the accounting firm of Ernst and Young let the registration lapse on their children's money management site, moneyopolis.org. Quickly purchased by a pornographer, all visitors to the site ended up at euroteensluts.com, obviously a porn site, until Ernst and Young repurchased moneyopolis.

Ernst and Young is not alone. Other big-name porn-napping victims include AOL, the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, the Dutch Government, the United Nations, and even the U.S. Department of Education.

Cyber Squatting Many pornographers legally purchase domain names for legitimate topics in a switch-up referred to as "cyber squatting." As an example, someone expecting to find information about the President of the United States might type in whitehouse.com and be very confused (or outraged) at finding explicit porn on the site. The official site for the Whitehouse is at whitehouse.gov rather than .com. Other examples of cyber squatting include the innocent-sounding web domain names of civilwarbattles.com, eugenoregon.com, and tourdefrance.com.

Doorway Scams A close cousin to porn-napping and cyber-squatting is a technique known as a "doorway scam," which makes use of one of the most common tools on the Internet-the search engine. Experienced pornographers have figured out that by carefully constructing their websites, and designing them around non-pornographic themes, they gain new opportunities to deceive unsuspecting surfers. Web page content is created to place the website high on a search engine's results, and after clicking on it, the user is redirected to a porn site.

Another version of the doorway scam is to create a porn site around a common, non-pornographic theme. So rather than redirect the Internet user to another unrelated-but pornographic-site, this technique actually creates pornographic web pages related to their title. Thus, in an innocent search for "livestock," the unsuspecting user may open up a page depicting bestiality.

Misspelling Not long ago, if you were attempting to go to one of the most popular search engines, google.com, and accidentally typed in an extra "l" (google.com) you would have ended up at an Asian porn site. Pornographers are buying up the misspelled domain names of trendy, high-traffic sites with hard-to-spell names, such as www.abercrombieandfitch.com, etc.

Speaking of Google, it recently became one of the first search engines to offer the ability to search the Internet by images, rather than in text and text-links. With this new technology, the results of the

search are presented in an image or thumbnail graphical format. It is not hard to imagine how pornography can easily make its way into image search results.

Advertising has become a huge business for web sites, and this innovation has not eluded clever pornographers. Fortunately, most legitimate and responsible businesses will not sell advertising space to pornographers. But unfortunately, that hasn't stopped a large number of porn-industry leaders, who have created fake system error messages, message alert boxes, or false forms that dupe you into thinking you have to click on the OK button or enter certain information, when in reality, you are clicking on the link to open the pornographer's front door.

ENTRAPMENT If you've fallen prey to any of the above scams and entered a porn site, whether accidentally or not, your computer may have been marked or altered in some covert way. Depending on what was done at the porn site – whether just an unintentional visit, a quick tour, or a download of a picture or program – a whole host of problems can be encountered.

Looping One common trick is to put your computer into a never-ending loop with new porn pages appearing, one right after the other. The faster you close the pages, the faster the new pages appear.

Mouse trapping Depending on the browser you use, some sites will alter the use of the Back button or the Close function, preventing you from exiting the pornographic website. This practice is sometimes known as "mousetrapping," because it renders your mouse useless. Regardless of what you do, you have lost control of your browser, similar to being caught in a mousetrap.

Startup File Alteration It is also possible to have your computer altered with the consequences not showing up immediately. In one technique, pornographers place a program into your startup directory that sends you to a porn site or displays a pornographic image whenever you boot up.

Cookies A cookie is a small file placed on your computer's hard drive when you visit certain websites. Though not necessarily a bad function, cookies may contain considerable personal information such as your buying habits, personal preferences, and Internet usage history. Since they can store information about you personally and about your Internet habits, they can be used by unscrupulous pornographers to track every move you make on the Web and target you for various scams, as well as becoming a threat to your Internet privacy.

DANGEROUS DOWNLOADS Pornographers are experienced at disguising themselves as credible websites. How well do you know the reputation of the source of your newly downloaded graphics? Hopefully, you didn't just invite the pornographer, in sheep's clothing, to invade your computer with a program that will take you on a never-ending pornographic ride with the wolf in the driver's seat.

Trojan Horses With literally millions of free downloads readily available for the taking, you can get everything from screen savers, background images, and fancy desktop icons to serious gaming applications and highly advanced software programs. But be warned—that very appealing new screen saver may actually be a Trojan horse, that when clicked upon, kicks off a program that opens up into a world of pornography, and also possibly wreaking havoc in your system. Trojan horses and other malicious invaders can be placed on your machine even when downloading something as simple as a pretty calendar or a children's puzzle.

Dialers A more recent trick that unscrupulous porn dealers are experimenting with involves using downloads to covertly install expensive dialers on an unsuspecting user's PC that will automatically dial for-pay (and frequently long distance) porn sites, charging exorbitant fees every time they do so. The Federal Trade Commission recently filed a case against a company for a variation of the dialer scam. This particular porn dealer was using downloads to install 1-900 dial-up programs that replace the existing ISP Internet accounts.

Spyware Also called adware, spyware can be installed on your computer without your knowledge when you download something from the Internet or from file-sharing programs. Spyware covertly gathers user information through the user's Internet connection and transmits that information back to the spyware author. Some spyware programs have the ability to monitor keystrokes, scan files on the hard drive, snoop other applications, and collect email addresses, passwords, and credit card numbers. Generally used for advertising, spyware can also give a porn peddler a wealth of information about his unsuspecting prey.

Live Action Webcams are special cameras that are set up to record and broadcast full-motion video and sound over the Internet. Originally, this technology was used to implement inexpensive teleconferencing capabilities for businesses. Now it is one of the favorite technologies used on pornographic websites-real-time viewing of sexual activities. This concept, popularized by the movie, *The Truman Show*, allows for 24-hour uncensored and uncut online viewing. Webcams can be installed in a bedroom, dormitory room, showers, etc. A simple click from a website can allow you, as an invited guest, to participate in a voyeuristic journey into an individual's most intimate experiences.

Email Depending on which email service you use, you may have already been flooded with unwanted and unsolicited pornography. Hotmail and AOL email accounts have been favorite targets for porn peddlers' aggressive marketing strategies. You can actually become entangled in an inappropriate or adult website before you even know that the email you received has anything to do with pornography.

And don't make the mistake of thinking that simply following the unsubscribe instructions will end your email problems. By responding, you are telling the pornstar not only that your email account is valid, but also that you read his unsolicited message. Most likely he will continue to use and sell your address.

Some emails contain high-tech multimedia video attachments that begin playing the instant you click on them, whether inadvertently or not. New email technology even allows a video to be sent as part of the email rather than an attachment, with the result being that the video begins playing on your screen before you even realize what happened.

Emails are infamous for transmitting worms or viruses. As an example, the worm known as "Homepage" can modify your browser's user default home page, so that every time you click on your browser, you are automatically sent to a porn website.

Email Spoofing One of the latest techniques in getting unsuspecting readers to open inappropriate email is to use a technique known as "spoofing." Originally developed as a virus transmitter, this practice works on users who wouldn't think of opening an email attachment from an unknown

source. Through various methods, a deceitful marketer can send you a "spoofed" email from someone in your address book, creating a false sense of security as you open their attachment.

Chat Would you leave your front door open for a stranger to walk in and talk to your 10-year-old daughter while you are away at work? When it comes to Chat, that is exactly what is occurring. With Instant Messenger (ICQ) or IRC chat, it is extremely easy for a pornographer or pedophile to gain the trust of your child. Once this trust is built, your child may be persuaded to do a myriad of activities they would normally never consider doing, such as learning about and discussing sexual activities with a stranger, being coaxed into downloading pornography, or, as in several notorious cases, being lured to a meeting location and then being raped and murdered.

Another chat room trick that has been recently introduced includes "bots," robot programs that automatically invade ongoing chatroom discussions. These programs seduce the chatroom participants with provocative come-ons like "Click here to see me live," or "Hot girl, click here to see naked".

FILE SHARING One of the most rapidly growing segments of the porn market is through file-sharing networks. Why? Because it's free. Most parents have never heard of file sharing, but the growth rate of file-sharing programs has been absolutely explosive. In fact, CNET has a site called download.com which is used as an Internet clearinghouse for software. They report that during a single week of software downloads, over 3.1 million copies of file-sharing programs were downloaded.

Since most file-sharing networks are set up outside of the worldwide web, thus bypassing your browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape, etc.) and even your Internet Service Provider, they are also outside the realm of most filters. Very few filtering products can protect against file-sharing activities, but since this system is largely unknown to a whole segment of the population, many people have a false sense of security after installing a regular Internet filter.

Peer-to-Peer You have probably heard of Napster, the peer-to-peer network that was originally created to exchange music without any fees. Porn peddlers are implementing these same strategies. Instead of sharing your favorite song, they are making it easy to share the most popular pornographic materials, including X-rated adult videos.

Bulletin Boards Using bulletin boards-which do not use the Internet-is another method of sharing files. To access a bulletin board, typically you dial into their computer system, via a modem, and sign in with a password. Pornographers dealing with child pornography frequently use bulletin boards because it is easier for them to hide their illegal activities and also to control who is entering their computer systems.

After reading about the pornographer's extensive bag of tricks, the most common reaction is to just shut it down-disconnect the Internet, get rid of the computer, and eliminate the threat. Unfortunately, this radical approach is not only impractical and improbable, but it may also be the worst thing you can do to your children (and yourself, for that matter). Students-young and old-need the Internet to succeed in school and train for the future. It won't be long before most, if not all, high-paying jobs will require Internet skills. Plus, the Internet is arguably the most incredible and valuable resource ever conceived to connect us to our world-past, present, and future. It would be a shame not to take advantage of the many positive aspects of this remarkable, though unpredictable, technology.

SO... WHAT TO DO? Getting rid of the pornography problem in the new millennium is not quite as simple as closing the locker door or stuffing the magazine under the mattress. But if the old adage "knowledge is power" is true, then gaining an understanding of how pornography is being disseminated can at least be the first step in helping the unwary consumer gain power over the Internet. Other steps include playing it safe by:

1. Positioning the computer in an open room with the monitor facing out
2. Using a dial-up service for your Internet Service Provider (rather than being always connected)
3. Disabling your cookies (which might, however, undermine your PC's online functionality)

In addition, a majority of these problems can be solved by using a filtered ISP to access the Internet or by installing reliable monitoring or filtering software. A good, comprehensive monitor that logs and reports all computer usage, online and off, may be all that's needed to dispel your fears about what's going on with your computer.

If, however, the monitor indicates that pornography is getting into your PC through one of the above-noted methods, you may want to consider a filtering solution. Before purchasing one, it's a good idea to do some research on the background and credibility of the company, and then compare the different features offered. Some things to look for in a good filter are:

1. It should be effortless to install
2. It should be user-friendly with basic pre-set functionality
3. It should be customizable and adaptable to every user's needs and values
4. It should include easy-to-find helps and provide live customer support
5. It should be impossible to disable without authorized password
6. Reports and logs should be convenient, detailed, and easy to access (from any location)

With technology changing at the speed of light, these tricks may be just the tip of the iceberg. But the solutions don't lie solely in technology. Online pornography is now a worldwide problem, affecting toddlers to grandparents from California to Calcutta, from Sydney to Sudan. It's not going to go away on its own, and taking the ostrich approach won't keep it off your computer. It will take a huge world-community effort--combining the best of education, technology, legislation, and vigilance--but it can be done. It must be done.

Roger Young: 'I liken Internet pornography to a ballistic missile

Morality in Media recently spoke with Roger Young, the FBI's former lead obscenity investigator, about his career investigating obscenity and how citizens can support such work

MORALITY IN MEDIA: Could you tell us about your work as an FBI agent, particularly with obscenity and child pornography cases.

ROGER YOUNG: I joined the FBI in November 1975, and in October 1977 began working child pornography, prostitution and obscenity cases. For over 23 years, the majority of my work was in these areas. I was fortunate to have worked three major national obscenity initiatives-one of which was MIPORN [code name]. MIPORN investigations began in 1977, and on Valentine's Day 1980 the FBI simultaneously executed search warrants across the nation on 54 major pornographers. I worked on investigations in San Francisco. All defendants were prosecuted in Miami, Florida.

The next one was BLUE DARCY [code name], which was the case against Reuben Sturman, who was described by the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography [in 1986] as the most prolific producer and distributor of pornography-and the wealthiest pornographer-in the history of the world. BLUE DARCY went from 1982 until Sturman was convicted in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1992, on Racketeering-Interstate Transportation of Obscene Matter. Prior to that, he was convicted in 1989 in Cleveland, Ohio for income tax evasion.

Then beginning in the late 1980s, [I was involved in] another major national initiative called WOODWORM [code name], that targeted major pornographers, many of them connected to organized crime, in the San Fernando Valley area north of Los Angeles. I worked on three cases prosecuted in Las Vegas where I was based.

All along, I had some national and international child pornography cases and cases involving child prostitution. But when I began working child pornography cases early in 1977, there were no child porn laws. We used obscenity laws to prosecute child porn. In 1978, Congress enacted a law that prohibited the production of child porn without proof of obscenity, but the law was limited to material produced for pecuniary profit. It wasn't until after 1982, when the Supreme Court held that child porn could be prosecuted without proof of obscenity, that Congress enacted laws aimed at noncommercial production and distribution of child pornography.

I always tell people this -- there's no such thing as just an obscenity or child pornography case, because you have all kinds of other laws being violated and residual effects on the community and individuals that are affected by these types of cases.

MIM: Were you assigned to a particular FBI Field Office, or was your assignment obscenity and child porn generally, so that you could work out of any office?

RY: I was assigned to the San Francisco division, which reached as far south as San Luis Obispo and north along the coast to the Oregon border. When cases came up that involved obscenity or child pornography, I would cover that whole area. I was in San Francisco right after I graduated from the FBI Academy until I was transferred to Las Vegas, which covers the state of Nevada, in January 1981. The rest of my time was in the Las Vegas Division.

But-much like my father, who in 1968 was designated the national field coordinator for all pornography cases throughout the United States-the FBI started flying me to various spots in the U.S. to assist [in obscenity cases] and to debrief any major figures in the pornography industry that decided to do a plea agreement or decided to cooperate with the Government in crimes they had committed.

MIM: Was there a period when both you and your father were in the FBI together?

RY: He was in the Bureau from 1940 to 1972. I entered in 1975. My father presented me with my FBI credentials when I graduated from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., and the FBI gave me his badge to wear, which I wore throughout my career.

MIM: Could you tell us more about your father's FBI career efforts against obscenity?

RY: From 1955 until he retired, my father was the lead investigator in the FBI for obscenity. He investigated and watched the San Fernando Valley area develop into what is commonly called "The Porn Valley." He worked obscenity cases-which was very difficult at the time, because there was no racketeering statute. You couldn't really attack the companies; you had to find and develop investigative techniques to arrest the owners. But most of the time you ended up arresting the pornography store managers or the people who actually carried the obscenity interstate.

He worked with the Postal Inspectors and other agencies, and through his efforts he developed research and intelligence that later benefited me. When we got together after I started working obscenity cases, whether we were playing golf or fishing, it was like a clinic. He passed on information that was very beneficial to me.

MIM: How did the passage of the RICO-Obscenity statute help your work?

RY: Very valuable. It really put teeth into the law. It was extremely helpful in 1984 when President Reagan signed that bill. Because now the FBI could use the racketeering statute to shut down the business and seize all the assets and the land and buildings and the cars, vehicles, houses-if anything was bought from monies from the crime of obscenity, and we could prove that this was their sole income, and the profits from this obscenity business purchased this Mercedes-Benz and this home, and so forth-the Government could seize it all. That's what hurt the pornographers. And that's what the racketeering statute was meant to do-to cause an illegal business to cease and desist.

MIM: And you were able to use that statute in the field to do those major seizures.

RY: Yes, especially in the Reuben Sturman case in Las Vegas. We were able to shut down and seize the profits, the assets and the land on seven pornography bookstores in Las Vegas, two X-rated theaters-one in Reno, Nev., one in Berkeley, Calif.-[plus] two in San Francisco. [We] took an unbelievable amount of pornography off the street, and also prevented a large amount from even getting to the street.

MIM: Was there any child porn case you worked on that stands out for you?

RY: One of my early cases in San Francisco was an international child pornography and child

prostitution ring, highly organized-two men who traveled throughout the world to have sex with children also had a mail order business in San Francisco. They put out color brochures through the U.S. mails of all kinds of pornography, including child pornography, and were making about a million dollars a year, bringing children in from Mexico, Puerto Rico, other parts of the country. They had 5,000 customers throughout the U.S. and 26 foreign countries. A large amount of those customers were purchasing and receiving child pornography, and the majority of them were involved with sex acts with children. At the time, it was a shock to the public and to the media to discover that such a thing was occurring, two miles from the FBI office in San Francisco.

MIM: When did that case occur?

RY: That was from 1977 until trial in 1981. Then following that, there were an awful lot of child pornography cases after the Federal [child pornography] law was passed, and the emphasis in the Attorney General's office became crimes against children.

MIM: There's a heightened awareness of the dangers of child pornography-but in fact these kinds of crimes have been going on for a long time. People didn't just start using child pornography yesterday.

RY: Oh yes. Even before it was going on long before the public, media, prosecutors, and investigators knew what was happening. In one case I discovered a person who had produced child pornography back in 1968. That was in Florida. Some of those materials were found in search warrants we did in 1978, and then again in search warrants we did in 1982, and in search warrants we did in 1986. People just keep on producing the same stuff over and over and over again. Every once in a while, we'd do search warrants and find some of the material that I could identify from cases that I'd done previously.

Most people think that when you do an obscenity or a child pornography case, you do the case and that's it, it's over. But actually this material is preserved by people and reproduced over and over and over again.

MIM: Could you tell us more about the MIPORN and the WOODWORM cases?

RY: In the MIPORN case, two FBI agents went undercover, formed a pornography business in Miami as a sting operation with bank accounts and so forth, and traveled throughout the United States, meeting with and doing business with major pornographers, and discovering how prolific, how really bad it was.

As I said, there's no such thing as "just" an obscenity case, because they ran into child pornography, stolen property, illegal weapons, money laundering, prostitution-many, many violations. The whole MIPORN sting was organized by the FBI so that these two agents (who were undercover beginning in 1977 through the search warrants on Valentine's Day 1980) could purchase different types of pornography they believed to be obscene, and have everything shipped to their warehouse in Miami, and have all the cases prosecuted in Miami, which was done by prosecutors there, especially Marcella Cohen, who was an outstanding prosecutor working for the Strike Force in Miami.

MIM: And WOODWORM?

RY: WOODWORM was organized in 1989 in Los Angeles by federal prosecutors, FBI agents, and detectives from the LAPD Administrative Vice Unit. The LAPD detectives had experience working obscenity cases and knew the area. These detectives worked with FBI offices around the country to conduct investigations of major pornographers located in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles. Three major pornographers headquartered in the San Fernando Valley were assigned to our FBI office in Las Vegas. We investigated the three and purchased hardcore pornography, using a "sting" type operation so that the pornography was shipped interstate from California to Nevada.

One pornographer assigned to me was a "made" member of the Colombo [organized crime] family, Anthony Perraino, who was the originator of the "Deep Throat" movie back in the '69-'70-'71 era, and had continued on with his pornography business and developed it in the San Fernando Valley. His two sons were "Butch" (real name Louis) and Joe Perraino. The Perraino case went to court in the mid-1990s.

MIM: How did the criminal cases work out?

RY: Two of the three pornographers pled guilty and did not go to trial. The Perrainos went to trial in Las Vegas, but the timing of the trial was bad. It was after the O.J. Simpson case, and the defense attorney portrayed the federal prosecutors as outsiders who had come from Washington to tell the people of Nevada what they could or could not see. He portrayed the government of harassing the defendants and threatening their freedom of speech, and he insinuated that ethnic prejudice (the defendants were Italian) was a factor in the prosecution.

The attorney had the jury so inflamed that I don't think they even heard the judge's instructions. If they would have followed the judge's instructions, regardless of their personal beliefs, there was no question in my mind that they would have found the films obscene. But he so inflamed the jurors that within an hour they came back and found the Perraino sons, "Butch" and Joe, not guilty. Anthony Perraino was not prosecuted because he was ill and not expected to live. In my entire, this was the only obscenity case that went to trial that we lost.

MIM: Hardcore pornography seems to be everywhere on the Internet. Is it realistic to think that we can reverse this flood of obscenity through the vigorous enforcement of the Federal obscenity laws?

RY: Yes, I believe we can. Throughout our nation's history citizens have made a difference by fighting against things that harm society. Obscenity and child pornography laws were created by people who complained, who talked to their legislators, who didn't give up. We would not have any laws against pornography if it weren't for people who got the ball rolling.

Today, I liken Internet pornography -- because it's so prolific -- to a transcontinental ballistic missile with multiple atomic warheads that come and explode all over the U. S. That's what we have now -- multiple explosions of obscenity on the Internet. I cannot give a talk without someone saying that they have been "spammed" or that they got unwanted adult obscenity on the Internet from just trying to do something else--research, for instance, or they bought something and their screen name was sold or stolen and they got unwanted obscenity on the Internet.

I estimate that there are over 400,000 obscenity sites. This is not by accident. This is a planned and encouraged thing by the major pornographers to make it so prolific on the Internet that people say,

"What can we do about it, it's so overwhelming, we shouldn't even try." That's the goal of the people making the money from it. It comes down to one word-greed. It's a planned attack; all this Internet obscenity is not by chance.

Much if not most hardcore pornography on the Internet, however, originates from a small number of major pornographers. They own countless porn sites and provide pornography for countless other sites. Putting even a few of these major pornographers out of business through enforcement of obscenity laws, including RICO-obscenity laws, would make a huge impact.

Once word gets out that the government means business about fighting obscenity, other pornographers will choose to get out of the business. Porn attorneys speak of this as a "chilling effect," as if our cherished First Amendment freedoms were somehow threatened! But criminal laws have two primary purposes: first, to punish crime and second, to deter crime. When enforcement of obscenity laws deters future violations of obscenity laws, that's a good thing. That is law at work.

But to reverse the flood tide of obscenity will take a concerted effort on the part of the Justice Department's Obscenity Section in Washington; federal prosecutors in district offices nationwide; FBI Agents, Postal Inspectors, and Customs Agents; and state and local law enforcement agencies. And it will take about 4-8 years.

