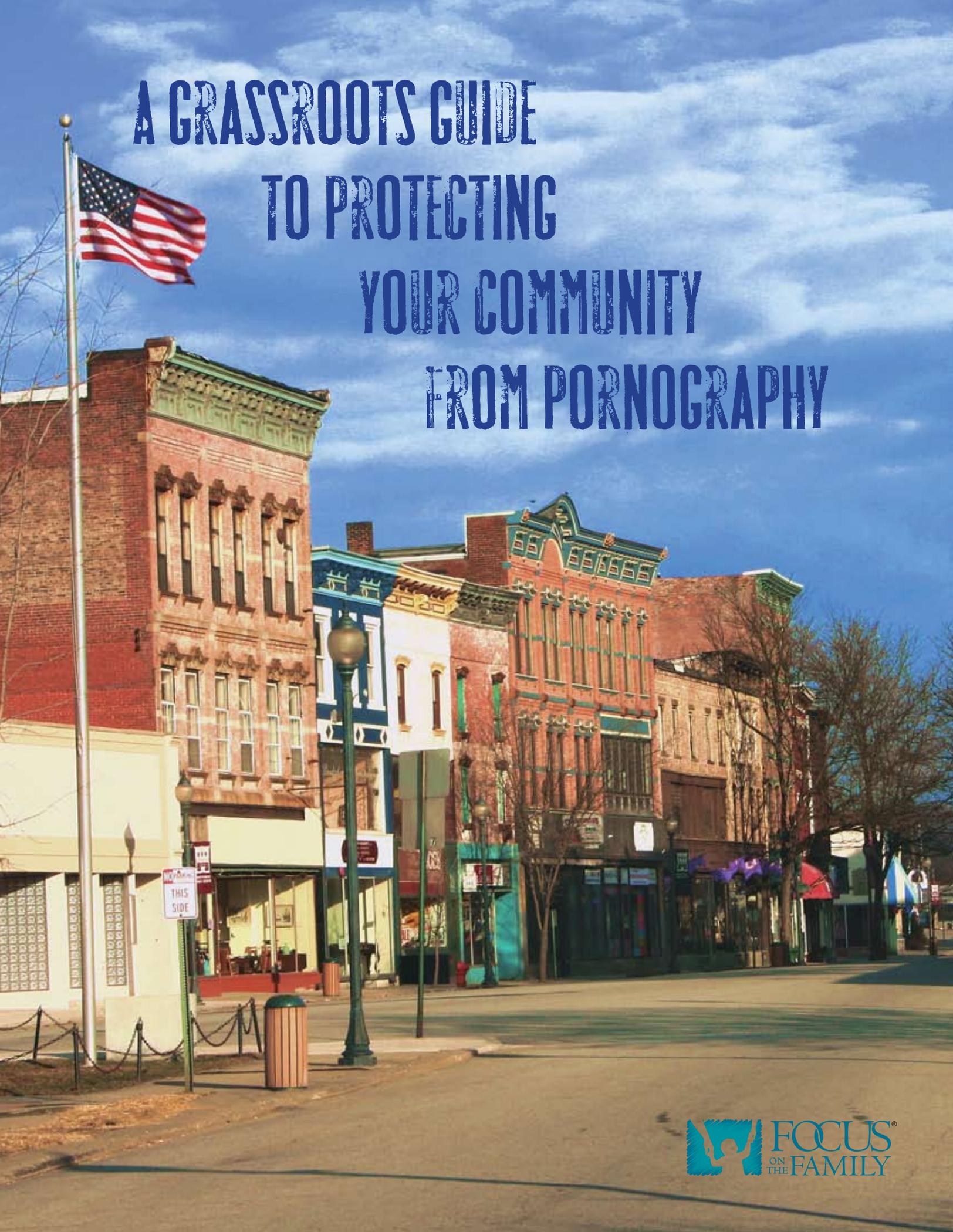


A GRASSROOTS GUIDE TO PROTECTING YOUR COMMUNITY FROM PORNOGRAPHY



It can be tempting for those who spend a considerable time immersed in public policy issues to think that all threats to the family are already known. After all, there's nothing new under the sun, right?

Yet, sometimes a new concept or connection breaks through the “thought-we-knew-this” mentality, revealing a previously unrecognized component of the threat, which in turn elevates the debate to a new level. It happened in the mid-1990s with the discovery of partial-birth abortion, invigorating a fresh wave of opposition to abortion. And, I believe the article you're about to read — The Seamless Fabric — will reshape your view of pornography in much the same way.

Pornography is the catalyst for abusive sexual appetites that are never satisfied, never contained and never put to rest. It preys on the weak and vulnerable in an unrelenting hunt to capture your spouse, your children and your grandchildren.



And mine. And it makes me angry.

The connections laid out in The Seamless Fabric provide a compelling and motivating look at pornography that you've likely not seen before.

You owe it to yourself, your family and your community to read this special report's flagship article.

Following The Seamless Fabric is an article that highlights the familial and societal harm caused by pornography and the net result of the “humans-as-commodities” message as seen in the global scourge of human trafficking.

Also included are a number of practical guides containing action steps that, if followed, will lead to the retaking of a considerable swath of cultural ground we have lost. These articles explain how to fight pornography where we typically find it: in hotels, in our communities and in our supermarkets.

Even though the threat of pornography can seem overwhelming, Daniel Weiss reminds us in his back-page commentary that we can take a cue from the adopt-a-highway program and work at cleaning up our cultural landscape one stretch at a time.

Carrie Gordon Earll
Senior Director, Issue Analysis
Focus on the Family Action

Table of Contents

Articles:		How to:	
The Seamless Fabric	3	Protect Your Community From Pornography	11
Is Pornography Legal?	8	Impact Hotel Pornography	13
Harmless Fun or Public Health Hazard?	9	Create Family-Friendly Checkout Aisles	14
Commentary: Adopt-A-Community			15

THE 'SEAMLESS FABRIC'

Commercial sexual exploitation poses a growing threat to America's youth—and pornography leads the way

by Stephen Adams

It all came down to a floral-print bedspread in Room 21 at the local motel. It was missing—and so was Emily Sander, 18, of El Dorado, Kan. Find the bedspread, police figured, and they'd probably find Emily, who disappeared Nov. 23, 2007, a Friday.

Room 21 at the El Dorado Motel was a mess. An employee said it looked like there'd been some sort of "altercation" there. Police found a large quantity of blood on the bed and carpet.

Meanwhile, Israel Mireles failed to show up for work on Saturday at a nearby Italian restaurant where he was a waiter. Mireles, a 24-year-old resident alien from Mexico, had been staying in Room 21 at the El Dorado Motel.

"Foul play" became the operative theory. "All we're saying is we're looking for that bedspread, and it's something we'd like to find," police Capt.

Justin Phillips told reporters.

Emily had been last seen wearing low-rider jeans and a "Don't Mess With Texas" T-shirt—leaving a bar around midnight that Friday with a man matching Mireles' description. Her car was still parked at The Retreat bar. Yellow police tape went up around Room 21, now officially a crime scene.

