

HOW AMERICA

LOST HER

A History of the Sexual Revolution

INNOCENCE



BY
STEVE

GALLAGHER

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History of the Sexual Revolution

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*I dedicate this book to Don, Tim, Buddy, Randall,
and all my other friends at the
American Family Association who daily
fight for the decency of our country.*



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THE Sexploitation of YOUTH

Adults, unfortunately, are not the only ones affected by the escalation of perversity in this country. Pornography's tentacles have extended into America's youth culture as well. Children, lacking the maturity to determine their life course, are ruthlessly preyed upon by the demonic forces of perversion.

Half a century ago, America's children were just that, children—young, impressionable, innocent. Childish dreams dominated their small world. Blushing naiveté accompanied talks about

the “birds and the bees.” Those days, however, are long past. Today, young girls are groomed as sensual nymphets—mere objects of desire for boys polluted by a world of salacious smut.

At this very moment, a war rages over the souls of our young people. One of the major battle lines being drawn is their sexuality. If Satan conquers there, he captures, arguably, one of their strongest and unbridled drives. The phenomenon we’re witnessing today is not a passing phase, nor a harmless rite of passage. Rather, it is a calculated effort to prostrate our nation’s youth before the altar of sexual lust.

The Sexualization of Young Girls

An extremely disturbing trend has emerged in America as preteen girls are increasingly being presented even to adult males as sex objects. The unthinkable has now become an acceptable practice in our society. Consider the following:

Currently, there are beauty pageants showcasing the bodies of young girls—some only six years old. Many, citing the use of heavy make-up, elaborate hairdos, and even false eyelashes, believe they are trained to look seductive.

Over the years, Hollywood has produced a number of movies which portray young girls as sexual objects. At age 13, Brooke Shields played the part of a young prostitute in the 1978 movie, *Pretty Baby*. In 1972, a young Jodie Foster played a similar role in Martin Scorsese's *Taxi Driver*. A recent movie, *Hearts in Atlantis*, shows an 11-year-old girl making out with her boyfriend. Later in the film, Anthony Hopkins himself openly touches her breasts.³⁶

In her book, *Soft Porn Plays Hardball*, Dr. Judith Reisman describes in great detail how *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler* magazines have effectively—over the past forty years—promoted adult-child sex through the use of cartoons. They use cartoons, she says, “to make children adult sex objects.”

Unfortunately, pornographers aren't the only promoters of this atrocity. Judith Levine, in her recently released, *Harmful to Minors: The Perils of Protecting Children from Sex*, stresses that young girls and boys should be allowed to make their own decisions regarding sex—even sex with an adult. She also endorses the Dutch law, enacted in 1990 that legalized sex between children (12 years and older) and adults providing there was mutual consent.

Without question, America is increasingly emphasizing the sexuality of its female youth. The central message to adolescent girls is: your value is found in your body, therefore, make it the focus of your expression.

Just look at the impact the music industry has had on our youth. Through its promotion of pop stars like Madonna in the '80s and present-day teen icons Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera, the music industry has systematically indoctrinated young girls to think sensually, dress seductively and act provocatively.

Britney Spears' influence on young American girls has been devastating. It's common to see "good girls" singing and dancing sensuously to her latest song, Britney's "take me" look posed on their faces, hoping the cute boy *du jour* will notice them.

Ms. Spears, who recently "French" kissed Madonna on MTV's music awards show, dismisses parental concerns about her harmful influence. "When someone tells me not to do something, I do it, that's just my rebellious nature," she said. "...they shouldn't be concerned because they should trust their kids and believe in their kids."³⁷

Far from a cultural phenomenon, Britney Spears is merely a reflection of a larger movement that is changing the way preteen girls dress. Fashion designers now compete over who can produce the “sexiest” new clothes, marketing them to teens with risqué ads. The leading crusaders in this campaign to sexualize our youth are the popular retail clothing chains. One of these, Abercrombie & Fitch, was recently criticized for its line of thong underwear for little girls and a pornographic catalog distributed to kids.

Clearly, girls are being taught that, to be popular, noticed, and have more “fun,” they must wear more revealing clothing. Even girls who sincerely desire modesty, find it increasingly more difficult to find clothing that is not too revealing but still get “style points” from their peers.

Teenage Promiscuity

Our present-day culture not only pressures young girls to dress provocatively, but it also encourages them to *think* sexually. Popular network TV shows such as *Friends*, *Dawson's Creek*, *Boston Public*, and others are feeding our children a steady

diet of “acceptable” promiscuity. Like it or not, the actors and actresses on these shows are today’s youth role models. They teach our kids to associate free, unrestrained sexual expression with success, happiness, power, and “love.”

Hollywood promotes this message in movies like *American Pie*, *Crazy/Beautiful* and others, showing older teens experiencing the “thrills” of sex with no apparent side affects. Moreover, these same movies serve up casts of young nymphets who are all too willing to supply their male Romeos with sex, albeit for a cheap twisting of their romantic arms.