MIM: What do you say to people who say that law enforcement ought to be focusing just on sexual exploitation against children, and who would say that obscenity enforcement is a wasteful distraction?

RY: I say that people who feel that way need to be educated and made aware of how devastating obscenity is to both children and society, and that much sexual exploitation of children involves use of "adult" obscenity. Before I retired, I worked on the "Innocent Images" cases, targeting crimes against children on the Internet. In many of those cases, adults used "adult" pornography to target children they wished to have sex with.

Obscenity is so flagrant right now, it's such an explosion on the Internet, that any child can hardly get on the Internet and start doing research without running into it, especially now with major pornographers using catchy names and timing their pornography [sites] to come out [to take advantage of it]. For example, the movie "Scooby-Doo" comes out, and a pornography site opens called "doobyonline." I got a complaint from parents where their two 10-year-old daughters were looking for pantyhose on the Internet and found the site "teenpantyhose," which turns out to be hard-core pornography.

Now there's research and articles, being published quite often, on the effects of obscenity on children. And of course there's the research on how hard-core violent pornography reaches children going through puberty and into teenage-hood. They become addicted to it and it affects them in later life, some of them becoming very serious criminals.

MIM: How do you answer those who say that obscenity crimes are victimless?

RY: I wish I could get across to more people how many parents I've sat with whose children have been affected by this -- not to mention, in Las Vegas, the one or two wives a year who would have

the courage to call or come into the FBI office and talk to me, and say, "Can't you do something about this pornography store? My husband is spending all kinds of money there, it's affecting our family." Most of them ended up divorcing because their husbands became so involved that it tore the family apart.

MIM: Is the Mafia still involved in the production and distribution of hard-core pornography?

RY: Absolutely. I would not say that every single pornography business is involved with organized crime, but there are definitely those businesses that are directly owned, or directly involved with organized crime, making large profits. Then some pornographers are buying products from businesses that are controlled to or linked to organized crime.

My father was also able to investigate and see that in the 1960s. Organized crime (especially the Colombo and Gambino families in New York) moved into the San Fernando Valley and developed a West Coast base of operations in pornography.

MIM: From your experience, could you -- discreetly -- describe what obscene material typically consists of?

RY: Yes. First, the pornographers and their attorneys have done an unbelievable job of deceiving, confusing and causing doubt in prosecutors, investigators, judges and the general public--so much so that basically good people have often thrown out common sense and decency, not understanding what hardcore pornography is all about. Rest assured, pornographers don't want people to be educated about this.

Basically, obscenity is hard-core material, where there's some type of sexual conduct occurring. From the various court decisions over the years, the legal definition of obscenity has been established. It's a three-prong test. The first two prongs are measured by community standards. The first prong asks whether the average person, applying the standards within their community, would find that the pornography in question, taken as a whole, appeals to a prurient interest. People get confused--they say, "What is that?" That's a lustful or a morbid or a shameful desire.

The second prong, also based on community standards, asks whether the work depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way. "Patently" means "clearly"--a clearly offensive way to the viewer. This includes, but is not limited, to representations of ultimate sex acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated; also masturbation, excretory functions, lewd exhibition of the genitalia, and sadomasochism.

The third part of the obscenity test asks whether a reasonable person, looking at the material taken as a whole, would determine that the material lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value. Community standards aren't applied here.

When I teach classes -- at a university, or at the Judicial College at the University of Nevada at Reno -- I say, "Well, why was this material made? For some literary prize or newspaper article? Was it made to hang in an art museum or for some artistic prize? Was it made for some political campaign? Was it made by doctors licensed by the medical board to help people with sexual dysfunctions?"

When you put it that way, most people understand why it was made -- to make money by preying on vulnerable people and indulging debased and perverse sexual appetites. Anybody who does any surveillance of pornography bookstores knows that most of the time you see regulars who go to the same bookstores over and over again. For them, viewing pornography has become an addiction.

People in the pornography industry do not like the word [pornography]. It has a derogatory meaning. The term "adult material" was put forth by them to soften it, to try to make it more acceptable in the community. They'd rather say that this is mainstream, run-of-the-mill, adult material, not pornography, because they know that "pornography" came from two Greek words, "porne" and "graphos," which literally translated means "the writing of prostitutes."

MIM: You've retired recently from the FBI. Why are you still fighting pornography?

RY: My father did it for so many years, and he was handcuffed because he didn't have the laws and the mechanisms we have now. In 1968, my father recommended that there be a special section at FBI headquarters and a special section at the Department of Justice with prosecutors who could coordinate nationally and provide training and assistance in obscenity prosecutions. You had inexperienced assistant U.S. Attorneys calling around and asking, "How do you do this or that?"

Defense attorneys for the pornographers were experienced and organized. They had the country divided up as to who would help whom; they had their training and get-togethers to fight prosecutions.

I fought obscenity and child pornography work for over 23 years. I know how devastating the residual effects of it are on the individuals, families, communities, and the nation. I thought why would I want to retire and just have my father's work and my work die. I thought there's more here that I should be able to do. So I formed my own business, and since retirement, I've continued to teach and lecture and testify as an expert witness and do case analysis, and try to help law enforcement as much as I can.

I realized that there are so many people in all walks of life that just don't see the big picture of obscenity and the problems that it causes, and the residual effects of financial loss, of psychological damage, of the future of raising healthy people in this country, realizing how dangerous this can be. I always tell people that obscenity and child pornography should be treated like toxic gas. You need to keep it at arms' length. You can be breathing the fumes, and have it affect you, and not realize the effect that it's starting to have on you. That needs to be recognized and identified.

For instance, there have been several instances where residual crimes [other than obscenity] in a particular area decreased up to thirty-three percent after the city or county enacted an "adult use" zoning ordinance that forced sexually oriented businesses to move out of the area. Obscenity in "adult businesses" attracts individuals involved in other crimes (drugs, prostitution, indecency, rape, etc.) that also hurt the community.

MIM: Pornography is not just criminal problem, but also a spiritual problem. Why do you think most pastors have been silent about the growing menace of pornography?

RY: In many cases, it's a lack of understanding and education and awareness. Awareness and

education are the greatest weapons against pornography. Where does a pastor go to get training in this area? Certainly they don't spend time on it in seminary.

Then you have clergy who believe this is something they should not talk about. This is something to pray about, but not something to be involved with. They don't want to give the appearance they're carrying the flag, charging forward, fighting this type of thing in our society. But with the Internet, more of these clergy-and their families-are being hit right in the face with it. And that is going to wake up people.

MIM: How can the ObscenityCrimes.org Web site help get the obscenity laws enforced?

RY: Individuals and citizens throughout the country can make a difference by filling out and submitting reports from ObscenityCrimes.org. This information can then be put together and sent directly to those individuals who investigate and prosecute these matters. It definitely will help educate and [raise] the level of awareness of individuals who make the decisions to prosecute obscenity crime. And it will definitely help make them understand how serious this obscenity problem is and how damaging it can be to people of all ages and their communities, through the Internet. It will probably wake them up to how serious the proliferation of obscenity is on the Internet.

I believe that what's on the Internet is some of the worst material I have ever seen in 23 and a half years of conducting investigations for the FBI. How someone can ignore this is beyond me, when it can be so devastating. Now, with the current Administration in Washington, I believe there are people who really are starting to understand how serious this problem is and how harmful it can be to future generations.

MIM: Do you think this Web site gives the computer user at home or at work a weapon, so that they don't have to feel helpless against hardcore Internet porn any more?

RY: Certainly, my friends and some family members have called me and have said, "Gee, I've been getting this spam; I try to go to whitehouse.com, or do research about the FBI or some other subject, and I'm getting pornography. How do I get it off? What do I do about it? Who do I call? What can be done?"

People now have a tool, a method, a way of getting reports to prosecutors and making them more aware. I believe it's fantastic. For years, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has provided a CyberTipline for crimes against children; but there hasn't been in the past something for obscenity. Now there is something people can really do and feel like they're doing something worthwhile to help rid this problem from coming into the home, the workplace, the library, the school.

MIM: And this is in a form that prosecutors can use.

RY: Absolutely. The prosecutors now can take the ObscenityCrimes.org report forms and have a variety of people complaining about the same site, or multiple people in the same district, or various districts, and they can develop a lot of evidence and a lot of facts from this that would help in the prosecution of obscenity cases.

The World of Internet Obscenity

Combating Internet Obscenity Through Law Enforcement

In June 2002 Morality in Media (MIM) launched the ObscenityCrimes.org Web site to provide citizens with a convenient means online to report possible violations of federal Internet obscenity laws. Reports submitted to ObscenityCrimes.org are forwarded by MIM to U.S. Attorneys in the 50 states and to the Justice Department's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section in Washington. As of December 31, 2002, over 10,000 reports had been submitted to ObscenityCrimes.org from every state.

In 2002, MIM also retained the services of two retired law enforcement agents (with extensive experience investigating Internet pornography cases) to follow up on reports submitted by citizens to ObscenityCrimes.org and to prepare their own investigative reports which describe in detail the promotional material and sexual conduct that the agents observed on various "adult" Web sites.

Reprinted on the back are examples from the agents' investigative reports of promotional material that the agents observed on various "adult" Web sites. Each line is from a different investigative report prepared by an agent. Since "adult" Web site promotional material is often lewd and vulgar, examples reprinted here may contain language that you may find disturbing or offensive.

Well, someone may ask, if the examples are disturbing or offensive, why reprint them??

Many Don't Fully Understand How Vile and Destructive Hardcore Pornography Is

Dr. Morton A. Hill (who served as Morality in Media's president from 1962 until 1985) persuaded people to join in the War Against Pornography by showing them examples of the pictorial hardcore pornography then available. MIM discontinued that practice long ago. But there is still a need to make people realize how horrific the world of hardcore pornography really is!

Like former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stuart, most Americans would "know" hardcore pornography "if they see it." Thankfully, however, most Americans aren't often, if ever, exposed to such material. But because they aren't, many don't fully appreciate how vile and destructive hardcore pornography is -- and, therefore, many don't do much if anything to combat it!

What they do often hear and read about are euphemisms -- "adult material," "sexually explicit material," "erotica," -- all of which is supposedly harmless and protected by the First Amendment.

In 1986, the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography (Final Report) found that "increasingly, the most prevalent forms of pornography" fit the description of "sexually violent material" and that "an enormous amount of the most sexually explicit material available" can be categorized as "degrading" to people, "most often women." The Commission also found that sexually violent and degrading pornography was not "harmless."

And that was in 1986 -- before the explosion of the obscenity on the Internet! Today, hardcore pornography once available only in "adult bookstores" (if at all) is now readily accessible through the Internet in most American homes. And much of it can be easily accessed by children free of

charge -- from a computer at home, a friend's house, a job, a library or school, or with a lap top.

Hardcore Pornography on the Internet -- It's NOT 'Adult'

"1000'S OF HARDCORE FETISH PICS AND MOVIES FOR YOUR SICK VIEWING PLEASURE"

"RAPE FANTASIES! WARNING! Uncensored Videos! All Extreme! All About Forced Sex!"

"HOT YOUNG TEENS WITH DOGS, HORSES, COWS, CHICKEN, SHEEP, SNAKES, AND MORE..."

"Next time you need a leak, don't use a urinal, use a urinal slut"... "The original human piss trough."

"RAPED SCHOOL GIRLS"... "VIRGIN GIRLS RAPED"... "RAPE AN INNOCENT GIRL"

"HUGE COCKS IN SMALL PLACES"... "SEE THIS WHORE DEVOUR IT ALL"

"RAPED YOUNG NURSES"... "HARD EXTREME RAPE ACTIONS"

"FARM SLUTS, Girls Loving Animals, Wild BJs, Orgies, Bondage, Teens and More!"

"BUTT HUNGER ANAL MANIACS"... "HARDCORE AMATEUR LOCAL SLUTS LIVE"

"EXPLOITED BITCHES"... "Sometimes even the sweetest girls can really be disgusting bitches."

"THE YOUNGEST GIRLS ALLOWABLE BY LAW"... "PICS OF HOT SCHOOL GIRLS"

"WATCH HOW BEAUTIFUL WOMEN ARE HELD DOWN BY FORCE, HUMILIATED AND DEGRADED"

"Blow Jobs"... "Teen Sluts"... "Gangbangs"... "Cumwhores"... "ARE YOU A REAL MAN?..."

"Cute Japanese Babes Get Covered In Cum"... "Teen Peeing, Japanese Bondage...Cumshots"

"Teen Sex"... "Blow Jobs"... "She-Males"... "Bondage"... "Golden Showers" [urine]... "Spanking"

"THE WEB'S YOUNGEST TEEN GIRLS"... "Hot and Tight Teen Tits & Ass"... "School Girls"

"Farm Animals EVERYWHERE!! You won't believe what these girls are doing!!"

"OBSCENE ORAL CUMSHOTS"... "HARDCORE PREGNANT BABES"... "AMAZING GANG BANGS"

"Hell Bondage"... "Domination"... "Fetish"... "Masters and Slaves"

"Animal Adventures"... "GROUP SEX WITH DOGS"... "ANAL SEX WITH PIGS"

“REAL FAMILY INCEST SITE”...”THE BEST INCEST SITE IN THE ADULT WEB”

“Barely Legal Teens in Live Sex Shows”...”INNOCENT BABYSITTERS”...”YOUNG SLUTS”

“Teen Toilet Sex”...”Rape & Torture Porn”...”Scat [feces] Teen Bondage...”

“pain gang bang”...”pissing orgy”...”animal lovers”...”wicked insertions”...”pregnant”...”fisting”

The First Amendment was never intended to protect hardcore pornographic materials. As the Supreme Court said in *Miller v. California* (1973): “to equate the free and robust exchange of ideas and political debate with commercial exploitation of obscene material demeans the grand conception of the First Amendment...It is a ‘misuse of the great guarantees of free speech and free press.’”

To join in the War Against Pornography, contact Morality in Media at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10011 or at (212) 870-3222 or at mim@moralityinmedia or go to obscenitycrimes.org

The sexual criminal's relationship to porn

An interview with retired NYPD detective Raymond Pierce,
31 August 2000

Raymond Pierce, a former New York City police officer and detective, holds a bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science and a master's degree in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York. He is a contributing author to the Criminal and Civil Investigation Handbook, 2nd Edition (McGraw-Hill).

In 1985, Mr. Pierce had a year long fellowship in psychological profiling at the FBI National Academy, Quantico, Va. After his FBI fellowship, he established the Criminal Assessment and Profiling Unit of the NYPD Detective Bureau. The unit assists investigators with serial crimes and unsolved major case investigations. From 1986 to 1998, Mr. Pierce assisted federal, state, and local investigators in over one thousand criminal investigations.

He retired from the NYPD in October 1998 and established RMP International, a consultant firm located in Crestwood, N.Y., specializing in psychological profiling, wrongful death evaluation, threat analysis, and other specialized security matters. He advises attorneys, corporate security and private investigators, and local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. He was recently profiled in The New York Times (*29 March 2000*).

Morality in Media recently spoke with Mr. Pierce at MIM's Manhattan offices.

MORALITY IN MEDIA: Could you tell us about your own police background and experience in the New York City Police Department?

RAYMOND M. PIERCE: I was appointed to the New York City Police Department in 1970, and in 1973 I was promoted to detective. I worked predominantly in a very tough area, the Seven-Five (75th) Precinct in Brooklyn, which is East New York. It's a high-crime area, every year we led the

city in homicides. In the detective squad we worked on all types of cases, from sexual assaults, child molestation cases, robberies, kidnappings, as well as homicides.

In the early 80s they developed a sex crimes squad, which is now called the Special Victims squad, which handles only sexual assault cases, whether children or adults, so that was taken away from the detective squad. But I also worked with the crime scene unit for a while, doing forensic recovery. So I saw the forensic side, but I was never trained in the behavioral aspects of crime. Why does someone commit that crime? I would have to track them down, arrest them, take them to court, but I was never really interested in why they committed that crime. The training that I received in Quantico and my readings and studies afterward-it's really given me an insight into why that person commits that crime. For my purposes ... it's to understand that person in order to then short-cut the criminal career of another person in the future.

I received an assignment to go down to the FBI's Behavioral Science unit in Quantico, Virginia and worked for a year with them. It was an intensive study of serial murder, serial rape, understanding the criminal mind, and the process called "psychological profiling." What a profile does is, it provides an investigator with a description of the individual based on the information at the crime scene or based on information developed from a series of crimes.

If you're dealing with a sexual offender, let's say it's a serial rapist or a child predator. What can that live victim tell us about the crime? If the victim has been killed, and it's been a sexually related assault or a series of murders, what evidence at the scene-not the forensic evidence, which is very important-but when we don't have enough forensic evidence to identify an individual, what does that person do at the scene that can give me an idea of the personality of the individual?

Based on the research, many times you can come up with a description of the individual that will help the investigators go in the right direction. It's a general description, more or less what we would have received if we had that little old lady in the window that saw the killer walking or running away from the scene-kind of a general description, race, background, male, female, type of clothing the person would prefer, and also the type of work the person would prefer; what connection the person may have had with the victim also.

I was there in Quantico for a year in the fellowship program, then I returned to New York City, and then from 1986 to 1998 that's what I did in New York City and surrounding jurisdictions. In October of '98 I retired, and that's what I'm doing now in retirement.

MIM: Consulting work, in other words?

RMP: Yes, I assist police departments, private investigators, corporate security, and just about anyone who needs assistance with an unsolved crime.

MIM: And you use profiling as one of your tools.

RMP: Crime scenes and any type of negative behavior [are] a reflection of your own personality. If this were my desk at home, it would be a lot messier than it is right now. It's that personality, it's what people give priority to. Little clues are given away, in a person's writing habits, or whatever.

MIM: What are your definitions of "pornography," and related terms like "soft-core pornography," "hard-core pornography," "violent pornography"?

RMP: I have no need to differentiate between "soft core," or "hard core" pornography. I know what the media defines as "soft core" and "hard core." For me it's anything written, spoken, printed, photographed or videotaped to elicit a sexual response from an individual. What the general public may consider soft-core pornography, that's enough stimulation for a criminal. It depends on what goes on in the individual's mind. If there's enough stimulation for a criminal to use to fantasize before committing a crime; sometimes they use it during a crime and many times they use it afterwards.

MIM: So pornography is one word, essentially, for you.

RMP: For me it is yes.

MIM: Do you believe, from your experience, that there's a greater consumption of pornography among sex offenders in contrast to non-offenders?

RMP: In my experience, offenders in general have a heavy exposure to pornography. I cannot tell you what the general population's exposure is, but it's available for them in different forms.

Many times when you've been looking for a person for a while, particularly for a serious crime, whether it be sexual in nature or not, well, when you arrest the person you ask, "Well, where were you for four days? What did you do for four days?" "Well, I had committed the crime, I had to get out of sight." "Well, where did you go?" "I went to a sleazy motel, got a prostitute to come in, or one of these motels that have X-rated videos constantly going on 24 hours a day..." And that's how they relieve their tension.

And it was not just once or twice. Over and over again it would be, "I went up to my friend's apartment, I had a girl come up there for a while, and we watched videos." "What did you watch?" "Pornographic videos," or violence-oriented videos -- Schwartzegger movies -- *Terminator* seemed to be a favorite one, anything with that violence there.

MIM: Can you give us a rough idea of the percentage of the people who've committed sexual crimes that you've investigated that had pornography?

RMP: Anything I could say would be an approximation, but many times I wouldn't even ask, because I wasn't oriented that way back then when I was making those arrests prior to that [FBI profiling] training. But it would just come up. My partners and I would say, "Well, there's another one, another one, that's all they seem to do. And then we'd start to circulate in the area of these hotels, going to the back of hotels, looking for cars that were similar, because we knew that they were going to these locations afterwards.

Realistically, I would say over 75 percent would resort to something like that. It quite possibly could be 100 percent. I really don't know. I wish I would have been thinking that way back then, to collate that information, but I just didn't.

MIM: You've mentioned to us that you had experience with research on incarcerated pedophiles

and their sexual preferences. What can you tell us about such persons' exposure to porn generally, and also prior to committing an unlawful sexual act?

RMP: Let's say if we're talking about a child predator, if it's a male, attacking young boys, let's say. For many of these people -- I use the word "attack," but in their mind, they're not attacking these children. In their twisted mind, they're helping these children.

You would have a male living in an one-bedroom apartment, somewhere in the city, where he has a full-sized Coke machine in his living room, where he has every video game known to man and child in there, as well as pornography. He'll have a tremendous amount of heterosexually oriented pornography in his home, yet his preference would be for boys. He would also have homosexually oriented pornography.

Well, what's the reasoning there? What I've learned is they would get a child in, a young boy in the neighborhood, oh, here's a Coke machine, have a Coke here, play the video games or whatever, look at these pictures, see these girls here, see what these girls are doing here, see what they're doing with these men here or these guys here -- and let the kid go home. Then get them back another day, get his interest fueled, have the child come back again, show him the heterosexually oriented pornography, and then slowly ease him into the homosexually oriented pornography, look at them, see what they're doing, well we can't do that, but look at this, we can do this.

I find that pornography is prominent in what these people do. What I've had to learn about them is that they may have a job, eight hours, ten hours a day, but their fantasy life is every waking moment. Every waking moment when they're working, they're fantasizing about what they're going to do; the pornography that they have that fuels that; that's obviously there also.

MIM: So when you said you searched these residences, you generally found porn there all the time, or most of the time?

RMP: In the few instances where I did actually search an apartment, I would find pornography there, but in my training, in the research conducted by the FBI, more and more, their research indicated that.

MIM: How many criminal cases involving sexual murders, rapes, or assaults on adults have you consulted on or investigated, and in what percentage of those was there evidence that the perpetrator was a user of pornography?

RMP: I've investigated somewhere between 750 and a thousand cases, but was I looking for it all the time? No, I wasn't. But my estimation would be that pornography is expected by the police in those cases. It's expected that they [the suspects] read pornographic literature and magazines. Anywhere between 60 and 80 percent of the cases, if I was looking for it, I would have found it. But realistically, well over 80 percent.

MIM: What were the percentages of finding porn involved in serial sexual murders, rapes and assaults, in your estimation?

