

SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE IS NOT EROTICA.

The men organizing and participating at this Playboy look-in are reacting to the word "no." As in, "No, it's not ok for you to leer at women's bodies while a woman serves you breakfast. No it's not ok that there is an inextricable connection between pornography and the daily harassment, beating, rape and murder of women."

Men call pornography harmless entertainment. Women call it text for our oppression. We will not be dragged into a debate about free speech, censorship and simple sexual expression, because that's not what it's about for us. For women it's a matter of survival. Until we see a day when women are safe from male aggression, and the makers and readers of pornography celebrate an equal and dignified relationship between women and men, we'll resist Playboy, Hustler and the like. Feminists are against the combination of erotica and violence because the connection between eroto-misogyny and violence against women has been shown over and over.

Investigations into serial killings of women routinely connect the perpetrator's use of pornography to his violent acts. Dr. W. Marshall reports that almost half of the rapists he studied used pornography to arouse themselves preparatory to seeking out a victim to rape.

The U.S. military has used pornography to psych-up troops for bombing and assault missions.

The rock band, Guns n' Roses, has sold millions and millions of albums. Their popularity with a mostly young, white, male following is built on lyrics and images of violence against women.

200 million copies of Penthouse, Playboy and Hustler have been distributed to US homes. They become the informal sex education for a substantial portion of the teenage men in this country.

Three months prior to a woman being gang raped on a pool table in a New-Bedford bar, Hustler ran an 11-page spread of a woman being gang raped on a pool-table. "If you have been raped or would like to be raped call the rape line" jokes a Hustler cartoon featuring a lone homeless woman of color. Hustler is the third largest-selling men's magazine.

Twenty-five to sixty percent of male students admit to some likelihood of raping a woman if they could get away with it. An average of 2000 rapes are reported every day in the US.

50 % of the 6th to 9th grade students responding to a rape survey in May of '88, agreed that any woman who dresses seductively deserves to be raped.

Playboy magazine has a reputation for "tasteful" pornography. Women looking dead or chained, and women dressed as children have appeared in the pages of Playboy.

Pornography routinely depicts the rape of women as erotic. Typical descriptions of rape in pornography emphasize that the victim becomes sexually aroused despite her resistance to the assault. This teaches men that no means yes, and that he knows best.

Violence against women is epidemic. Nearly all women treated in emergency rooms in the U.S. are treated for injuries sustained in beatings and attacks by men.

When Thelma and Louise killed one rapist, a local movie critic complained the movie was too violent. The same critic praised "Silence of the Lambs" as thrilling entertainment. Ripping women's skin off is good fun.

Violent sexual images and racism go hand in hand. Penthouse, the second largest men's magazine, ran a series entitled "Cherry Blossom," of Asian children, bound and tied, so young they didn't even have pubic hair. They looked dead. Penthouse actually ended the series by hanging two partially disrobed girls from trees. This was imitated only two months later when an 8 year old Asian girl, Jean Kar Har Fewel, was raped, strangled and left hanging from a tree in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Men and boys masturbating to images of dead Asian women should be of concern to all of us.

Darrel Pope, with the Michigan State Police, found that, of 38,000 cases of sexual assault on file in Michigan 41% involved pornography just prior to the act or, during the act.

Marc Lepine, the man who murdered 14 women architecture students in Montreal, in December of 1989, wrote a suicide letter in which he specifically stated that he was killing feminists.

Hustler regularly featured a comic entitled "Chester the Molester." This comic depicted adult men molesting girl children. This was a regular feature until the author of the comic was arrested for molesting his daughter.

Hustler has featured, on its cover, the image of a woman being put through a meat grinder.

The advertising industry in this country has proven, by the billions of dollars spent by business each year on advertising, that there is direct connection between the images we see and our actions.

The free-speech amendment was specifically designed to allow criticism of the government. Speech is not protected in private establishments. Bette could have denied anyone with a Playboy magazine access to her restaurant.

A useful definition of PORNOGRAPHY: Sexually explicit material that represents or describes degrading or abusive sexual behavior so as to endorse and/or recommend the behavior as described. A useful definition of EROTICA: Sexual representations that are premised on equality.

A series in Hustler called "Dream Lover," showed a woman's dream lover to be a man who beats her, drags her into the bathroom and shoves her head into the toilet. She has no control over this little scenario.

When a person of color is used in porn, it's not just the physical appearance of that person which makes it racist. It's how pornography capitalizes on the underlying history and myths surrounding and oppressing people of color in this country which makes it racist.

10% of the women in a S. F. study said they had been upset by someone trying to get them to enact what had been seen in pornography.

**PORNOGRAPHY FOSTERS VIOLENCE AND ABUSE
OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.
GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP ISN'T THE ANSWER.
WOMEN MUST TAKE MATTERS INTO OUR OWN HANDS.**

- CRASH theatre showings of slasher films.
- STEAL pornography from book stores.
- TALK to the men in your life, until they understand the connection between the images they learned to get off on, and violence.
- TELL your customers they can't read pornography in your restaurant.
- CRASH beauty pageants.
- SHOOT a man if he tries to rape you.
- SHOOT a man if he tries to rape your friend, lover, sister, mother, daughter, grandmother, aunt, cousin.
- VOICE your disapproval of pornography to the men around you, and to the women who support it.
- DON'T BE intimidated by "free speech" arguments or "sexual liberation" arguments.
- BRING sexual harassment suits at your workplace.
- SPILL your coffee on a fellow restaurant customer if he is displaying pornography.
- STAND UP for waitress liberation.
- GIVE the waitress who spoke-up at this restaurant a present.
- GET SUPPORT from other women, network, organize, collectively respond.
- READ Angela Davis, Audre Lorde, Barbara Smith, Andrea Dworkin, Catherine McKinnon, Diana Russel and the authors in their bibliographies.