

# SYMPOSIUM ON MEDIA VIOLENCE AND PORNOGRAPHY

**February 5, 1984**  
**ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION (OISE)**  
**252 Bloor Street West, Toronto**

This Symposium will be of interest to educators, parents, religious and community groups, home and school associations, physicians and nurses, mental health professionals, counsellors, social and community workers, lawyers, judges, protection and law enforcement personnel, researchers and researchers, school trustees, public health workers, school trustees, university students, broadcasters and publishers, politicians and policy planners, media representatives and all other individuals concerned with the serious effects of televised and printed violence in the media.

**CO-SPONSORED BY**  
 Action Group on Media Pornography,  
 131 Upper York Avenue, Suite 1807,  
 Toronto, Ontario M5H 3M7  
 (416) 594-8680  
 Canadian Coalition Against Violent  
 Entertainment (CCAVE),  
 1700 Street, Suite 208,  
 Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1W9  
 (416) 524-0508  
 National Organization on Television  
 Violence (NETV),  
 Champaign, Illinois

**IN ASSOCIATION WITH**  
 Continuing Education, Centre of Graduate  
 University of Toronto  
 Canadian Education Foundation  
 Ontario, McMaster University,  
 Hamilton, Ontario  
 Ontario Christian Medical and Dental  
 Society

**AGENDA FOR LEGISLATIVE AND DEBATE**  
 Chairperson: Mrs. Joe Pardo, Metro  
 Commission, Toronto  
 Public Inquiry Board

**JOINT PANEL: "Pornography, Medication, Its Effects and Its Harm" (PART 1 / PART 2)**  
 Chairperson: James Scott, Chairman, Action Group on Media  
 Pornography and Sociological Observer

**MORNING PROGRAM**  
 Intercontinental Service  
 Dr. Stephen Stackhouse, Wright College, University of Toronto  
 Ralph Elmer Goldstein, Holy Family Temple, Toronto  
 James McNeil, Sheridan College, Toronto  
 Remarks

## Citizens for Decency through Law Is Fighting to Stop This Nightmare!

Over 100,000 copies of the book "The Nightmares of America" have been sold since its publication in 1978. The book is a collection of photographs and descriptions of the most violent and obscene television and motion picture programs ever shown in the United States. It is a shocking and disturbing account of the degradation and debasement of our children and young people by the mass media. The book is a call to action for all concerned citizens to demand that our government take steps to protect our children from the horrors of the mass media.

The book is available for purchase from Citizens for Decency through Law, 1000 North Washington Blvd., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20002. The price is \$10.00 per copy. A 50% discount is available for bulk orders.

# When I

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 aback by the resistance they encountered within the women's movement, Women Against Pornography and their many franchises and spin-offs regrouped, formed a hasty 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 skillful—and sobering—initiatives draw on research in 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 pornography and TV cop shows promotes—or even causes—rape, aggressiveness, and something called anti-social behaviour. 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 Violent 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 organizations argue 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 heterosexual 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

# The ANTI-PORN ROADSHOW

## FEMINISM AS LAW & ORDER

# ALEXANDER WILSON

### POHNOGRAPHY: Where Do We Stand When Draw The Lines?

It's time, say students, to take a stand against the pornography industry. The industry is a multi-billion dollar business that is responsible for the degradation and debasement of our children and young people. It is a call to action for all concerned citizens to demand that our government take steps to protect our children from the horrors of the mass media.

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# MIM HEAD ASKS PRESIDENT REAGAN FOR ENFORCEMENT



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**NATIONAL COALITION ON TELEVISION VIOLENCE**  
Executive Director: Dr. Robert C. McDevitt  
1000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
Phone: (202) 331-1100

**AN ORDINANCE**  
of the  
**CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**  
Council, passed at its regular meeting on  
Monday, June 11, 1984, Chapter 135 of the Minnesota Code  
of Ordinances relating to Civil Rights, in Minnesota  
Statutes, Section 135.01, Title Section 135.  
Approved to read as follows:  
1984

# PORNOGRAPHY IS NOT A VICTIMLESS CRIME...

## VIOLENT FILMS LINKED TO SEXUAL ASSAULTS

From Sentinel wire services  
MADISON, Wis. (UPI)—Violent films, you know, the ones that show men and women in sexual contact, are linked to sexual assault, according to a study by researchers at the University of California.

ACCUS TO

hate programming" into our homes. There followed a denunciation of most music videos, TV sports, *Dynasty* ("frequent emotional violence"), punk band names and war toys. "MTV and other violent TV networks are out to guarantee that the second television generation will be more violent than the first, which turned out to be the most violent generation of Americans on record." So that explains the sixties.