RMP: Almost always. ... Quite frequently, particularly with serial killers, they have a great problem

with power and control. Many times they'll have hidden away storage areas. There was one case I can think of -- it was a Maryland case, they found over 160 pornographic photographs in one of these industrial storage lockers. Along with some of the photographic equipment this person had, they found over 160 photographs of different women, many, many photographs, hundreds and hundreds of photographs, of 160 different women were depicted in these photographs, and many were victims of this killer.

MIM: Do you find that the serial killers have sexually assaulted their victims in the normal course of events, or did they just kill them?

RMP: In disproportionate numbers, the victims of serial killers are women. That we know of. And almost always, sexual abuse would be involved with those victims.

MIM: And by sexual abuse you mean some type of sexual intercourse or torture?

RMP: Some type of *bizarre* sexual contact or torture, yes. A serial killer is a person who kills three or more people with a significant cooling-off period in between. So if you're talking about a hit man for the Mob, perhaps, where he's just going to go out and shoot someone-that contact isn't there, it's just a cold hit, move onto the next kill.

But the serial killer, as portrayed by the media, generally, that would occur almost always with brutality, sexual assault ...

MIM: Male or female victims?

RMP: Almost always female victims. It's the rare serial killer that kills primarily male victims, as Jeffrey Dahmer was doing.

MIM: And the killing may be a way of covering up the sexual assault?

RMP: Again, it depends on the relationship between the victim and the killer. If the victim is unknown to the killer, generally there's no need to cover up any sexual assault. If the victim is known to the killer, perhaps then there's more of a reason to cover it up. But many times they're killed simply because there could be witnesses.

MIM: Ted Bundy said he never met a violent sex criminal in jail who was not addicted to pornography. What's your view of that statement?

RMP: An example would be David Berkowitz, here [in New York], who was the "Son of Sam" killer [1977]. There was a tremendous amount of pornography found in his apartment when he was arrested up in Yonkers [N.Y.]. He lived in a room about the size of this room and it was just filled with pornography, satanic material, and other things.

In my experience, what Bundy's saying is very true. In my study of Bundy's background, he was first introduced to pornography by his grandfather -- are you aware of his history?

MIM: Not that part of his history.

RMP: His grandfather seemed to be a disturbed person and early on he introduced Bundy to pornography.

In my experience ... when a child is introduced to pornography as the norm, they get a twisted view of sexuality as they grow up. And that definitely is what happened to Bundy.

He was also engaged for a period of time, and he then wound up breaking up that relationship, but the conflict he had with his former fiancée and his mother-he never attacked them. He went out and killed women [he didn't know].

MIM: Do you believe that when Bundy told Dr. James Dobson in his death row interview that his (Bundy's) activities were fueled by pornography, that he was telling the truth?

RMP: I believe that Bundy was telling the truth at that point. Fueled by pornography and fueled by his fantasies also, about that pornography, about what he wanted to do with victims he would capture.

MIM: By that you mean his fantasy of committing a sexual assault on a female?

RMP: Yes. His thoughts, his daily thoughts, concentrated on what we could consider bizarre sexual activities. And I believe he was telling Dr. Dobson the truth when he said that. I think it can be documented that he wasn't telling the truth when he spoke about the all-American family he had.

MIM: Back in '86, the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, sometimes called the Meese Commission, said that substantial exposure to sexually violent materials bears a causal relationship to anti-social acts of sexual violence, and for some sub-groups, possibly unlawful acts of sexual violence. Do you agree with this conclusion?

RMP: Very much so.

MIM: Could you elaborate?

RMP: Well, no one can say without interviewing individuals and getting a straight answer from them -- perhaps if we did a study with polygraphs wired to the individual -- that *this* pornography caused me to commit anti-social acts. But in my experience, what you just read there is perfectly true. With many offenders, that seems to be the way. I can't say what happens with all offenders, but in my experience, that seems to be what occurs with them.

That constant exposure to violent, sexually oriented material, after a while, where that would be shocking at first, after a while, for that individual, that becomes the norm. And if that becomes the norm-on paper, on video, or whatever-well, when I have a girlfriend, or I have a person that I take into my control without consent, well, that's going to be the norm for me, that's what I'm going to do if I'm that type of person.

MIM: You mentioned earlier that you don't try to sub-divide pornography into soft-core, hard-core pornography. One study concluded that exposure to non-violent pornography increases aggression against women. Do you agree with that finding?

RMP: I can't disagree with it. But again, if non-violent pornography is something that would be depicted in "Playboy," -- if you have a person isolated, not in a relationship, and sees that as the norm every month, well, when they do approach a relationship, I can see where they would be more aggressive.

MIM: Another study said that consumers of non-violent porn have diminished sympathy with and compassion for the victims of sexual assault. Do you agree with that conclusion, based on your experience?

RMP: It's reasonable to understand why they would behave that way.

MIM: A researcher suggested that desensitization of men toward rape victims occurs as strongly with depiction of sexual themes without violence as those with violent themes. Do you agree with that conclusion?

RMP: Well, suddenly, if I'm fueled by pornography, whether it will be mild, intensive or outrageous, that's going to affect that normalcy, and I can see where aggression could come in. Suddenly, if you constantly see women in degrading poses, different positions, does that then become the norm? So will you be more aggressive, would you not understand with a consenting partner: "Well, why won't you do that? It's in this magazine. Why won't you do that? You'd better do that." So, I think that's reasonable.

MIM: There was a further study that indicated that non-violent porn has a greater influence than violent porn on forced sexual access on an unwilling partner. Do you agree with that?

RMP: Violence is taking over as the majority of pornography out there. Again, it goes back to my response to your earlier question. If someone has this non-violent pornography in their home, and that can be presented during a relationship, "Well, why won't you do this? This is what I see all the time in these magazines. Why won't you do that"-it's going to really affect what could be considered a normal relationship, and a person would be more aggressive-I would agree.

MIM: Do you find that the addiction to pornography breaks up marriages?

RMP: I don't really have any investigative experience with that. Any type of addiction in a marriage, which should be a sharing experience, now I'm very self-centered when I have that addiction. And if you're my partner in the marriage, we've been married ten years or whatever, and you suddenly don't want to give that to me, well, there's going to be a problem in the marriage. And then that's the type of person who may go out to see the prostitute.

When I say I haven't seen that in my investigative experience, now that I think of it I have, because rapists go out and do that. We have many rapists around the world that are married men. They're not getting that fantasy fulfilled, or fulfilled to a point, and now they're even so addicted to the pornography, so addicted to the sexual aggression, that they will go out and attack women on the street. So I have seen that.

MIM: Do you think that Jeffrey Dahmer was insane?

RMP: I hope he was, I really do. Dahmer, in his early childhood, fit a pattern of behavior, particularly of cruelty to animals. That's seen in a lot of serial murderers. When you think about it, why does someone suddenly - generally, serial killers, when they are identified, they find that they start killing after the age of 25, 28 or so. But what happens before that? How does one get up to that point?

I think we've all grown up with friends or associates or kids in the area, and they've tortured animals. Children generally grow out of that. Well, for serial killers, that's a point of experimentation. They like that feeling of power and control when they can torture and kill a defenseless animal. Dahmer had a history of that too.

He also had a history of pornography early on in life. And again, when a child looks at pornography and gets that twisted view of sexuality, "well, that's the way it should be when I grow up, every girl should do this what I've seen in a magazine," they just don't get the true message what a giving, caring, sharing relationship should be. And Dahmer, I think, is a very good example of that. I really hope he was insane. He was deemed not insane for the purposes of the court. But he was definitely a disturbed individual, with several personality disorders.

MIM: With the cannibalism, it sounds like he really went way off the edge.

RMP: To a reasonable person, it should. And why would someone do that? If I have this bizarre need for power and control, that I have to torture these people, do whatever sexual things he did with them, well, what more power and control can I have than first, actually taking someone's life and then, in a bizarre, twisted mind, perhaps that would be an extension of the power and control, consuming that person.

MIM: Based on your law enforcement career, would you say as a society we have given the correct priority to enforcing the laws on obscenity?

RMP: I don't think we have at all. I think the obscenity laws are being chipped away. If you ask the average person in the street -- When I received your background materials I had to look up in the dictionary, what is pornography? I know I don't think about it that much, but I know what pornography is. And if you ask the average police officer in the street, and say they're selling pornographic magazines or hard core, or whatever, he wouldn't know what's the cutoff.

MIM: What do you mean by "cutoff"?

RMP: What makes it illegal.

MIM: I don't expect he would.

Children, Computers and Pornography

Can you imagine taking your teenager or child into the downtown area of a large city, such as New York or Los Angeles, and walking away, leaving your child to fend for himself as best he can?

Allowing a child to use a computer without adequate supervision and protection is doing almost exactly that.

In a large city there are many incredible learning opportunities, including the greatest museums and libraries our country has to offer. A computer also offers fascinating educational opportunities. With access to the Internet, a person can explore the wonders of the world, past and present, from the comfort of his or her home. Yet, like any great city, the Internet also draws opportunists and predators. There is real danger.

[A 2001 Kaiser Family Foundation study](#) (PDF file) found that 70% of teens (ages 15-17) had "accidentally come across" pornography while on the Internet. Of these teens, 55% said "being exposed to pornography would have a serious impact on kids under 18."

"Porn spam," often with graphic subject lines, that advertises and often links to pornographic Web sites, intrudes upon the lives of millions of people daily. Spammers, those who send these unsolicited mass e-mailings, have no concerns about the age or sensitivities of the recipients. The Web site www.obscenitycrimes.org provides citizens with a convenient means online to report possible violations of federal Internet obscenity laws. From March 12 through April 11, **[2514 reports were submitted to the site](#)** that indicated receipt of porn spam, and of these reports 974 (38.7%) were checked: "My child was (or easily could have been) exposed to the porn spam."

Pedophiles routinely prowl Internet chat rooms looking for vulnerable children and teens, striking up on-line relationships that can be used to lure these young people from their homes and into harms way. Pornography and child pornography, easily accessed and sent through the Internet, often come into play as agents of desensitization and normalization, a grooming technique used by predators to prepare youth for sexual abuse.

Parents have been able to gain a certain measure of safety through Internet filters, as well as from family friendly sites and service providers. There are many options available with which to enhance the safety of the family Internet experience. However, for those who are less technologically developed than others, choosing Internet service providers (ISPs) and protective software programs can be an intimidating task.

Sites such as SafeKids.org and getnetwise.org are excellent sources of clear and direct information for parents and children. With an impressive array of **[useful and readily accessible information](#)**, getnetwise.org is a good starting point for concerned parents. The board of advisors of this organization includes **[Donna Rice Hughes](#)**, founder of ProtectKids.com and **[author](#)** of Kids Online: Protecting Your Children in Cyberspace.

In addition to opening vast educational resources, the computer has revolutionized communications. Instantly, your child can communicate with almost anyone at almost any place in the world. He can speak to a history professor in Italy, his school friends, or a pedophile seeking his next victim. Combine this with new cell phone technologies that allow the cell phone user to connect with the Internet, send Instant Messages, access e-mail, and even post photographs on the Web, and the opportunities for unsupervised and potentially dangerous communications increases dramatically.

Syndicated columnist for the L.A. Times and host of SafeKids.com, **[Larry Magid addresses these](#)**

[issues in a recent column](#) inspired by his participation in [a March 6-7, 2003, conference held in Tokyo](#), sponsored by Childnet International, an organization based in the United Kingdom, and the Internet Association of Japan.

"Predators can not only send kids messages, but they can also call them to arrange meetings," wrote Magid. "It's common practice in Europe for predators to groom a child on the Internet and then contact that child via cell phone," continued Magid. As cell phone usage among American youth continues to increase, this threat will also increase.

Learning to manage the cell phone features that control the display of personal information provides some protection, but isn't fool proof. Magid stresses the importance of parents communicating the potential dangers of these technologies to their children.

Among the activities that children and teens engage in online, peer-to-peer file sharing has again come under serious scrutiny from government officials and groups committed to keeping kids safe, online and off. Most are familiar with the court battles between the music industry and such peer-to-peer music sharing facilitating sites as Napster. According to [a March 13, 2003, Washington Post article](#), the music industry estimates that 41% of music sharing and downloading is done by children 12 to 18 years of age.

Peer-to-peer file sharing carries its own dangers, as has been confirmed by the General Accounting Office and the House Committee on Government Reform. While Napster and similar sites focused primarily on music, other sites have sprung up that allow the exchange of basically any type of file, including videos, software and photos.

"Seemingly innocent searches for files containing images of popular cartoon characters, singers and actors produce thousands of graphic pornographic images including child pornography," said Rep. Thomas M. Davis III, who chaired the [March 13 Committee on Government Reform hearings on the subject](#) (PDF), according to the Washington Post article.

Using Kazaa file sharing software, Committee investigators found that 56% of the results for searches for files using the search words "Britney", the "Olsen twins" and "Pokemon" were pornographic in nature, and 8% of these involved underage participants. In addition, the Washington Post reported, when using terms intended to locate pornography, 44% of the search results offered pornography featuring underage youth.

According to a July 27, 2001, [minority staff report](#) (PDF), Children's Access to Pornography Through Internet File-Sharing Programs, prepared for Rep. Henry A. Waxman and Rep. Steve Largent, the new breed of file sharing programs does not operate through a central server like Napster did. Instead, once the initial software program is downloaded, programs such as Limewire, Bearshare and Aimster search computers connected to the file-sharing network without the need to use an Internet browser like Internet Explorer.

Many of the filters used by parents to prevent access to pornography cannot be relied upon to protect children in the case of this type of peer-to-peer file sharing. According to the minority staff report, only one of the top seven parental control systems, Internet Guard Dog, was able to protect at its default settings by preventing file sharing. Using advanced programming options, Cyber Sitter

and Norton Internet Security 2001 also prevent file sharing.

Pornographers and predators will use any means necessary to reach their desired targets. They make the most of rapidly changing technologies, and parents must be vigilant in the protection of their families. The protections offered by various technologies are temporary, as those who would prey on children constantly strive to find ways around existing systems. Supervision is essential, as is cultivating a working knowledge of the computer and its associated technologies. In addition to these basic steps, insisting that existing federal Internet obscenity laws be enforced (see the www.obscenitycrimes.org Web site) and [supporting legislation to protect children from predators and pornographers](#) will help ensure that the benefits of our new technologies will outweigh the dangers.

Related Item of Interest

In [an April 11, 2003, article published on dc.internet.com](#), Roy Mark reported that Congress voted "overwhelmingly" in favor of legislation aimed at the distribution of "pseudo child porn" (i.e., computer generated pornographic images of children) and legislation aimed at preventing pornographers from using "misleading domain names" to lure children and other unsuspecting users to their sites was passed. Penalties include fines and incarceration. These items were among [amendments](#) to the Child Abduction Prevention Act of 2003. The House vote was 400 to 25; the Senate vote was 98 to 0.

Minors and the problem of Internet pornography regulation

Outline for a panel presentation by Robert Peters, President, Morality in Media, Inc., for a "Symposium on Regulating Pornography and the Internet," at Albany (New York) Law School, March 2004

The Problem—Minors' Access to Internet Pornography

According to a 1999 TIME /CNN teen poll, 44% of teens ages 13 to 17 said they had "seen websites that are X-rated or have sexual content." [TIME, 5/10/99]

According to a 1999 Yankelovich poll, 58% of teens ages 13 to 17 said they visited websites "containing pornography, offensive music lyrics, gambling or messages of violence and hate" ("Teens Unseemly Web Visits," Newsday, 9/7/99). Among teens with lower grades (C average or less) or poor attendance, the percentage rose to 78%.

According to a [June 2001 Pew Internet & American Life survey](#), 15% of online teens ages 12 to 17 "say they have lied about their age to gain access to a Web site—an action that is often required in gaining access to pornographic sites. A fifth of all boys (19%) ages 12 to 17 have done this, compared to 11% of teen girls. One quarter of boys ages 15 to 17 have said they were older than they are in order to gain access to a Web site. Teens with several years of Internet experience are more likely...to have lied about their age to gain access to a Web site."

According to a [December 2001 Kaiser Family Foundation study](#), 70% of teens ages 15-17 had "accidentally come across" pornography while on the Internet. Of these teens, 55% said "being exposed to pornography would have a serious impact on kids under 18."

According to February 2002 Nielsen/NetRatings, “nearly 16% of visitors to adult-oriented Web sites were under the age of 18.” [This statistic was reported in [Youth, Pornography and the Internet](#), published by the National Research Council, at [subsection 3.3](#), May 2002.]

According to a 2002 Girl Scout Research Institute survey, “most girls (ages 13 to 18) say they can get around parents’ rules...Nearly half say they’re able to...get into a porn site (42%)” [*USA TODAY*, 2/13/02]. According to an article about the same study published in the *New York Daily News* (3/3/02), “the girls report they also get unsolicited e-mails with porn links and often accidentally go to porn sites when looking for legitimate teen sites.”

According to study published in the March 2003 Youth and Society (conducted by researchers at the University of New Hampshire's Crimes Against Children Research Center), in the course of a year [25% of children ages 10-17 who use the Internet regularly are exposed involuntarily to pornography](#) (defined to include only pictorial material). According to survey report, “24% of youth said they very or extremely upset by the exposure...Twenty-one percent also said they were very or extremely embarrassed.”

According to an Australian study released March 2003, 84% of boys ages 16 and 17 and 60% of girls ages 16 and 17 had “stumbled on” Internet sex sites and 38% of the boys “admit to having deliberately searched the Internet for pornography” ([Sydney Morning Herald, 3/3/03](#)). The article noted further that “about 5 percent of the Australian teenage boys admitted to having watched Internet porn or X-rated videos every week; 20% every two or three months.”

According to a Spring 2003 survey conducted online for Symantec Corp., “more than [80% of children \(ages 7 to 18\) surveyed receive inappropriate spam](#) on a daily basis...[H]alf of the kids surveyed reported feeling uncomfortable and offended when seeing improper email content.”

According to figures released in March 2003 by Morality in Media, between March 11, 2003 and March 10, 2004, 41% of the complaints submitted to MIM’s obscenitycrimes.org Web site that indicated receipt of porn spam, were checked, “My child was (or easily could have been) exposed to the porn spam.”

The Problem—What minors see when they visit in Internet porn sites

Last year, I spoke with a mother who caught her pre-teen son using the family computer—stationed in a common area—to access porn sites. Having looked at some of the sites he visited, the mother said, “I was naïve about the Internet; I thought you had to pay for pornography.”

The mother’s discovery is supported by a survey described in the report *Youth, Pornography and the Internet* (National Research Council, at [subsection 3.3](#), May 2002), “In a survey of adult-oriented commercial sites, the majority of adult-oriented sites (about 74%) were found to display adult content on the first page (accessible to anyone who visits the page, often through the display of sexually explicit banner ads to other sites...about 25 percent employed practices that hindered the user from leaving the site (e.g., mousetrapping) and only 3 percent required a credit card or other ‘adult check’ to proceed past the first page of the site (that is, most sites allow the user to

take a 'free preview' in which some additional content is provided."

The survey reported in *Youth, Pornography and the Internet* is supported by the experience of two retired law enforcement agents who follow up on complaints submitted to MIM's ObscenityCrimes.org Web site. Most of the complaints are the result of porn spam. A very large majority ("almost all") of the porn sites they observe depict explicit sex free of charge.

The Problem—Sexual addiction, sex miseducation, sexual assault

Sexual addiction

Here's how Dr. Victor B. Cline, a clinical psychologist and Professor Emeritus at the University of Utah, describes the phenomenon (letter, September 28, 1996):

"I have been concerned about my porn addict patients who use the Internet to access pornography to feed their addiction/illness. I have boys in their early teens getting into that stuff with really disastrous consequences. They tell me they actively search for porn on the Internet keying in such words as sex, nudity, pornography, obscenity, etc. Once they have found how to access it they go back again and again—just like drug addicts."

Here is what the Jane Brody reports in her *New York Times* article, "Cybersex Gives Birth to a Psychological Disorder" (5/16/2000), about the addiction problem:

"Researchers writing in...the Journal of Sex Addiction and Compulsivity report that many of the men and women who now spend dozens of hours each week seeking stimulation from their computers deny that they have a problem and refuse to seek help until their marriages, their jobs, or both, are in jeopardy"

[S]aid Dr. Mark Schwartz of the Masters and Johnson Institute in St. Louis, 'Sex on the Net is like heroin...It grabs them and takes over their lives. And it's very difficult to treat because the people affected don't want to give it up'...Dr. Al Cooper, a staff psychologist at Stanford who has conducted the largest and most detailed survey of online sex, calls the Net 'the crack cocaine of sexual compulsivity.'

"To those who say a behavioral compulsion is not a true addiction, Dr. [Jennifer] Schneider [an associate editor of the Journal of Sex Addiction and Compulsivity] responded with a definition of addiction that would clearly apply to cybersex abusers: 'Loss of control, continuation of the behavior despite adverse consequences and preoccupation or obsession with obtaining the drug or pursuing the behavior.'

Sex miseducation

Here's how Dr. Mary Anne Layden, Director of Education, Center for Cognitive Therapy, at the University of Pennsylvania, describes the problem:

"The messages of Internet pornography are psychologically toxic, untrue, difficult to undo and are shaped by individuals whose goals are to make money without concern for the consequences. You wouldn't allow the drug pusher on the corner to come into your home, school or library and teach

your child about medication. Why would you allow the sex pusher on the Internet to come into your home school or library and educate your child about sexuality? We owe it to our youth to give them the best, protect them from the worst, and to use our wisdom, education and experience to decide which is which.”

In his article, [Pornography's Effects on Adults and Children](#), Dr. Victor B. Cline observes:

“[S]ex counseling clinics in the United States daily make use of explicit sexual pictures, films, books and videos to change couple’s sexual behavior, beliefs and attitudes. Other centers use graphic sex films in an attempt to recondition the sexual behavior of sex offenders. However, these are carefully selected and prescribed as a physician would in writing a prescription for a particular drug to treat a specific illness or infection. . . . [N]o responsible sex therapist would ever say to a patient who had a specifically focused sexual problem, ‘Go down to the adult bookstore and help yourself to anything you can find there.

“You cannot logically argue that the kind of change which takes place in a sex counseling clinic can function only one way (just to make people healthy). The possibility certainly exists that some pornography can harm people through accidental conditioning processes or modeling or imitative learning of destructive, unhealthy, or illegal kinds of sexual activity, which some viewers may later act out.”

