

Executive Summary

IMAGES OF CHILDREN, CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN PLAYBOY, PENTHOUSE AND HUSTLER MAGAZINES

This research was sponsored by Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), United States Department of Justice, Project No. 84-JN-AX-K007, and carried out at The American University, Washington, DC, from February 1984 to November 1985 and delivered to OJJDP in November 1987. Principal Investigator was Judith A. Reisman, Ph.D.

While the complete three-volume Reisman Report is available from OJJDP, the agency shelves several drafts of various reports ostensibly written by Dr. Reisman. However, only the *November 1987 Reisman Report* has been approved by the Peer Review Board and authenticated by the Principal Investigator. *The Overview, Volume I*, is recommended as a brief (503 page) synopsis of the research project and relevant information. All three volumes total nearly 2,000 pages. For further information contact Dr. Reisman at The Institute for Media Education, Box 7404, Arlington, VA 22207 (703-237-5455).

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March 24, 1988

Judith A. Reisman, Ph.D., President
The Institute for Media Education
P.O. Box 7404
Arlington, VA 22207

Dear Dr. Reisman:

Many, many thanks for honoring our request and providing at no cost the hundreds of copies of the "Executive Summary: IMAGES OF CHILDREN, CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN PLAYBOY, PENTHOUSE AND HUSTLER MAGAZINES" and for sending them to our mailing lists of criminal investigators working cases of missing and sexually exploited children.

I have carefully studied the Executive Summary and strongly urge all those concerned with the welfare of children to thoroughly review the document and give heed to the many disturbing implications contained therein for the protection of children. This study must be read by all those concerned with the ways pornography and violence in the media affect the incidence of child sexual exploitation and abuse. In support of this thought, you may like to know some of my professional background and investigational findings.

Prior to my coming to the National Center as its Deputy Director, I was the Program Manager for the Louisville-Jefferson County, Kentucky Exploited & Missing Child Unit--This police/social work Team was the first in the nation created to provide detection, investigation, and protective services on behalf of youth as well as apprehension and prosecutory services against adults criminally exploiting children through prostitution, pornography, or child sex rings in the Louisville SMSA.

From July 1980 through February 1984 the police/social work Team of the E.M.C.U. investigated about 1,400 cases of children suspected of being victims of sexual exploitation. Fifty-four percent (756) of the children were found to be victims and an additional 31% (431) of the children were considered probable victims although lacking sufficient proof for court proceedings.

During this time period, the E.M.C.U. prosecuted hundreds of adults for various crimes involving the sexual exploitation of children. Over 40 major cases involved the successful prosecution of adults involved with over 12 children each. In one particular case, investigators thought there were up to 320 child victims. At the time of arrest of and/or service of search warrants, ALL of these adult predators were found with various forms of adult pornography and in most cases child nudes and/or pornography. Over four years, the E.M.C.U. Team learned to expect to always find adult pornography as such was used by the adult offenders for their own sexual arousal, for self validation of their own sexual deviation(s), for extortion of child victims or other adults, and for the deliberate and planned lowering of inhibitions of child victims.

Truly, the media you have identified can be devastating in effect in protecting children and gives real cause for concern and study when child erotica seems to be on the increase in popular literature. Please keep in touch with all current updates and new initiatives.

Again, many thanks for the multiple copies of the report and all your efforts in behalf of children.

Cordially,

John B. Rabun, Jr., ACSW
Deputy Director

INTRODUCTION

From *Preventing Sexual Abuse*, Summer 1986

A study to determine how pornography and violence in the media affect the incidence of sexual abuse/exploitation, family violence and juvenile delinquency was recently completed at American University in Washington, DC. The project was funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) U.S. Department of Justice.

Dr. Judith Reisman, principal investigator for the study entitled "Children, Crime and Violence in the Pictorial Imagery of *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler*" testified on the findings before the United States Attorney General's Commission on Pornography on November 21, 1985. Visual images of children in sexual and violent contexts were analyzed in 683 issues of the three adult magazines beginning with *Playboy's* initial December 1953 issue through *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler* issues of December 1984. Researchers counted children in cartoons or photographs, and references to children in cartoon/photograph captions.

Each cartoon or photograph was examined for characteristics of the child or adult depicted, the activities in which the child was involved, the nature of the activity, and the state of dress or undress of the child. Pseudo-children (adults dressed and posed as children) and any discrepant body features, such as oversized breasts on small child's frame, were also noted.