Over the next few days, a massive na-

tionwide search began, with local rescuers employing dogs, planes, divers and underwater equipment to search for Emily's body. Police released a photo of the floral bedspread to help in the search. On Tuesday, Mireles' rental car was discovered in Vernon, Texas, about 350 miles south of El Dorado.

It looked like Mireles might be making a run for the border—along with his

16-year-old pregnant girlfriend. That was not to be the last shocker:

It was also reported that Emily Sander, community college student by day, was something else again by night—an aspiring Internet porn star under the name “Zoey Zane.” News accounts said she’d just told her family a few days before about her secret life and a contract she signed with an Internet porn enterprise.

The Emily Sander case, an unsolved murder mystery with sensational elements of sex and violence, catapulted into a national news story. Finally, on Thursday, Nov. 29, the suspense came to an end.

The bedspread had been found.

Ugly truths

To some, the commercial sex industry is just like that bedspread—not a quilt fabricated of separate pieces, but a whole cloth, seamlessly interwoven.

In the view of some longtime anti-porn activists, prostitution, pornography, stripping and all other forms of commercial sexual exploitation are just the warp and woof of this same fabric. And that’s why, they say, it’s dangerous not to take pornography seriously, to dismiss it as merely an unpleasant free-speech issue.

In the business of commercial sex, pornography serves as the marketing vehicle. Or, as Alliance Defense Fund lawyer Patrick Trueman, a former porn prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice, testified before a congressional subcommittee several years ago, “Pornography is a powerful factor in creating the demand for illicit sex.”

Some ugly truths: Experts say pornography consumers develop sexual addictions and predilections for kinky types of sex depicted in explicit material. Men then demand this from their wives—or find other, more willing sexual partners. Some young prostituted women learn how to “perform” by mimicking what they are shown in pornography. Many sexual predators use pornography to show children what they want them to do. Virtually all collectors of child pornogra-

phy, some experts say, are also molesters of children.

Something else the porn industry doesn’t advertise is the tremendous overlap among porn stars, strippers and prostitutes. It’s not unusual for the same women to engage in all three. Dr. Barrett Duke, vice president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Lib-

some of the other more degrading forms of sexual exploitation.”

Drug and alcohol addiction eventually becomes a vicious circle for most, he said. It takes drugs and alcohol to numb their conscience, and then it takes more sexual exploitation to support those addictions.

This is not just the view of the religious right. Increasingly, feminists are coming around to this perspective, too.

Dr. Donna M. Hughes, professor of women’s studies at the University of Rhode Island, estimates from her research that at least a third of women in prostitution have been involved in the making of pornography and that patrons of prostitution are twice as likely to be porn users.

“That can be everything from sort of amateur stuff, where a john brings his camera and wants to take pictures, to some of the women who may be stars for a few months in the pornography industry,” Hughes told Focus on the Family. “And where do they go after they’ve had their few months of stardom with a couple of movies? They usually go into stripping, which usually then just turns into prostitution.”

It was Hughes who suggested the “seamless fabric” language.

“The categories we have for things like pornography, stripping, prostitution—we tend to think of them as really separate categories,” she said. “But if you’re actually in the sex industry, they’re quite seamless. There are so many variations that I think our old categories are rather obsolete.”

Feminist researcher Dr. Melissa Farley agrees. “The more distinctions we make about what johns and pimps do, the more we’re letting them win,” she told Focus on the Family. “Just because there’s a camera in the room doesn’t mean it’s not prostitution.”

In her 2007 book *Prostitution & Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections*, Farley quoted Roger Young, a retired Nevada FBI agent who participated in major pornography investigations: “What happened to common sense? The fact that there is a camera filming the prostitution doesn’t

PORN = STRIPPING = PROSTITUTION

Prostitution is legal in some parts of Nevada, but despite what some think, not Las Vegas. Nevertheless, Sin City may be the clearest place to see the Seamless Fabric in action, as documented by Melissa Farley in her book, *Prostitution & Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections*.

Some excerpts:

“There is a crossover of people involved in legal prostitution and illegal prostitution and back again. Similarly, Web-based video and print pornography are inseparable from the rest of the sex industry, with the same kinds of crossovers from prostitution to pornography to sex trafficking. Some Nevada legal brothel pimps have declared their economic interest in ‘cross fertilizing’ prostitution with other legal adult businesses such as strip clubs, Internet sites and pornography. ‘The Girls of Cheetah’s’ is pornography made at a Las Vegas strip club.”

“A law enforcement investigation in Las Vegas located a multi-use sex industry operation that included online prostitution. Looking like a small office complex from the street, it blended pornography production with escort prostitution. The pimp/pornographer rented 5-6 offices on Tropicana Avenue which functioned simultaneously as Internet pornography, cyber-peepshow prostitution, and a location out of which women were pimped to Las Vegas hotels and to an illegal brothel.”

“Webcam video and escort prostitution sites have recently merged with adult dating sites. Since 2000 there has been increasing prostitution advertising on dating Web sites with the major dating Web sites now largely consisting of locations where johns seek women who they presume to be prostituting. Adultfriendfinder, for example, features gonzo [amateur] pornography of women seeking dates for prostitution in dozens of countries and every state in the United States.”

erty Commission, views it as a continuum.

“If you look at the progression of women who begin in the pornography industry, maybe they’ll start out in the strip clubs or something like that, and they stay there for a while,” Duke told Focus on the Family. “But as they move further along in this sexual exploitation timeline, as they become older and of less interest, they end up moving into

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Trafficking of persons exists in two distinct types: labor trafficking and sexual trafficking.
- Sexual trafficking is the recruitment, transport *within national or across international borders*, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation.
- Sexual trafficking is accomplished by means of fraud, deception, threat of or use of force, abuse of a position of vulnerability or other coercion.
- The U.S. State Department estimates at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year. *Numbers within national borders are much higher.*
- Among trafficking victims, 80 percent are women and girls, 50 percent are children and 70 percent are forced into sexual servitude.
- UNICEF reports that around the world, over 1 million children enter the sex trade every year, and approximately 30 million children have lost their childhood to sexual exploitation over the past 30 years.
- Annually, an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 women and children are trafficked into the United States.
- Despite an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 sex slaves in the U.S., fewer than 1,000 victims have been assisted through the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement since 2001, when services for trafficking victims were first made available.
- In February 2001, Interpol announced that human trafficking generates \$19 billion annually.
- The United Nations claims that the trafficking of human beings has surpassed the drug trade to become the second largest source of money for organized crime, after the illegal arms trade.

Many thanks to the Salvation Army's Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking for compiling this research and providing citations. www.iast.net

change the fact of the prostitution. Pornography is essentially a crime scene surveillance tape. You can't say to someone, hey, let's go rob a bank, but if we film it, then it won't be robbery."

"Pornography is men's rehearsal for prostitution," Farley told Focus on the Family.

