

Kim Kardashian: Empowering or Embarrassing?

For: Taking control of the situation

If you haven't seen or heard about Kim Kardashian's latest adventure, you may be living under a rock. The buxom beauty showed off her famous *derriere* on the cover of PAPER Magazine, prompting much criticism and debate.



Kaitlin Dunn
Columnist

There are a few arguments that get recycled. "She's a mother," people cry. "She just wants attention," they say. "She's trashy and doesn't respect herself."

The mother argument irks me the most. Just because she gave birth to a child does not mean that she should give up what makes her uniquely her. Posing nude is nothing new for Kardashian. It's not as though she abandons her baby to go out and party every night. She doesn't seem to have a drug habit. She doesn't pull a Michael Jackson and dangle her baby out of the window of a building. As far as parents go, there are millions of people I would criticize before I would call out Kardashian.

I don't know why everyone thought because Kardashian has a child she would turn into a cookie-baking, sweater-set-wearing, stay-at-home soccer mom. She has always been an attention-seeker, and she always will be. This fact is completely separate from her parenting skills.

If North West is going to be embarrassed by her mom in fifteen years, she has a long list of things to choose from, and this magazine cover doesn't even crack the top ten of the most ridiculous things Kardashian has done for publicity.

For those of you saying Kardashian is devaluing herself, I don't think that's true at all. She was paid well for this cover. She knows exactly how valuable her assets are, and she is getting every dollar she can get out of them.

Kardashian has been known for years as a sex symbol. She gets ogled on a daily basis. She can't even post a simple Instagram photo of her 2-year-old daughter without getting dozens of lewd comments about her own body on it.

This picture represents Kardashian taking control over the situation. She is perfectly happy being a sex symbol. She has no qualms about bearing it all, being the person that everybody already makes her into.

Kardashian is not the only person who had control over this cover. Maybe it's not the brilliant art that PAPER Magazine

usually has, but it's not supposed to be.

This cover serves to get attention — attention for Kardashian and attention for the magazine. I know that I hadn't even heard of this magazine until Kardashian was on the cover. Their website went from a paltry 500,000 unique views per month to 16 million hits in the past week.

Even if you hate it, chances are you've still seen the cover, and therefore you're giving Kardashian and PAPER what they want. You know the old saying, "Any publicity is good publicity?" Well, it's true.

A lot of people who claim to be feminists say Kardashian is setting feminism back. She's degrading herself as a woman. But shouldn't feminism be about defining someone for their brains and their minds, not their bodies?

Kardashian may come off as a greased-up *femme fatale*, but she is also a shrewd businesswoman, a devoted wife and mother. She has thicker skin than anyone who is trying to tear her down.

I'd like to see a single person who has made rude comments about Kardashian be in her shoes for one hour. The woman gets more hate in five minutes on any given social media platform than most of us get in a lifetime.

I keep hearing that Kardashian is "not classy." A quick Google search revealed that classy means "stylish and sophisticated." Kardashian has got style. There is no denying that. She has become a fashion icon.

As for sophisticated, the definition of that word is "having, revealing, or proceeding from a great deal of worldly experience and knowledge of fashion and culture," and Kardashian is a world-traveler. There is nothing in the definition that says a woman can't pose nude and still be considered classy.

If Kardashian wants to flaunt her naked body for the world to see, I don't really care. If you don't like it, you don't have to look at it. It's as simple as that. But you shouldn't demonize a woman you don't know, just because her job is something you would never do. She has made millions from showcasing her body and will continue to make millions more. It's her body, and if she wants to do it, more power to her.

I personally would never want to air my entire body for the world to see, but it's not because I have a higher respect for myself than Kardashian does for herself.

If you're offended by nudity or feel uncomfortable, that's a valid feeling. But there is a huge jump from "This displeases me," to "She's a stupid, classless tramp."

Against: #BreakingHerReputation

Kim Kardashian is thrusting herself — or rather, her rear end — back into the center of attention with a cover for PAPER Magazine that exposes her posterior for all eyes to see, as well as a spread of fully nude photos.



Leah Channas
Columnist

She previewed the photos on Instagram last week, complete with a pretentious caption that simply stated #BreakTheInternet.

People may argue about why Kardashian is famous. Some say it was because her father was O.J. Simpson's attorney. Others claim it was her mother's marriage to Olympic athlete Bruce Jenner. But most can agree that one of the most memorable scandals relating to Kardashian's notoriety was her sex tape scandal with singer Ray J in 2007.

What is concerning about Kardashian's recent decision to pose nude is her complete disregard for her previous attempts to separate herself from the sex tape scandal to become known and respected on a professional level. Since when did completely exposing oneself seem like a good transition to being professionally respected?

This is not the first time Kardashian has been seen nude in a magazine, either.