Television further strengthens the message by offering a step-by-step guide on seducing women. Viewers are relentlessly bombarded with commercials featuring voluptuous women as mere sex objects. Popular sitcoms often show “Casanovas” instructing young boys in the art of manipulation. The goal, of course, is to feign sincerity and charm the girl into having sex. Recently, shows are casting adults in roles that sympathize with young boys’ desires for sex and encourage their fulfillment of those desires. The AFA Journal provides one such example:

In the June 6 episode of NBC's *Will and Grace*, Jack, the shows' flamboyant homosexual, asks thirty-something Grace to accompany his 12-year-old son Elliot to his first school dance. Jack attends the dance as a chaperone, and when he discovers that the girl Elliott likes is there, he tries to encourage his son to ask her to dance. Grace objects, insisting that Elliott should learn to stay with whomever he takes on a date. Jack gets angry with Grace, insisting that the only important thing is that he wants to 'get my kid some tail.'³⁸

Unfortunately, trivialization of sex on network TV is becoming the accepted norm. A recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that the percentage of programs with sexual content increased from 56% in the 1997-1998 television season to 68% in the 1999-2000 season. "Every year in this country, there are three-quarters of a million teen pregnancies and 4 million cases of sexually transmitted diseases among teens," said Kaiser's Vicky Rideout. "Now, we're not blaming TV for this, but we are saying that young people

watch a lot of TV. There's obviously a lot of sex on TV, so it's important to think about the messages about sex that television is communicating.”³⁹ Increased sexual content may be affecting young people more than we think. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Public Education:

By the time adolescents graduate from high school, they will have spent 15,000 hours watching television, compared with 12,000 hours spent in the classroom... American media are thought to be the most sexually suggestive in the Western hemisphere. The average American adolescent will view nearly 14,000 sexual references per year, yet only 165 of these references deal with birth control, self-control, abstinence, or the risk of pregnancy or STDs.⁴⁰

Another contributing factor in the corruption of young girls is the content in teen magazines. In a recent FoxNews.com article, Catherine Donaldson-Evans wrote the following:

They feature sexy male centerfolds, flirty innuendos and relationship advice. Women's magazines? No. They're magazines for teens.

In the most recent issue of *CosmoGIRL*, for instance, there are tips on meeting guys, as well as a sexy pin-up of 29-year-old actor Paul Walker and an interview with him: "We got him to strip down and bare everything ...about himself, naughty girl!"

According to a pair of studies released last month, 70 percent of American teens get information about sex from the media—and 20 percent have had sex before age 15.

So are mags aimed at adolescents too sexed-up—or is their approach to issues facing today's youngsters realistic?⁴¹

That such a question can be seriously asked today is evidence of our moral decline. Thankfully, there are those few willing to take a stand for decency. Elayne Bennett, president of Best Friends Foundation, an abstinence program for adolescent girls, complained, "Magazines are marketing sex in

a big way... These magazines do not take a stand. They aren't saying sex is not really for you at this time in your life. That's where parents and teachers think they've fallen short."⁴²

Unquestionably, young people in post-modern America are being taught that traditional morals are antiquated and unnecessary. A recent survey shows that 63% of teenagers believe, "waiting to have sex is a nice idea but nobody really does it."⁴³ These numbers are corroborated by figures released through the American Academy of Pediatrics stating "61% of all high school seniors have had sexual intercourse, about half are currently sexually active, and 21% have had 4 or more partners."⁴⁴ Additionally, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has found that approximately 20% of teenagers had engaged in sex before turning 15 years old.⁴⁵

Pornography Exposure and Usage

Perhaps the single most distressing influence on youth over the last three decades has come via the porn industry. Long before there was a World Wide Web loaded with sexual content, both

national commissions on pornography (1970 & 1986) concluded that boys age 12 to 17 are among the largest consumers of adult material. How much more true is it today, when most kids have unsupervised Internet access either at home, at the home of a friend, at school, or at the library?

“At this very moment...” barked Attorney General John Ashcroft during a recent address, “panderers of obscenity are amassing their fortunes at the expense of our children’s health and innocence.”⁴⁶ Lest we dismiss this as simply political rhetoric, consider the following:

In a 1999 survey, National Public Radio reported that 31% of children age 10 to 17 from households with computers (24% of all kids in that age range) said that they had seen a pornographic web site.⁴⁷ *Time* magazine, in 2000, stated the number to be even higher: 44%. According to a recent study by Internet security provider Symantec Corporation,⁴⁸ 47% of the children surveyed had received pornographic spam. A similar study of children ages 8 and 16 reported that 9 out of 10 had visited an adults-only website.⁴⁹ Regardless of these figures’ accuracy, the frightening reality is that millions of America’s

kids are being exposed (at an average age of 11!⁵⁰) to the evils of pornography.

“Finding porn on the Web is easier than researching for a homework assignment,” one fourteen-year-old told MSNBC. “What kid can’t type in porn.com? It’s constantly being blasted at (us) from all directions.” A fifteen-year-old girl from a Christian family said, “Most of the time, I stumble upon the porn sites. For instance, I was looking for pictures of elephants for my aunt and I stumbled upon pictures of women having sex with animals, not a pretty picture.”