



Entertainment industry is not to blame for society's demise

by Kimberley McGee

I have been violated. Behind the comical facade of the Sunday funnies was an advertisement printed in big bold letters describing the decline of society and laying the blame directly on the Armani-clad shoulders of the entertainment industry.

The advertisement began, "We're a group of mothers, fathers, grandparents (middle America in the throes of 'rage') DISMAYED that today 1.1 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 get pregnant each year."

They also claim to be "FRIGHTENED at the way violence and crime are spreading everywhere and threatening our children, our families and our homes."

I am FRIGHTENED! I don't want life to be like "Little House On the Prairie," and it's my prerogative to not live my life that way. Groups like this are implying that I'm not mature enough to make up my own mind or to control my own brood and that some higher power has to make decisions for me. FUCK THAT! I'm an adult who can decide what is right and wrong for me.

People will always try to pass the buck for their own shortcomings. If a mother and/or father has failed as a parent, they'll try to blame television or Judas Priest records because their children are messed up. Where's the logic in that? This country will continue to have a contradicting moral climate until people are ready to claim responsibility for their own actions and the legal system laughs such lawsuits as subliminal messages on records causing kids to shoot themselves right out of the courtroom.

People are messed up and the conservatives know that. They play on your need for family values, implying that you have none and cannot decide what they are.

Look at the community we live in. We may not all approve of the adult entertainment industry but we tolerate it because of the revenue it generates. It's kind of hypocritical for a town that allows this sort of thing to try and pass its moral climate off as "conservative."

Who are you to decide what is acceptable for me and mine? In this country we have

the freedom of choice. If you are offended, it is your right to voice your opinion, to hide your children from the offensive material.

Does nudity inspire sex in teenagers, who already have a need, or does the fact that most teenagers do not have a healthy attitude toward sex make the amount of pregnancies escalate? Is this the fault of the entertainment industry or society? Is this society accepting the blame or pointing fingers?

The people who take out these large ads believe they are doing good, and that is wonderful, but they want to control the expression of ideas. If we leave it to these people the United States of America

will become one big homogenized episode of the "Brady Bunch."

Shame, violence, killings, profanity, nudity were also displayed in big letters upon the page to strike fear in the hearts of parents—"Is my child the next Jeffrey Dahmer?"

Allegedly Dahmer got "pumped up" for his sick killing spree by watching *Exorcist III*. In the mind of Dahmer the movie fed his need to kill. His need. That need was not created by the movies or television shows he haphazardly watched as a child. That need was in his nature and he would have had that need regardless of whether the Munsters go into syndication.

It is not the entertainment

industry's fault if it feeds society what it craves. It is the responsibility of the parents to monitor their child's intake of ideas. But, a parent cannot always be there to censor. It's important that a child understand what they are taking in, and understand morals and the value of human life.

I was babysat by a television. She nursed my sadness and cured my boredom. She enraged and enthralled me and I have yet to look upon the empty world of this television and find threat and malice injected into my vulnerable mind.

It is my mind and my society of which you want to clean for your purposes.

Let me decide.

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