The study identified three basic themes: nonsexual, nonviolent activities such as simple memories; violent activities such as murder, maiming or surgical procedures; and sexual activities such as intercourse or a child appearing nude.

A total of 6,004 photographs, illustrations and cartoons depicting children appeared in the 683 magazines. *Hustler* depicted children most often, an average of 14.1 times per issue, followed by *Playboy* (8.2 times per issue) and *Penthouse* (6.4 times per issue).

Findings included the following:

- * 1,675 child images were associated with nudity.
- * 1,225 child images were associated with genital activity.
- * 989 child images were associated sexually with adults.
- * 792 adults were portrayed as pseudo-children.
- * 592 child images were associated with force.
- * 267 child images were associated with sex with animals or objects.
- * 51% of the child cartoons and 46% of the child photographs showed children age 3-11.
- * More girls than boys were associated with sexual assault.
- * More boys than girls were associated with violent assault.

* Almost all depictions of child sexual abuse portrayed the child as unharmed or benefited by the activity.

From 1954 to 1984, these 6,004 images of children were interspersed with 15,000 images of crime and violence, 35,000 female breasts and 9,000 female genitalia.

Playboy, *Penthouse* and *Hustler* were chosen for the study because they are the three top-selling erotic/pornographic magazines. Approximately 25% of the professional adult male population reads at least one of these three magazines. In addition, *Playboy* and *Penthouse* are accessible to juveniles since they are available at newsstands, hotel lobbies, airports, college bookstores and in the home.

Playboy reaches 15,584,000 people per issue, *Penthouse* 7,673,000 and *Hustler* 4,303,000. This compares to *Psychology Today* with 4,704,000 readers, *Sports Illustrated* with 13,034,000 and *Ms.* with 1,635,000.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The study attempted to draw conclusions about the effects of the images on juvenile and adult readers, and explore the possible role of the magazines as sources of sex education.

Several issues were raised for future study:

1. The role of these magazines in making children more acceptable as objects of abuse, neglect and mistreatment, especially sexual abuse and exploitation.
2. The possibility that these images of children reduce taboos and inhibitions restraining abusive, neglectful or exploitative behavior toward children.
3. The possible trivialization of child maltreatment in the minds of readers; and,
4. The consequences of presenting sexual and violent images of children in magazines that call attention to sexual and/or violent activity.

Dr. Reisman recommended the National Institute of Mental Health, the Department of Justice and child welfare agencies cooperate to address the problem of pornography in our society through the use of task forces and research efforts.

She further recommended a voluntary moratorium on child or pseudo-child images until verifiable research can be conducted on the harm factor. Such action by sex-industry representatives could be seen as an act for responsibility based on concern for the welfare of children, rather than an admission of guilt.

EXTERNAL REVIEW BOARD FOR IMAGES OF CHILDREN, CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN PLAYBOY, PENTHOUSE, AND HUSTLER MAGAZINES:

Cooperative Agreement #84-JN-AX-K007

Dr. George Comstock, Samuel I. Newhouse Professor of Public Communication at Syracuse University, is a foremost authority on television and social behavior. His work, in part, has focused on mass media and its effects on social values, social institutions, and, in particular, the young viewing public. Dr. Comstock serves on the editorial boards of several major communication journals, is a member of the National Council for Children and Television and was senior author/editor for the *Surgeon General's Report on Television*

and *Human Behavior* (1978). His extensive work in the area of mass media has yielded numerous books and articles which are seen as a foundation for this field.

Dr. Robert Figlio is an Associate Professor of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania. His critique of the unauthorized American University draft was helpful in the identification of issues and data requiring clarification, addition and correction. With Dr. Marvin Wolfgang, Dr. Figlio co-authored the Department of Justice

"National Survey of Crime Severity." He is the only original peer who was unable to review and evaluate this final technical version written by the Principal Investigator.

Ms. Jane Huntington is a specialist in the area of juvenile justice. She is past Director of the Juvenile Justice Project of the American Red Cross, and served as Juvenile Justice Coordinator for the National Coalition for jail reform. Ms. Huntington has written widely in the area of sexual crime and juvenile behavior.

Dr. Emmanuel Landau is an epidemiologist and statistical analyst whose specialty is the critique of large-scale, complex research designs. As a senior statistician, Landau, past Chairman of the American Statistical Association Committee on Statistics and Environment, served as the outside, anonymous, expert selected by the American University to evaluate project methodology.

