

The end of the innocence

BY MELANIE MALON

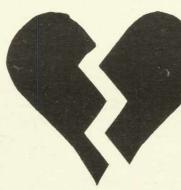
ORNOGRAPHY. Have you ever really thought about its effect?

I thought I had it all figured out. I really had no problem with "soft" porn like Playboy and Penthouse, nor did I ever object to strip shows (although, I failed to understand the turn on). However, this was before last week, when I saw the film, Not a Love Story.

I had never really seen the connection between violence against women and pornography until I watched this movie. It was the most powerful as well as the most disturbing and disgusting film that I have ever seen. I have always had great emotion around issues regarding rape and sexual assault, how-

ever, nothing has ever angered me and at the same time made me feel so violated and vulnerable as this film did.

Movies with titles such as "Beat the Bitch" and "Rape, Pilage and





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she were me.

same gender as the men in the movies? How can this not affect them? To me, these are sick people! What do they do when they get into a relationship? Do they expect the woman to be as "interesting," "exciting" and submissive as the women in the films?

Blunder," which can be seen at a

sex place in New York by anyone

who wishes to pay the twenty-five

cents a minute, sicken me. They

are disgusting and degrading. Any-

one who watches and, furthermore,

enjoys such films could not possi-

bly have any respect for women as

As the film progressed, I felt my

anger building. My whole body was

heating up. My legs and arms were

shaking and I got to the point where

l was no longer hearing the words.

I was only seeing the images of

these women being tied up by their

feet and hands, their faces covered

with muzzle-like devices, and rope

tied around their breasts until they

turned blue. Guns were used as sex

street and wonder how I am looked

at. Can I wear a short skirt without

being thought of as a slut? I felt so

much anger and fear. It took me a

while to figure out why I was feeling this way. I had felt the pain of every woman on that screen, as if

I pictured the men watching these women and kept asking myself how can they not see this as

degrading, not only to women but

to themselves? How can they not feel shame, to be classified in the

These images have been haunting me ever since. I walk down the

toys and devices for "arousal."

human beings.

One man asked, during the discussion following the film, "But don't women fantisize about being raped?" To me, the answer was obvious.

A woman is a person, not a toy, and not a machine. Being treated otherwise is a basic violation of her rights as a human being.