Pat Trueman, who has dealt with numerous sexual predators and addicts, confirms this view from his own experience. "They'll all tell you, they got into pornography, and that led them to the strip club," he said. "And that led them to the prostitute. ... They get into pornography, they get into sex, they get into using trafficked women."

The other ugly truth: While estimates vary, experts told Focus on the Family that the average age of entry into prostitution has fallen to 12 to 14 years. The seamless fabric of the commercial sex industry represents a huge and growing threat to America's youth.

A 'cruel world'

El Dorado, Kan., is a town of 12,000 people about 30 miles east-northeast of Wichita. El Dorado (locals pronounce it "el doh-ray-doh") has been home to notables including cartoonist Mort Walker, presidential biographer William Allen White and serial killer Dennis Rader, aka the BTK strangler.

And Emily Sander—"nude model and nationally reported murder victim."

Searchers spotted the floral-print bedspread in a ditch off U.S. 54, about 50 miles east of El Dorado. Lying nearby, over a steep embankment, was the body of a young woman matching Emily's description.

Emily Sander's identity was confirmed by a forensic orthodontist. An autopsy was performed and the results sealed, along with the police report and all other facts of the investigation. A warrant was issued for Israel Mireles on charges of capital murder, rape and aggravated criminal sodomy.

El Dorado Police Chief Tom Boren disavowed any connection between Emily's death and her alter ego, would-be porn star Zoey Zane. In fact, he said, false leads connected to that Web site were seriously hampering the investigation.

Nevertheless, FBI agents and Internet crime experts were called in to assist in the investigation. A local reporter who worked the story told Focus on the Family it was inconceivable that Emily's general lifestyle didn't have something to do with her murder.

Shocked classmates organized a candlelight vigil in Emily's memory at the com-

munity college while the family made funeral arrangements. Friends eulogized Emily Sander as fun to be around, ambitious—a girl who wanted to be in movies. One said she did porn because she needed the money for school.

Clement Sander, her paternal grandfather, described brown-haired, blue-eyed Emily to Focus on the Family as a "cute little girl" who played volleyball in high school in Texas and did so well in school that she graduated a semester early. She had recently acquired some tattoos and piercings.

At the candlelight vigil, Sander offered some advice: "All I can say to you young folks out there is to be careful. It is a cruel world."

Intense news coverage of the Emily Sander case set off a debate about sensationalism and tabloid journalism. Some objected to calling an 18-year-old girl who'd been in the business just a few months a "porn star." Others accused the news media of lurid exploitation, saying they had no business exposing Emily's dirty laundry.

One report suggested big bucks were involved, claiming that Emily's Web site had enlisted 30,000 subscribers paying \$39.95 a month to view sexually explicit Zoey Zane material. Even a small share of that haul—nearly \$1.2 million a month—would still be tens of thousands of dollars, huge money for a teenager.

Others contended that those dollars actually were shared by a number of girls who were part of the same porn enterprise, all capitalizing on the same thing—a growing

interest in younger women, and the younger the better.

Growth market

Experts told Focus on the Family that higher-end dollar figures were not outside the

A TALE OF TWO MAYORS

Both Las Vegas and Atlanta have serious problems with child prostitution, but their mayors' approaches could hardly be more different.

While Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and her administration have been ramping up enforcement activities to combat prostitution, Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman has been famously quoted as dreaming of a series of "magnificent brothels" for his city, if prostitution can be decriminalized.

New York Times columnist Bob Herbert condemned Las Vegas as the worst place in America for the treatment of women. He wrote, "If you peel back the thin, supposedly sexy veneer of the commercial sex trade, you'll quickly see the rotten inside, where females are bought, sold, raped, beaten, shamed and in many, many cases, physically and emotionally wrecked."

For that, Goodman threatened to break Herbert's head with a baseball bat if he ever sets foot in his town again.

In Atlanta, Franklin launched a "Dear John" campaign to raise awareness about minors in the sex trade through print and broadcast public service announcements. Her administration also established a Child Exploitation Unit and an Anti-Trafficking Unit within the police department. Legislation was passed making trafficking a felony, while Franklin pushed for harsher sentences for johns and pimps and creation of a "john school" for men caught trying to solicit a prostitute.

Franklin took specific aim at craigslist.com, which she termed "Atlanta's primary source" for advertising prostitution, as in other cities. She sent a letter last year to founder Craig Newmark and James Buckmaster, chief executive officer, asking them not to segregate these solicitations in one "Erotic Services" page, but to eliminate them altogether.

Buckmaster wrote back that the company shares Franklin's concerns and it would consider the matter, but to date, craigslist policies have not changed.

realm of possibility for a girl like Emily, citing the hundreds of thousands of dollars involved in the notorious Justin Berry case.

Justin was a California teen who made headlines in 2005 and 2006 with revelations in *The New York Times* about subscription-based porn Web sites in which he performed from the age of 13. He was molested by more than one of his subscribers and was called to testify before a congressional subcommittee about the problems of teens in porn.

Cases like Emily's and Justin's highlight a new avenue for teen exhibitionism and exploitation—the Internet. John Shehan, director of Exploited Children Services at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, said it's a big problem and growing.

"As more and more teens realize how they can exploit technology, we are going to see more cases like this [Emily Sander] and cases like Justin Berry," Shehan said. "I think we'll see more and more of a transition from the real world—underage teens using fake IDs or whatever for exotic dancing/stripping—to the online arena. I think in a teen's mindset, it's

much more attractive to go online. They can make far more money online and reach more customers via the Internet pay-per-view site than working at a local dive, dancing at an exotic bar/strip club."

Earlier this year the anti-trafficking organization Shared Hope International issued a report saying: "American children are victims of the sex trade, and they are being trafficked within the United States."

The numbers are disturbing. Estimates range from 100,000 to 300,000 minors sexually trafficked in the United States each year. Many are runaways or "throwaways"—kids neglected or abandoned by their families—who trade sex for survival.

The problem is particularly acute in "hub" cities for sexual traf-

ficking, such as Atlanta and Las Vegas. Since 1994, Shared Hope has documented nearly 1,500 sexually trafficked minors in Las Vegas coming from 40 states—as many as 400 on the streets at one time.

Former Congresswoman Linda Smith founded Shared Hope International 10 years ago to expose the growing problem of domestic minor sex trafficking. Smith told Focus on the Family pornography is a prime gateway for children to become exploited.

"When they start, they think they're in control," she said. "But once they get into the porn industry, that girl is going to be in trouble. She will become a forced prostitute in most cases if she continues. Now, it could be one act that somebody convinces her to do, and she wishes she hadn't. But once that's out there, she's victimized over and over again by people seeing her moment of vulnerability—or maybe stupidity."

The U.S. State Department estimates that of the 600,000 to 800,000 persons sexually trafficked across international borders each year, 70 percent are forced into "sexual

servitude"—and half of them are minors.

Curb the demand

Daniel Weiss, media and sexuality analyst for Focus on the Family Action, laid major blame on the tolerance of porn, which in turn fuels demand for illicit sex.