Ms. Laura Lederer is Program Officer for the I.J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, and one of the country's leading experts on pornography. She is author and editor of the well-known work *Take Back the Night: Women on Pornography*, and in 1977 established the organization Women Against Violence in Pornography and Media (WAVPM). Ms. Lederer's unique knowledge of both grant management and pornography research have been an invaluable asset to the advisory board.

Dr. Richard Zakia is Chairman of the Fine Art Photography Department of the Rochester Institute of Technology and brings to the board his expertise on educational psychology, photography,

Comments of Members of the External Review Board

George Comstock, S.I. Newhouse

Professor of Public Communications

I have reviewed the draft of your report of November, 1986, *Children, Crime and Violence in the Pictorial Imagery of Playboy, Penthouse and Hustler*. My judgement as a scholar of the empirical investigation of the social influence of the communications media is that:

1. The research meets the usual criteria and standards for such endeavors, and suffers from no problems or weaknesses not common to the genre of research represented.
2. Its findings should be of value to those interested in popular culture, erotica or pornography, and the effects of erotica, pornography, and violence in the media, and particularly to those concerned with the implications of such phenomena for women and children.
3. The synthesis of marketing data, child abuse statistics, the media effects literature, and various psychological formulations relating to media effects is adventuresome, intriguing and an admirable exercise in that necessary human venture, thinking the unthinkable.

The document is of sufficient comprehensibility and completeness for submission to a sponsoring agency as the draft of a final technical version. This was not true of the version prepared by the American University.

Jane Huntington

I have reviewed the Executive Summary of your final project report and the letters that you sent me.

As you know, I have studied juvenile justice issues as part of my master's course at the School of Justice at The American University, and I have participated in projects funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, particularly dealing with early intervention strategies. I must advise you that I am no longer working in juvenile justice; however, as I observed to you in the initial stages of the project, I believe your research would be of interest to child protection workers as well as to any professionals who interact with youthful sex offenders. Again, as I have stated before, I find the "child magnets" concept of particular interest.

Your research presents a longitudinal content analysis of child representations in the three magazines examined. As I see it, the research provides a data base of child images in "mainstream

photographic education, and visual perception. Dr. Zakia published numerous books and articles on photography and visual perception, presented papers, lectures, and conducted workshops in the U.S. and Canada as well as contributing an excellent analysis of photography for the final Volume I Overview for the Reisman Report.

Supplementary Critiques:

Edward Eichel, is a certified psychotherapist and consultant in Health Education/Human Sexuality and Family Life Education in New York City.

Gordon Muir, M.D. Director of Medical Communications at Glaxo Research Laboratories is responsible for the evaluation of medical research protocol and is also associated with the North Carolina Chapter of the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Linnea Smith, M.D., is a psychiatrist whose professional role in the Collegiate Athletic Community involves the education of athletes and coaches on the treatment of illicit drugs in mainstream, sexually explicit mass media.

Dr. Dorothy Tennov, discoverer of "limerence," past tenured professor of Psychology at the University of Bridgeport, is a clinical psychotherapist, theorist and author of three books on psychology.

Dr. Marianne Wamboldt is a psychiatrist, formerly of the Department of Health and Human Services, Section on Comparative Studies of Brain and Behavior; and Dr. Janet Negley is a psychologist with The California Psychotherapy Association.

erotica/pornography" (which you state in your introduction was a purpose of this "exploratory research"). Though I am not a researcher and cannot speak to the statistical methodology, my lay conclusion is the same as Dr. Landau's in that the "content analysis did adequately test the hypotheses of the study regarding representation of children in the three magazines with special reference to sexual and violence contexts. The findings are clearly of interest but the possible adverse effects from such presentation cannot therefore be inferred."

Dr. Zakia, also, points out that this was a "survey, a content analysis," and, as such, I agree that it ought to be published. Your research has constructed a base upon which to build further research studies. However, at this point, the research itself cannot be the basis for any conclusions and recommendations, other than for further research and, of course, of the empirical findings of the child images in mainstream erotica/pornography.

Excerpts from Dr. Emmanuel Landau's Review*

Volume I of the report, which represents an overview of the project, presents the necessary background material which the reader should have to understand the relevance of this project to the broader issue. The introduction states that "The overall objective of the study was to ascertain whether and to what extent representations of children exist in *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler* magazines. The particular focus of the study was the depiction of "children" in sexual and violent contexts." This project, representing a content analysis of the three mentioned journals, constituted an attempt to deal with the broader issue of "The Role of Pornography and Media Violence in Family Violence, Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and Juvenile Delinquency."

