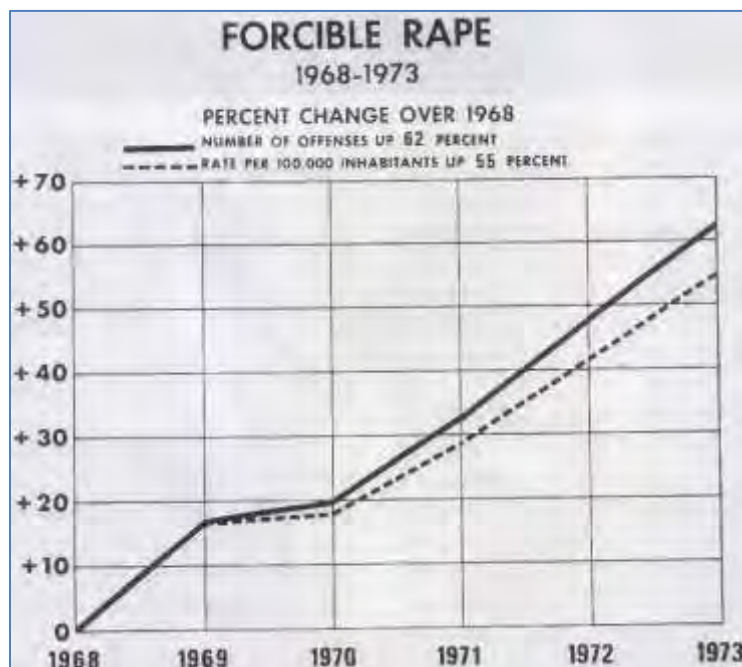


## Pornography Tide Threatens U.S.

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*Murder -- Sexual Perversion.* Male, aged 27, and female, aged 23, murder girl, aged 10, and boys, ages 12 and 17. Prior to their death murderers employed sexual perversion and tape recorded the events. Lewd photographs of young girls... and a library of pornographic literature (De Sade) were found in the male's possession. (Ian Brady/Myra Hengley -- Moors case, Dec. 1965.)

*Rape Case.* Seven Oklahoma teenage male youths gang attack a 15-year-old female, raping her and forcing her to commit unnatural acts with them. Four of the youths, two the sons of attorneys, admit being incited to commit the act by reading obscene magazines and looking at lewd photographs. (Oklahoma City, Feb. 1966.) *Murder Case.* Male youth, aged 14, admits slaying of 9-year-old girl. Body was found in a junk-filled shed, which was used as a neighborhood playhouse.

Among the articles removed from the shed were some magazines of a pornographic nature. (Denver, Colorado, June 1966.) "There has not been a sex murder in the history of our department in which the killer was not an avid reader of lewd magazines." (Herbert W. Case, former Detroit Police Inspector.)

The above cases, taken from police files in a nation-wide survey conducted by Charles H. Keating, dissenting member of the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography of 1970, strongly suggest that sex-oriented violence, which is on the rise in our society, is associated with the use and availability of pornography.

Some would argue that this does not, from a strictly scientific point of view, prove a direct cause-and-effect relationship between pornography and the crimes committed above. After all, a person is the sum total of many different inputs, and not everyone who reads pornography commits violent crimes.

However, as B.L. Bonniwell, Ph.D. psychologist at Villanova University says, "Pornography is a form of education. As such, it modifies human behavior." Rape, murder, and other acts of violence are learned from the environment. Children imitate what they see their elders doing.

Or, as Dr. Natalie Shainess, a New York psychologist writes, "Businessmen have always known that advertising does sell products. Put a picture of your product in the paper and show attractive, intelligent-looking people wanting it, and the reader will want it too. Repeat the ad often enough and a national craze for the product will be created."

Today our society is awash in a wave of pornography. Books, magazines and films which once were sold "under the counter" are now freely available. What once were consigned to peep shows and stag films are now billed as "art," receive favorable reviews in national magazines, and enjoy long runs in respectable theaters. Oh, Calcutta, I Am Curious (Yellow), and Deep Throat are only a few examples. Movies which glorify violence and criminality, such as Clockwork Orange, enjoy similar critic approval and wide circulation. Dr. Shainess continues, "So overwhelming is this tide that nobody can remain untouched by it.... From my own professional practice, I know that the more we are exposed to things that are degrading, the more we are degraded." (Washington Evening Star, Sept. 1970).

There certainly is a trend toward greater degradation in America, if the FBI's Uniform Crime Statistics of 1973 are any indication. (See Charts). Rape went up 55 percent since 1968, even allowing for increase in population.

In 58 cities with over 250,000 population, the risk rate for rape is 100 per 100,000 females. This does not even show the actual extent of the problem, because, as the report states, "Of all the Crime Index offenses... this offense (rape) is probably one of the most underreported crimes due primarily to fear and/or embarrassment on the part of the victims."

Violent crimes and murder show a similar upward trend, as do the statistics dealing with other forms of social pathology, such as venereal disease, divorce, and illegitimate births.

The multi-million dollar smut trade also fuels the growth of organized crime. According to the testimony of James K. Barrett, former Baltimore Mafia operative and FBI undercover agent, "The Mob has an iron grip on the smut industry. From law-enforcement officers and former associates, I have learned that the racket is more profitable than ever, and that organized crime is thriving on it." (*The Reader's Digest*, Nov. 1973).

Enactment of laws to restrict the production and sale of pornography have been hampered by difficulty at arriving at a definition of obscenity, and by liberals who protest that pornography, as a vehicle of expression, falls under the Constitution's guarantees of free speech.

However, pornography is a clear-cut problem of public health and safety. The law has long been strict in imposing health and safety standards in food, drugs, and industry, and citizens have been vehement in demanding such legislation. Since pornography is likewise a threat to public health and safety in that it incites people to commit anti-social acts, then it definitely deserves to be legally controlled.

It is not enough to restrict pornography to "consenting adults" and try to bar it from children only. The Obscenity Commission's report indicated that mostly middle-aged and married men were seen entering dirty book stores, but that three quarters of males interviewed reported that their first exposure to pornographic literature was before the age of 21. Clearly, it is impossible to prevent the stuff from reaching children if it's freely inundating their elders and parents.

The issue of pornography involves basically the problem of maintaining a viable society in which the dignity of man is upheld, people respect one another's life and freedom, and the dominant social ethic is based on love, the kind of love that St. Paul talked about when he said, "Be imitators of God as very dear children, and follow the way of love, as Christ also loved you and gave himself for us..."

True love in this sense stresses giving yourself to others to benefit them, even at your own expense. Selfish love, upon which pornography is based, sacrifices others for one's individual pleasure, regardless of the consequences. Whenever the latter view becomes dominant, as it is fast becoming in our society, then breakdown and disintegration of society is inevitable and rapid. A revival of Christ-like love is the only way to reverse the process.