Judy Reisman, recent recipient of an \$800,000 grant from the US Justice Department to study the link between pornography and violence, gave an illustrated lecture that was condescending, preachy and confused. She spoke of her work in a five million dollar programme through the American University on juvenile delinquency, which aims "to classify, neurophysiologically, all the untrue images that surround us. We need to know how these are subconsciously perceived by us, since humans are wired biologically." She went on to speculate that the "sexual underpinning" of much pornography seems to be "male against male," and was the cause of considerable violence, sexual abuse and crime. Reisman then showed ads with children in them—some of which she said she got from the FBI—and warned how they present kids as "sexual, seductive, sensual creatures, capable of consent.... We don't know whether this is true, but we do know that sadism creeps in, and this is of concern to the state."

Dr. Wendy Stock showed slides from the New York WAP show. The programme had noted that Stock was from SUNY Stony Brook and West Palm Beach. She is also Director of the Human Sexuality Center in Lake Worth, Florida. A discussion of detective magazines, *Hustler* and ads led Stock to the conclusion that "men are taught that no means yes." Stock then revealed that Al Goldstein, "the leader of the pro-porn forces" was planning to disrupt this conference by rushing in and taking off all his clothes. We looked around apprehensively, but apparently Al had stayed home.

Everett Koop, the US Surgeon General, gave the most polished New Right speech I've heard. Tatted up in a red bow tie, Koop announced that violence was now "an epidemic threatening millions of decent families. We all recognize it. We all know what it looks like. And we all know its victims." We learned that the epidemic began (no surprise) in 1965 and, like a cancer, takes several forms. Apparently, suicide is one. The "Kitty Genovese Syndrome" another. Child Abuse. Incest. Murder. Terrorism.

Most Americans at the conference added "and Canada" to the ends of their sentences. Koop didn't bother: "We used to be a proud and fearless people in this country. Now we feel weak and victimized." The solution? Mass injections of Depo-provera perhaps? More ketchup in school lunches? Koop's answers lay in "pro-active law enforcement" and the unspecified work of the Center for the Study of Anti-social and Violent Behavior and the President's Task Force on People Affected by Crime.

Most of the afternoon was given over to panels on the victims of pornography, and predictably enough these tended to be children. Florence Rush talked about "debriefing men who molest children." In the profession, that usually means drug or electroshock therapy or a lobotomy—all "therapies" currently in use on the bodies of sex offenders. Ann Wolberg Burgess from the Boston Department of Health announced that she would show slides of child porn and then "speak for the victims." Speak she did. Sexual abuse of children was defined as "any sexual contact with children (including by other children) regardless of consent." That out of the way, Burgess then did a reading of draw-

ings by kids who had been "victims of psychological violence" (that's sex by the way). A boy had drawn breasts on another boy: "Note the gender confusion—a product of sexual victimization." A picture of a muscle car elicited this: "Here's a healthy drawing by a normal boy." And in a drawing of a boy with a hardon we were asked to "note the clear sexual anxiety in the genital area." Burgess is another recipient of Justice Department funds—in this case, \$840,000 that will provide law enforcement agencies with the 'scientific' means to recognize sexually precocious children before they turn to a life of violence and crime.

Superintendent Special Agent Ken Lanning from the FBI Academy gave a presentation so skillful it had obviously been practiced in shopping malls and church basements across the continent. Before beginning his slide show culled from police raids he apologized: "I wish I didn't have slides to show you, but then you wouldn't be convinced." Convinced of what, officer? Convinced that "children are weak, vulnerable victims stalked by hunters and torturers." That "your child can be making pornography without your ever knowing about it." That that nice man down the block... That "if you're a single mother, one of them could marry you in order to gain access to your kids." That "this might look to you like an innocent family snapshot, but it's part of an insidious worldwide phenomenon linked by countercultural networks and electronic bulletin boards." That *Show Me!* is in many pedophiles' collections. But Lanning didn't stop at Child Pornography. There's also something called Child Erotica; that's anything—a pair of sneakers, a diary, a ticket stub—collected by a Child Abuser.

Other cops showed slides of chopped up bodies in plastic bags. Death Squads? No, Sex Offenders, and the only way to stop these criminals is to get to them before they commit the crimes. There followed calls for international agencies to gather data.

Andrea Dworkin was next. She talked about chopped up bodies too, about how "we know that men like hurting women," about how "pornography is terrorism." If nothing else, Dworkin is an electrifying orator. She got a standing ovation.

And on and on. More slides, more gasps from the audience, more women's groups calling for more laws. More cops. More prosecuting attorneys. More hip social scientists.