In 2010, Kardashian posed nude for W Magazine after being promised that her breasts and bottom would be covered with artwork so that nothing would be visible. Evidently, someone along the way decided to go back on that promise, revealing photos of Kardashian's naked body without anything to cover it.

Kardashian angrily called her publicist in

tears, stating that she felt taken advantage of and labeled the photos as pornography. Then, she said that she would never pose nude for a magazine again, because she didn't want people to think she was only good for being naked.

So, what exactly happened to that idea? Apparently four years is the going rate for deciding that she actually does enjoy having all of her private body parts on display for strangers.

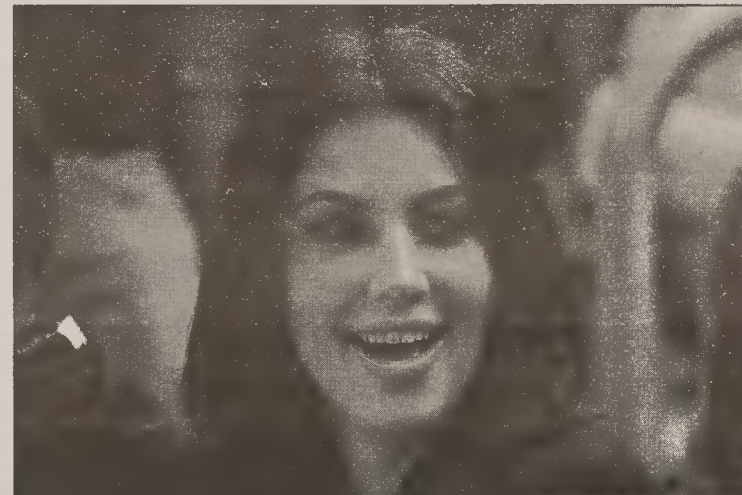
As a mother, Kardashian now has a bigger responsibility of acting as a role model for younger generations. People may argue she can choose to do what she wants and having a baby does not mean she has to change her personality. But as a prominent figure in society she has the power to make a positive impact on other mothers and young girls in order to promote a future where females are worth more than their appearances.

It is great to see someone with confidence in her body image, but there are classier ways to promote self-esteem. Posing nude for a magazine does not empower women — it sexualizes them.

As someone who is already heavily associated with sex, Kardashian made a poor self-marketing choice by posing nude. Sure, it grabs attention and gets people talking, but not all talk is beneficial to one's reputation.

Kardashian is 34 years old, and it is time for her to grow up. If she wants to break away from her past scandal and be recognized for her professional achievements, she needs to stop relying on using herself as a sex symbol to promote herself and gain attention. She needs to start doing things that make a difference in the world.

And no, a reality show does not cut it.



Kim Kardashian's name has been the source of celebrity gossip and conversation for years. PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Beware making police stereotypes from the faults of few

We all know the familiar red and blue flashing lights on the side of the highway, but our reactions vary. For some, the police are necessary enforcers of the law, without whom society would certainly struggle. For others, the enormous responsibility and power we entrust in our police force is not well-placed.



Tim Melton
Columnist

Between these viewpoints is a broad spectrum of conditional opinions — that the police are usually a social benefit, except in certain cases when they "go overboard."

This concept of "going overboard," or police misconduct, is subject to our

opinions on how far police need to go in order to keep the peace. Take Ferguson, for instance.

Impending whether Darren Wilson will be criminally charged, we will soon see whether his decision was really made with the best of intentions. Regardless, the damage has been done, and in the eyes of many, Ferguson has now become an example of what happens when one group of people or officials is given too much power.

The police, being human, are not without faults, and it is not fair to make a blanket assumption that the mistakes of a few are true of all police. But wrongdoings must still be addressed and handled with care.

One of such wrongdoings can be lax or negligent behavior.

Consider, for example, a report on

the New Orleans Police Department released last week that revealed more than one thousand sex crime reports filed over the past three years were ignored. Although the issue has been localized to the latency of five special unit detectives, it will likely negatively affect the perception of the police force New Orleans citizens. Unfortunately, these cases are nothing new.

There is no doubt when even one officer fails in his or her duty, people get hurt. Police misconduct of any kind, whether intentional or unintentional, should not be taken lightly.

Above all, the police exist to maintain justice and ensure safety, but this does not excuse officers from abuse of their heightened position in any form.

Although much of this discussion has focused on the negative aspects of

the police force in society, I feel it's appropriate to mention we shouldn't necessarily generalize our ideas on the police based on the faulty actions of a few officers.

Looking back at the examples of Ferguson and New Orleans, the questionable acts have been traced to one officer and five detectives, respectively. Nevertheless, it feels like we take such opportunities to assume these unsound officers are the norm, when in reality, they should be considered the deviation.

As children, we are taught the police is a force "for greater good," and we have the choice now whether we still want to believe that. The key is to remember the police, like anything else, are not without faults, and we should be careful before assuming the nature of the whole by the actions of a few.