When

first saw the movie Not A Love Story a couple of years ago, I was surprised to find the Toronto Police and the Ontario Censor Board thanked in the credits. These days, however, systematic cooperation between the anti-pornography movement and the right is pretty standard fare. Taken back by the resistance they encountered within the women's movement, Women Against Pornography and their many franchises and spin-offs regrouped, formed a base of alliance with behavioural-mod psychologists, cops and decent citizens, and are now launching a new offensive.

Maybe I hang out with the wrong sorts, but I don't hear any apologies about this alliance. The Vancouver Anti-Pornography Network, for example, use a rhetoric borrowed from countless law-and-order campaigns: they demand that public prosecutors do their jobs and convict "porn pimps, whose rights are respected over community standards."

More skillfully—and soberingly—initiatives draw attention to the social sciences. An example is an ordinance nearly passed by Minneapolis City Council early this year declaring that trafficking in pornography is discrimination against the civil rights of women. Porn is defined as the "sexually explicit subordination of women," which includes representations of women "in postures of sexual submission, or sexual servility, including by inviting penetration." The law would allow—get this—anyone who has made porn to sue its producers or retailers whether or not they themselves "actually consented to...or appeared to co-operate with" its making. So much for consent, the bill was authored by Catherine McKinnon and Andrea Dworkin, "in a delirium of hope that women are as human as men." In May, a similar ordinance was successfully passed by Indianapolis city-county council. That campaign saw anti-porn feminists, including McKinnon, work with fundamentalist Christians and the police.

All the proposed legislation I've come across is based on the shaky premise that exposure to pornographic and TV cop shows promotes—or even causes—rape, aggressiveness, and something called anti-social behavior. Evidence that refutes these claims is dismissed or simply ignored.

Thelma McCormack's report for the Metro Toronto Task Force on Public Violence Against Women and Children, for example, was shelved late last year when it failed to come up with the right answer. Another report was drafted by David Scott, a clinical psychologist who is a spokesperson for the Action Group on Media Pornography and the Canadian Coalition Against Violence Entertainment. Scott likes to talk about "preventive morality" and argues that only through legislation will we be encouraged to "entertain ourselves with more prosocial activities." His organization argues that criminal violence has risen 500 percent in the past 30 years, and that "were it a toxic food additive, it would have been taken off the market immediately."

Just how would you go about taking violence "off the market"? A number of suggestions were made at a Symposium on Media Violence and Pornography held in Toronto this past February. About 750 people, probably half of them women, sat through ten hours of panels and slide shows presented by what the publicity had called "international experts." These turned out to be, as they usually do in Canada, Americans, most of them men. The day opened with a prayer and closed with a Debriefing I was afraid to stay for. Entrance cost $40, no one under 18 was permitted, there was no daycare, and no questions from the floor. "When a teacher lectures his students," Scott, who chaired the conference, pointed out, "he's not there for any debate.

The lecture began with ten psychologists, who had slides and charts that explained everything from crime statistics to rock videos to erections. Dr. Edward Donnerstein showed outtakes from horror movies that made "normal males" disposed to rape women. Then he showed a movie with what he called "loving sex"—a man and a woman kissing in front of a blazing fire. Dr. Dolf Zillman, however, argued that even representations of "regular hetero sexual intercourse" had deleterious effects. Seems that since most porn loops show "copulation of every sort— including anal," our appetite for "more bizarre sexuality" is stimulated. Who knows what might be next. "Massive exposure to non-violent pornography," Zillman continued, "makes men and women less supportive of the female liberation movement."

Applause here. Dr. Thomas Radecki, MD. Chairperson of the National Coalition on Television Violence in the US, talked about the broadcasting of "sadist
hate programming” into our homes. There followed a denunciation of music videos, TV sports, Dynasty (“frequent cause with violence”), punk bands and names, and war toys. MTV and other violent TV networks were out to guarantee that the second television generation would be more violent than the first, which turned out to be the most violent generation of Americans on record,” so that explains the numbers.

Judy Resman, secret, recipient of a $400,000 grant from the US Justice Department to study the links between pornography and violence, gave an illuminating lecture that was bewildering, presumably and confused. She spoke of her work in a five million dollar programme through the American Psychological Association, which aims to educate neurologically, chiefly the non-sexual issues that surround violence.