What is to be gained for feminism by sitting on panels with the FBI and the medical profession? Publicity, most obviously. And the illusion of power and legitimation. This was not achieved without some struggle at the Toronto conference. At the bottom of the agenda handed out at the door was this note: "out of mutual respect for one another's sense of values, all of the participants have been asked to avoid raising potentially divisive issues, such as abortion and homosexuality." Many of the women who spoke disobeyed this directive, and after Koop's address a group of about twenty took the stage, including speakers McKinnon, Stock, Dworkin and Maude Barlow, former Prime Minister Trudeau's feminist advisor. A statement was read in English and French condemning the opprobrium heaped on lesbianism and abortion and the failure to situate pornography within the context of women's subordinate place in society. Other women had protested the high price of admission in the morning and were about to be thrown out by the organizers when CBC and *60 Minutes* turned on their cameras. They were then invited to enter for only \$10.

These interventions were hailed as victories in the Toronto feminist press. It was argued that feminism had made such a conference possible in the first place, and that

Innocent Victims.





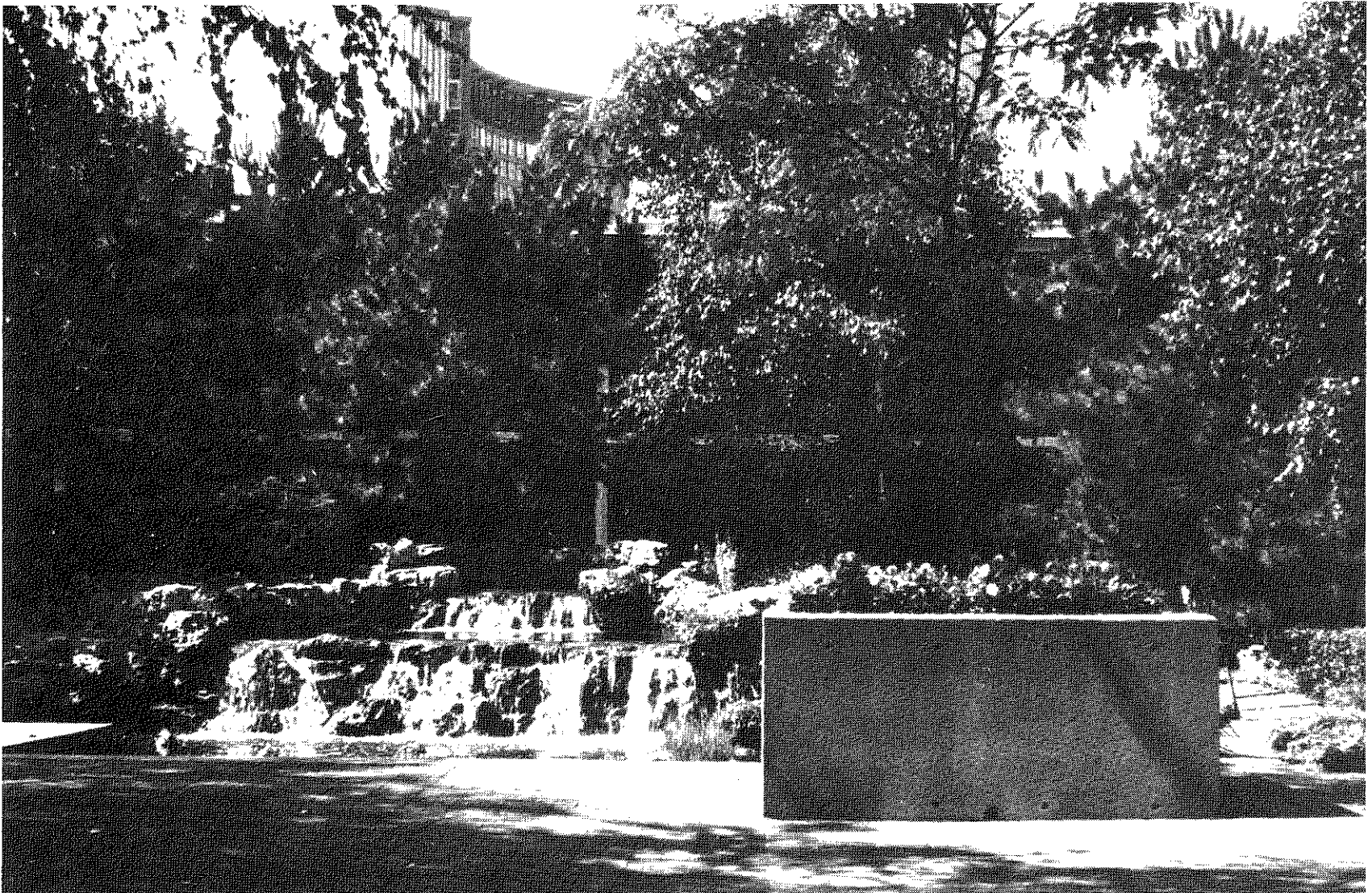
The Trapper had stumbled upon it  
but too suddenly to be by chance,  
almost by pre-destination,

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".