"There is no difference between porn, prostitution and sex trafficking," Weiss said. "Together they form a seamless fabric of exploitation and abuse. If we ignore the threat of pornography, as is happening today with law enforcement agencies throughout the nation, we allow the sexual exploitation of women and children in the criminal sex industry to flourish."

Lisa Thompson of the Salvation Army agrees: "I think we need to completely retool how we're conceptualizing pornography," she told Focus on the Family. "Pornography is prostitution for mass consumption."

When the Salvation Army was founded by William and Catherine Booth in the 19th century, a major part of its original ministry to the downtrodden of London was rescuing "fallen women" from prostitution. That's still part of its mission.

Thompson, the Salvation Army's liaison for Abolition of Sexual Trafficking, challenges people not to discount the plight of adult women. Considering the falling age of entry into prostitution, she said, that 22-year-old street prostitute may have been victimized nearly half her life. "She's grown up in prostitution," Thompson said.

The Salvation Army works with communities and law enforcement agencies to provide support services for "survivors" of prostitution. But Thompson said "the church has really got to step up" and start dealing with this issue in a big way—prevention programs for children, more sex-addiction treatment programs for adults.

She noted that one of the biggest sex-trafficking cases in recent years involved girls and women being trafficked out of Toledo, Ohio, along truck routes across America. Two of the girls—cousins, 14 and 15—were abducted right off the street in Toledo and forced to become truck-stop prostitutes.

"If Toledo, Ohio, is a hotbed for recruitment of prostitution, it's time for the heartland of America to wake up," Thompson said. "I mean, we're not talking about Vegas or New York City or Atlantic City—places that we associate with vice. We're talking about good old apple-pie middle America."

Thompson and others are convinced that

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND EXPLOITATION

- In 2004, Internet Watch Foundation found 3,433 child abuse domains; in 2006 there were 10,656.
- Of known child abuse domains, 54 percent are housed in the United States.
- The fastest-growing demand in commercial Web sites for child abuse is for images depicting the worst type of abuse, including penetrative sexual activity involving children and adults and sadism or penetration by an animal.
- File-sharing program Gnutella has 116,000 daily child pornography requests.
- In a study of arrested child pornography possessors, 40 percent also sexually victimized children.
- Of those arrested for child pornography crimes between 2000 and 2001, 83 percent had images involving children aged 6 to 12; 39 percent had images of children aged 3 to 5; and 19 percent had images of infants and toddlers.
- According to a National Children's Homes report, the number of Internet child pornography images has increased 1,500 percent since 1988.
- Approximately 20 percent of Internet pornography involves children; more than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week.
- Child pornography is estimated to be a \$3 billion-a-year industry.
- Research indicates that one in five girls and one in 10 boys is sexually victimized.
- Between 100,000 and 300,000 American youths are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation.

Thanks to Enough is Enough for compiling this research and providing citations. www.enough.org

just arresting women doesn't work, and results in victimizing them all over again. They want to see more resources aimed at helping the girls, and more pressure on the demand side of the sex trade—the buyers and users.

"It is a severe injustice when American girls are held in physical and mental slavery and then punished for the crime that is committed against them," said Shared Hope's Linda Smith.

firming the sinister nature of this growing market for teen porn as a gateway to child porn and pedophilia. "For some of these men [in one study], the teen sites were just a stepping stone to the real thing, as they moved seamlessly from adult women to children," Dines said.

"We've got a whole generation of men now who are aroused by [images] that look like children," Dines said. "We've never before brought up an entire generation of boys

Going to war

Barrett Duke longs for a righteous revival that halts the moral free-fall in America and sends pimps and pornographers "back into the shadows."

"We've got to find a way," he said. "The good people in this country are going to have to say 'we've had enough.' The good people of this country have got to start fighting back."

That fight, Duke said, should begin with pornography. "In a lot of ways, pornography is the gateway to most of the sexual deviancy that we're seeing in this country."

And the church should lead the fight. "It's time for pastors to start calling sin 'sin,' start calling pornography 'sin' and start developing programs in churches that can help men—and women—caught up more and more in pornography," Duke said, "and begin to provide help groups, counseling and other kinds of services to help make people aware of sexual addiction and help them come out of sexual addiction."

But it may get darker before the dawn.

Dr. Gail Dines, a professor of sociology and women's studies at Wheelock College in Boston, has written and spoken on what she calls "pseudo" child pornography, the "barely legal" type of porn that appeals to fantasies about sex with children. She points to studies con-

on pornography. The average age of downloading their first pornography is about 11 years old."

Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, cited a study showing 42 percent of 10- to 17-year-olds are exposed to unwanted online pornography in the course of a year. "I mean, that's millions of kids," said Allen.

To Linda Smith, the battle has become very personal. Besides her relationships with a number of girls Shared Hope has helped to rescue, she's also concerned for young boys she says are being lured by the sex industry. She said Shared Hope has confirmed reports by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children that some Internet pornographers are using misleading domain names, spam, pop-ups, tracking and other high-tech tricks directed at boys 8 to 12 years old.

"We found over 5,000 sites with key words and phrases that are associated with selling to kids, and in those it's very clear they're marketing the images to boys," she said. "I just cried, 'That's the age of my grandsons. They're after my grandsons.' They all play sports, and they all go online, and they all play these games, and they're typing them and sending them porn."

Smith likens the fight against sexual exploitation to the long battle over smoking in public. It took time to change public perception, but ultimately the tide of opinion changed.

"We're intending to go to war against the victimization of our children," Smith said. *

TAKE ACTION

For additional information and to get involved, contact:

Pure Intimacy Focus on the Family's online resource for anyone struggling with pornography, intimacy, addictions or homosexuality.
www.pureintimacy.org

Shared Hope International
P.O. Box 65337, Vancouver, WA 98665
(866) HER-LIFE (437-5433)
savelives@sharedhope.org
www.sharedhope.org

Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking
Lisa Thompson, IAST Coordinator
c/o The Salvation Army National Headquarters
P.O. Box 269, Alexandria, VA 22313
(703) 519-5896
www.iast.net

Is Pornography Legal?

Pornography is a category of sexually explicit material that can be divided into two legal classifications: indecency and obscenity. Indecency enjoys legal protections while obscenity has no First Amendment protections. Many people believe all pornography is legal unless it depicts sex with children, violent torture or sex with animals. In fact, much of the pornographic material that is commonly sold and distributed in the United States may be in violation of federal and local obscenity statutes.

How to determine if material is obscene

In the 1973 case *Miller v. California*, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that obscenity was not protected speech and could be prohibited. Further, the court laid down a standard by which all future obscenity cases would be tried. Representing the majority opinion, Chief Justice Warren Burger wrote:

The basic guidelines for the trier of fact must be:

(a) whether “the average person, applying contemporary community standards” would find the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest...

