

Campus Opinion

Editorial: Media mouths need to be washed out with strong soap

by Shannon Peterson

Profanity, violence, and nude shots of human flesh are rampant everywhere in the United States. One cannot go into a dance club without hearing sex-related songs with slang that is degrading to men and women alike. In gas stations everywhere there are obscene magazines that portray explicit photos of men and women for the opposite sex to waste their money on. Who would have thought that our nation would come to this and become so immoral? Censorship is the key to shaping up society.

The violence seen in movies is unreal. While most people can sit and laugh at a man beating his wife to death on the screen, I am underneath the seat cringing in fear. When one watches movies with war scenes with high-tech military equipment, he has to ask himself if people today are influenced by these movies and are becoming more impulsive with their fists or weap-

ons. I do not want my children learning that they can hold little Johnny from down the street in one of those karate-style holds that I have seen in a Chuck Norris film. I thank my mother now for never letting me or my brother watch anything but PBS with good 'ole Mr. Rogers and Big Bird. Now that is good taste in broadcasting. Personally, I think that all violence should be cut out of movies and television shows, but can that really be done? The broadcasting companies would say no because the money would stop flowing in, and soon there would be no such thing as "good" television. (That is no skin off my nose.)

Recording companies are the same way. When I walk into a record store and read some titles of songs by new artists, I am reeling from the atrocious names of those songs. How can male artists get away with calling women such obscene names? I abhor the lingo that they use to call their past lovers

"hos" and that "b" word. I'm beginning to wonder if I ever will marry a decent, down-to-earth man that has never listened to these songs. I know for a fact that these lyrics draw males into thinking that they can take women for granted because I have seen it in one of my "best" guy friends who thinks that all women are good for is to spoon-feed him and serve him sexually. Spare me. I want all these grotesque songs off the market. The "Explicit Lyrics" signs posted on the CD's and tapes are just not cutting it. I have yet to go into a record store where they "carded" someone when he purchased one of these albums. Sex is everywhere. Music is constantly endorsing sexual activity and telling the listeners' senses that it is okay to have sex, sex and more sex.

I am having a lot of trouble accepting nudity being advertised publicly for all of society's hungry eyes to see. In New Orleans, La., pictures of almost bare women with their lips puckered up in a kiss and legs spread wide open in the famous Marilyn Monroe stance can be seen on the walls of buildings down a main street. I was exposed to it when I was only eight and that was only a quick glance taken before my mother thrust her hands over my eyes and rushed me down the street while my father stood lingering behind. It's awful to think that married men even think about looking at naked shots of other women. There still is such a thing as fidelity, is there not? Has society really brainwashed us so badly that we think that it is okay to fantasize

about another man or woman?

Prostitution is another big problem that runs almost parallel to nude shots. The "hey baby"s and "lonely tonight?"s echo down busy big-city streets as a source of income. Nasty world out there, isn't it? It definitely is different from the lovely and happy-ending movie *Pretty Woman*. How do you explain to your inquiring eight-year-old son what these women are doing as you drive by? Prostitution should be illegal everywhere. Not only is it embarrassing and corruptive to people's doings, but it also helps spread sexually transmitted diseases. And we have had enough trouble with that lately.

I am sure that by now that all the liberals (not to mention UNC journalism majors) are fidgeting around in their seats and have smoke pouring out of their ears after all this has been stated, but I am only out to make life a little more pleasant and safe. Utopia? No, not quite, but you're getting warm. If it weren't for television shows, there wouldn't be so much sex in America between non-cohabiting adolescents and adults. So many children want toy guns for Christmas because they have seen their heroes in action-packed movies use them to portray masculinity and save the sexy heroine who can masterfully climb a mountain or jump a building in high heels. There was a

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Everyone in the Meredith community is invited to write a letter to the editor. All published letters must be typewritten with contact name, address and telephone number. All letters must be signed by the author, but names will be withheld upon request.

The *Herald* reserves the right to place any other article submissions on file until needed or to choose not to print them.

Leaving Home Sale

RHB is sponsoring a flea market

Saturday, April 29

Meredith College front lawn

7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

All vendors welcome!

Ways to participate:

- Rent a table for \$10 (alone or group) and sell own items
 - Rent a table for \$10 and commission RHB member 20% to sell items
 - Donate items to RHB to sell for you
- Profits to benefit INTERACT