The study was designed as a longitudinal study. The report says "Most importantly, the study provides an exhaustive analysis of the roles played by children in *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler* magazines

*These statements are excerpts from Dr. Landau's 13-page evaluation. On August 13, 1987 Dr. Landau wrote: "Having noted the August 1987 materials planned for delivery to OJJDP, I wish to reaffirm my original August 1986 sentence regarding the methodology used in this research. "This is a sound study, producing high quality data in a complex and difficult area conducted in a scientifically acceptable fashion."

over time" (p.1a).

I have reviewed Volumes II and III of the study entitled "A Content Analysis of *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler*" magazines with special attention to the portrayal of children, crime, and violence with considerable care. The review consisted of several examinations to ensure that I could find no significant error of commission or omission which could bias the result regardless of the overall quality of conduct of the study (p.1b). [Page numbers in this section refer to the original documents.]

Having participated in several large-scale studies involving the preparation of complex coding manuals and training of coders, I appreciated the care with which this operation was conducted. The project clearly demonstrated the awareness of the professional staff to the necessity for pilot or pre-testing and the comparability of its coders' entries. This concern for the form of the questions with its interpretation is needed in any study, but especially in this one where objectivity is so difficult to maintain in the coding group. Many of the questions raised in this review process were also perceived by the Principal Investigator and are discussed in the section on "Limitations of the Study" (p.2).

The care attached to coding applied also to the data handling in order to minimize the likelihood of error. Thus far, simple frequencies and cross-tabulations have been carried out. There are a large number of additional unpublished tabulations available from the project files (p.8).

The meticulous care with which the project attempted to deal with the "overall objective of the study... was to ascertain whether and to what extent representations of children exist in *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler* magazines. To describe the environments in which the depictions occurred, the portrayal of crime and violence without children was also studied" (p.3).

The pattern of training for specific questionnaires followed by actual coding represents, in my judgment, an excellent way to maximize efficiency and minimize errors. The text notes that a guide to sexual drug-related slang terms was developed for the child visual and adult crime portions (p.7).

Noticeable throughout the report is the emphasis on quality control. It is clear that quality control was rigidly enforced from the initial assignment of magazines to the completed coding (p.7).

The discussion of "child magnets" i.e., the presence of Santa Claus and fairy tale characters is believed to be new and of interest. The depiction of children as initiating, receiving or observing sexual or violent activity with Santa Claus may be of consequence as is also the appearance of children as adult sexual partners in the fairy tale illustrations (p.3a).

The training of the coders involved a meticulous procedure of training and practice on the Child Cartoon Coding Instrument. Interrater reliability was assessed at the conclusion of coding and coders were debriefed to document their unique approaches to the content analysis (p.7).

It is my judgment that this content analysis did adequately test the hypothesis of the study regarding representation of children in the three magazines with special reference to sexual and violence contexts. The findings are clearly of interest but the possible adverse effects from such presentation cannot therefore be inferred (p.4).

Volume I also demonstrates a carefully conducted study of the content of the three journals constituting the mainstream of erotic/pornographic publications (p.4a).

In summary, the statement of limitations notes in detail the shortcomings of this study. However, in my judgment, the authors have tended to overstate the imperfect qualities of this content analysis study. It is a sound study providing high-quality data in a complex and difficult area conducted in a scientifically acceptable fashion (p.12).

Laura J. Lederer

I write to congratulate you on the successful completion of your study, "Children, Crime, and Violence in the Pictorial Imagery of

Playboy, *Penthouse* and *Hustler*. The Role of Pornography and Media Violence in Family Violence, Sexual Abuse, and Exploitation, and Juvenile Delinquency." Your research is of tremendous value. It is the first study ever to document the complete representation of children, children depicted in sexual situations, and children depicted in criminal and violent situations in *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler* magazines, the three leading mainstream pornography magazines in our country. It documents these images over time, which makes it possible to pinpoint the introduction of such images into the social fabric. It also makes it possible to trace the proliferation of certain themes, such as child assault, child sexual molestation, and incest and to correlate the increases in these images with reportings of real life crimes against children. In addition, the study yielded an enormous amount of invaluable data never before gathered. It is now possible to identify the age of the children portrayed in these magazines and to note that the largest number portrayed were between the ages of three and 11, to identify the race and religion of these children, as well as their sex. The data can be identified for any one of the three magazines, or a pooled figure representing all three magazines can be found. The data also identify criminal and violent activities such as rape, battery and murder. These data can be used by other researchers, as well as police, child protection agencies, physicians, nurses, clinical therapists, educators, government officials and others who now work in various capacities to halt child abuse, child sexual molestation, and incest, as well as all forms of juvenile delinquency.