(b) whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law, and

(c) whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

The ruling further instructed that the standard to be used was that of the community in which the case was being tried and that no national standard was needed. The court has continued to hold to a local standard for obscenity cases, despite the global reach of Internet pornography.

Further guidance from the court

The court spelled out a few clear examples of what it thought could be considered obscene:

“We emphasize that it is not our function to propose regulatory schemes for the States. That must await their concrete legislative efforts. It is possible, however, to give a few plain examples of what a state statute could

define for regulation under part (b) of the standard announced in this opinion, supra:

(a) Patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated.

(b) Patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, and lewd exhibition of the genitals.

In the court’s mindset of 1973, even depictions of simulated sex could be obscene.



Today, even the most devoted anti-porn activists do not believe a jury would convict over simulated sex. Therefore, they try to focus law enforcement efforts on material that at a minimum shows clearly visible sexual penetration.

What does federal law prohibit?

Federal obscenity laws are spelled out in Title 18 Part 1 Chapter 71 of the United States Code. Prohibited acts include:

- Sale of (or even possession with intent to sell) obscene matter on federal property
- Mailing obscene matter through the mail or any other common carrier
- Importing obscene matter into the country (including through the Internet)

- Transporting obscene matter across state lines for sale or distribution (including through the Internet or over the telephone)

- Broadcasting obscene language or depictions

- Engaging in the business of selling or transferring obscene matter

- Distributing obscene matter by cable or subscription television

- Distributing obscene matter to a minor under the age of 16

Put simply, federal law prohibits the sale, distribution or dissemination of obscene materials to minors or adults through the mail, over the broadcast airwaves, on cable or satellite TV, on the Internet, over the telephone or any other means that crosses state lines.

The only protection that the court has recognized for obscene material is personal possession in the home (*Stanley v. Georgia*).

The importance of consistent law enforcement

Determining community standards through a jury trial is difficult, but the past 35 years have seen many communities successfully use this legal structure to battle obscene pornography.

The system breaks down, however, when law enforcement agencies at the local, state or federal level do not enforce obscenity laws. If a business suspected of violating the law is not investigated, cases cannot be brought to trial. If cases don’t go to trial, a community has no opportunity to exercise its constitutional right to determine its own standards.

The absence of effective enforcement favors criminals and lowers community standards, because material is presumed to be legal unless proven otherwise in a court of law. What we see across the nation today are communities held hostage by pornographers and by reluctant law agencies ignoring the needs of those they have sworn to serve. Active, informed and vigilant citizens are needed in every community to ensure laws are enforced and community standards are maintained. *

PORNOGRAPHY: HARMLESS FUN

OR PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD?

by Daniel Weiss, senior analyst
for media and sexuality
Focus on the Family Action

For obscenity laws to be consistently and effectively enforced—and upheld by the courts—our culture must understand pornography’s threats to individuals, families and society.

More than 25 years ago, Dr. Victor Cline identified the progressive nature of pornography addiction. Once addicted, a person’s need for pornography escalates both in frequency and in deviancy. The person then grows desensitized to the material, no longer getting a thrill from what was once exciting. Finally, this escalation and desensitization drives many addicts to act out their fantasies on others.¹

At a Senate hearing in 2004, medical experts corroborated Cline’s breakthroughs. New technology is allowing doctors to look inside addicts’ brains to determine just how damaging pornography is. The witnesses described research showing the similarity of porn addiction to cocaine addiction. Further, because images are stored in the brain and can be recalled at any moment, these experts

believe that a porn addiction may be harder to break than a heroin addiction.²

No one is seriously advocating the legalization of cocaine or heroin, but somehow the pornography industry has convinced a large segment of the population that viewing porn is not only harmless fun, but is also a fundamental right.

By not calling pornography what it is—highly addictive and destructive—we are heading for troubled times. Dr. Patrick Carnes, a leading researcher on sex addiction, estimates that 3 to 6 percent of Americans are sexually addicted.³ That’s as many as 20 million people.

This epidemic isn’t confined to individuals. Pornography is one of the leading causes of family breakdown today. Two-thirds of the divorce attorneys attending a 2002 meeting of the American Academy of

Matrimonial Lawyers said excessive interest in online porn contributed to more than half of the divorces they handled that year. They also said pornography had an almost non-existent role in divorce just seven or eight years earlier.⁴

This devastation isn’t confined to adults,

**PORNOGRAPHY IS ONE OF
THE LEADING CAUSES OF
FAMILY BREAKDOWN TODAY.**

either. The Justice Department estimates that nine of 10 children between the ages of 8 and 16 have been exposed to pornography

online.⁵ Software company Symantec found that 47 percent of school-age children receive pornographic spam on a daily basis,⁶ and representatives from the pornography industry told Congress that as much as 20 to 30 per-

BY NOT CALLING PORNOGRAPHY WHAT IT IS— HIGHLY ADDICTIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE MATERIAL—WE ARE HEADING FOR TROUBLED TIMES.

cent of the traffic to some pornographic Web sites is children.⁷

Ralph DiClemente, a behavioral scientist at Emory University, described the danger of this exposure. He said, “[Children] can’t just put [porn] into their worldview, because they don’t have one.”⁸ Instead, pornography becomes a building block in a child’s mental and emotional development.

When pornography becomes a filter through which the rest of life is understood, serious damage occurs. A 2001 report found that more than half of all sex offenders in Utah are adolescents—and children as young as 8 years old are committing felony sexual assault.⁹

The porn industry fights laws such as the Child Online Protection Act, which requires pornographers to use age-verification systems, because they know this flood of pornographic imagery is creating a new generation of consumers.

This culture-wide hyper-sexualization is generating incredible public health risks. One in five adults in the United States has a sexually transmitted infection (STI),¹⁰ and 19 million new STIs occur annually, almost half of them among youths aged 15 to 24.¹¹

Pornography is also a significant factor in sexual violence. The FBI reports that the most common interest among serial killers is hardcore pornography. Another report found that 87 percent of child molesters studied were regular consumers of hardcore pornography.¹² In the spring of 2005, the nation mourned 8-year-old Jessica DeLaTorre, who was abducted, raped and murdered by a porn addict who had viewed child pornography at an Internet café the night before.

Many recall Ted Bundy, the serial killer from Florida. In an interview with Focus on the Family founder Dr. James Dobson just hours before he was executed, Bundy described how early exposure to pornography consumed him and led him down his murderous path. He said he was ultimately responsible for his actions, but that the

messages in pornography primed him for those actions.

As horrifying as this is, we should not be surprised. Although the Supreme Court was clear in *Miller v. California* that hard-core pornography enjoys no First Amendment protection, lax federal and state law enforcement has essentially given obscenity the protection denied to it in the Constitution.