Even “adult” industry spokespersons agree that we learn things from watching porn: As reported in Adult Video News (Sept. 1999), Sharon Mitchell, director of the Adult Industry Medical Healthcare Foundation, said:

“Everyone who watches porn learns something from it, right? It could be a new technique...even a new kind of fantasy. Right?”

In an editorial, “The Importance of Porn...” (AVN, Mar. 2002), Heidi Pike-Johnson writes:

“Porn...inspires us to reach out and try things that we had never done before. It challenges us to live up to our desires...”

Sexual assault

“Teenagers open up to Dr. [Lynn] Ponton, a professor of psychiatry at University of California at San Francisco. In addition, as chairwoman of the Disaster and Trauma Committee of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, she works as a consultant to schools on issues of violence and risk taking...”

“Q. A disturbing finding of the national Youth Risk Behavior Survey last year is that one in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by her boyfriend...Why is this happening?
A. We’re in a culture where violence is layered over everything...So many of the sexual and violent images on the Internet and in other media use girls in objectified and sadistic way.

Q. How do gender roles fuel teenage sexual violence? A. ...I see boys who are addicted to sex sites on the Internet that show sadistic behavior toward women. It affects those boys sexual lives and also what we see with our daughters.” [“An Expert's Eye on Teenage Sex, Risk and Abuse,” *New*

York Times, 1/15/2002]

“A Canberra (Australia)-based health unit working with abused and abusive children has recorded a significant rise in the number of children aged younger than 10 who are committing sexual offenses, including ‘oral sex and forced intercourse,’ against other children. . . . ‘We’re not talking about kids playing mummies and daddies together,’ [the unit manager Annabel] Wyndham said in a phone interview. ‘We’re talking about things like one child holding another child up by the neck . . . and pulling their pants down and doing things to them.’ Most of the children seen in this category came from troubled backgrounds, and 40 percent had been abused themselves. . . . Nonetheless, the unit also recorded startling data relating to Internet use. Of the . . . sexually-abusive children seen . . . 90 percent admitted having seen sexually explicit material online, the report said. A full one-quarter deliberately sought out pornography online as their main use of the Internet, while about 40 percent said they used the Internet for other purposes as well as accessing pornography. . . . Wyndham said her unit did not believe the rise in cases of children behaving in a sexually aggressive manner was merely a matter of increased recognition of a longstanding problem. . . . The research paper was presented by the Canberra unit and a government-funded body called the National Child Protection Clearinghouse. One of its child protection experts, Dr. Janet Stanley, said. . . . ‘We’re suggesting there’s an association between children’s exposure to inappropriate material on the Internet . . . and their acting out in sexually aggressive behavior, experimenting and modeling what they are seeing.’”
[“[Online Porn Driving Sexually Aggressive Children](#),” CNSNews.com, 11/26/03]

How to best protect children from pornography

By Robert Peters

President of Morality in Media

The large majority of adults believe that children should be shielded from pornography on the Internet, but can parental supervision, parental use of screening technology, and enforcement of harmful-to-minors laws alone provide adequate protection?

Clearly, if every parent would monitor his or her children's use of home computers and would utilize screening technology, children's exposure to pornography on the Internet would be reduced significantly. But many parents can't or won't do so. Furthermore, screening technology on home computers can't protect children when the children aren't at home, and no screening technology is perfect.

Clearly, if harmful to minors sales and display laws were vigorously enforced -- they aren't at present -- children's exposure to pornography would be reduced significantly. But at present no such laws apply to the Internet -- except in the narrow circumstance where a pedophile distributes harmful material to a minor for the purpose of sexually exploiting the minor. [In 1998, Congress enacted the Children's Online Protection Act (COPA), which restricts children's access to some pornography on the Internet. The ACLU filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia challenging the constitutionality of COPA. A final disposition of the case is not expected until 2003 or 2004. Meanwhile, COPA remains unenforceable.]

Common sense should also inform us that you can't flood a society with hardcore pornography -- via the Internet, TV, telephone, U.S. mails, video stores, convenience stores, newsstands, vending

machines, hotels and motels, and "adult" businesses -- and then expect to effectively shield children from it.

For one thing, whatever adults or older siblings bring into the home usually finds its way into the hands of children; and even if children aren't into the porn themselves, they will often be aware of the role model's habit.

For another thing, as hardcore porn becomes more accessible to adults, there will be more opportunities for minors to access it by: using fake IDs; by persuading or conning adults to access it for them; or by finding, stealing or hacking into it.

Many "mainstream" entertainment companies have also become more brazen in introducing pornographic content into films, music/rap lyrics and performances, TV programs (e.g., on HBO and Showtime), advertising, video games and comics.

There are other reasons why parental supervision and use of screening technology, and enforcement of harmful-to-minors laws alone will not provide adequate protection for minors. First, pornography doesn't just harm children. It also harms adults, including parents; and what affects parents (and their marriages) will also affect children.

Second, pedophiles often use "adult" pornography to desensitize and instruct their victims. If pedophiles aren't deterred by laws prohibiting sexual child abuse (which have very severe penalties), they are not likely to be deterred by harmful to minors sale and display laws.

Third, one type of hardcore pornography that is popular among adult porn consumers is "teen porn." Presumably, most (BUT NOT ALL) of the "girls" and "boys" who perform in "teen porn" are 18 and over, but many look years younger. Most "teen porn" isn't sold or displayed to minors. It's directed towards adults who lust for minors.

Fourth, a prosperous "adult entertainment" industry sends a message that is inimical to family life and children. After all, if "adult entertainment" is what adult life is all about, why bother with marriage and family? Why not look forward to a life of selfish promiscuity, infidelity and unspeakable perversity?

This is not to say that special measures to protect children from pornography aren't needed. It is to say that such measures will prove ineffective in a society where more and more adults are becoming addicted to pornography and where even hardcore pornography has now entered the mainstream.

If the American people want to protect children from pornography, they must also protect society from pornography. That is the purpose of federal and state obscenity laws; and those who truly care about the well-being of children should be at the forefront of efforts to promote enforcement of these laws.

Vigorously enforced, obscenity laws can provide substantial protection for communities, families and children from addictive and morally corrosive hardcore pornography.

How Hardcore Pornography Harms Children

In conjunction with the May 2002 Pornography Victims Month, MIM President Bob Peters prepared the following list of ways that hardcore pornography harms children:

1. Children are harmed when deprived of the opportunity to grow up in a decent society by the crass commercial producers and distributors of hardcore pornography.
2. Children are harmed when the word "adult" is so often associated in our society with morally depraved hardcore pornography - rather than with wholesome, loving, constructive behavior.
3. Children are harmed when their parents' marriage is destroyed by an addiction to hardcore pornography.
4. Children are harmed when their own addiction to hardcore pornography robs them of the opportunity to develop in a healthy manner psychologically, morally, and spiritually.
5. Children are harmed when they receive a sex miseducation from viewing hardcore pornography - almost all of which depicts adulterous, degrading, high-risk, perverse, promiscuous, and/or violent sexual behaviors.
6. Children are harmed when they are sexually abused by other children who imitate sexual behaviors they have viewed in hardcore pornography.
7. Children are harmed when they are sexually abused by adults who use hardcore pornography to desensitize and instruct their child victims.
8. Children are harmed when they are sexually abused by adults who are inflamed by hardcore pornography that depicts performers who may be 18 but who look like (or are made to look like) they are children.

Why do kids encounter online pornography? Because obscenity laws aren't enforced.

In a report issued 11 December 2001, the Kaiser Family Foundation said that seventy (70%) of teenagers (defined as ages 15-17) "have accidentally come across pornography on the Web." Fifty-seven percent of the teens said "being exposed to pornography would have serious impact on kids under 18," while 41% teens responded that such exposure is "no big deal."

Commenting on the report, entitled, "Generation Rx.com: How Young People Use the Internet for Health Information," Robert Peters, president of Morality in Media, had the following comments regarding the shockingly high rate of accidental exposure:

"Clearly, there is a major failure of adult responsibility when almost three out of four teens report they have accidentally come across pornography on the Web. But the biggest failure of

responsibility lies with federal and state prosecutors who turn a blind eye to obscenity on the Internet. If obscenity laws were being vigorously enforced, the last thing hardcore pornographers would want to do is draw attention to their vile wares by engaging in reckless marketing methods. If vigorously enforced, there would also be much less pornography to accidentally stumble across."

"But prosecutors aren't the only ones at fault. Some ISPs provide parents with an option to filter out the pornography, but they refuse to block access to even illegal pornography unless a parent requests filtering. Some on-line services have rules against pornography, but they refuse to actively monitor use of their services for violations.

"Many libraries and schools refuse to install screening technology -- arguing that rules and monitoring computer use can protect children from Internet porn. Even assuming such means discouraged teens from actively seeking pornography, how do they protect from accidental exposure?"

"Part of the blame must also fall on parents who don't use screening technology on their home computers; but no technology is perfect and technology on home computers cannot protect kids when they are at school or work or at a friend's house or the library."

Kids' 'No big deal' attitude challenged by researchers

The Kaiser Family Foundation's report noted that while a majority of teens believe exposure to on-line pornography could have a serious impact, "a sizeable minority (41%) says such exposure 'is no big deal.'" This latter attitude was challenged by Dr. Mary Anne Layden, of the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Judith Reisman, author of *Kinsey, Crimes and Consequences* and *Soft Porn Plays Hardball*.

Dr. Layden said she wasn't surprised by the "no big deal" attitude some kids have about Internet porn. "A sizable minority of teens thinks that unprotected sex, cocaine, underage drinking, cigarette smoking, drag racing and quitting school won't hurt them either. Deciding on what is harmful to kids is not a democratic process with the children having the only votes," Dr. Layden told *Morality in Media*.

Dr. Layden continued, "The messages of Internet pornography are psychologically toxic, untrue, difficult to undo and are shaped by individuals whose goals are to make money without concern for the consequences. You wouldn't allow the drug pusher on the corner to come into your home, school or library and teach your child about medication. Why would you allow the sex pusher on the Internet to come into your home school or library and educate your child about sexuality? We owe it to our youth to give them the best, protect them from the worst, and to use our wisdom, education and experience to decide which is which."

Dr. Layden also noted that the pornographic images children receive "are permanently implanted in the brain and the unhealthy messages these images support are not easily talked away."

Nineteen thousand 'in-school' rapes is a big deal

In a December 2001 Release - Editorial (N.J. Family Policy Council), "The Problem With Library Porn," Dr. Reisman noted that according to statistics provided to her by the Department of Justice in July 2001, there were approximately 12,000 rapes "in or around schools" in 1994 and over 19,000 rapes "in or around schools" in 1999 (the most recent data available).

Dr. Reisman also wrote: "UCLA neuropsychologist Dr. Margaret Kemeny's research implicates pornography as precipitating 'a cascade of changes in the body that have an impact on health.' This supports former Surgeon General Everett Koop's diagnosis of pornography as a 'crushing public health problem.'... Gary Lynch, University of California at Irvine neurologist corroborates these assessments. Brain research, he explains, reveals that what one sees in three-tenths of a second, 'has produced a structural change that is in some ways as profound as the structural changes one sees in [brain] damage.' It can 'leave a trace that will last for years.'

She continued, "[M]ost rational Americans want porn filtered from our libraries and will agree that...brain scientists are 'onto something' about how pornography harms individuals and society."

Your greatest weapon in this war against pornography

By Betty Wein (1927-1994)

Adapted from the Morality in Media Newsletter, July/August 1994

How radically times have changed! Just yesterday, it seems, a person had to go out of his way to find hardcore pornography. Today, an increasing number of Americans have to go out of their way to avoid it.

Concerned parents all over the country are sounding the alarm that they can no longer protect their children, in this high-tech era, from the pornography industry. They are painfully aware that pornography is not just invading communities and neighborhoods but also slithering into the living rooms of this nation as mail porn, dial-a-porn, video porn, cable porn, satellite porn, and now computer porn.

The porn industry will immediately label anyone who joins the battle against pornography with the title "censor." Next comes the label of "prude." And then all the weary old cliches, such as "pornography is a victimless crime," will be dredged up and tossed at you.

Do not be intimidated by these tactics. Educate yourself instead! There are some basic truths you need to master to know your rights and to be able to defend them.

Pornographic material that is "obscene" (sometimes called "hardcore") is illegal on the federal level and in over forty states. The U.S. Supreme Court has said that to be "obscene," a video, magazine, performance or other "work" must meet the following three criteria: 1) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, must find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; 2) the work must depict or describe sexual conduct in a patently offensive way; and 3) the work, taken as a whole, must lack serious literary, artistic, political and scientific value.

More and more, the pornography polluting our communities is hardcore and a far cry from the pin-up girls with which many associate it. Reflecting the pathological side of human nature, hardcore pornography features sadomasochism; incest; bestiality; group sex; bisexuality; excretory activities; necrophilia and other aberrations. Pornography, to be sure, has become more sick and violent.

Right about now, you must be wondering why this depraved material is being circulated with impunity if it is illegal. The answer to that can be summarized in three words: the public's silence!

The obscenity law is unique in that it is based, in part, on contemporary community standards. If law enforcement officials do not receive complaints from the community, they are prone to translate that silence into acceptance of the hardcore pornography being sold in your neighborhood.

That is why it is essential for you, and for any church, synagogue or civic group to which you belong, to register complaints with your district attorney (called county prosecutors or state's attorneys in some states) and ask him or her to investigate any hardcore pornographic outlets for possible violation of the state obscenity law.

As for the erroneous charge of "censorship," syndicated columnist Thomas Sowell calls it the most misused word in the English language. Here is the legal meaning of censorship: "prior restraint of First Amendment rights by government." Censorship is unconstitutional and illegal. The enforcement of the obscenity laws, however, is not censorship since the government is not exercising any prior restraint. Obscenity laws are enforced after publication, not before. Furthermore, obscenity is not a First Amendment right, any more than libel, perjury, contempt of court, false advertising, copyright violations or inciting a riot. The First Amendment has never been absolute!

Concerned citizens who are insisting that the constitutional obscenity laws be enforced to rid their communities of illegal hardcore pornography are not engaging in censorship. They are exercising their precious First Amendment rights to free speech, their rights to ward off assaults on their families, and their responsibilities to protect public morality, public safety and public health.

Morality in Media's phones ring daily with stories of pornography's victims. We frequently hear from parents whose children have been traumatized or corrupted by exposure to material unfit even for adults. Tragically, some of those children have tried to act out on other children what they have heard on dial-a-porn or seen in pornographic magazines or videos.

It is not uncommon to receive a distressed phone call from a woman whose marriage has gone sour due to her husband's porn addiction. We also hear from the addicted men themselves - tortured souls seeking help after the destruction of their marriage and loss of their children.

We get letters from prisoners, pouring out their hearts about how pornography triggered their sexual crimes and actually served as a blueprint for brutality. We also get many calls from people coast to coast who seek advice on how to cope with the emerging, so-called "adult" video stores and bookstores, destroying the quality of life in their communities, spitting in the face of family values and attempting to make a mockery of the Judeo-Christian code which has served as a cornerstone of Western civilization. No, pornography is not a victimless crime.

There are also many laboratory-type studies that provide evidence of pornography's pernicious effects. One of the most common findings involves desensitization. The porn consumer soon becomes desensitized to violence, rape and the worst sexual aberrations. [See Dr. Victor Cline's article "[Pornography's Effects on Adults and Children](#)."]]

"Too many decent grassroots Americans have been drifting and dreaming while a monster has grown in our midst," warned Morality in Media's late president, Father Paul Murphy, S.J. That monster, he said, is "the pornography industry."

What can you do in this war on families and your most cherished values? Undoubtedly, there is no need to tell you to monitor your children's TV viewing habits and also the music they listen to and the magazines they read -- that is common sense in these decadent days.

However, you must also vocalize your concerns and outrage to those responsible for the pornographic assaults on your community and family. Otherwise, your silence will be interpreted as acceptance by law enforcement officials and merchants. Even worse, it may also be viewed as acceptance by your own children. And, your silence inevitably will lead to your own desensitization.

So, pick up your greatest weapon in this war against pornography and use it - your pen! Keep informed and write to your district attorney, urging enforcement of the state obscenity law [write also to your U.S. Attorney]. Write to your elected representatives. Write letters to the editor. Write thank-you letters to merchants, newspaper columnists, TV and radio hosts, public officials and others in the public eye who are holding the line against moral decay. You do not have to be a Shakespeare. Just express your feelings in simple terms. One letter, it has been shown, can move mountains, and a mountain of letters can move the direction of an entire country.

The Link Between Pornography And Violent Sex Crimes

By Robert Peters

President of Morality in Media

March 2004

Introduction

What prompted this article was the publication in 2003 of the book, "[Sex-Related Homicide and Death Investigation](#)" ([CRC Press](#)), by Vernon Geberth, a retired NYPD Lieutenant Commander of the Bronx homicide squad who is a nationally renowned homicide investigator.

I learned about the book through an article by David Marzulli, "Ex-cop's gloomy on crime—Serial slays rising" (*New York Daily News*, 10/15/03). What caught my attention in Marzulli's article were his observation that "Geberth argues that the Internet plays a significant role in the proliferation of...attacks" and these quotes from Geberth's book:

"The sex-related cases I am encountering today [as a consultant] are more frequent, vicious and despicable than what I ever experienced as a homicide cop."

"There are more serial killers today. In my opinion, we have had a proliferation in serial murder events, as well as sex-related homicides"

No mention was made in Marzulli's article about the role that pornography might play in all of this, but that was also true of another article, "Finding the Criminal Who Fits the Crime," about the work of retired NYPD detective Ray Pierce that appeared in the *New York Times* (3/29/00). According to the *Times* article, Raymond Pierce founded the NYPD's Criminal Assessment and Profiling Unit and was trained in psychological profiling by the FBI.

Since I was aware of an FBI study of 36 serial killers conducted in the 1980s, which revealed that 29 of these killers were attracted to pornography and incorporated it into their criminal sexual activity, including serial rape-murder, I wrote to Mr. Pierce, asking if he had "observed a frequent connection between pornography (including stripping) and sexual crimes" and if he would be willing to share his observations in an interview.

NYPD detective (retired) Raymond Pierce

Mr. Pierce responded affirmatively. The resulting interview appears on Morality in Media's Web site, www.obscenitycrimes.org, on the Porn Problems and Solutions page, under the title, "[The sexual criminal's relationship to porn.](#)"

Here is an excerpt from that interview:

MIM: What are your definitions of "pornography," and related terms like "soft-core pornography," "hard-core pornography," "violent pornography"?

RMP: I have no need to differentiate between "soft core," or "hard core" pornography. I know what the media defines as "soft core" and "hard core." For me it's anything written, spoken, printed, photographed or videotaped to elicit a sexual response from an individual. What the general public may consider soft-core pornography, that's enough stimulation for a criminal. It depends on what goes on in the individual's mind. If there's enough stimulation for a criminal to use to fantasize before committing a crime; sometimes they use it during a crime and many times they use it afterwards.

MIM: So pornography is one word, essentially, for you.

RMP: For me it is yes.

MIM: Do you believe, from your experience, that there's a greater consumption of pornography among sex offenders in contrast to non-offenders?

RMP: In my experience, offenders in general have a heavy exposure to pornography. I cannot tell you what the general population's exposure is, but it's available for them in different forms.

MIM: How many criminal cases involving sexual murders, rapes, or assaults on adults have you consulted on or investigated, and in what percentage of those was there evidence that the perpetrator was a user of pornography?

RMP: I've investigated somewhere between 750 and a thousand cases, but was I looking for it all the time? No, I wasn't. But my estimation would be that pornography is expected by the police in

those cases. It's expected that they [the suspects] read pornographic literature and magazines. Anywhere between 60 and 80 percent of the cases, if I were looking for it, I would have found it. But realistically, well over 80 percent.

MIM: What were the percentages of finding porn involved in serial sexual murders, rapes and assaults, in your estimation?

RMP: Almost always. . . . Quite frequently, particularly with serial killers, they have a great problem with power and control. Many times they have hidden away storage areas...

NYPD lieutenant commander (retired) Vernon Geberth

There was no need to interview Vernon Geberth, because he wrote an 800-page book to assist law enforcement officers in investigations of sex-related homicides. He said it all in the book. And I had a hunch his book would show a connection between pornography and sex crimes.

Having purchased a copy and quickly looked through it for passages that mention pornography, I can say that I was not disappointed in my expectations.

Here are excerpts from Geberth's book that link pornography to violent sex crimes.