We need to know how violence is subconsciously perceived by us, since humans are wired biologically.” She went on to speculate that the “sexually underprivileged” of much pornography seem to be “male against male,” and was the cause of considerable violence. Sex, abuse, and crime. Resman then showed ads with children in them—some of which were the exact same. She says no—had to show what young people and learn that yes, no matter how much we want to deny it, we still need to learn to cope with the violence. If we don’t, then we will never understand violence.

“Sexual KK” Stock showed slides from the New York WAPS show. The programme that noted that Stock was from Sony’s Stonehouse at West Palm Beach. She is also Director of the Human Sexuality Center in Las Vegas, Florida. A discussion of the psychology of sex, and most notably with the conclusions that we are taught that to means yes. Stock then revealed that Al Goldstein, the leader of the gay porn business, was planning to discuss the conference by pushing in and taking off all his clothes. We looked around apprehensively, but apparently, his old habits still remained.

Everett Koop, the US Surgeon General, gave the most polished New Right speech I’ve heard. Told us that the KK is a sophisticated and “an epidemic threatening millions of decent families. We all recognize it. We all know what it is. We all tell our kids not to do it.” We learned that the epidemic began in 1965 and, like a cancer, takes several forms. Apparently, suicide is one of the more common forms.” Another Child Abuse, incest, murder, terrorism.

Most Americans at the conference assumed “in Canada” and the rest of the world that sex is not a problem. This out of the way, the number of children has increased.

These interventions were hailed as victories, the Toronto feminist press. It was a message that feminism had scored.

They sold for only $15.

Innocent Victims.

Innocent Victims.

Innocent Victims.

Innocent Victims.
women's concerns had prevailed. Andrea Dworkin, Susan Cole wrote in "Broadside," had "come down from the mountain" and "made those who really don't want to listen cock their ears."

Now there's a sick fantasy. My press packet had included pictures of a "leaders' meeting with Reagan," lists of anti-social TV shows, an appeal to women to wear dresses, WAP xeroxes of "Playboy" cartoons, pictures of the "T" (which has the authority to cut virtual all films and videos shown in Canada) on the grounds that it's existence "is an extension of free speech guaranteed in the recently-enacted Charter of Rights."

Both of course, nonsense. There is no issue that requires such a florishing industry. It is often noted by its opponents that porn is a six billion dollar business. Just what's the problem here?

Profit? Then what about fashion, automobiles or art, which dwarf the sex industry? We can be assured that commercial restraints on such activities will be insisted upon every step of the way, as they are in every other sector of the economy. In short, if we believe the ideology of free market, argue for pornography ought to be met with considerable skepticism.

What other agenda is there in the struggle to rid this society of sexuality explicit images? First, the control of sexual practices, particularly among young people and the poor. Second, the elimination of the few gains that have been made by the sex liberation movements of the past 25 years. Lastly, the refusal of the general and widespread demand for autonomy everywhere in the world today. An anti-porn point, and cultural feminism in general, does nothing to challenge the power of the state, or indeed the predominant assumptions about the nature of men and women's sexuality. Beyond questions of gender and sexuality, what about violence itself, and its representations? What does it mean for the Surgeon General of the United States and the Surgeon General of the United States?'

I don't see any of these being raised within the anti-porn movement. Nor do I see that movement offering in any honest way the complex issues around sex, desire and pleasure that have been articulated by the sexual freedom. Finally, I don't see any movement that is prepared to work toward the social, economic or libration of women.

The anti-porn movement is not just a reaction to the terrain staked out by the radical sexual liberation movements of the past two decades. If we abandon those struggles, we stand to lose far more than the possibility of a sexually healthy and diverse society. We stand to lose our very humanity. The right understands this. But does the anti-porn movement?
The Trapper had stumbled upon it but too suddenly to be by chance, almost by pre-destination,

There are two realisms: The first deciphers the "real" (What is demonstrated by not seen);

He had a strong sense of intuition. Even as a child he could find things, that others could not find.

The second speaks "reality" (What is seen but not demonstrated);
It was this innate ability to see, to read the signs decisively in a moment, that made the Trapper Legend.

The novel, which can mix these two realisms, adds to the intelligible of the "real" the hallucinatory tail of "reality".