

WOMEN

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between sexual objectification and violence against women, SVAW said.

Pornography, a \$22 million-a-day industry, reinforces men's higher social status and women's lower status, SVAW calls it a "practice of inequality."

Myths about sexuality of both men and women, according to SVAW, are perpetuated in pornography. The idea that women enjoy degradation, that they "get off" on being beaten and humiliated, that when they say "no," they really mean "yes" and that women want to be raped are all myths, which teach men that women condone their own mistreatment.

A common myth about pornography, according to SVAW, is that women freely choose to participate in pornography.

"The vast majority of women used in pornography are prostituted women. They, more than any other group from any racial, ethnic or economic class, are the group most likely to be victims of felonious assault, rape and murder," a group member said.

Eroticism of these acts is why this kind of pornography is so harmful, White said.

Slides continued the presentation, with a script read by SVAW members, explaining to the audience what was being shown. The slides were interspersed with FBI statistics about crime against women.

"Four thousand women were killed last year by their husband or boyfriend, a woman is beaten every 11 seconds, a woman is raped every minute, and 40 percent of all girls will be sexually abused before the age of 18," the speaker said.

But it wasn't just hard-core pornography that showed this kind of abuse. The slides presented images showing how

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more than the exposure to pornography.

"Pornography clearly does not cause rape," said sociologist Diana Russell, an anti-pornography spokesperson, as quoted by *In These Times* magazine. "It seems safe to assume that some unknown percentage of pornography consumers do not rape women, and that many rapes are unrelated to pornography."

Studies on pornography, like all studies, are subject to bias in their implementation as well as their interpretations. An analysis of research on pornography by professor Thelma McCormack of Toronto's York University show just how unclear such studies are.

Aggression studies show both increases and decreases of tendencies toward aggression as a result of exposure to aggressive stimuli, which is inconclusive at best.

Studies of pornography suggest that the use of pornography stimulates sexual activity and sexual fantasy, but that it does not necessarily alter established sexual practices. Other studies show that men are not aroused by images of rape or sado-masochism but rather the opposite; they are repulsed by them.

Nor do the studies show a correlation between the availability of pornography and the rate of rape. The *In These Times* story related the following data.

In Denmark, rape rates plummeted after pornography laws were liberalized, and in Japan, where pornography is widespread and remarkably violent, the rape rate is low.

One researcher, J.E. Scott, showed a strong correlation between rape rates and the sales of country sport magazines.

Not surprisingly, those involved in the pornography industry cite the studies claiming that viewing sexually-explicit materials had no link to rape.

Roy Zumstein, supervisor of Allied Entertainment of Salem, which owns three adult bookstores in Salem and Eugene, takes such a view. Zumstein said that his stores cater to consenting adults who have a right to what they see and do in their own bedrooms.

"If I thought viewing sexually-explicit materials caused rape, I wouldn't be in this business," Zumstein said.

Nor, he said, would society allow these businesses to exist.

Zumstein said that the SVAW presentation sounded to him like propaganda against the adult entertainment industry.

"Of course I think we should abolish

child pornography," he said. He added that he had never seen child pornography himself, nor the "snuff pornography." SVAW showed in its slide presentation.

"I certainly wouldn't carry that kind of material," Zumstein said. "Those kinds of things are only found underground."

Even other feminists differ from SVAW on some issues.

Michelle Parks, women's advocate for the ASUO Women's Center, paints with a broad brush her definition of pornography. To her, she said, anything that "exploits the subject" is pornography. For the most part, Parks agrees with SVAW.

Parks also calls into question American society as a whole and how women are systematically devalued. Society, she said, ignores entire issues surrounding violence, crime, sexuality and education.

We need to dig deep into ourselves and examine why things are the way they are, Parks said.

"Why is looking at a naked body gratifying?" she asked. "That needs to be addressed."

Despite all this, Parks said she believes in both self determination and free speech.

"If a woman is comfortable taking pictures, more power to her," she said. "But I do object to the way that they are used."

Playboy and similar magazines use common pornographic themes.

Playboy, considered by White and others to be the least harmful pornographic publication, is one of the highest circulating publications in the world. Together with *Penthouse*, these magazines have a larger circulation than *Time* and *Newsweek*, an SVAW member said.

A photo from *Playboy* was compared to one from a low budget magazine called *Teenagers in Bondage*. Similar leg positions, use of restraints, exposed genitals and expressions of semi-consciousness with the woman's eyes being closed, were evaluated.

"*Playboy's* budget allows for the use of high quality photo

techniques, making it appear more tasteful and legitimate than other magazines, but like all pornography, it presents restraint and bondage as pleasure and sexual liberation for women," a speaker said.

Even mainstream, non-pornographic magazines aren't immune from the messages pornography contains.

An ad for makeup in *Self*, a woman's magazine, showed a man's fist, gloved with makeup, striking a model's face. Words like "knock-out color" were said to glamorize abuse.

The "Tiny Treasure" ad campaign for Chanel #5, which ran in *Harper's Bazaar*, showed a child in makeup made to look like an adult. Her hair, pose and sultry expression suggested sex-

uality.

Youth in pornography is commonly sexualized. Despite laws directly prohibiting child pornography, women are made to look like young girls. This "infantilizing" of women is shown by poses, dress, props like candy, and use of the word "babes."

Racism is prevalent in pornography, SVAW members said. Bondage magazines use images of the Holocaust, an extreme form of racism, to eroticize rape and torture. Skin color, referred to in black women as "chocolate, brown sugar, coffee of cinnamon," is sexualized, and made the target of violence.

There is also an image perpetuated of women of color as hav-

ing a voracious sexual appetite, a myth used to justify rape of enslaved women as well as abuses suffered by black women today.

Asian women are portrayed in some of the most brutal and racist pornography, which corresponds to the traffic of Asian women in this country as prostitutes and "Mail Order Brides," a speaker said.

Most audience members thought that communication among men and women was crucial, and education about sexuality is needed for both men and women. One of the things men were encouraged to do was to take a more visible stance against pornography, and to help educate other men.



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Saturday, May 14

• 10-11 a.m. Historical campus tour. Meet at the corner of 13th and University.

• 11-Noon University Forum. Ask UO administrators. EMU Fir Room.

• 3-4:30 p.m. Canoe Fête. Featuring floats, music & food. Millrace.

• 3 p.m. Knight Library tour.

• 7 p.m. Casino Party. Win lots of prizes including a futon from Rock Soft Futon. Learn to linedance.

Sunday, May 15

• 9:30-11 a.m. Parents' Brunch. EMU Fountain Court, \$6.00. Guest speaker Jim Berneau, President of Willamette Valley Vineyards.

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