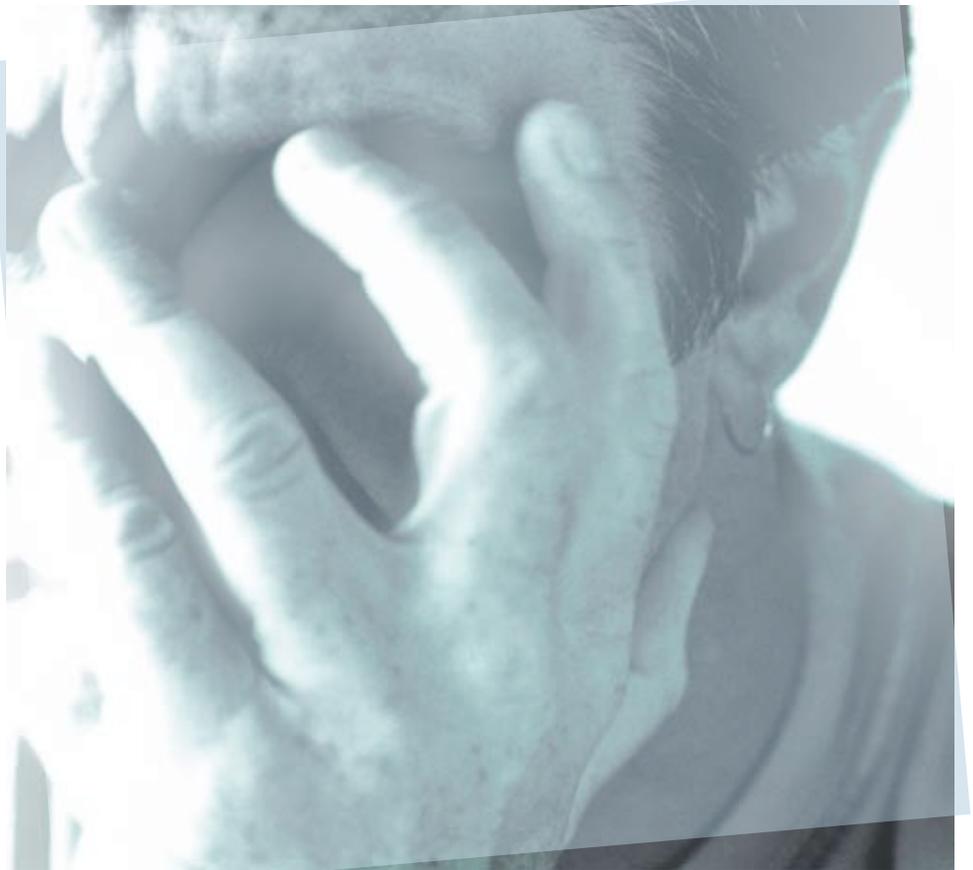
This lack of enforcement has allowed a back-alley enterprise to grow into an unprecedented global trade in humans. Pornography turns people into commodities. Men and women become sexual objects to be bought, sold, used and discarded.

The last time the United States recognized human beings as consumer goods, it took a civil war to end it.

We should not be shocked with skyrocketing STIs or marital and family breakdown. Nor when men rape women and children or even when children rape one another. These developments are entirely consistent with the explosive growth in pornography.

It’s not harmless adult entertainment, as some would like us to believe, but a real, measurable and undeniable threat to individuals, families and society. ★

Adapted from a speech delivered at the May 19, 2005, Summit on Pornography: Obscenity Enforcement, Corporate Participation and Violence against Women and Children.

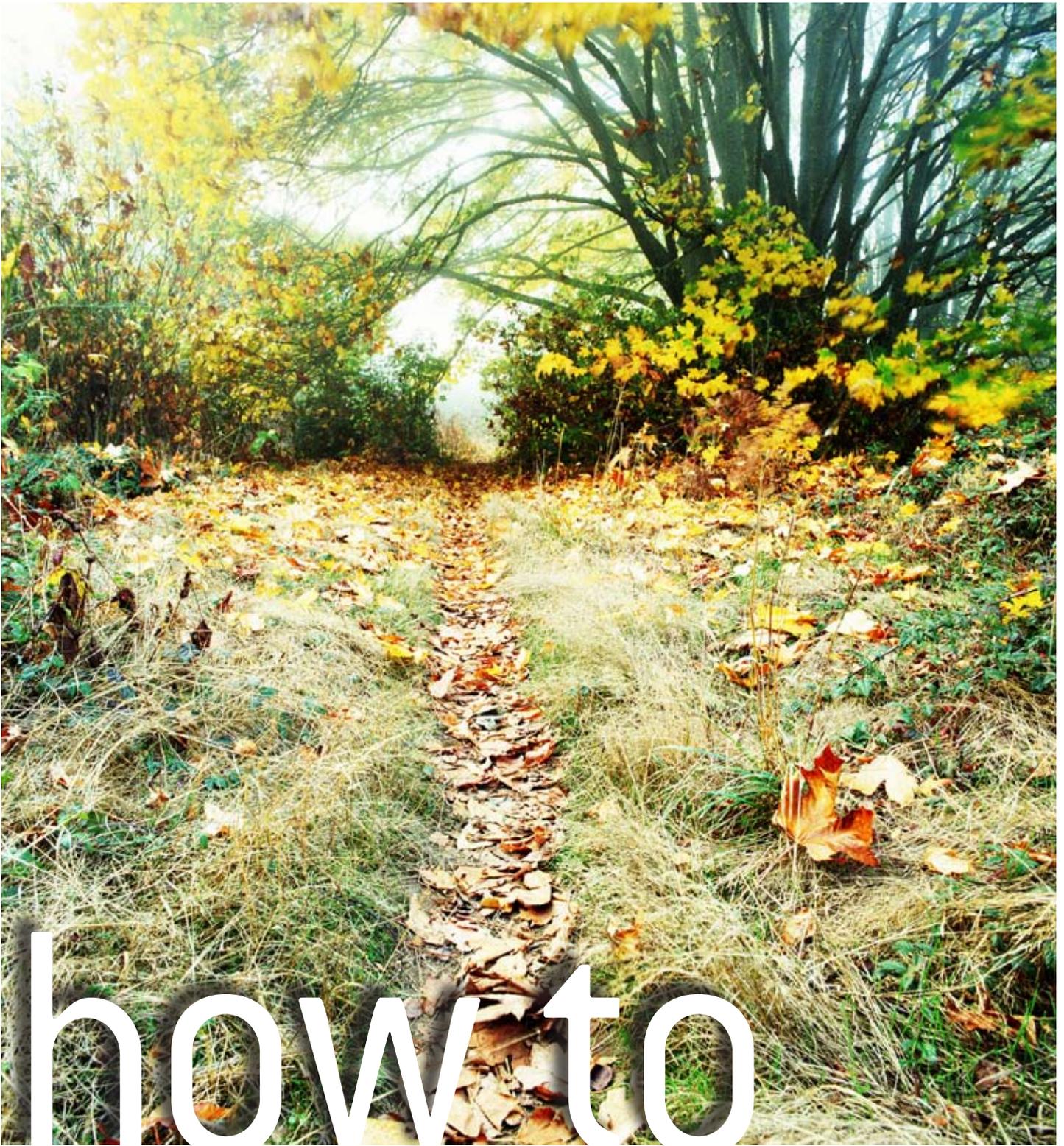


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Protect Your Community from Pornography

Many cities and counties in America have never considered that sexually oriented businesses (SOBs) could target their communities, but they may be vulnerable if they haven't enacted tough, constitutionally-sound regulations.