"In one case on which the author consulted, the victim was an attractive middle-aged single woman The suspect, who was a fetish burglar, . . . acted out his most perverse fantasies with her body. . . . The suspect made multiple 1-900 sex-line phone calls throughout the day and night from the victim's residence...He also brought pornographic magazines into the scene and a list of 1-900 numbers, which were matched to his calls from the victim's residence by detectives. He engaged in sadistic sexual activities with the victim's body...." [pp. 16-17]

"Sadistic fantasies or acts may involve activities that indicate the dominance of the person over the victim...as in the case depicted in *The Perfect Victim* (McGuire & Norton 1988). This case involved Cameron Hooker and his wife Janice. Cameron Hooker's fantasy was to dominate and torture nude women who were bound and helpless. His fantasies were fueled by an extensive collection of hard-core pornography that featured bondage, leather and handcuffs, and whips...At one point during this torture, [a victim] was able to see through the bottom of her blindfold. She saw a picture of a naked woman hanging in much the same position that she was hanging. Apparently, Cameron was using this sadistic pornography to script his fantasy into reality." [p. 23 and p. 741] [p.741]

"Fantasy plays a major role in everyone's sexual behavior ... The contrast of these normal fantasies would be the aberrant development of bizarre sexual images involving grotesque unnatural distortions of sexual imagery ... The individual becomes aroused by thoughts and fantasies of sexual aggression ... This paraphilic lovemap is then reinforced through repetition, illustrated by the use of sadistic pornography and fantasy stories featuring sexual sadism ...In Chapter 9, the author presents an offender who fantasized and enhanced his pornography by adding bindings to the female models. ... He then posed the body [of a victim] at the scene with her legs spread apart and held in that position with a vine from the trees. This pose was the same as his pornography with the added bindings." [pp. 36-37]

"Some samples of actual writings of sexual sadists [in order] to present how significant these fantasies become in the actual analysis of the crimes presented here ... **Reinforcement of the Fantasy: Case 4 Continued** ... *'When I got to Denver there were a lot of sex shops. There I found bondage magazines and videos. Magazines of beautiful women and young girls tied, bound and gagged in just about every way possible. I was in heaven. I bought lots of mags and videos. After a year or so of watching I wanted the real thing. I wanted a woman bound up and sexually abused ... I didn't want a willing partner as (name withheld) had been. I wanted an unwilling partner. I would go out and walk the streets and visit clubs looking for the right woman or girl'*" [Following the quote, Geberth comments, "In many cases, the offenders used girlfriends or prostitutes to act out their sadistic fantasies... [F]rom an investigative perspective, the sexual crimes committed by the offenders and the activities they engaged in with consenting partners were almost mirror image scenarios."] [pp.44-45]

"**Case 5: Serial Rapist's Diary** ... [T]he sexual bondage and discipline magazines he purchased were reflected in his behavior with consenting partners as well as his victims ... My review of the [perpetrator's journal] indicated a progression of activities, as the offender repeatedly acted out the scenarios depicted in the magazines and incorporated the pictures of the bound women into his fantasy system ..." [pp.45]

"**Case 9** ... This subject ... worked in his mother's clothing store. As the young mother and her daughter walked toward the back of the store, the offender quickly began ushering other customers out of the store ... He was unable to complete the rape, but he did involve himself in sexual conduct with the woman's body ... During a search of the clothing store, police located ... a VCR and three pornographic videos in the backroom of the store. Apparently, he would entertain himself by viewing these tapes ... The police executed a search warrant of his residence. A search of his room revealed obsessive interest in pornography ... The significance of his obsession with pornography, coupled with his previous behavior [sex-related incidents], as well as the triggering mechanism ... are excellent examples of fantasy-driven expression." [pp.51-52]

"**Case 11** ... The offender [a serial killer] focused his attacks on specific body regions, particularly the breasts ... Investigation revealed that the offender had an intense interest in bondage and total control and submission of his victims ... When the authorities in this case executed a search warrant at the subject's home, they discovered that he maintained a private room in the house ... Among the many items recovered in this room was an extensive collection of B&D [Bondage & Discipline] materials and other pornography, which indicated the subject's intense interest in sadomasochistic activities ... " [pp.57-58]

"**Case 12** ... This case involved a serial killer who was killing prostitutes ... Once he completed the sex act, he stripped and tortured them for hours ... The significance of fantasy in this case was graphically revealed when ... detectives went to the killer's home and retrieved a number of items, including one pornographic videotape ... This videotape contained a number of scenes that were similar to what the offender was doing to his victims. The breast assault and paddling activities appeared to be based upon this sadomasochistic videotape, which seemingly fueled his increasingly sadistic activities ... " [pp.61-62]

"**Case History** ... This case presented a murder/suicide ... Susan's body was in a supine position ... She suffered a number of stab wounds into her chest and breast. The stab wounds continued down

her chest into her pubic and pelvic area, and her throat was cut. Telephone cord had been wrapped tightly around her neck ... and it was apparent that Frank had positioned his wife's body in a pose similar to some of the drawings police recovered ... The police discovered 115 drawings and 105 photographs of nude women. There were also 83 men's magazines, including *High Society*, *Gallery* and *Penthouse*. Many of the magazines had pages removed, including pictures of centerfolds with stab marks. Frank also maintained an extensive collection of ...pornographic videotapes...The numerous photographs of nude women from magazines with knife holes and simulated bullet holes through the pictures displayed his obsession with sexual mutilation of women. [pp. 68-83]

"Danielle van Dam Kidnap and murder. Seven-year-old Danielle van Dam disappeared from her family home in the middle of the night on February 2, 2003 ... Within 2 days of the abduction, a neighbor of the van Dam family, [defendant], became the prime suspect in the case. The little girl's body was not discovered until February 27 ... The trial lasted 2 ½ months ... The prosecution stressed the DNA evidence and forensic evidence ... The authorities also seized thousands of computer files filled with child pornography from [defendant's] computer, including a cartoon video of the rape of a young girl. The prosecutor said, 'The video represented [defendant's] sexual fantasies and inspired the abduction, rape and murder of Danielle.'" [pp. 602-604]

I would, however, make three general observations about Vernon Geberth's book. First, Geberth didn't write the book to prove a causal link between pornography and violent sex crimes. He wrote the book to help law enforcement investigators solve violent sex crimes.

Second, while Geberth has much to say about the role of pornography in the lives of violent sex offenders, he could have said more. While Geberth discusses the case of serial killer Ted Bundy, he doesn't mention Bundy's experience with pornography. Geberth also discusses the cases of serial killers John Wayne Gacy and Jeffrey Dahmer, both of whom murdered other men, without any mention of pornography. From reports that I have read, both were into pornography.

Scientific data

Third, while Geberth is, in my opinion, a credible expert witness, his observations and opinions about the role of pornography in violent sex crimes do *not* constitute "scientific data" that conclusively prove that pornography is connected to such crimes. But they don't have to.

Those who defend pornography often make the argument (in so many words) that there is no conclusive scientific proof that pornography causes sex crimes. **Their argument is flawed for two reasons.** First, it implies that we cannot come to a valid conclusion without "conclusive scientific proof." Second, it implies that government must have "scientific proof" in order to act.

Here's how Nadine Strossen, president of the ACLU, responded to the question, "But how can you defend pornography? Isn't it harmful to women?" ("In Defense of Pornography: A conversation with Nadine Strossen," *New York Native*, 1/23/95):

"The pro-censorship feminists claim that pornography causes direct harm to women is unsupported by the facts. In writing this book ["In Defense of Pornography"] I searched the social science literature for evidence that exposure to sexually explicit pornographic material causes...violence against women. But I discovered that a causal connection has *never* been established." [Underlining

mine; italics in the original]

Now, had Ms. Strossen been searching the social science literature "for evidence" of a causal connection between pornography and sexual violence, she would have found it. See, e.g., the analysis of social science research in the *Attorney General's Commission on Pornography: Final Report* (U.S. Department of Justice, 1986, at pp. 901-1035); an abridged version of the *Final Report* (Rutledge Hill Press, ISBN 0-934395-42-X) [is available from Morality in Media](#).

But Ms. Strossen wanted more than *evidence* of a causal connection—she wanted research that *establishes* a connection. Here's how the Supreme Court ([Paris Adult Theater I v. Slaton](#), 413 U.S. 49) responded to a similar demand:

"But it is argued that there are no scientific data which conclusively demonstrate that exposure to obscene material adversely affects men or women or their society ... We reject this argument ... 'We do not demand of legislatures 'scientifically certain criteria of legislation' ... From the beginning of civilized societies, legislators and judges have acted on various unprovable assumptions.'" [413 U.S. at pp.60-61]

The *Paris* Court went on to say [413 U.S. at p.63]:

"If we accept ... the well nigh universal belief that good books, plays and art lift the spirit, improve the mind, enrich the human personality, and develop character, can we then say that a state legislature may not act on the corollary assumption that commerce in obscene books, or public exhibitions focused on obscene conduct, have a tendency to exert a corrupting and debasing impact leading to anti-social behavior? 'Many of these effects may be intangible and indistinct, *but they are nonetheless real.*'" [Emphasis mine]

Causative factor

One reason why the *Paris* Court did not demand of the Georgia legislature that it demonstrate with "scientifically certain criteria" a connection between antisocial behavior and obscene material is because human behavior cannot easily be studied in a laboratory. There are too many variables to determine *to a scientific certainty* what role one variable (for example, pornography) plays in a particular behavior (or example, rape).

Here is how Nadine Strossen responded to the question, "*What about convicted criminals who claim that viewing pornography led them to crime?*" ("Porn's Great Defender?", *Gadfly*, 7/97):

"Given all the complex factors that make us ... behave as we do, I don't understand how we can single out one and say it is *the* causative factor." [Emphasis mine]

I am not sure what Ms. Strossen means by *the* causative factor. If she means a *sufficient* cause, I would agree because I don't think pornography is ever the *sole* cause of a violent sexual crime. If she means a *necessary* cause (i.e., a factor without which the behavior would not have occurred) I would again agree—because we do not possess the means to single out one factor and know to a certainty what influence it had. Unlike Ms. Strossen, however, I think there is ample evidence to support the conclusion that many violent sex crimes would not have occurred (in whole or part) if

the perpetrator had not been exposed to or become addicted to pornography.

For a perspective on "causation," see Diana E. Russell, Ph.D., *Against Pornography: The Evidence of Harm*, pp. 113-148, (Berkeley, CA: Russell Publications 1994). Both the book itself and an essay, "Pornography as a Cause of Rape," are available at www.dianarussell.com. Dr. Russell is Professor Emerita of Sociology at Mills College.

In her article, "When Words Are Not Enough: The Search for the Effect of Pornography on Abused Women," (*Violence Against Women*, Vol.10, No.1, January 2004, pp.56-72), Janet Hinson Shope [Associate Professor, Goucher College] analyzes in detail a study conducted from 1988 to 1991 at a New York program for battered women. Of the 46% who reported sexual abuse, 30% said the abuser used pornography. Of those who reported that their abusers used pornography, 58% said the pornography affected their abuse. In her analysis, Hinson Shope said in part (at pp. 88-89):

"Although we may not be able to marshal the evidence needed to constitute 'causal proof,' an elusive criterion for social scientists, we certainly have enough evidence to warrant identifying pornography use as a risk factor, much like alcohol consumption, associated with sexual violence among some populations ... In our attempt to empirically validate the harm of pornography, we have also silenced women's voices ... Women's accounts, such as the ones below, on the effects of pornography are minimized and/or ignored.."

"A woman who was raped by her partner recalls:

'He was really into watching porno movies, and he tried to make me do all sorts of things. And I [didn't] like it. He hurt my stomach so bad because I was pregnant, and he was making me do these things.' [Bergen, R.K. (1998), "The reality of wife rape: Women's experience of sexual violence in marriage." In R.K. Bergen (Ed.), *Issues in intimate violence*, (pp. 237-250). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage] (p.242)

"Jensen [Jensen, R. (1998). "Using pornography." In G. Dines, R. Jensen, A. Russo (Eds.), *Pornography* (pp.101-146). New York: Routledge] described another woman's experience:

'He would bring pornographic magazines, books, and paraphernalia into the bedroom with him and tell her that if she did not perform the sexual acts that were being done in the dirty books and magazines, he would kill her.' (p. 115)

"Women's experiences of pornography are dismissed as anecdotal, nonrepresentative, and unimportant. Falling into the measurement trap, we have turned to science, instead of to women, for answers ... As Kelly pointed out, while we debate it, many people are coping with its unwelcome presence in our lives."

News reports of violent sexual crimes

The reader can judge for him or herself whether in the following cases (all taken from my file on pornography and violent sex crimes), pornography was a causative or "risk" factor, of major or minor importance, in the commission of the violent sex crime or crimes.

"Defendant was convicted of rape, two counts of aggravated sodomy and false imprisonment ...

Certain magazines ('Submarine Sadist,' 'Rope Embrace,' etc) seized from appellant's residence were admitted into evidence over appellant's objection. 'In the trial of sexual crimes exhibits having a tendency to show bent of mind toward sexual activity have generally been allowed into evidence' ... especially in light of the victim's testimony concerning acts of bondage." [*Yeck v. State*, 331 S.E.2d 76 (Ga. App. 1985).]

"Investigators searching for a motive in the brutal slayings of a Townsend mother and her two children will explore the role of 'hard-core pornography' in the [17 year old] suspect's life ... Police sources say accused killer[s] home ... including his bedroom, 'was full of hard-core pornographic magazines. They were all over the place' ... Several torn and crumpled porn magazine pages were found in a wastebasket at the murder scene ... The pornography in [defendant's] home, coupled with his history of violent and sexual crimes has prompted investigators to explore whether [defendant] may have been 'inspired' by or may have copied acts depicted in videos or magazines." ["Porn role probed," *Boston Herald*, 12/7/87]

"In a little house . . . police believe mild-mannered engineer [defendant], perhaps under the influence of porn-fueled fantasies, assaulted young women while his wife was away. He admitted, police say, to kidnapping and assaulting three girls, killing one of them, and assaulting four others in Georgia and South Carolina. Police in five other states, including Tennessee, want to talk to him. When police searched [defendant's] rented storage unit...they found 935 pornographic books and magazines depicting sexual bondage, horror scenes and nudity. They also found...books about serial killer Ted Bundy, who preyed on attractive young women. . . ." ["Suspect in sex crimes sought," *Knoxville Journal*, 2/27/89]

"A Circuit Court jury ruled that [defendant] was mentally responsible during the torture and murder of his sister-in-law and an attempt to murder his wife...Psychiatrist Ralph Baker testified that he believed [defendant] had a disorder of sexual sadism but was not suffering from a mental disease...Robert Miller, a psychiatrist...said [defendant] had a problem throughout his life knowing how to direct his anger, and therefore he used pornography and thoughts of torture as a relief...Paul Barnett, Price County Attorney, argued that [defendant]...had a fascination with pornography dating to childhood and who blamed alcoholism for his acts." ["Jury finds [defendant] sane," *Milwaukee Journal*, 3/18/89]

"In a videotape made this week for police crime-watch programs, the 'Ski Mask Rapist' revealed how he got addresses of some of his 35 victims ... Under questioning by Assistant District Attorney Mike Gillett, [defendant] said he watched X-rated videotapes about three or four times a week. 'I would remember the videotapes I would watch when I committed an assault,' he said. 'I would think about the tapes at the time and the different acts in the videos ... '" ["Ski mask rapist details how he picked victims" *Dallas Times Herald*, 6/1/90]

"A young FBI agent who helped nab a sadistic New Jersey serial killer Wednesday is a real-life version of the Jodie Foster character in 'The Silence of the Lambs' ... As she tries to catch the maniac, Foster relies on the intricate methods she learns at the FBI National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crimes in Quantico, Va. That's where FBI Agent Drucilla Wells received the training she used to zero in on serial-murder suspect [defendant] ... Wells learned that [defendant] collected porn and kept women's panties in his car. She then put together a profile of [defendant] that expedited his capture by the FBI and local authorities." ["How FBI's 'Jodie' Got Her Man," *New*

York Post, 3/30/91]

"A judge sentenced [defendant] to 20 years in prison for trying to rape a Wesleyan student, and attacking her housemate, saying [defendant's] 'whole life is dominated by pornographic fantasies that he was prone to act on ... Police searched [defendant's] room after the incident and found open pornographic magazines ... In 1987, [defendant] was convicted of a similar attack after he sexually assaulted a housemate in East Haddam ... Then, in 1989, he was sentenced to six months for violation of probation; prosecutors said [defendant] ran up \$500 worth of telephone bills to pornographic and sex related groups." ["Man sentenced to 20 years in sexual assault," *Hartford Courant*, 5/2/91]

"The evidence adduced at trial viewed in the light most favorable to the state's case . . . reveals the following. . . . Schiro was serving a three-year suspended sentence for robbery. . . . While in the work-release program [in Evansville, IN], Schiro worked across the street from [the victim's] house. . . . Schiro went to a liquor store and stole an alcoholic beverage...He took the liquor with him and went to see 'quarter movies,' which were characterized as hard-core pornography. . . . A woman who worked as a cashier at the quarter movie porn shop threw Schiro out when Schiro exposed himself to her ... From there Schiro went directly to [the victim's] apartment ... Schiro knocked on [the victim's] door and asked if he could use her phone on the pretext that his car would not start ... Schiro asked to use the bathroom ... When he came out of the bathroom Schiro was exposed and [the victim] became frightened ... Schiro then raped her ... and raped her a second time. ... Schiro raped her a third time. ... Schiro decided he had to kill her so she couldn't report the rapes. ... She was still fighting him when he strangled her to death. ... He then dragged her body across the living room where he performed vaginal and anal intercourse on the corpse and chewed on several parts of her body. ..." [*Schiro v. Clark*, 963 F.2d 962 (7th Cir. 1992)]

"Daily beatings, crude sexual acts and constant threats marked the 18-day imprisonment of a woman accusing [the defendant] of kidnapping and rape ... The woman, 22, cried as she described some of the things she accuses [the defendant] of doing. She said that in addition to raping and sodomizing her, [defendant] forced her to use her mouth to clean feces off his genitals. [Defendant] also asked her to perform sex acts depicted in pornographic magazines, the woman said ... " ["Woman: Threats, beatings held me," *Miami Herald*, 4/23/93]

"In December 1992, [Defendant] guided authorities to the [victim's] body ... As he stated in court, he said [in the interview with the newspaper] he participated in the rape but did not shoot, strangle or mutilate her ... 'Part of me wanted the rape to occur,' [defendant] said. 'I wanted to experience what it was like. I was curious about it.' He said he became fascinated with the idea of rape by watching X-rated movies and reading pornography." ["Night of Miss Harms' Murder Still Haunts [Defendant]," *Omaha World Herald*, 9/28/94]

"A search of [defendant's] home ... turned up bags and boxes of pornographic books, magazines and videotapes about sexual bondage ... In the room where the woman said she escaped, investigators found a plastic sack filled with 'bondage straps, restraints, chains' and other items ... The victim said her captor also used an electronic stun gun to shock her after she was bound, gagged and blindfolded and carried to the trunk of a waiting car. The woman said she was taken to a home and left alone in an upstairs bedroom. The attacker apparently left the house and the woman managed to escape." ["Bondage items found where woman was held," *Grand Rapids Press*, 11/29/94]

A former security guard dubbed 'Dr. Smell' for his foot fetish was found guilty of murdering a college student who was found barefoot, her socks and sneakers missing...He was...on duty at the Drexel University [Philadelphia] computer laboratory where she was working the night she was beaten and strangled ... Police raided [defendant's] apartment and storage locker and discovered 20 pair of white women's sneakers ... and 77 foot-fetish videos. [The victim's] sneakers were white." ["Sneaker Slaying," Associated Press, 12/2/95]

In the weeks before [defendant] allegedly began savaging women, he spent whole days mesmerized watching porn videos showing women being raped and tortured, a roommate said yesterday. As he grew increasingly despondent at the loss of his Japanese girlfriend, [defendant] bought and rented sadistic Japanese porn flicks, said [the roommate] ... Occasionally, excited by the copulation he saw on film, [defendant] would ask [the roommate] to accompany him to a sex club in Times Square ... [Defendant's] obsession goes back to his teen years, said another friend ... 'He used to have some porno games on his computer. He used to be able to take off these women's clothes on the computer,' said the old classmate ... " ["Porn Haze filled days," *New York Daily News*, 6/15/96]

"[Defendant], a [South Dakota] teen, was convicted of raping a Readers Den employee ... 'The Mitchell Police Department definitely thought pornography was a factor in [defendant's] rape,' said Assistant Police Chief Lyndon Overweg. 'The defendant had been looking at the covers of pornographic magazines in the bookstore, pulling the film away from the covers ... We also were aware that [defendant] had used pornography in the past and felt that was a contributing factor to his crime' ... Overweg said it is difficult to determine how much of an influence pornography has on people ... Pornography, however, is a common denominator that usually is present, he said. 'Whenever I've investigated a sex crime, a search ... will almost always reveal pornography at the attacker's residence or ... pornography in their backgrounds,' Overweg said." ["Officials: Set limits on explicit material," *Mitchell Daily Republic*, 4/13/99]

"The disappearance of eight women and a baby girl have been linked to a Kansas man law enforcement officials say used the Internet to meet his victims for kinky sex. [Defendant] is a suspect in the deaths of five women whose bodies were found stuffed in 55 gallon drums in Kansas and Missouri ... [Defendant] apparently met his victims through sadomasochistic chat rooms and e-mail on the Internet using the screen name 'slavemaster.' Police confiscated pornographic material ... from his mobile home..." ["Nine disappearances linked to 'Slavemaster,'" UPI, 6/8/2000]

"[Defendant] was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the brutal murder of a Rockville [MD] woman ... [Defendant's] attorney ... said Tuesday that [defendant] suffers from untreated mental disorders ... But prosecutors rejected the idea that [defendant's] mental disorders led him to kill [the victim]. 'The attack didn't have anything to do with the disorders,' said Deputy State's Attorney John McCarthy. 'It was inspired by pornographic movies.' McCarthy said [defendant] was watching pornographic movies in his home the day of the attack." ["Murderer gets life sentence," *Montgomery Journal*, 5/8/02]

"Investigators looking into the killings of 10 women in the St. Louis area have accused a paroled robber in two of the killings after tracking him using the Internet ... The complaint ... accused [the defendant] of kidnapping, torturing and killing two prostitutes ... Four days later [after finding a body], investigators determined that the return address on the letter [showing the location of the body], 'I THRALLDOM,' was a Web site featuring bondage and sexual torture ... " ["Internet Used

to Find Man Who Is Charged in 2 of 10 Killings," *New York Times*, 6/11/02]

"A prowler climbed through the bathroom window of a Lower East Side apartment ... shot a sleeping man in the head, police officials said, then drank the dead man's whiskey and watched sex videos before heading downstairs, where he killed an elderly couple. The woman's body was left naked in a living room chair, and she had been sexually abused." ["Burglar Slays Man in One Apartment, Then Kills Elderly Couple," *New York Times*, 6/13/02]

"Police have charged a man in the slaying of a nun who was attacked as she recited the rosary while on a walk with another nun. Both women were sexually assaulted, police said ... Klamath County District Attorney Ed Caleb said [defendant] had just left 'the only strip joint in Klamath Falls' before he attacked the women. 'He then came down there, ran into them, attacked them, beat them severely to weaken them, then proceeded to sexually assault both of them, and we believe strangle one of them,' Caleb said." ["Man charged in Oregon nun's murder," Associated Press, 9/3/2002]

"A military jury gave a 25-year prison sentence to a lieutenant colonel who admitted killing his wife during an argument about pornography, an army spokesman said ... [Defendant] pleaded guilty to unpremeditated murder ... saying he beat and strangled his wife as they fought about his use of the Internet to view pornography." ["Colonel sentenced in wife's death," Associated Press, 10/30/2002]

"[A]ccused rapist and fugitive from the law [the defendant] has simple needs. 'He likes sex and surf,' defense lawyer Roger Jon Diamond told the *Post* ... Diamond claims his client was hooked on having sex with unconscious women—and that his girlfriends willingly took GHB [a date rape drug] to grant his sexual fantasies. 'There are actually Web sites about this,' Diamond said. 'It's a new fetish out there. Some guys like to see unconscious women getting raped.'" ["Fugitive Scion's 'Sex & Surf' Life," *New York Post*, 1/12/03]

"A teenage baby sitter ... has been charged with raping and sodomizing three children he was watching in their home ... The youth had been abusing the children since the summer of 2002, when he began watching pornographic videos with the eldest child, a boy who was then 12, the warrant said. He eventually abused all three children, the [Connecticut] state police charged. He intimidated the children by telling them he would assault other members of the family ... and tortured them with a knife, among other items, the warrant said." ["Baby Sitter, 17, Raped and Tortured Three Children," *New York Times*, 2/27/04]

Other law enforcement personnel

As noted above, the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography (*Final Report*, 1986) relied in part on social science research. But the Commission also heard testimony from many witnesses, including more than 100 law enforcement personnel. Among the physical harms the Commission looked at were: Rape (pp. 773-780), Forced sexual performance (pp. 780-786), Battery, Torture (pp. 786-793), Murder (pp. 793-794), and Imprisonment (pp. 794-795).

