

Making Waves

by Dragos Ruiu

George Orwell called them the 'Thought Police' in his terrifying novel of a world where caring and love are illegal, but we know them under a variety of guises and names: The Moral Majority, (militant) feminism, the fundamental right, film ratings boards, The Meese Commission (Who ya gonna call? LustBusters...), and so on.

Their self-anointed duty is to ensure that graphic depictions or references to sex don't reach our soft little minds.

The banner cause that these various groups are using in their fight for suppression is the alleged 'link between graphic sexual media and violence.' These groups have spent large amounts of monies soliciting biased statistics to prove this, and they still have difficulty proving anything. It has

degenerated into one big smear campaign targeted at men.

At the bottom of all these theories and justifications lies a simple argument: that men see pornography and automatically think 'whore,' and that their sexual fantasies turn to violence at once. This is despite the fact that most statistics looking for this prove the opposite, and ignoring studies of cross-cultural research that has proven that cultures which are sexually permissive are typically non-violent while cultures that are sexually repressive and prohibitive tend to put violent and military behaviour at a premium.

Personally, I find most of these arguments insulting, especially the feminist ones. The whole attitude is that men are just ignorant, lust-driven, automatons capable of erupting into spontaneous hormonal violence at any second. Sure we all know a few examples of this kind of behaviour, but think back: how many men do you know that are that simplistic?

Furthermore, none of these sexually repressive groups and movements are willing to allow intelligent debate or consideration of censorship within their ranks. In the words of Ellen Hawkes, a noted feminist and women's studies professor at Stanford and Boston Universities:

"I've heard one young woman called a 'traitor to her sex' and another accused of 'identifying with the oppressor' all because they dared worry aloud about censorship."

I dare you to walk into a Moral Majority meeting and speak up for *Playboy* or the movie *About Last Night*. (An insightful allegory about romance where Demi Moore and Rob Lowe get graphic). Might be kind of exciting though, if you survived!

Indeed, the closer you examine any of the above movements, the more you begin to ignore any other points they may be trying to make because of their absurd stance on censorship. Are they doing themselves a disservice by using arguments that are unfounded, or plainly ridiculous?

They are also guilty of using one of the biggest propaganda methods ever invented, 'guilt by association.' This is the case where you can prove or establish a causal link to something in writing by simply mentioning it together in the same place.

Take our very own Gateway "Equality" (put big quotes around that one) supplement as an example that hits close to home. The lead article states that a study found that, "violent media messages, whether sexually explicit or non-sexually explicit lead to greater tolerance of violence against women." The article then makes a big logic leap and starts talking about sexist jokes and locker-room conversations, establishing a de facto connection to graphical sexual material, EVEN THOUGH THE RESEARCH PROVED NO SUCH LINK. The headline? "Study shows we all encourage pornography."

It is at the hands of cunning mis-truths like the above that our civil liberties will erode. It will start with our entertainment and spread like the plague. Take the case reported late last year in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* where the students' union at the University of Wisconsin started by removing *Penthouse* and *Playboy* and then proceeded to censor *Cosmopolitan*, *The Progressive*, *Readers Digest*, *Scientific American*, and *Life*.

Or should we recall the case in the deep south of the U.S. where a fundamentalist group tried to get a dictionary banned from a school library because it defined some words they deemed objectionable.

Hey, why don't we all start drafting up a list of stuff we find objectionable. We could then burn it all and heat the city for a year...

Fluff:

Just when you thought you were safe... Several videotape distributors are considering placing commercials (probably only one) in taped movies.

LUSTBUSTERS

There are persistent rumors of The Stranglers making an appearance at Dinwoodie.

Michael Jackson's album (oh boy!), which has been getting sparse mentions everywhere, reportedly has hit a snag and hasn't been released yet. It's coming Real Soon Now. Michael says it will top his last album (tee hee)!

News:

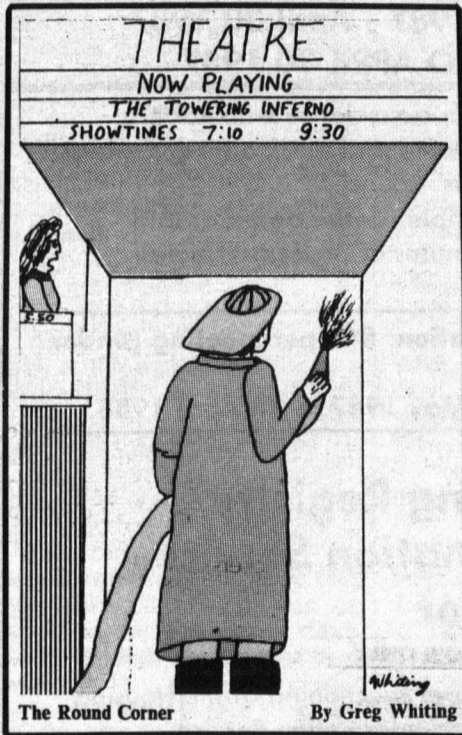
The quote of the millisecond comes from Professional Wrestler Exotic Adrian Street: "Some of the fans disgust me. They swell beer. They drink whiskey. Their teeth are black from chewing tobacco, which they spit. And some of the men are just as bad."

Runner up quote: "The easiest way to defame someone and his opinions is to label him a 'loony' and 'ready for the funny farm.' It happens to me all the time."

John Hinkley Jr.

When NOW (National Organization for Women) appeared to protest at the Grease Garage in Des Moines, owner Daniel Lafon was ecstatic and started screaming "You're gonna make me rich!" The women were not pleased with Lafon's "Boob & Lube," a car cleaning performed by two topless women. Business is up 50% since the protest.

When asked by the police to explain the .22 shell casings near the body of her husband, a Friday Harbor, Washington, woman claimed she shot off a rifle to bid her husband farewell on a trip to Norway. (Honest, Officer! heh heh...)



The Round Corner By Greg Whiting

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Phone: 432-5319

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