

col. RHT
210-5

5/11/99

You Can't Have It Both Ways!

The June 14, 1999, issue of *Forbes* magazine featured a story entitled "Porn Goes Public." The article details that in 1990, 1,275 hard-core videos were produced. In 1998 production increased 700 percent to a total of 8,948 hard-core videos in one year. Also in 1998, Americans rented 686 million sexually explicit, hard-core videos. Assuming there are 150 million men in America, the figure indicates that an estimated 50 percent of American men have an attraction to pornography. If these numbers are correct, this could mean that in 1998 alone, 75 million men rented approximately 10 pornographic videos each. Since President Clinton and the Clinton Justice Department took office, they have made it clear they were not going to enforce federal obscenity laws. As a result, the pornography industry has exploded in the United States.

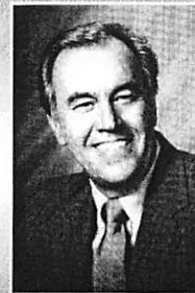
The explosion of pornography isn't isolated to the United States. The *Forbes* article went on to report that in 1998, the worldwide pornography business topped 56 billion dollars. Author Richard C. Morais writes, "The U.S. adult cable and satellite industries generate \$310 million in annual revenue." The article points out, "AT&T, which connects callers to 800 and 900 phone-sex numbers and is the proud owner of TCI and MediaOne, is as much a part of the modern porn industry as performers... Behind hotel porn stand companies like On Command Corp. and LedgeNet Entertainment, the Nasdaq-listed providers of 'in-room entertainment for the lodging industry.' Together they shovel porn into 1.5 million rooms worldwide. LedgeNet confirms that 50% of its pay-per-view revenues comes from adult content.... And the hard stuff, not the peekaboo, soft-core found in the U.S., is readily available in Hilton and Sheraton hotels across Europe."

Who does not know that pornogra-

In MY Opinion

by: Phil Burress

President, Citizens for Community Values



phy destroys lives? Who does not know that pornography degrades women and creates a hostile environment for women and children? It's no secret that pornography is the antithesis of any material that is good, wholesome, and constructive to our families, communities, cultures, and even civilization.

How can men and women who are parents, spouses, and church members at home knowingly be involved in making a profit from the sale of pornography at work? How can so-called "good" people continue to sell out their values at work while pointing their finger at Bill Clinton, calling him a man without a moral compass?

Businesses will only tell half the story. Major hotels nationwide advertise clean rooms. I ask, how can they be clean rooms when filth in the form of pornography is present? What is the difference between hotel and motel operators, AT&T, cable companies and other mainstream, so-called family businesses and Larry Flynt? All are making money off of sexually dysfunctional men.

You can't have it both ways. An individual cannot be a decent man or woman while involved in pandering pornography. There is no exception to this issue. Good men and women must stop doing business with companies that are soliciting pornography. People who are serious about making our world a better place to live must be cautious consumers. They must look to spend their money with businesses that have moral leaders committed to upholding decency and integrity at work and at home.

For a copy of the *Forbes* article, see the June 14, 1999, issue or call CCV at (513) 733-5775.

"They think, 'My child is safe at home.' But Johnny's upstairs talking to a 56-year-old pedophile. They know where he is, but...they don't know what he's doing."

- Ruben Rodriguez, Head of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, on unmonitored Internet usage by children