On September 16, 1987, Darrell E. Pope, Commanding Officer (retired), Sex Crimes Unit, Michigan State Police, testified before the U.S. House Select Committee on Youth and Families, which was reviewing the incidence of violence against women. Lieutenant Pope testified in part:

"I was commanding officer of the Sex Crimes Unit of the Michigan State Police for 12 years prior to my retirement. During that time we had a law that requires law enforcement agencies, upon arrest and conviction of a sexually deviant person, to submit forms to...that Sex Crimes Unit. During this period of time, we accumulated, from 1956 to the time that I did my research in 1977, some 38,000 case histories, which included everything from exhibitionism to lust murders. The research that I did was based on that, plus the opportunity that I had...to work with agencies within the State of Michigan, as well as our own investigations of sexual assaults on women and children...We dealt with, in those 12 years...I am estimating the number-around 4000 cases...so we had the opportunity to talk not only to the victims and, in some cases, the offender, but also to the police officer...

"The number two issue is the issue does porno, in fact, affect sexual assault, and my answer very explicitly is yes. Being commanding officer of the unit, and having the availability of these sexual reports, in 1977, I did a research project where I looked at 38,000 case histories and found 41% reports indicated that, in fact, pornographic materials were used just prior to or during the sexual act...

"In 1978, we began to develop what we call a crime scene behavior analysis, in which we would profile the sexually motivated homicide and tell you what kind of people who did it. Again, in doing this, in talking, I had the opportunity to talk to some of these people who had committed lust murders. It was very fascinating. When you asked the perpetrator, the sex offender who would indicate or admit that he had used it, almost to a man, his answer was, 'I used it for one of several reasons: One, to encourage me.' He said-in some cases, I remember talking to one young man who was 19 years old, he said, 'It excited me and then I got to thinking about it and I wanted to know how it felt.'

"This is this young man's answer. He wanted to know how it felt to rape a woman and kill her. By the way, this was his girl friend. So he did it. And when we arrested this young man and searched his home, we found a pornographic magazine depicting this very thing that he had done. By the way, he had stabbed her 57 times."

In an address, "Pornography, Depicted Violence and Crime," to the Second Melbourne Criminal Justice Symposium held at the University of Melbourne on March 16, 1991, Richard M. Reade, Prosecutor for the Queen, State of Victoria, recounted the following the following case (among others):

"In my opinion, the first case is a graphic example of the serious problem our community faces as a result of the hardcore pornographic material being made freely available since the early 1970s. ... At about 1 a.m. on Sunday the 5th April, 1981, a young woman then aged 31 was walking on the upper esplanade ... A man walked up to her, pushed a knife into her ribs, and demanded her money. He then forced her at knife point into a car park where he tied her up with rope and adhesive tape ... He gagged her and said, '...Just do as I say, because if you don't I will have no alternative to cut you up, especially your boobs.' He then touched her breasts and inserted his finger into her anus and vagina ...

"Having tied her up again and having torn her clothes off, he stuffed her underpants in her mouth, placed a pillowcase over her head and pulled her to the ground. While 'squeezing her breasts like a

sponge,' he had vaginal and anal intercourse with her...

"Still not satisfied he commented that her stomach was 'cute', and with that, he cut all over her stomach with a knife. He also cut her thighs and neck, telling her that if she wanted to speak to him she was to call him 'Master.' He took her to a nearby tree and sliced her under the breast with the knife. He again had vaginal intercourse and cut her all over her body particularly in the area of her breasts ... He then cut off her right nipple saying, 'Now you won't be able to breast feed your baby'...

"When this man was arrested, he was interviewed by Police and explained his strong sexual drive and why he took the rope and the knife etc. with him that night:

'Because I have been reading books on bondage and I felt a strong urge to act out what was in the books. I knew it was wrong but I couldn't help myself ... It's those bondage books, sex feeds on sex, that's what has done it, those rotten books ... The books show women need to be dominated, and that to grab a woman off the street and tie her up and rape her isn't really wrong; and I said to her that night that I had to do it once to get it out of my system you know...'

"The court was told that a large number of books and magazines on sex were found in his bungalow. They included, 'Robbed and Raped,' 'Bondage Love,' 'Kidnapped.' His counsel described 'Bondage Love' as being 'almost a blueprint of what actually occurred.'"

In a July 23, 1991 hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary to address the Pornography Victims' Compensation Act of 1991 (which passed through Committee but died on the floor of the Senate), Robert H. Macy, district attorney in Oklahoma City, testified as follows:

"Back in 1984, I was contacted by citizens in Oklahoma County wanting to do something about the sex crimes problem and pornography. Up until that time, I was truly a Doubting Thomas as to the correlation between sex crimes and pornography ... However ... we put together a strategy to try to as much as we could eliminate pornography or obscenity and sex-oriented businesses in Oklahoma County ... We did it rather quietly, but we went out and systematically closed 12 out of 13 pornographic bookstores, 11 peep show operations. We had the porno films taken off of cable TV. With the help of a city ordinance, we closed 75 topless and bottomless bars. We shut down 21 houses of prostitution. We closed 27 out of 42 telephone escort services and eliminated 3 hardcore pornographic theaters ... They try to tell you that you can't prosecute pornography cases and obscenity cases. I am here to tell you that you can ... But to give you an idea of what happened when we cracked down, in 1984 we had 565 rapes reported in our county. In 1985, it dropped to 542; 479 in 1986; 439 in 1987; 435 in 1988; and 427 in 1989. So in 5 years, the number of rapes dropped by 138, or almost 25 percent, and the only thing we did different in Oklahoma County was the crackdown on obscenity and ... sex oriented businesses."

In a letter, dated October 5, 1995, to Dallas Erickson, President of Montana Citizens for Decency through Law, John C. Moe wrote:

"My hopes and prayers are with you in your efforts to pass effective anti-pornography (obscene matter) laws for Montana ... "For 11 years, 1952-1963, as an FBI agent in Southern California, I investigated organized crime, including its control of pornography, prostitution, illegal drugs, gambling, racketeering and related crimes. I found that these crimes as well as sex crimes and

sexually transmitted diseases are all closely inter-related ... I served as Sheriff of Missoula County for 8 years, 1970-1978 ... Following are some cases involving obscenity that I handled while I was Sheriff, 1970-1978:

"A 15 year old arrested for sexual assaults on girls 5 to 8 years old. He stated that he became sexually aroused by viewing a pornographic magazine kept under his bed.

"A 47 year old deviate with a lengthy criminal record who had numerous obscene books and movies in his possession when arrested. He admitted becoming sexually aroused by these items following which he would seek out female victims to rob and rape in unnatural ways. He admitted that while on parole he had sexually assaulted and robbed 21 females from 8 years of age and older."
[Other cases omitted]

According to the article, "Sex Offenders Test Parole Officers," (*New York Times*, 6/8/97), "paroled sex offenders must obey strict rules depending on the nature of their crimes, such as rape, incest or pedophilic crimes. Here are some of the conditions parole officers impose:

"May not frequent adult bookstores, massage parlors, topless bars and sex shops.

"Cannot participate in on-line computer services that exchange pornographic messages or establish sexual encounters or liaisons ...

"Cannot buy or possess pornographic magazines, pictures or films.

"Cannot call sexually explicit telephone services ... "

According to an article by Peter Landesman, "Sex Slaves on Main Street" (*New York Times Magazine*, 1/25/04), the United States has not only become a major importer of sex slaves, many of whom are children, but the sex is now "harder." Landesman reports that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at the Cyber Crimes Center in Fairfax, Va., are "finding that when it comes to sex, what was once considered abnormal is now the norm. They are tracking a clear spike in the demand for harder-core pornography on the Internet." According to Landesman, when a special agent brought up a Web site that supposedly offered sex slaves for purchase to individuals, "a hush came over the room." The article continues:

"'That sure looks like the real thing,' [I.C.E. Special Agent] Daufenbach said. There were streams of Web pages of thumbnail images of young women of every ethnicity in obvious distress, bound, gagged, contorted. The agents pointed out probable injuries from torture. Cyberauctions for some of the women were in progress; one had exceeded \$300,000."

In a February 24, 2004 speech before the 2nd e-Crime Congress (held in London), Detective Chief Superintendent Len Hynds, head of the UK's National Hi-Tech Crime Unit, said that for the Internet to "take the final step to adulthood, it must first deal with those fringe elements that chose to promote abhorrent activities like cannibalism and necrophilia." Hynds's comments were apparently related to a murder conviction reported in "Killer was obsessed by porn websites," *The Guardian* (London), 2/5/04:

"During the trial, the jury heard that [the defendant], who kept the woman's body for almost a month and visited it frequently while it was in a storage unit, was an avid user of [Internet] sites devoted to snuff movies and necrophilia. The court heard he had been examining such sites the day before he strangled the teacher with a pair of nylon tights...The prosecution said he had killed [the teacher] and kept her body as a 'trophy' to play out a 'bizarre and macabre' sexual fantasy...Police...traced former girlfriends, who described how he liked to tie them up and apply pressure to their necks during sex until they almost passed out. One [former girlfriend] told officers [the defendant] once admitted, 'I get the most awful feelings that I am going to kill and rape a woman.' [She] also revealed she had discovered a stash of pornographic pictures of women. Around their necks [defendant] had drawn nooses."

In 2002 Morality in Media retained the services of two recently retired law enforcement agents, Roger Young and Tom Rodgers, to follow up on complaints about pornographic Web sites submitted by citizens to MIM's www.obscuritycrimes.org site.

Roger Young joined the FBI in 1975 and began working obscenity, child pornography, and prostitution cases in 1977. From the mid 1980s until his retirement in June 2001 he was recognized nationally as one of the leading authorities in the FBI regarding the investigation of obscenity cases. Roger Young had this to say about pornography and violent sex crimes:

"It is my professional and personal opinion that there is a direct correlation between pornography and violent sex crimes. Individuals who commit these crimes receive reinforcement, motivation, encouragement and validation of their sexual fantasies from the pornography they view and read. This material then becomes a catalyst for acting out their fantasies. One case that comes to mind is the Gary Bishop case. Bishop sexually assaulted and murdered a number of children in Utah. Bishop began viewing pornography prior to high school. Prior to his execution, Bishop stated that the pornography he viewed and read affected him and was a factor in the crimes that he committed.

"In addition to the Gary Bishop case, another investigation in which I was involved was the Jeremy Strohmeyer case. Strohmeyer, a high school senior at the time of his crime, sexually assaulted and murdered a prepubescent female at a hotel/casino at the California/Nevada state line. During the investigation it was discovered that he had a large amount of pornography in his computer, and that just prior to his crime, he received an audiovisual image (AVI) on his computer from another individual. This AVI depicted an adult male engaged in sexual intercourse with a prepubescent female. Evidence in this case also revealed that Strohmeyer expressed an interest and a desire to engage in sexual intercourse with a prepubescent female. Before trial was to begin, Strohmeyer changed his plea from not guilty to guilty. Had the case gone to trial, the Las Vegas District Attorney planned to use the pornography in Strohmeyer's computer to demonstrate premeditation for his crime."

Tom Rodgers was a detective lieutenant from the Indianapolis Police Department. During his 28 years with the Department, Lt. Rodgers received many awards, including awards for fighting child pornography. He also helped lead the fight against "adult" bookstores during the period when Stephen Goldsmith (who later became Mayor) served as Prosecuting Attorney. Lt. Rodgers had this to say about pornography and violent sex crimes:

"As an Indianapolis Police Department Detective Lieutenant, I was assigned to the Sex Crimes

Branch where we investigated forcible rapes involving adult victims as well as sex crimes against children. I can recall many cases involving suspects who used pornography just prior to committing their sex crimes, including violent sexual crimes. One particular suspect would view his pornography before going out to prowl at night and identify vulnerable victims who felt they were secure in their homes. He would then break into their homes as they slept to commit his rapes, causing physical injury to all his victims."

"In the early 1980's I was called to consult on a case with a Colorado police department while I was detailed to assist that police agency. The case involved a middle-age grandfather who frequented adult bookstores and was infatuated with adult pornography. Although he claimed to have no actual sexual attraction to children, he was accused of sadomasochistically molesting his granddaughters in acts so vile; it would defy your imagination.

"The grandfather photographed himself performing many sexual sex acts on his five-year old grandchild. In some of the photographs he would require her to pose nude with a blood spattered genitalia and abdomen. The child was also depicted in the photographs with a grimacing face as if experiencing severe pain. In one photography session, he hanged the child upside down by her ankles on the inside of a closet door. In this scene, the child was depicted wearing a skirt and her panties pulled down exposing her genitals. The final photograph in this series, depicted the child lying on a floor, nude from the waist down, bloodied and with a blunt instrument positioned between her legs. It appeared as if the little girl was unconscious or perhaps dead. The perpetrator was arrested when he sold copies of the photographs to an adult bookstore clerk who in turn sold them to an undercover agent."

Many other current and former federal and state prosecutors and law enforcement agents across the nation (and in other countries) could and would describe similar cases where pornography did or may have contributed to violent sexual crimes, if they were asked to do so.

Clinical case studies and common sense

Dr. Victor B. Cline, a clinical psychologist and Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Utah, has treated approximately 300 sex addicts, sex offenders, or other individuals (96% males) with sexual illnesses. In his monograph "Pornography's Effects on Adults and Children" [available from Morality in Media in booklet form for \$4 and free of charge, in an abridged version, on the www.obscenitycrimes.org web site ([Help for Porn Victims and Addicts](#) page)], Dr. Cline has this to say about a "four factor syndrome" common to nearly all of his clients, "especially in their involvement with pornography:"

"The first change that happened was an addiction-effect. The porn-consumers got hooked. Once involved in pornographic materials, they kept coming back for more and still more. The material seemed to provide a very powerful sexual stimulant or aphrodisiac effect, followed by sexual release, most often through masturbation. The pornography provided very exciting and powerful imagery that they frequently recalled to mind and elaborated on in their fantasies ... It is difficult for non-addicts to comprehend the totally driven nature of a sex addict. When the 'wave' hits them, nothing can stand in the way of getting what they want, whether that be pornography accompanied by masturbation, sex from a prostitute, molesting a child, or raping a woman. These

men are consumed by their appetite, regardless of the cost or consequences. Their addiction virtually rules their lives.

"The second phase was an escalation-effect. With the passage of time, the addicted person required rougher, more explicit, more deviant, and 'kinky' kinds of sexual material to get their 'highs' and 'sexual turn-ons.' It was reminiscent of individuals afflicted with drug addictions. Over time there is nearly always an increasing need for more of the stimulant to get the same initial effect. Being married or in a relationship with a willing sexual partner did not solve their problem. Their addiction and escalation were mainly due to the powerful sexual imagery in their minds, implanted there by the exposure to pornography ...

"The third phase was desensitization. Material (in books, magazines, or films/videos) which was originally perceived as shocking, taboo-breaking, illegal, repulsive, or immoral, in time came to be seen as acceptable and commonplace. The sexual activity depicted in the pornography (no matter how anti-social or deviant) became legitimized ...

"The fourth phase was an increasing tendency to act out sexually the behaviors viewed in the pornography, including compulsive promiscuity, exhibitionism, group sex, voyeurism, frequenting massage parlors, having sex with minor children, rape, and inflicting pain on themselves or a partner during sex. This behavior frequently grew into a sexual addiction that they found themselves locked into and unable to change or reverse no matter what the negative consequences were in their life. Many examples of the negative effects of pornography-use come from the private or clinical practice of psychotherapists, physicians, counselors, attorneys, and ministers. Here we come face to face with real people who are in some kind of significant trouble or pain. One example from my practice might illustrate this.

"I was asked to consult on a case where a Phoenix-Tucson area professional person, president of his firm and head of his church's committee on helping troubled children, was found to be a serial rapist who had violently raped a number of women at gun- or knife-point ... The only significant negative factor in his life was an early adolescent addiction to pornography which, for the most part, was kept secret from others. This gradually escalated over a period of years, eventually leading to spending many hours and incurring great expense at 'adult' bookstores, looking at violent video-porn movies and masturbating to these. His first rape was triggered by seeing a close resemblance in the woman he assaulted to the leading character in a porn movie he had seen earlier in the day. Reality and fantasy had become extremely blurred for him as he acted out his pathological sexual fantasies."

In addition to covering clinical case history data, field studies and experimental laboratory type studies, Dr. Cline's article also has a section entitled, "Use of Sexually Explicit Films to Change Behavior & Attitudes," where he states in part:

"[S]ex counseling clinics in the United States daily make use of explicit sexual pictures, films, books and videos to change couple's sexual behavior, beliefs and attitudes. Other centers use graphic sex films in an attempt to recondition the sexual behavior of sex offenders. However, these are carefully selected and prescribed as a physician would in writing a prescription for a particular drug to treat a specific illness or infection ... [N]o responsible sex therapist would ever say to a patient who had a specifically focused sexual problem, 'Go down to the adult bookstore and help yourself to anything

you can find there.

"You cannot logically argue that the kind of change which takes place in a sex counseling clinic can function only one way (just to make people healthy). The possibility certainly exists that some pornography can harm people through accidental conditioning processes or modeling or imitative learning of destructive, unhealthy, or illegal kinds of sexual activity, which some viewers may later act out."

On occasion, a mental health professional testifies that he or she uses materials in his or her therapy that are similar to the hardcore materials at issue in the trial—therefore, the argument goes, the materials at issue have serious scientific value. But as the Supreme Court pointed out in [*Miller v. California*](#), 413 U.S. 15, at 36, "[C]ivilized people do not allow unregulated access to heroin because it is a derivative of medicinal morphine."

It isn't just defense expert witnesses who find value in viewing hardcore pornographic materials. As reported in *Adult Video News* (Sept. 1999), Sharon Mitchell, then director of the Adult Industry Medical Healthcare Foundation, said:

"Everyone who watches porn learns something from it, right? It could be a new technique...even a new kind of fantasy. Right? So let's just call this an instructional tape for safety awareness and for the HIV-positive to realize there's ways to have sex safely."

In an editorial, "The Importance of Porn in these Post-Sept. 11 Times" (*Adult Video News*, March 2002), Heidi Pike-Johnson writes:

"Porn...inspires us to reach out and try things that we had never done before. It challenges us to live up to our desires..."

Cathartic effect

Another argument that defenders of pornography make is that pornography provides individuals prone to sexual violence with an outlet for their sexual desires. In other words, it has a cathartic effect on individuals who would otherwise commit sexual crimes.

Perhaps that is part of what Nadine Strossen had in mind when she said:

"In fact, the studies suggest that if anything, the greater availability of sexually explicit materials is positively correlated with ... lower rates of sexual violence against women. Compare, for example, Singapore, which tightly restricts pornography, and Sweden, where pornography is freely available. Singapore has a much higher rape rate than does Sweden ... " ["In Defense of Pornography," *New York Native*, 1/23/95]

I know little about Singapore, but I did find articles about Sweden, including the following:

Headline: **Swedes cleaning up their morality act** [*New York Daily News*, 8/17/86]

"Here in the world capital of sexual permissiveness, the tide of sexual revolution has begun to ebb ... and a public outcry over pornography is growing. Swedish authorities ... outlawed live sex shows

four years ago, for example, and now are considering a ban on the sale of violent pornographic videotapes. Sex expert Maj Fant said Swedes were naively idealistic, unaware of pornography's dark side. The new Swedish view seems to echo the recent U.S. [Attorney General's] Commission report on pornography, which contended there is a link between smut and violent sex crimes."

Headline: **Sweden to Study Sexual Crime from Women's Viewpoint**

"STOCKHOLM, July 1[1993] (Reuters) - Alarmed by a sharp rise in sex crimes, the Swedish government ordered a study of rape, sexual harassment and indecent assault from a female standpoint. Official figures show sexual violence in Sweden rose 25 percent to some 6,000 cases in 1992 against the previous year ..."

Headline: **Sweden Porn**

"STOCKHOLM, March 25 [2000] (Reuters) - A group of Swedish chambermaids are seeking protection from male hotel customers who become 'over-excited' after watching pornography on television. In an article published in today's Aftonbladet daily, the group ... called for the maids to be given alarms to use in case of attack."

Headline: **MEP declares war on porn**

"IRISH INDEPENDENT, January 21, 2004: A Swedish Euro-MP fighting the spread of pornography yesterday called for a study into 'the reasons behind sexual behavior of men' ... She is the author of a draft European Parliament report warning that globalization has caused an explosion in the sex industry. The report ... points out that 70pc of the 360m EU citizens spent on the Internet in 2001 went to porn sites."

Headline: **Swedes have more and more animal sex**

TV2.no NETTAVISEN, January 26, 2004: "Animal sex is not illegal in Sweden, and every year between 200 and 300 pets are injured because of sexual assaults. The estimate was presented by Svenska Veterinarforbundet, the Swedish veterinary organization ... 'We have seen an increase since 1999 when child pornography became illegal,' said Johan Beck-Friis. 'It appears ... as there are some people who have replaced children with animals ...'"

It isn't just Swedes, of course, who have sex with animals. And it isn't just animals that suffer. As reported in "U.S. group campaigns to outlaw animal sex" (Reuters, 3/17/99), experts say some women abused by their husbands are forced to take part in bestiality. According to the article, the wives said that the bestiality is worse than being directly abused by their mates. Said Dr. Frank Ascione, professor of psychology at Utah State University, "Men who have observed bestiality in pornographic material will sometimes force their wives to reenact activity at home."