Legal restrictions

If you want to protect your community, consider these key points about SOB regulation:

1) The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled

that communities may not ban SOBs outright. The court maintains that such businesses—provided they don't violate the law—have a right to exist.

2) The court also ruled that communities can relegate SOBs to certain areas of town in order to mitigate their undesir-

SOBs INCREASE CRIME AND URBAN BLIGHT AND DECREASE PROPERTY VALUES

able secondary effects. Hundreds of land-use studies have found that SOBs increase crime and urban blight and decrease property values. A community can pass an ordinance restricting SOBs to industrial areas or specify that they be located a certain distance from parks, churches, schools and neighborhoods.

3) The Supreme Court also allows communities to pass time and manner restrictions. These types of ordinances can restrict such businesses from operating late at night (after midnight), when crime tends to increase. Also, restrictions on how such a business operates are constitutionally sound. Such regulations can include requiring background checks for all employees (to weed out convicted felons), requiring a no-touch rule for strip clubs, removing doors from “peep show” booths, prohibiting alcohol from being sold at strip clubs or requiring such businesses to be licensed by the city.

4) It's important to enlist the help of a trained attorney to ensure your laws will survive legal challenge. However, almost any regulation is enough to convince such businesses to locate elsewhere.

Enforcing the laws

In addition to strong time, manner and place regulations, communities need to make sure all applicable laws are consistently and effectively enforced.

Many towns have local laws or come under the protection of state statutes against

selling obscene material or prostitution. Strip clubs and porn shops are notorious for facilitating prostitution. Further, these businesses are often in violation of local building codes due to poor lighting and health codes because of sexual activity occurring in viewing booths. Convictions for violating these laws may put a

place out of business or make it more difficult to operate.

Police departments and district attorneys may be reluctant to investigate and prosecute these businesses unless they know that such actions are a priority in your community. You need to communicate your concerns clearly, consistently and respectfully in order to form the positive working relationships necessary to keep your community clean.

The three-legged stool of community protection

Protecting a community involves the active partnership of three crucial components. The most important component is a group of local citizens that cares about the issue and is willing to invest time, energy and possibly money to the cause. In some cases, only with an involved group of people on the ground is a community able to support and encourage the other two components.

The second component is a police force that makes enforcement of SOB regulations and obscenity laws a priority. Most sheriffs and police chiefs are elected and accountable to the voting public. Citizens can meet with officers to encourage enforcement. The best strategy is for the citizens group to be active in local politics in order to support strong candidates

who share these views, rather than trying to convince a disinterested candidate of the need for such enforcement.

The third component is a local prosecutor who is both willing and capable of successfully prosecuting violations of obscenity and zoning laws. Obscenity cases are still rare, so there is a strong likelihood

ENLIST THE HELP OF A TRAINED ATTORNEY TO ENSURE YOUR LAWS WILL SURVIVE LEGAL CHALLENGE

even those attorneys interested in such cases may not have the proper training. The Alliance Defense Fund has published an obscenity prosecution manual to aid local prosecutors in their efforts. *

Getting started

If you'd like to protect your community, Focus on the Family encourages you to seek guidance from trained attorneys specializing in these matters:

Patrick A. Trueman
Attorney At Law
Oakton, VA 22124
Phone: 703-938-1776
p.trueman@verizon.net
www.pattrueman.org

Law Office of Scott D. Bergthold, P.L.L.C.
8052 Standifer Gap Rd. Suite C
Chattanooga, TN 37421
Phone: 423-899-3025
sbergthold@adultbusinesslaw.com
www.adultbusinesslaw.com

Family Policy Councils
These state-level organizations are fully independent but closely associated with the mission and aims of Focus on the Family. To find a family policy council in your area, go to: www.citizenlink.org/fpc



Impact Hotel Pornography

How big is hotel porn?

Numbers are difficult to find, but information gleaned from industry leader LodgeNet Corporation's 2007 Annual Report sheds light on an industry that appears to be generating hundreds of millions of dollars each year from pornography.

LodgeNet stats

- The nation's leading provider of in-room pay-per-view entertainment
- Serves 1.9 million hotel rooms in 9,900 properties
- Revenues in 2007 were \$485.6 million
- Revenue from porn sales is approximately \$11.63 /room/month*
- Total estimated revenue from porn in 2007 = \$265 million (\$11.63 / room/month x 12 months x 1.9 million rooms)

**Industry experts believe that between 70-80 percent of hotel movie sales are derived from pornographic offerings.*

The clean alternative

With all that porn around, what can people do to avoid it?

To aid conscientious travelers, Citizens for Community Values in Ohio (CCV) has developed CleanHotels.com, a searchable—and bookable—travel Web site similar to Expedia or Travelocity.

“Our whole goal in this is to give people an alternative as to where they can stay and to take the money away from the guys that are selling pornography and give it to the good guys,” said Vickie Burress, who tracks the lodging industry for CCV.

Launched in 2002, CleanHotels began as an online list of the porn-free—or “clean”—hotels in the United States. Since 2005, CleanHotels.com has provided online hotel bookings, drawing from a database of approximately 15,000 porn-free facilities.

Chris Meyer, whose company Tripium worked with CCV to build the CleanHotels Web site, hopes more organizations start thinking about the implications of sending staff to porn-friendly hotels.

“Do they want their employees staying at hotels with the temptation, and do they want their employees watching porn?” he said. “Is that good business? Is that healthy? If they don't think it is, they should enact policies that require their employees to stay at hotels that don't offer porn.”

Even with relatively small numbers, CleanHotels is starting to influence the lodging industry.

“The hotel industry is talking about this,” Burress said. “It's a conversation at almost every trade show: ‘Did you hear about those people who are trying to get us to stop selling our pornography?’”

“I think we're making a difference.”

Industry insiders say a hotel receives \$1 to \$2 per film, a small amount when compared with the potential loss of guests who choose not to stay at a hotel that's profiting from porn.

“How many times does a hotel have to lose a room for the \$2 they make on a porn movie?” Burress asked. “We will see a huge difference when Christian groups and churches and organizations start booking their conscience.”

Meyer expects that many Christians will like the idea but struggle to act on their convictions.

“Changing behavior is hard to do,” he said. “People have got to want to, and people have

got to start standing up and saying, ‘enough is enough.’ You're going to have to sacrifice something.”

Burress said any sacrifice is minimal when compared to the costs of family breakdown.

“We would ask anyone traveling this simple question: ‘Why would you give your money to pornographers, when you have the opportunity to choose a hotel that does not profit from selling hard-core pornography?’” *

Booking your conscience

What can one person do?

