

One evening as I peered aimlessly around my room, a poster of two 'lesbians' holding each other in the nude, kissing, caught my eye in a way that I had never realized before. My roommate and I had purchased the poster at the beginning of the year in order to "spice up" our room a little bit. During the first few weeks, it worked as an ice breaker between my roommate and I, and the other residents on the floor. "Damn, those girls are hot." "Why can't more women be like those two?" These were all common responses we received from our new neighbors during the first few weeks of school. Before this encounter, I had never thought about the ramifications of this poster, and how it reflected on our society in such a negative way. I simply looked at the poster as many other men who did not take in the serious matter of female pornography would; as nice "eye candy". But as I continued to analyze this poster on my boring and lonely night, I realized that these women were being paid large amounts of money by corporations to expose their bodies to the world. Pornographic material such as "Playboy" and "Hustler" are sold by the millions each day, while women continue to pose naked and men continue to give money in support of lude behavior that turns into millions and millions of dollars in profit to corporations. By allowing women to continue posing for pornographic material in exchange for money, our society portrays as whole that they have zero respect for women and that women have zero regard or respect for themselves. The continuation of female pornography, whether mild or extreme, reflects the sole problems our country faces; Greed and Disrespect and Passiveness towards anything that doesn't affect a member of our society in the present. These three attributes in which American society posses, form a triangle of unhealthy behavior that allows pornography (which is just one prime example of American image-demeaning activities) to continue running successfully and

profitably. Until this triangle is broken, Greedy corporations will continue to make profit off of male's perverseness and passiveness towards ethics and women's lack of self respect.

The pornography world has done anything but slow down in the past ten years. In 2003 alone, Play Boy revenues were raised by 11%, grossing 22 millions dollars in profit, without ever raising the prices of their magazines and online subscriptions. The "Playboy" channel has already had their stock's value increased by 8% in 2004 alone. Playboy Executive, John Routh stated that he only expects sales to grow as the year goes on. This shows that our society is continuing to play right into the pornography corporation's scheme. As long as they can take advantage of women's want for money and lack of self-respect, they can count on men buying pornography without thinking about the negative example it shows towards their respect for women.

The men who run these multi-million dollar corporations are not the only ones happy with the money made from selling pornography. Sources say that women can make anywhere from \$350 dollars an hour to \$1,000 dollars an hour when working for larger corporations like Playboy and Hustler. An average fulltime model/porn star can bring in anywhere from \$30,000 dollars to \$200,000 per year, while our teachers in society, a tool our society needs more than anything, make a starting income of \$25,000 a year- which is \$5,000 less than the starting wages for women in pornography. What does this say about our society? Teachers are one of the core ingredients for generations of human beings to continue being educated, while porn stars display raunchiness and classlessness; and continue to be paid more. This example of passiveness and failure to

recognize and act on what is ethical and right is slowly leading to the downfall or America's image and eventually to the downfall of society as a whole.

The mass production and sales of pornography in our society today reflects the carelessness of all parties involved, as well as the pure greed that male corporation's owners hold. One can not be happy with themselves if they don't hold any self-respect for who they are. Self-respect encompasses the ability to care for yourself. Can a women honestly say that she has 100 percent self respect when she can drive down the road and see her three-quarter naked body displayed on a billboard? Does a women display self respect when she sees a picture of her naked body in the hands of a thirty-five year old male walking down the street in the form of a magazine? Women working in the porn industry lack self respect in the fact that they're willing to put a price on love and intimacy, rather than saving their body for the ones they really love As women pose for magazines and movies such as Play Boy and Hustler, they continually let off the image that they have no regard for an ethical life, their bodies, or their families.

When attempting to portray an intelligent and mature image on our society, men equally fail to help out the cause. Thousands of pornographic magazines and movies are purchased daily by men, who only think about themselves, and not the example that they set for their children and for their society. When a male purchases a pornographic magazine, he is saying that he doesn't care that thousands of women pose nude to make their yearly incomes. He is saying that he doesn't care if women hold a poor self-image of themselves. Generally, he is saying that the male society is could care less about the female population and anything other than what is taking place in the present moment.

As women continue to expose their bodies and men continue to purchase this material, which is all organized and run by corporations, it shows that all classes in society, whether is be lower, middle or upper class is careless to what is right, and will continue to allow corporations to manipulate them, as long as whatever *present* need or want is fulfilled. Corporations have manipulated and taken advantage of the weaknesses and faults of our society for years, on many different terms; the pornography industry is just one prime example. Corporations do so in the pornography business by manipulating male's minds in a perverse way. They take advantage of men's hormones, and their sex drive, and make massive amounts of money by doing so. Corporations do not think of the perverse and dimwitted image pornography reflects on our society, all they see is the dollar signs in their eyes through a mirror.

Pornography is successful in our society today because of all the "present time" advantages that it holds. Non-self-respecting women make their money and careless men get their cheap pleasure while greedy corporations make millions of dollars. The Triangle of greed, carelessness and lack of self-respect holds strong as the vicious connection that it is.

This affect infests our society in many ways other than extreme pornography. Mild pornography is used by a number of companies today who simply use sex appeal to sell other products, such as clothing, alcohol and cigarettes. With the advertising schemes that companies have devised, in every direction you look you can view a sexual add or a sexual picture that plays on a man or women's sex drive in order to get them to buy a product. Yes, this is just another way to sell a product, but by doing so, people don't understand that they're putting images on billboards of mostly-naked women for children

to clearly view. As a young child or even an impressionable adolescent, kids develop opinions and views on their own. If they see naked women every five miles on the highway, the impressions they can pick up must be anything but beneficial as to how the future of our society views a woman. Again, our society only hurts ourselves by allowing greedy corporations to continue going about advertising in a way that flaunts women's scantily clad bodies.

Today, our country's pornography industry is booming, while the image of our society is ruined day by day with every magazine sold and every dollar put into the bank by Hugh Hefner, the owner and CEO of Playboy. Our society, has painted an image of itself as a raunchy, greedy society that will do *anything* for money. Women will continue to expose their bodies to the people of our country as long as they're paid the right amount of money and as long as our laws allow them to do so. Men will continue to support this behavior by purchasing on instinct and not thinking of the deeper consequences of porn in our society. And of course, corporations will continue to bank on men and women's carelessness, as long as men keep dishing out money and women continue to not show any respect for themselves. The ridding of pornography as a whole will not change the symbolic image of "greed" that our society possesses, but it will act as a large step to gaining back the respect every citizen in our country should condone while helping change the image of perverseness and dead-headedness in which Americans in today's society portray to all outsiders. But until our society finally comes to the realization that pornography is wrong and that it's hurting our society in so many ways, we will be looked upon as a herd of cattle, falling for every trick in the book that is thrown our way by the corporations who could care less about the respect for women,

who could care less about 12 year old kids being exposed to nudity, and who could care less about the self respect of women and men across the country. Our society portrays an image of greed, carelessness and lack of self-respect, - not the image of caring for their people who make this country possible. For this horrible image that our society has created to end, men and women as a whole must realize that respect for themselves and one-another is a gift that the greedy pornography world's money and cheap pleasures can never overcome.