

format, for sale and for rental. As a result, a violent film which was restricted to an adult audience in its cinema version, becomes available to children and teenagers when it is released in video format. Children also have access to even more violent videos, as Keith Spicer said to Committee members:

*I'm thinking specifically of slasher movies, which consist mainly of torturing and mutilating women. If you've seen even a 10-second extract, you won't want to see any more. It's just wall-to-wall gore and cruelty, totally without justification. You can buy these things. Children can manage to buy these in their local neighbourhood video store. Nobody's doing anything.*<sup>39</sup>

The Coalition for the Safety of Our Daughters, established in the fall of 1992 to promote public awareness of the known links between televisual violence and assaults against women and girls, has published an information sheet on slasher movies. It includes the following details:

*Slasher movies have been available in North America since 1963. Back then, these movies were normally shown at cult festivals to adults. Now, for just a few dollars, you can walk into a neighbourhood video (or corner) store and pick up the latest slasher movie released to video.*

*These movies feature the graphic and brutal stalking and slaughter of young women.*

*... In addition to slasher movies, slasher video games are available. For example, the game Night Trap "has the sound and feel of a B-grade slasher flick." (Reported in the Globe and Mail, January 13, 1993, p. C3) This video game was one of the "fastest selling electronic games of the holiday season" and features "a cinematic CD-based adventure in which the player must protect a house full of scantily clad young women from a gang of zombies armed with big hooks."<sup>40</sup>*

With respect to video rentals and viewing habits, Statistics Canada estimates that the 1990-91 retail market for home video rental is approximately \$800 million to \$1 billion per year.<sup>41</sup> Furthermore, only 7% of the home video market revenues of Canadian film distributors come from the distribution of Canadian videos; the other revenues come from the distribution of American videos. The average Canadian plays a VCR 4% of the time (approximately one hour per week) but children and teenagers play the home VCR on average 14% more. Furthermore, the Committee was told that videos can be easily rented by children and teenagers. In the opinion of Committee members, these factors taken together with the explosion in home video rentals, the lack of content classification for videos in many provinces, the easy availability that children have of renting and watching violent videos, create the foundation for more violence in our society.

Committee members heard some familiar stories about another type of video — the music video. Music videos are shown on television primarily as a means to advertise an artist's recording and they are generally not produced for sale or rental to the public. Music videos are the staple of the Canadian specialty television services MuchMusic and "MusiquePlus." (MuchMusic is required by the CRTC to show "not less than 30%" Canadian music videos during each week and MusiquePlus, "30% or more.")<sup>42</sup> Relative to the sound recording industry to which it is closely linked, the music video production industry in Canada is quite small. Statistics Canada data for 1990-91 show that