- 1) Stay in a porn-free hotel whenever possible.
- 2) Thank the manager of a porn-free hotel for maintaining a decent lodging experience.
- 3) If a hotel listed on CleanHotels.com offers porn, report it to the site so it can be removed.
- 4) If a hotel without hard-core porn is not listed on CleanHotels.com, contact the Web site for inclusion.
- 5) If you stay in a hotel that carries hard-core pornography, express your disappointment to the front desk or manager when you leave.

What can corporations, nonprofits and churches do?

- 1) Require employees to stay at porn-free hotels whenever possible.
- 2) Stop referring visitors to local hotels that offer hard-core pornography.
- 3) Schedule conventions and large meetings at porn-free hotels—and inform other properties of their lost business.

Material drawn from “Cleaning Their Rooms,” published in the September 2007 Citizen.



Create Family-Friendly Checkout Aisles

It happens every day: Hundreds of families visit supermarkets only to be accosted by lewd headlines and scantily clad women on magazine covers prominently displayed in the checkout lanes. Most assume their only option is to cover their kids' eyes or turn their backs to the racks. But Christians can do so much more. Here's how:

Step 1: Complain verbally

Remember, you have the advantage: As one of the most competitive businesses in the nation, supermarkets depend on customer loyalty. So don't be bashful about asking an on-site manager to remove offensive magazines. When making your point:

Be polite, but firm. "Assume they want to do the right thing for their customers," advises Randy Sharp of the American Family Association, which helped convince Wal-Mart to reconsider its display policy. Treat the magazine, not the manager, as the enemy.

Have evidence in hand. "The greatest ammunition you've got is the wording on the front cover," advises Robert Peters of New York-based Morality in Media. A mother with small children pointing to headlines describing sexual foreplay is enough to shame many managers into action.

Do the math. Mention how much your family spends each month at the store. Based on current prices, "the supermarket would have to sell an additional 156 magazines a month to replace the profits lost by one family of four who chooses to buy groceries elsewhere," says Sharp.

Step 2: Give alternatives

Don't give up if the manager resists. Be politely persistent by suggesting alternatives:

Option 1: Relocation. Suggest the store move inappropriate literature to the magazine or book aisle instead of the checkout counter.

Option 2: Blinders. If that doesn't work, suggest putting crude magazines behind rack blinders that cover everything but the title. "That is where we've seen the most success," says Sharp. "For example, Kroger, as a company policy, covers *Cosmopolitan* with a blinder."

To bolster your suggestions, use these arguments:

Checkout lines are a captive audience. "Unless you want to start a garden in your flower box, you've got to go to the supermarket. ... You've got to walk through those checkout counters, and that's when you get an eyeful," says Morality in Media's Peters.

Family stores should protect children. Since supermarkets aggressively target families, they have a responsibility to avoid exposing children to lewd language and images.

Crudity turns away customers. Nearly three-quarters of Americans consider sexually explicit headlines at checkout counters "inappropriate," and 60 percent favor a store policy of covering distasteful wording, according to a 1999 national poll conducted by Wirthlin Worldwide.

Offensive magazines treat women as

commodities. (You might find unexpected allies of this argument among local feminists.)

Step 3: Community action

If the manager still doesn't budge, it's time to escalate your protest.

Recruit others. Ask neighbors and church friends to write letters to the editor of the local newspaper and contact the manager. Most store managers "don't receive more than two or three calls a week, so if they get 10 in the space of two or three days they're going to take notice," says Sharp.

Distribute fliers. Just the possibility of negative publicity is often enough to change managers' minds. So you can increase pressure by distributing fliers portraying examples of currently displayed, offensive magazine covers. It's also helpful to circulate petitions or cards with your fliers.

Contact corporate headquarters. If your store is part of a national chain, organize a letter-writing campaign to the headquarters. Letters should:

- list examples of offending material
- give clear suggested action
- ask for a response

To get chain stores' corporate addresses, visit the American Decency Association's (ADA) Web site at www.americandecency.org.

ADA President Bill Johnson, credited with convincing Kroger to cover up *Cosmopolitan*, says persistence is key: "If people don't continue to be the salt and light in their stores, what's going to stop [stores] from having pornographic magazines?" *

Originally published in the March 2003 Citizen.

Adopt-A-Community

Cleaning our cultural wasteland one stretch at a time

by Daniel Weiss, senior analyst
for media and sexuality
Focus on the Family Action



You've seen the signs along the highway indicating that an organization has "adopted" that stretch of road and pledged to keep it clean. I'm part of one of those groups. Every few months, our team puts on gloves and blaze orange vests and proceeds to fill bag after bag of trash. We've found it all: car parts, fast food waste, soiled underwear and even a clip of live ammunition. The work is difficult, frustrating and disgusting. Still, it's a nice break from my job, which is also rather difficult, frustrating and disgusting.

I am the senior analyst for media and sexuality for Focus on the Family Action. Or, as my colleagues like to joke, I'm the porn guy. For the better part of seven years, I have been researching court rulings, obscenity regulations and business trends in an effort to prevent the seedier side of life from assimilating into mainstream America.

I recently spoke of my efforts with a bright college senior. After talking for a while, he asked a poignant question: "Can we really do anything about obscenity? It's everywhere, and nothing seems to deter its spread."

This student was not demonstrating the cynicism typical of many people his age, but rather a frank and honest assessment of our culture and its fascination with all things prurient.

This young man, and perhaps millions like him, is alarmed by the normalization and mainstreaming of obscene material but feels helpless to do anything about it. It's as if he were tasked with cleaning up every highway in America. The sheer volume of trash, practically speaking, approaches infinity.

The fight against the proliferation of illegal

pornography is too large for any one person or organization to wage. But around the country, individuals and groups are staking out their "mile" of the cultural highway and pledging to keep it clean.

In Ruston, La., a video-store owner was tried for selling obscene videos. After viewing the tapes in question, the jury took just four hours to reach a guilty verdict. Three days later, the owner's brother—and business partner—decided to pull all hard-core videos from the defendant's store—more than 8,000 in all.

In West Chester Township, Ohio, a sex video store decided to voluntarily close its doors rather than have a grand jury view 10 hard-core pornographic tapes. The Greater Cincinnati area has seen a number of similar actions. Convinced that area hotels were distributing obscenity through in-room pay-per-view movies, a community group encouraged local police and prosecutors to investigate. These actions led 19 hotels to discontinue offering the movies rather than go to trial over obscenity violations.

In Purcellville, Va., a group of Patrick Henry College students decided to investigate a local adult video store. They researched local obscenity ordinances, contacted local police and town leaders and convinced the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney of Virginia to prosecute the store under public nuisance laws. Rather than face legal action, the store removed its pornographic tapes.

These three episodes ought to give us hope. Cleaning up the national culture may seem a daunting task, but we need not stand idly by as illegal polluters defile our *local* communities. Working to keep our nation clean will be exhausting, dirty and often exasperating work, but we will see considerable success if we simply take it mile-by-mile. *

Struggling with pornography?
Marriage in trouble?
Wondering if there is any way out?



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