There are a number of problems with the cathartic theory. As Dr. Victor Cline and others have observed, when individuals become addicted to pornography they often (if not always) reach the point where they act out (or, at bare minimum, *long for* the opportunity to act out) their sexual fantasies in real life—with dates, wives, prostitutes, or strangers.

If the so-called cathartic effect were working, then the incidence of sexual abuse of children should be decreasing—in proportion to the expansion of traffic in child pornography on the Internet. But experts are concerned that the opposite is happening, experts like these:

"Muireann O'Brian is helping to lock up child pornographers and child traffickers in the world's most deprived countries. The Dublin woman, who heads the Bangkok office of the worldwide organization, End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism, helps police and lawyers nail pedophiles and charts the extent of child sex abuse. . . . Mrs. O'Brien said the number of children being sold for sex each day is staggering. . . . She said disturbing studies show heterosexual men are becoming addicted to child porn through the Internet. She revealed: 'Studies and arrests have shown men with perfectly normal sexual proclivities become seduced, then involved and finally addicted to child pornography. Their addiction may manifest itself by them just keeping and looking at the images . . . But it has been found that the addiction leads many men into seeking out children to abuse.'" ["Irish Lawyer leading fight in Asia against evil perverts," *Sunday Mirror* (London), 9/9/2001]

"Al Cooper, a California psychologist who recently published a book that explores the Internet's effect on sexuality, said the rise in offensive porn spam may be due in part to some surfers' dwindling interest in mainstream fare. 'There's only so many naked women's breasts you can see until you get tired of it,' Cooper said. 'For sex sites to make money, they need to supply people with new material...something new and exciting'...'We're seeing a tremendous increase in people looking for child porn online, then trying to solicit kids for sex,' Cooper said." ["Porn Spam: It's Getting Raunchier," *Wired News*, 9/30/02]

"Demand for pornographic images of babies and toddlers on the Internet is soaring, a leading expert has warned. Psychology professor Max Taylor of University College Cork heads [COPINE](#)—a project set up to uncover pedophile gangs. The group, Combating Pedophile Information Networks in Europe, held a conference ... to discuss the alarming growth of child porn ... [Taylor] said: 'More babies and toddlers are appearing on the net and the abuse is getting worse. It is more torturous and sadistic than it was before. The typical age of children is between 6 and 12, but the profile is getting younger' ... COPINE's research showed around 20 new children appear on the porn sites every month—many kidnapped or sold into sex." ["Baby pornography soaring," Reuters, 3/4/03]

"Kenneth Lanning, a former FBI profiler, believes many offenders have harbored—and suppressed—deviant urges for years. 'They may never have acted out ... and along comes the Internet ... which is like pouring fuel on smoldering embers,' Lanning said... The deluge of pornographic images and chatter on line is perilous for those struggling to keep their desires in check because it whets their appetite, experts say." ["Net's anonymity cloaks predators," *New York Daily News*, 11/2/03]

"Pedophiles are swapping thousands of hardcore images of child sex abuse in a new form of computer child pornography [peer-to-peer traffic] that police believe is feeding a demand for more real-time victims of abuse... The images are generally more extreme and at least 20% of the users are what police class as Category One, meaning the suspect is 'of significant risk to children'. . . . The [Metropolitan London police's] child protection hi-tech crime unit has already built a list of 800 suspects involved in file swapping illegal images in the United Kingdom alone. While most are involved only in sharing or downloading the images, a significant proportion are active abusers producing the material for themselves, often using their own children, their neighbor's children or-in

rarer cases-by luring strangers." ["Race to save new victims of child porn," *The Guardian* (London), 11/4/03]

If the so-called cathartic effect were working, then the incidence of violent sexual crimes perpetrated by children should be decreasing, because never before has hardcore pornography been so readily available to children. But there is evidence that the opposite is occurring:

"Teenagers open up to Dr. Ponton, a professor of psychiatry at University of California at San Francisco...[A]s chairwoman of the Disaster and Trauma Committee of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, she works as a consultant to schools on issues of violence and risk taking...Q. [interviewer] *A disturbing finding of the national Youth Risk Behavior Survey last year is that one in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by her boyfriend. In other words, she has been physically hurt or forced to have intercourse against her will. Why is this happening?* A. [Dr. Ponton] ...Violence and sexual themes run through media. So many of the sexual and violent images on the Internet and in other media use girls in objectified, sadistic ways...I see boys who are addicted to sex on the Internet that show sadistic behavior toward women. It affects those boys' sexual lives and also what we see with our daughters." ["An Expert's Eye on Teenage Sex, Risk and Abuse," *New York Times*, 1/15/2002]

"A former policeman who led the fight against Internet child porn warned that the tide of filth in cyberspace is growing and could lead to an abuse 'timebomb.' Terry Jones fears adolescents are being corrupted by exposure to sordid material ... [Jones'] police team was the first to catch a child abuser purely from the images [the abuser] put on the web. The police operation resulted in the man being jailed for 12 years for the systematic rape and indecent assault of a four year old. In 2001, another operation ... trapped a further 48 targets across the country. Disturbingly, many of the suspects turned out to be under 17. One was under 13. 'A third of indecent assaults are carried out by adolescents,' said Jones, who now runs the Internet Pedophilia Training Awareness Consultancy." ["Child Pornography Timebomb," *Manchester Evening News*, 11/21/03]

"A Canberra (Australia)-based health unit working with abused and abusive children has recorded a significant rise in the number of children aged younger than 10 who are committing sexual offenses, including 'oral sex and forced intercourse,' against other children. ... 'We're not talking about kids playing mummies and daddies together,' [the unit manager Annabel] Wyndham said in a phone interview. 'We're talking about things like one child holding another child up by the neck ... and pulling their pants down and doing things to them.' Most of the children seen in this category came from troubled backgrounds, and 40 percent had been abused themselves. ... Nonetheless, the unit also recorded startling data relating to Internet use. Of the ... sexually-abusive children seen ... 90 percent admitted having seen sexually explicit material online, the report said. A full one-quarter deliberately sought out pornography online as their main use of the Internet, while about 40 percent said they used the Internet for other purposes as well as accessing pornography. . . . Wyndham said her unit did not believe the rise in cases of children behaving in a sexually aggressive manner was merely a matter of increased recognition of a longstanding problem...The research paper was presented by the Canberra unit and a government-funded body called the National Child Protection Clearinghouse. One of its child protection experts, Dr. Janet Stanley, said...'We're suggesting there's an association between children's exposure to inappropriate material on the Internet . . . and their acting out in sexually aggressive behavior, experimenting and modeling what they are seeing.'" ["[Online Porn Driving Sexually Aggressive Children](#)," CNSNews.com, 11/26/03]

If the so-called cathartic effect were working, then women should feel safer than ever because never before in human history has so much hardcore pornography been so readily available to persons of all ages. When asked in a 2003 national survey what their "top priorities" were, however, 92% of women 18 and older said reducing domestic violence and sexual assault ("[USA's women have 'a new set of priorities,' poll suggests](#)," *USA TODAY*, 6/24/2003).

And perhaps with very good reason. In February 2003, Lifetime Television aired a documentary, "Together: Stop Violence Against Women." In his article about the documentary, "Putting a Face on Violence" (*Newsday*, 2/12/03), David Behrens wrote:

'On campuses, one in four women are victims of rape or attempted rape, the film maintains. In another study, reported in the Commonwealth Fund Survey of Women's Health, 31 percent of American women said they had been physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend sometime in their lives.'

If the so-called cathartic effect were working, then the incidence of violent sexual crimes in general should be rapidly decreasing, because there has been an explosion of Web sites featuring bondage, domination, gangbangs, rape, rough sex, and torture. But if Vernon Gerbeth is correct, there has been an "upsurge in sexual violence, stranger rapes, and stranger sex murders."

Sexual violence against prostitutes

My introduction to the problem of sexual violence against prostitutes came about indirectly. I was searching in a file for documentation about the connection between the California porn industry and organized crime when I came across an article, "LIFE ON THE STREET: New Wave of Prostitution With More Violence Is Overwhelming L.A. Authorities" (*Los Angeles Times*, 12/8/85). What caught my attention in the article were statements like these:

"[M]ore customers, [a madam] said, were beating, torturing and killing out-call prostitutes.

"In addition to serial killers, usually one prostitute a month is murdered in Los Angeles County—twice as many as 10 years ago—estimated L.A. police detective Fred Clapp.

"An increasing number of customers are requesting violent or kinky sexual services ...

"Most of the women who have worked the streets for any length of time have also been assaulted and tortured. Although there are no exact statistics on prostitute killings and abductions, most law enforcement officials agree that the problem has worsened.

"The sexual revolution has contributed to the change prostitutes have seen, said Dr. Michael Grinberg, a psychiatrist, sex therapist and chairman for the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, based in Philadelphia... There are several possible reasons for the change, Grinberg said. Our society is more violent now... Pornography is more graphic and readily available and some behavior displayed 'can become incorporated in one's sexual fantasies.'"

That article prompted me to open a new file, "Prostitutes—Violence," a file which continues to

grow, with articles like these about prostitutes murdered in the New York City metropolitan area.

"Joel Rifkin's confirmed body count rose to 13 yesterday—making him the worst serial killer in New York State history. And police believe [correctly!] that the number will rise... There are a multitude of cases that are being reviewed from the surrounding tri-state area... Of the 13 known victims... 10 are definitely hookers... When serial killer Joel Rifkin wasn't out stalking prostitutes, he sometimes watched movies about them, according to a Long Island video store owner. 'He rented porno movies about hookers,' said the manager..." ["Unlucky 13 as Ripper's Victim List Grows," *New York Post*, 7/2/93]

"In the wake of Joel Rifkin's trial and conviction for murder on Long Island, a year after he was arrested and confessed to killing 17 women he claimed were prostitutes working in Manhattan's Lower East Side, street walkers said they felt no safer... Prostitutes working the streets wept as they described the trauma of recent attacks... Ten prostitutes interviewed agreed that some johns like to see blood. Some won't start sex before drawing blood with blows to the face. Others slash with knives... 'They killed another girl just the other day,' said a 28-year old, dark-haired prostitute in the Bronx recently. 'It was one of her johns. Another was strangled.'" ["Streets Still Mean for Hookers," *Newsday*, 5/17/94]

"A mild mannered clerk was charged yesterday with being the monster who stalked and killed two Manhattan prostitutes and sexually assaulted four other women. [Defendant] regularly trolled the lower East Side and Chelsea looking for prostitutes with whom he could act out deadly bondage fantasies, cops said... When cops arrested [defendant], they found... a notebook containing amateurish sketches of women in bondage... At the Harlem home of [defendant's] aunt, they found more drawings and a collection of bondage magazines." ["Hooker-slay suspect charged," *New York Daily News*, 10/25/95] [According to an article, "Hooker Killer Confesses" (*New York Post*, 10/25/95) defendant had a "bizarre foot fetish that made him want to turn his victims into dead ballerinas... [Defendant] confessed that he made his victims do a grotesque dance of death before sexually attacking and choking them..."]

"A fourth body was pulled last night from the garbage-strewn house of horrors where an alleged serial killer is believed to have murdered and buried up to eight women... As many as 10 prostitutes have now contacted police, reporting cases of 'abusive contact' and 'rough sex' by [defendant]... The eight missing women... all had histories of prostitution and drug use. They had been gradually disappearing from the same gritty Poughkeepsie [New York] neighborhood since October 1966." ["'House of Horror'...", *New York Post*, 9/4/98]

"A... postal worker was found guilty of... bludgeoning and dismembering 3 women he picked up at a hangout for prostitutes in Jamaica Queens, and disposing the bodies in trash bins... He still faces trial on murder charges in Westchester County, where the bodies of two other women were found." ["Man Convicted of Murdering 3 Prostitutes," *New York Times*, 3/5/99]

"Two prostitutes have been strangled in Bedford-Stuyvesant [Brooklyn] during the past two weeks, but police say they do not believe the slayings are connected to the recent, related murders of two other prostitutes in Williamsburg [Brooklyn]. Police previously said the [Williamsburg slayings] appeared to have been done by the same killer who... had strangled them with a black shoelace... [One of the Bed-Stuy victims] was found dead on her bedroom floor... feet and hands

bound, she had been strangled and her throat deeply slashed, police said." ["Investigation of Killings Intensifying," *Newsday*, 10/7/99] [On June 23, 2000, a third woman was found strangled with a shoelace. ("Serial killer..." *New York Post*, 6/23/2000)]

"Authorities believe [defendant] was on his way to becoming New York's next serial killer. The 43-year old suspect psycho killer—busted last February while attempting to rape a streetwalker...—is now suspected of strangling two other hookers in earlier attacks in a chilling pattern of sexual assault and murder... There were uncanny similarities between the suffocation of [the first murder victim, found 11/29/01]... and the strangulation of the [the second murder victim, found 1/26/02]. ["Psycho Sex Fiend," *New York Post*, 1/21/03]

"Police have identified a headless and handless body dumped on Long Island last year as a 20-year old prostitute... who plied here trade in Manhattan before she was murdered, possibly by a serial killer... A second body of a woman—also without a head or hands—had been found dumped a short distance away almost three years earlier in November 2000... The torso of a third woman, also missing her head and hands, was found in Nassau County in 1997." ["Headless, handless... ID's as prostitute," *New York Post*, 2/3/04]

Many other U.S. cities have reported killers who prey on prostitutes, including:

Bridgeport, CT ["Accused killer of prostitute a suspect in other slayings," *New York Times*, 9/1/94]

Chicago, IL ["Decrepit buildings shield crimes of serial killer," *New York Times*, 7/26/99]

Dallas, TX ["Serial Killer Loose?," *Newsday*, 11/14/91]

Detroit, MI ["Ex-sailor linked to slayings of prostitutes worldwide," *New York Times*, 3/9/2001]

Grand Rapids, MI ["Police suspect serial killer on the loose," *Detroit News*, 10/16/96]

Kansas City, MO ["Body Parts Identified," *Newsday*, 9/17/94]

Miami, FL ["Prostitutes defy killer by working," *New York Times*, 12/28/94]

New Bedford, MA ["Killer stalks port: Prostitutes target in Mass.," *New York Daily News*, 12/2/88]

Newark, NJ ["Suspects seen but no pattern in 14 killings of women," *New York Times*, 4/3/98]

Philadelphia, PA ["Police link man to stranglings of 9 women," *New York Times*, 6/27/99]

Riverside, CA ["Californian guilty in killing of 12 prostitutes," *New York Times*, 7/20/95]

Rochester, NY ["Prostitution called link in Rochester deaths," *New York Times*, 11/13/90]

Seattle, WA ["Fiend says: I murdered 48 women," *New York Post*, 11/6/03]

Spokane, WA ["Man admits murdering 13 women," *New York Daily News*, 10/20/2000]

Trenton, NJ ["Trenton man faces charges in slayings of 4 women," *New York Times*, 8/9/96]

While reading an article for this article, I also came across the following study:

"The present study ... was aimed at studying sexual abuse of street prostitutes both prior to and following entrance into prostitution. Yet ... unexpected information emerged... that was unfortunately not studied in a systematic manner. ... Such was the case in the present study with regard to the relationship between sexual abuse and pornography... Two-hundred juvenile and adult, current and former, women street prostitutes in the San Francisco Bay area participated in the study. ... The study generated an enormous amount of data, quantitative as well as qualitative documenting stunning amounts of sexual abuse of street prostitutes as part of their job, outside their work environment and in their childhood prior to entering prostitution. Many of the open descriptions of these sexual assaults made reference to the role played by pornography. These references were unsolicited by interviewers. ... Out of the 193 cases of rape, 24% mentioned

allusions to pornographic material on the part of the rapist. This is even more significant when it is understood that these comments were made by respondents without any solicitation or reference to the issue of pornography by the Interviewer. The comments followed the same pattern: the assailant referred to pornographic materials he had seen or read and then insisted that the victims not only enjoyed rape but also extreme violence." [Silbert, M. and Pines, A., "Pornography and Sexual Abuse of Women," *Sex Roles*, 10:857-868, 1984]

It isn't just street walkers and call girls who are the targets of violent sex crimes. In a [statement to protest](#) the "Erotica USA" trade show (held in New York City's Jacob Javits Convention Center, April 1999), Dr. Mary Anne Layden, Director of Education, Center for Cognitive Therapy, at the University of Pennsylvania, wrote:

"The job that [strippers] do is fraught with dangers and unpleasantry. In one study 100% of the strippers reported some kind of physical or verbal abuse on their jobs. Verbal abuse by customers is extremely common with 91% reporting incidents. They were routinely called degrading names like c--t (52%), w---e (61%), and b---h (85%). Besides the verbal abuse, all endured some type of physical abuse on the job. Despite the fact that it is illegal to touch a stripper, strippers reported that customers grabbed them by the arm (88%), grabbed their breast (73%), or their buttock (91%). Customers at strip clubs often assault the women. Customers pulled their hair (27%), pinched them (58%), slapped them (24%), or bite them (36%). They are often attacked in the strip club in front of bodyguards and other audience members. If men would do this to women in public, what would they do to women in private? Strippers are often raped. Strippers have reported that they have been followed home (70%) and have been stalked (42%)."

Ted Bundy

Every so often I read an article defending media violence—in film, TV, rap/music or video games—which argues (in so many words) that while the author or others the author is aware frequently consume violent media, he or she or they don't commit violent crimes. Therefore, the argument goes, media violence is not connected to violent crime.

It goes without saying that violent crime is a serious matter. For many reasons, including fear of getting caught and fear of God, most people don't commit violent crimes. Their self-control is stronger than the anger, envy, hate, greed, jealousy, lust, etc. that stirs within.

But for many reasons—including alcohol, media, family breakdown, peer pressure, physical or sexual abuse, pornography, prenatal influences (often working in combination)—either internal restraints are inadequately developed or diminished or the urges become too strong (or both).

Here's how serial killer Ted Bundy described his experience in an [interview](#) with Dr. James Dobson (a psychologist who served on the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography and founder of Focus on the Family) on January 23, 1989, the day before Bundy was executed:

Dr. Dobson: "For the record, you are guilty of killing many women and girls."

Bundy: "Yes. Yes. That's true ... Okay, but before I go any further, I think it's important to me that people believe what I'm saying. I'm not blaming pornography. I'm not saying that it caused me to go out and do certain things. And I take full responsibility for whatever I've done ... That's not the

question here. The question and the issue is how this kind of literature contributed and helped mold and shape the kinds of violent behavior."

Dobson: "It fueled your fantasies."

Bundy: "In the beginning it fuels this kind of thought process. Then at a certain time it's instrumental in what I would say crystallizing it, making it into something which is almost like a separate entity inside. At that point you're at the verge, or I was at the verge of acting out on these kinds of thoughts."

Dobson: "Now, I really want to understand that. You had gone about as far as you could go in your own fantasy life with printed materials, and then there was the urge to take that little or big step further to a physical event."

Bundy: "Right. And it happened in stages, gradually. It doesn't necessarily, not to me at least, happen overnight. My experience with pornography that deals on a violent level with sexuality is that once you become addicted to it—and I look at this as a kind of addiction—like other kinds of addiction ... I would keep looking for more potent, more explicit, more graphic kinds of materials. Like an addiction, you keep craving something which is harder, harder. Something which gives you a greater sense of excitement. Until you reach the point where the pornography only goes so far ..."

Dobson: "How long did you stay at this point before you actually assaulted someone?"

Bundy: "I would say a couple of years. What I was dealing with were strong inhibitions against criminal behavior—violent behavior—that had been conditioned into me, bred into me, in my environment, in my neighborhood, in my church, in my school. Things which said no, this is wrong. And I'm on that edge, and these last ... you might say, vestiges of restraint—the barriers to actually do something were being tested constantly, and assailed through the kind of fantasy life that was fueled largely by pornography."

Dobson: "Do you remember what pushed you over the edge? ... Would it be accurate to call that a frenzy, a sexual frenzy?"

Bundy: "... That's one way to describe it. A compulsion, a building of destructive energy. Again, another fact here that I haven't mentioned is the use of alcohol. But I think that what alcohol did in conjunction with, let's say, my exposure to pornography [is that] alcohol reduced my inhibitions at the same time.

Dobson: "Alright, if I can understand it now, there is this battle going on within. There are the conventions you've been taught. There's the right and wrong that you learned as a child. And then there is this unbridled passion fueled by your plunge into hard-core, violent pornography. And those things are at war with each other."

Bundy: "Yes."

Dobson: "And then the alcohol diminishing the inhibitions, you let go."

Bundy: "Well, yes. And you can summarize it that way, and that's accurate, certainly. And it just occurred to me that some people would say that, well, I've seen that stuff, and it doesn't do anything to me ..."

Dobson: "Addictions are like that. They affect some people more than they affect others ..."

Dobson: "...You really feel that hardcore pornography and the doorway to it, soft-core pornography, is doing untold damage to other people, and causing other women to be abused and killed the way you did."

Bundy: "Listen. I'm no social scientist, and I haven't done a survey ... But I've lived in prison for a long time now. And I've met a lot of men who were motivated to commit violence like me. And without exception, every one of them was deeply involved in pornography—without exception, without exception—deeply influenced and consumed by an addiction to pornography."

Ted Bundy made quite a "splash" during his brief lifetime. He did so because he killed nice girls—instead of prostitutes. He did so because the night before his execution he spoke with Dr. James Dobson about how pornography had affected his life for the worse. He didn't claim that pornography "made him do it." He didn't ask Dr. Dobson to intervene on his behalf with the Florida governor. Why then did pornography defenders work to discredit what Bundy said?

Prohibition

Well, some will say, "Why spoil my fun just because a few sickos commit violent sex crimes. We don't ban alcohol just because some people abuse it. Why ban pornography?"

Here are three good reasons.

