



the inhibitor of creativity, rationality

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In nearly every corner drug store and grocery store, pornography stares us in the face as if a broken sewer line were flooding everything up.

It seems we get so used to things in life (especially if they are exposed in slow, gradual dosages) that we no longer think of them as being something unusual. We soon cease to be shocked. What we thought was horrible yesterday, is acceptable today and a steppingstone for something worse tomorrow.

But there comes a time when you reach the bottom of the garbage pail - then you can't wallow any lower.

We seem to have accepted pornography into our society as calmly as taxes, hotdogs and mustard. There supposedly isn't anything wrong with it anymore.

I have recently spent many days studying the Report of the Longford Committee Investigating Pornography (officially presented to the British government - House of Lords in 1972), and the Report of the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography (officially presented to the American government - Congress and President - in 1970).

After much research I have compiled a list of basic reasons why pornography is wrong to be seen, stocked and sold. I have based my reasons on the British report and the Dissenting Section of the American Report.

Today, however, pornography does not seem to be a concern with us anymore. I doesn't really affect anybody anyway and if it did, people should have the freedom to read what they want. But if it doesn't affect us, why don't we want children to read the magazines?

To quote from the British report: "If what men read and view has no effect whatsoever on them, then why do industry and commerce spend millions of pounds each year in advertising...?"

It is ridiculous to suggest that continually watching (at least once a month after month) a sex saturated TV series will not affect us when an advertiser will spend thousands of dollars for a one minute time slot in that same series just to get us buying his product.

As it turns out, pornography is a great destructor. Here is what it destroys. I will quote extensively from both documents.

Pornography destroys society by destroying law and order. Admittedly, this is hard to prove. A criminal act is usually the outcome of a whole lifetime of negative circumstances.

However, the evidence is overwhelmingly in favor of the statement that pornography destroys law and order and causes criminal tendencies.

Allow me first to give the

results of the experts. These are research studies undertaken for the American commission by various psychologists from American universities and institutions.

For example, in the Davis and Braucht study the conclusion was: "In the case of sexual deviance, we have found a positive relationship between deviance and exposure to pornography at all ages of exposure levels." (Sexual deviancy, child molestation, indecent exposure, etc.). In no less than five other studies, similar conclusions were reached.

"you can't wallow any lower..."

So much for the experts. Now for the men who are really in the know; the men who handle sex crime every day - the police. Here are some official statements:

1. "Obscene literature is a primary problem in the U.S. today. Sexual arousals from obscene literature have been responsible for criminal behavior from vicious assaults to homicide." - O.W. Wilson, Superintendent, Chicago Police Department.

2. "Much more important, however, is the growing conviction among law officers that the flood of pornography that has been circulating among our young people for the past 10 years is a major factor in today's rapidly rising rate of sex crime.... What we do know is that in an overwhelmingly large number of cases sex is associated with pornography." - J. Edgar Hoover, late director of F.B.I.

3. "There has not been a sex murder in the history of our department in which the killer was not an avid reader of lewd magazines." - Herbert W. Case, former Detroit Police Inspector.

4. "I have never picked up a juvenile sex offender who did not have this stuff with him, in his car, or in his house." - Austin B. Duke, Detective Lieutenant, St. Louis County Police.

5. "The increasing number of sex crimes is due precisely to sex literature madly presented in certain magazines." - J. Edgar Hoover.

6. "Our city has experienced many crimes of sexual deviation.... We find that most of these deviates read obscene materials, and often exhibit them to children in an effort to arouse sexual excitement among their victims." - Paul E. Blubaum, Police Chief, Phoenix, Arizona.

Next, allow me to give some actual case histories depicting the relationship between pornography and sex crime. All crime cases (selected from various police files) occurred in the United States, except one:

1. Rape, Burbank, Califor-

nia, April 3, 1963: "Male youth, age 20, forcibly attacks minor female, age 12, on her way home from school. The victim reports (and the police find) a girlie magazine belonging to the suspect left at the scene of the attack."

2. Rape, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Feb. 1, 1966: "Seven Oklahoma teenage male youths attack a 15-year old female from Texas, raping her and forcing her to commit unnatural acts with them. Four of the youths, to the sons of attorneys, admit being incited to commit the act by reading obscene magazines and looking at lewd photographs."

3. Assault, June 30, 1965: "Male youth, aged 13, admits attack on a young girl in a downtown office was stimulated by sexual arousal from a stag magazine article he had previously read in a public drug store which showed naked women and an article on "How to Strip a Woman."

4. Rape, Cleveland, Ohio, April 14, 1967: "Woman is raped on the way to church one morning. Just prior to the attack the man was reading obscenity in his panel truck."

5. Murder, Cannock Chase, England, Jan. 15, 1966: "A sackful of pornographic magazines were found near a waterfilled ditch where the bodies of two strangled girls, aged five and six were discovered."

6. Juvenile Delinquency - sex perversion, West Corina, California, 1964: "Police officer making rounds in city park discovered minor boy committing act of sodomy on another minor boy. Centre spread of

Playboy was being used as means of excitation."

7. Juvenile delinquency - sex gang, Valley Blook, Oklahoma, Jan. 27, 1966: "A juvenile sex gang involving boys seven to 15 plus one three year old, was discovered in Oklahoma. An attorney representing one of the 15 year olds, revealed the boy told him they, themselves, and sub-teenage youngsters had bought magazines at various grocers and drugstores newsstands and were incited by pictures of men committing unnatural acts and men and women in lewd photos."

I think the evidence is now clear that pornography causes crime. What isn't quite so clear (supposedly) is what pornography leads to in the life of a pornography reader.

From the British report, we have a very revealing paragraph:

"Anyone reading our report will have come across frequent references to the overlap between violent and sexual material. The reader has only to look at the window display, and still more in the back room of any pornographic bookshop to see that probably more than 50% of the publications offered for sale show whips, chains, threatening and aggressive figures with cowering victims, rather than images that convey the benign and loving impulses

associated with sexual pleasure, or even cheerful nudity. In any list of mail order book titles, almost as high a proportion deal with still more obviously violent and cruel stimuli - torture, Nazi brutality, occult rituals of extreme savagery, and gruesome bestiality."

Finally, does history teach us anything about sexual permissiveness and pornography? It most certainly does. Some time ago, the former Oxford professor J.C. Unwin did a massive study of 80 primitive and civilized societies attempting to discover if a correlation really did exist between increasing sexual freedom and social decline. In his book *Sex and Culture*, Unwin concludes with the following:

"The more sexually permissive a society becomes, the less creative energy it exhibits and the slower its movement toward rationality, philosophical speculation, and advanced civilization." Arnold Toynbee, famous historian has made similar statements.

In conclusion, allow me to point out that I am not some cane-shaking, old grandmother. I happen to be a red-blooded, 21-year old, single, male, university student.

And, in case you were wondering, I am not against sex either (when it is used as God planned - in marriage, for pleasure and procreation.)

This is a reprint of an article which appeared this September in *The Edmonton Journal*. It stimulated a lot of discussion amongst its readers, and its author, a student here, felt it would on campus as well.

If you missed it the first time, here's a second chance. What do you think?

