

Editorial: Censorship for the children

by Marsha Tutor

Recently in Norway, the "Power Rangers" were banned from television after a four-year-old girl was brutally beaten and stoned to death by three of her preschool classmates. The children had watched the "Power Rangers" on television and were imitating the Power Ranger's stunts. The three preschoolers did not understand that the young girl could actually be harmed because the "Power Rangers" show never explained the consequences of what violence can do to others.

This scenario explains how careless the entertainment business has become. Television and radio now promote sex, violence, and drugs. The entertainment business is currently abusing its rights to freedom of speech and press, especially towards children, and the only solution to this problem is through government-sanctioned censorship.

One of the main reasons the entertainment business is against any censorship is because of the money involved. It is a known fact that sex and violence sells. The networks choose their shows according to what

the viewers watch the most, which is sex and violence. While the entertainment business is making money off of this violent and harmful entertainment, it does not care about the effects its violent entertainment is having on the American people.

Those who are against censorship of the entertainment business might say that it is their first amendment right to have total and complete freedom of speech and press. But when writing this part of the First Amendment, the Forefathers could never have imagined its results. Our society has made many changes since the days of the Forefathers. Government sanctioned censorship of the entertainment business is necessary because of these changes in our society.

A final reason of why the entertainment business should be censored is because of the negative effects violent television has on people, especially children. These negative effects are shown through the terrible incidence that occurred in Norway. Because children lack the skill of understanding the difference between fantasy and reality, the "Power Rangers"

show ultimately contributed to the death of this four-year-old girl. Many people may argue that the "Power Rangers" teach children teamwork and how to overcome evil with good. But the "Power Rangers" teach children that violence is acceptable, and it does not approach the subject of how this hitting and kicking can hurt others. Children, like these three preschoolers from Norway, did not understand the reality of their violent acts.

Government-sanctioned censorship of the entertainment business must take place in America. Censorship has taken place in Norway because the "Power Rangers" show is no longer being broadcasted on Norwegian television. Many American television series such as the "Simpsons" and "Beavis and Butthead" must also be censored, taking out the cursing and many scenes of violence. The American people, like the Norwegians, must take a stand. Censorship is not a violation of our first amendment rights; it is a chance to voice our opinion and take a stand for what is right.

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Variety Performers	Instrumentalists,
2:30-3:30 Dancers	Variety Performers
	3:00-4:00 Dancers

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