First, it isn't just a few "sickos" who are adversely affected by pornography. Millions of Americans, young and old, are addicted to pornography, and violent sexual crimes are not the only rotten fruit of pornography. Other pornography victims include:

"Performers" (many if not most of whom are under 21) who are physically and emotionally abused in the production of hardcore pornography or who acquire sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS) in the production of hardcore pornography

Wives married to husbands addicted to hardcore pornography (effect on marriage)

Women sexually harassed at their jobs, in part through exposure to hardcore pornography

Children who get a sex *miseducation* from viewing hardcore pornography, robbing them of the opportunity to develop in a healthy manner psychologically, morally, and spiritually

Children sexually abused by children who imitate what they view in hardcore pornography

Children who are sexually abused by adults who use hardcore pornography to sexually arouse themselves and to entice, desensitize and instruct their child victims

In [*Paris Adult Theatre I v. Slaton*](#), 413 U.S. 49, the Supreme Court also recognized governmental interests (other than sex crimes) that justifying suppression of obscenity. They include:

Protecting "the quality of life and total community environment" (413 U.S. at 58)

Protecting "the tone of commerce" (413 U.S. at 58)

Maintaining "a decent society" (413 U.S. at 59-60)

Protecting the "social interest in order and morality" (413 U.S. at 61)

Protecting "family life" (413 U.S. at 63)

The recent article, "[Hard-Core Harm: Why You Can't Be Soft on Porn](#)," by Jan LaRue (Concerned Women for America, October 2003) provides a good overview of various harms linked to hardcore pornography.

Second, [obscenity laws prohibit only "hard-core" pornography](#). Soft-core pornography and sexually explicit materials that, taken as a whole, have serious artistic, literary, political or scientific value are not prohibited under obscenity laws. Before sexual material can be deemed obscene, a jury (or judge), applying contemporary community standards, must first determine that the material depicts or describes sexual conduct in a *patently offensive* manner.

How many violent sex crimes against victims young and old should we tolerate so that libertines and sex addicts can view every form of pornography including—if the ACLU had its way—child pornography? Even with alcohol, we impose penalties on people who drink even small amounts and drive, despite the fact that most people who drink and drive do not cause serious accidents.

Third, Prohibition failed in large measure because most citizens believed that alcohol, used moderately, was not a moral evil. Obscenity, however, like prostitution, has always been considered an evil. As Supreme Court Justice Brennan noted out in [Roth v. United States](#) (1957):

"[I]mplicit in the history of the First Amendment, is the rejection of obscenity as utterly without redeeming social importance. This rejection for that reason is mirrored in the universal judgment that obscenity should be restrained, reflected in the international agreement of over 50 nations, in the obscenity laws of 48 States, and in the 20 obscenity laws enacted by Congress from 1842 to 1956."

Since 1956, the Supreme Court has reiterated (see, e.g., [Miller v. California](#), 1973; [Sable Communications of California v. FCC](#), 1989) that the First Amendment does not protect obscene materials. Congress has strengthened federal obscenity laws ([Title 18, Chapter 71, U.S. Code](#)) at least four times (1984, 1988, 1996 and 1998).

In 2003, by unanimous consent, the U.S. Senate adopted [Senate Concurrent Resolution 77](#), expressing the "sense of Congress that Federal obscenity laws should be vigorously enforced throughout the United States." As I write this article, an identical House Concurrent Resolution 298, with 79 sponsors, awaits a vote in the House Judiciary Committee.

In the 2000 presidential campaign, both Al Gore and George W. Bush issued statements supporting enforcement of obscenity laws. In 2003, President Bush issued a [Proclamation in conjunction with Protection from Pornography Week](#) in which he again expressed his strong support for enforcement of federal obscenity laws.

In a [national opinion poll](#), conducted for Morality in Media by Wirthlin Worldwide in March 2002, 81% of adults supported "vigorous" enforcement of federal Internet obscenity laws. In March 2004, [again in a national opinion poll](#) for Morality in Media, Wirthlin Worldwide found that 82% of adults supported "vigorous" enforcement of these laws.

Burden of proof

In debating the issue of whether there is a causal connection between media violence and real life injurious violence, I often say, when common sense, anecdotal evidence and social science research all point in the same direction (as they do with media violence and real life violence), then the burden of proof should shift to those who deny a connection.

Common sense should also inform us that when individuals (often beginning at early ages) feed their minds (often for years) on hardcore pornographic material that depicts, among other things, bestiality, bondage, "domination" (humiliation & degradation), gangbangs, "golden showers" (urine), incest, marital infidelity, prostitution, rape, "rough sex" (strangulation and slapping), "scat" (feces), "school girls" (grade school through college), sexual murders, teen promiscuity, torture, and unsafe sex, their sexual "appetites" can become warped—often to the extreme.

There is also a mountain of anecdotal evidence—from the perpetrators themselves, victims, law enforcement agents, mental health professionals and others—that indicates that pornography adversely affects vulnerable individuals of all ages. *The anecdotal evidence set forth in this article is only the tip of the proverbial iceberg.*

There is also a substantial body of social science research that indicates a causal relationship between exposure to pornography and sexual violence. The already noted article by Janet Hinson Shope "When Words Are Not Enough: The Search for the Effect of Pornography on Abused Women," discusses some of that research. See also, E. Oddone-Paolucci, M. Genuis, and C. Violato, "A Meta-Analysis of the Published Research on the Effects of Pornography," published in the Italian journal, *Medicine, Mind and Adolescence*, 2000, Vol. XII, 1-2, pp. 101-112. To obtain a copy of the meta-analysis of 46 studies, contact University of Calgary Professor Claudio Violato at 403-220-7296 or at violato@ucalgary.ca

Just as non-sexual media violence ranges from slapstick comedy to graphic and sadistic depictions of mayhem, pornography ranges from non-violent and "non-exploitative" consensual sex to rape, torture, murder, bestiality, and on and on (see above). The potential for harmful effects on audiences presumably varies from problematic to severe across those ranges.

But the potential for harm from pornography is never absent. All pornography has the potential of becoming addictive, leading to escalation, desensitization, and predatory acting out of sexual fantasies. Moreover, there is evidence that violent sex offenders are stimulated by hardcore pornography that doesn't depict forced sex.

For example, in a study [Marshall, W.L., "The Use of Sexually Explicit Materials by Rapists, Child Molesters and Nonoffenders," *Journal of Sex Research*, 25, No. 2, pp. 267-288 (1988)] of patients at the Kingston Sexual Offenders Clinic in Canada, conducted over a period of 6 years, researchers made "an unexpected finding, and one not explicitly sought after"—namely, that:

"One of rapists reported that he characteristically used consenting sex depictions to incite rape images in the process of preparing himself to attack a woman. Subsequent questioning...revealed a further five rapists who made similar claims and 10 of the 19 rapists who currently used consenting sex depictions for enjoyment (not necessarily preparatory to offending) also said they used it to incite rape fantasies."

Even assuming, however, that what some call "non-exploitive," nonviolent pornography is rarely linked to violent sexual crimes, we still have a major problem.

The *Attorney General's Commission on Pornography: Final Report* (1986) found that "increasingly, the most prevalent forms of pornography" fit the description of "sexually violent material" (p. 323) and that "an enormous amount of the most sexually explicit material available" can be categorized as "degrading, the term we use to encompass the undeniably linked characteristics of degradation, domination, subordination, and humiliation. The degradation we refer to is degradation of people, most often women..." (p. 331).

The Supreme Court got it right when it said in [*Miller v. California*](#) (413 U.S. at pp. 34-35):

"[T]o equate the free and robust exchange of ideas and political debate with commercial exploitation of obscene material demeans the grand conception of the First Amendment and its high purposes in the historic struggle for freedom. It is a 'misuse of the great guarantees of free speech and free press'...The protection given speech and press was fashioned to assure unfettered interchange of ideas to bring about political and social changes desired by the people'...But the public portrayal of hardcore sexual conduct for its own sake, and the ensuing commercial gain, is a different matter."

Not all are convinced

The effect that pornography has in the commission of violent sexual crimes is difficult, if not impossible, to measure scientifically. Perhaps in part for that reason, the link between pornography and violent sex crimes is often omitted or not taken seriously by the secular news media in their coverage of pornography, the pornography industry or violent sexual crimes.

For example, in his article, "Analysis: Obscenity crusade's flawed logic" (UPI, 12/6/03), Christian Bourge gives little weight to the statement of Bruce Taylor, a federal prosecutor, that "We are seeing much more treatment and therapy and social cost going into community health, domestic violence, rape and child crime that is related to pornography."

In her otherwise excellent article, "[The Porn Myth](#)" (*New York*, 10/20/03), Naomi Wolf summarily dismisses the notion that pornography is linked to rape and sexual mayhem

"[T]he other night, I saw Andrea Dworkin, the anti-porn activist...If we did not limit pornography, she argued...most men would come to objectify women...and treat them accordingly. In a kind of domino theory, she predicted, rape and other kinds of sexual mayhem would surely follow...She was...wrong about the outcome."

While N.R. Kleifield and Erica Goode do note in their article "Serial Killing's Squarest Pegs..." (*New York Times*, 10/28/02), that "[t]he majority of serial killers, experts say, use their crimes to act out elaborate sexual fantasies, sometimes involving rape and torture," they do not mention the frequent connection between those violent sexual fantasies and addiction to pornography. [I note, however, that in another *New York Times* article, "Who Would Abduct a Child? Previous Cases Offer Clues" (8/27/02), Mary Duenwald writes: "Many abductors harbor sexual fantasies that involve children and may exercise these fantasies by using child pornography."]

In his review of the book, "The Evil That Men Do: F.B.I. Profiler Roy Hazelwood's Journey Into the Minds of Sexual Predators," by Stephen G. Michaud with Roy Hazelwood, Christopher Lehmann-Haupt ("Finding Out What Is Standard About Deviants," *New York Times*, 2/4/99), had this to say about the connection between pornography and violent sex crimes:

"In the opening pages...Stephen G. Michaud drops several *intriguing* comments like these: ...'Aberrant offenders use pornography to validate their deviance...The more they see of it, and masturbate to it, the more their behavior is reinforced.' Since these are all *controversial* observations, the reader is drawn to learn what more Mr. Michaud has to say on these subjects..." [Emphasis mine]

Final thoughts

In writing this article, it was not my intention to prove scientifically, or otherwise, that behind every violent sex crime there is a pornography problem. Clearly, violent sexual crimes existed long before the advent of the printing press and photography. If rape had not been a problem in "Biblical times," the Law of Moses would not have prohibited it (Deuteronomy 22: 25-27).

I wrote this article because defenders of pornography are misleading the public by saying either that pornography is harmless or by saying that we lack the *necessary* "conclusive scientific data" that pornography causes sex crimes to justify suppressing pornography.

"Conclusive scientific data" is not necessary. There is already enough evidence of a causal link between pornography and sex crimes to justify enforcement of obscenity laws; and there would be much more if we would listen more to the people who deal with pornography first hand.

Used for the benefit of mankind, the scientific method is a marvelous tool, but it has limitations. Unlike laboratory rats, humans cannot be observed constantly, as in *The Truman Show* or *Nineteen Eighty Four* style, and controlled from birth to death.

Pornography addiction typically begins in childhood, but we can't therefore randomly select a group of ten-year olds and expose half of them to hardcore pornography to determine what effects this exposure has on them. Even assuming that it is ethical to observe over a period of time individuals ages 18 and over who have agreed to view pornography on a regular basis, it is unlikely they will

commit violent sexual crimes, knowing that they are part of a study.

Not too many years ago tobacco executives defended their products by arguing that there was no conclusive scientific data that smoking causes cancer. To my knowledge, they were right! To my knowledge, we still don't have conclusive scientific proof that smoking causes cancer. But we certainly do have a large body of evidence linking smoking to cancer and other ailments, which in my opinion more than justifies governmental efforts to curb smoking.

Dr. Reo M. Christianson, Professor of Political Science (retired), Miami University, Ohio, provided valuable insights in his article, "Political scientist calls for common sense in porn issue," published in March 1989 and November 1998 issues of the *AFA Journal*:

"I agree with Professor Wilson of Harvard who states that social science does not have sufficiently sensitive and sophisticated techniques and tools for definitively proving what damage pornography does or doesn't do. Especially when it comes to its long range impact and its impact on people who are not emotionally healthy and hence are particularly prone to commit anti social acts.....Conclusive proof? No. Persuasive evidence, yes...

"But if science cannot give us assured answers, let us use our common sense ... As has often been said, if destructive material can do no harm, then constructive material can do no good-and everything conscientious parents have believed from the dawn of the family is wrong ... But whatever conditions people regard destructive sexual behaviors as harmless, or worse, as desirable will inevitably weaken those barriers which society erects against irresponsible sexual conduct...

"I would emphasize the significance of the study by professors at the University of Indiana and the University of Evansville showing that persons who see a lot of pornography believe that rapists should be treated more indulgently than those who don't. Charles Peters summarized earlier research ... as indicating that violent pornography inspires violence. ... Conclusive proof? No. Persuasive evidence? Yes.

"I might add that the ACLU ... has become shrill, dogmatic and closed-minded on the issue of pornography ... No censorship, it cries, hoping that buzz word will frighten people from exercising independent thought in this field ... Parenthetically, doctrinaire liberals ... worship only one god, and its name is the ACLU. When this deity speaks, they ... suspend critical judgment and parrot its lines. And feel smug and superior to the great and unenlightened masses who, being clear-eyed rather than dogma ridden, regard pornography as a disgrace which ought to be curbed.

"I think the time is come to act...Time for the nation to realize...that communities have a right to set minimal standards of decency and the right to enforce them."

A final word from retired FBI Agent Roger Young:

"If anyone is to reach an honest fundamental understanding about obscenity, that person needs to *seek the truth and see the total picture*. In so doing it becomes clear beyond a shadow of a doubt that **there is no such thing as *just an obscenity case***. Crimes associated with obscenity crimes include the following—arson, bribery, conspiracy, drugs, extortion, involuntary servitude, jury tampering, kidnapping, mail fraud, laundering, murder, obstruction of justice, prostitution, public

corruption, racketeering, rape, robbery, sexual assault, sexual exploitation of children, tax evasion, and witness intimidation. Obscenity's impact on the quality of life and commerce, and its relation to violations of other criminal and civil laws (including public health laws), is resulting in devastating and harmful consequences to individuals, families, communities and our nation."

To learn more about the obscenity problem and what you can do about it, contact:

MORALITY IN MEDIA, INC., 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 239, New York, NY 10115

Phone: (212) 870-3222 fax: (212) 870-2765 e-mail: mim@moralityinmedia.org

Web sites: www.moralityinmedia.org www.obscenitycrimes.org

MIM operates the ObscenityCrimes.org Web site, which provides citizens with a means online to report possible violations of federal Internet obscenity laws. Reports to the site are forwarded by MIM to the Justice Department's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section in Washington and to U.S. Attorneys around the country. There is no other comparable tool for filing citizen complaints on Internet obscenity.

Morality in Media operates the National Obscenity Law Center (NOLC), a clearinghouse of information on obscenity and related laws, with a library that includes published obscenity cases, federal state, and local anti-pornography laws, and monographs on legal questions that are the subject of recurring inquiries. NOLC materials are utilized by prosecutors, law enforcement agents, municipal attorneys and others. The NOLC also runs the Safe States and Cities project, which has been distributing model statutes on sexually-oriented businesses to hundreds of municipalities across the U.S. The NOLC has its own website pages at www.moralityinmedia.org/nolc/

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When porn defenders challenge obscenity law enforcement, here's how to answer them

Whenever you take a public stand against traffic in illegal hardcore pornography, pornographers and their defenders will make cliched arguments to undermine your effort. The answers published here will help you to respond. They are adapted from Morality in Media's publication *Cliches - Debunking Misinformation about Pornography and Obscenity Law*, which is available from MIM (\$3.00 per copy).

District Attorneys and U.S. Attorneys have good reason for not enforcing the obscenity laws - namely, "limited resources and more important priorities."

Generally speaking, limited budgets and priorities determine what gets most of a prosecutor's attention. They rarely justify a prosecutor's decision to refuse to enforce some laws altogether -- especially when the refusal continues throughout the prosecutor's term of office. Can you imagine a prosecutor refusing to prosecute consumer fraud cases because he or she decided to concentrate his or her energies on prosecuting those who violate environmental protection laws? Or refusing to enforce laws aimed at endangering the welfare of a minor because he or she wanted to concentrate on prosecuting corrupt politicians? Or refusing to prosecute assault and rape cases involving spouses and "domestic partners" because he or she wanted to focus on drug violence?

Prosecutors are typically required, either by their oath of office or by statute (or both), to enforce

all of the laws. Prosecutors who fail or refuse to enforce obscenity laws are not doing their job; and by not doing their job, they are exposing individuals (young and old), families and the entire community to serious harm. Excuses for not enforcing obscenity laws vary. Some prosecutors may be unaware of the harms that pornography causes; or may mistakenly believe that it is their job to address the results of moral breakdown (rape, sexual child abuse, domestic violence, teen violence, prostitution, etc.) rather than a cause of it. Prosecutors with political aspirations may fear that the liberal media will not support enforcement of obscenity laws. Other prosecutors are ideologically opposed to obscenity laws.

But whatever their excuse, most prosecutors will begin enforcing obscenity laws when enough citizens complain; and the community will be a better place as a result of the enforcement.

Pornography is thriving, so the American people must want it or accept it.

Almost every national opinion poll -- including a [March 2002 Wirthlin Worldwide poll for Morality in Media](#) -- has shown that the majority of Americans are opposed to the traffic in pornography and support legal measures to curb it. The majority care, but they are confused and discouraged in the face of a highly organized propaganda campaign orchestrated by the pornography industry and its defenders.

Pornography is a victimless crime.

The victims of the pornography industry are strewn from coast to coast. They include sexually abused children, corrupted teens, degraded and violated women, addicted men, broken marriages, ruined neighborhoods, AIDS victims, and ultimately, the very soul and humanity of a nation.

When "consenting adults" view obscene material, no one is being harmed.

The U.S. Supreme Court said in 1973: "We categorically disapprove the theory that obscene films acquire constitutional immunity from state regulation simply because they are exhibited for consenting adults only. Rights and interests other than those of the advocates are involved. These include the interest of the public in the quality of life, the total community environment and possibly, the public safety itself.

"Apart from sex crimes . . . there is a 'right of the Nation and of the States to maintain a decent society.'

" . . . The sum of experience . . . affords an ample basis . . . to conclude that a sensitive, key relationship of human existence, central to family life, community welfare, and the development of human personality, can be debased and distorted by crass commercial exploitation of sex." ([Paris Adult Theater I v. Slaton](#))

In Paris Adult Theater I, the Supreme Court held that a government does not need conclusive scientific proof that porn causes sex crimes before it acts to curb traffic in obscenity. As the Court noted, many laws rest on judgments that cannot be proven scientifically. The *Paris* Court also recognized that the prevention of sex crimes is not the only reason for prohibiting the dissemination of obscenity.

Pornography is harmless. The 1970 Presidential Commission report said so.

The 1970 Majority Report of the Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography was

called a "scientific scandal" by many in the scientific community. A minority report of that commission (the "Hill-Link Minority Report") cited numerous instances where evidence was suppressed when it went counter to the predetermined "findings" of the majority report. In addition, the Hill-Link Minority Report was read into the record in both Houses of Congress as a "responsible position on the issues," and was later cited four times by the Supreme Court in upholding obscenity laws. However, pornographers and their defenders continue to resurrect the flawed and discredited majority report, which was rejected by the President and by the U.S. Senate (by a vote of 60 to 5).

You cannot legislate morality.

Yes, you can. Think of all the criminal laws - those against theft, rape, murder, robbery, and so forth. Defining what is morally right and wrong is and always has been the essence of the legislative function. Public morals are the business of the entire community, and it is public morality that obscenity laws are designed to safeguard. In its *Paris Adult Theater I* decision (1973), the Supreme Court said that a legislative body could prohibit obscenity "to protect 'the social interest in order and morality.'"

Who are you to tell me what I can see or read? You are imposing your morality on me!

A. I am not telling you what to see or to read. The people, through their elected representatives in Washington, D.C. and in over 40 state capitals, have decided that obscene materials cannot be distributed in interstate commerce or in their states. The people, with the approval of the courts, have decided to protect themselves, their families, and their communities from the harms associated with hard-core obscene pornography.

B. Pornography invades the home in the form of mail porn, dial-a-porn, video porn, cable porn, satellite-to-dish porn, and now computer porn. The reality is that the sex business is trying to impose its libertine immorality on an entire nation by appealing to the worst in individuals and exploiting human weakness.

C. In any society, someone's morality (or immorality) must prevail. The real question becomes, "Whose will prevail in America?" The pornographer's, leading to anarchy and decadence? Or the moral principles of those who honor the Judeo-Christian code -- a code which has been embraced, not imposed, as the cornerstone of Western civilization.

Why bother enforcing the law? The "adult" bookstores keep operating while their owners are in the courts, and even if they close eventually, they later come back.

A. Persistent, continuous, and vigorous enforcement of the law is the answer. When arrests and prosecutions begin, the sex industry is put on warning. Prison sentences and fines can eventually put the pornographers out of business. Many cities across America were ridded of obscene material because of vigorous, continuous law enforcement.

B. The RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) laws provide a powerful weapon against the pornography industry. Besides imposing stiff fines and prison sentences, RICO laws can force the forfeiture of all assets of a pornography business, including real property, stores, vehicles, and bank accounts. This is what breaks the racketeer's financial back. The federal government and some state governments have RICO obscenity statutes. Every state should be armed with such a

law.

C. "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance," as one of our nation's Founding Fathers said.

If you'd let pornography flow freely, people would get bored and the problem would take care of itself.

A. This boredom or satiation theory is invalid. Many users of pornography do not get bored; they become addicted, seeking more and more bizarre materials. For many, pornography-fueled fantasies must eventually give way to action, which includes sexual abuse, rape, and sometimes even murder.

B. Because of a lack of obscenity law enforcement throughout the 1970's and most of the 1980's, pornography was allowed to flow freely. Yet, instead of pornography going away, it has lured more and more people into destructive addictions.

C. Remember also that new markets for the industry are being created every day as children and teens succumb to the allure of pornography.

People who fight pornography are anti-sex, prudish, and sexually repressed.

Anti-sex? Surely you joke. The pornography business takes the beauty of real love and converts it into soulless, commercialized slime. The porn-fighters protect healthy sexuality with the key ingredients of love, tenderness, commitment, and the privacy of intimate moments. If "prudish" and "sexually repressed" are the labels attached to those who oppose the depictions of sadomasochism, gang rape, sexual orgies, bestiality, rubbing excrement on others, ad infinitum, then we will wear those labels proudly.

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