As a foundation program director of a private philanthropic foundation, I can say that the grant was properly administered and well-used. This was an enormous undertaking: a large-scale study with complex coding processes, housed in a university, which took a good percentage of the original grant amount to cover overhead costs. As principal researcher, you set up the research parameters, tested them with preliminary studies, and then ran the project within a two year time limit, employing over 30 people, including 25 coders, a complete administrative team, and a dozen expert consultants.

I urge the immediate publication of your final report dated November 1986, and its full distribution, by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. I know that the American public very much wants to read the final report, and I believe that our society will reap benefits from it.

Dr. Richard D. Zakia

Thank you for the opportunity to read your report on "The Role of Pornography and Media Violence..." and to offer some comments. First let me again state my position that the data you have gathered is important and should be made available to serious researchers along with valid qualifying statements and criticism you have included in your November 1986 Report. Let me outline some of the things I find especially valuable in your report:

1. Benchmark

Your data on the cartoons in *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler* provide a reference point that we never before had. This is important for longitudinal studies and for possible comparison with other similar information; i.e., cartoons and visuals in other magazines.

2. Methodology

The instruments you developed for your study and your approach in establishing verbal categories for pictorial information can be very helpful to others.

3. Correlations

Your findings on the number of cartoons in which the principal child is "School age to puberty: elementary school age six through eleven" raises an important question. Do national statistics on child molesting reveal a similar situation. In other words are most children that are molested between the ages of six-eleven?

4. Cartoonists

Of the several cartoonists mentioned, the one most often used by *Hustler* magazine was Dwaine B. Tinsley by a margin of twice the next most used cartoonist. Can the Tinsley cartoons be isolated and studied between the years 1974 to 1984? This could uncover useful information regarding cartoon codes and possible changes which

might have emerged. Do cartoons such as Tinsley's have historical precedence? Having done some visual research in the Kinsey Library on Sex and Human Reproduction at the University of Indiana, I believe they do and can be identified in the collection of pornographic visuals available there to researchers. Some of these visuals are by well known artists of earlier years.

5. Similar but Different

The cartoons in all three magazines although somewhat similar are also different. *Playboy* for example is more verbal while *Hustler* is blatantly visual. *Hustler* cartoons also portray more violence and contain ethnic slurs. How do other "girlie" magazines compare?

6. Syntax

The placement of cartoons on a page along with specific articles and advertisements, the size of the cartoons, left page vs. right page, black-and-white vs. color is of significance and provides information not previously available. Your "eye scan" data points out the importance of judging the cartoons for not only what is within the cartoon but also for what lies outside the cartoon. Perceptual psychologists would find this very useful information.

7. Body Validation

Your proposed Body Validation instrument could be very useful to researchers in the field. What we see, and sometimes often mistake as a photograph of a nude woman, is often a retouched photograph with "visual transplants". By that I mean we now have the technology to create a real, imaginary, fantasized perfect nude woman. Computers can store pictorial body parts, faces, noses, hands, legs, breasts, etc., and display them on a screen for an artist to composite. The final fantasized Venus can then be directly transferred onto printing plates and then into magazines for the voyeuristic eye. The face of a 20-year-old can be connected to the body of a 16-year-old. Your proposed Body Validation instrument warrants further study and testing.

8. Comparisons

Do any of your findings support or question the voluminous Messer Report?

9. Kinsey Library

As you know, the Kinsey Library is an important resource for researchers in the field of human sexuality. The library has an outstanding collection of texts and visuals, including a considerable amount of material, historical and contemporary, on the involvement of children in sexual situations. Some of the material is in cartoon form and some pictorial visuals. I am sure that the Kinsey Library would welcome a copy of your report for their collection.

10. Heuristic

Another important aspect of your study is its heuristic value; it raises what I would call a Janus question. Looking back into earlier publications, what child cartoons preceded the ones your study found? And looking forward, particularly as the electronic media begins to take over with its moving image and sound, where is this type of erotica headed? We now have an important benchmark for *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler* for the years 1953-1984, 1969 to 1984 and 1974 to 1984 respectively.

I hope the Justice Department will soon make your report available to serious researchers in the field. As a member of your peer group I concur with my colleague Dr. Landau that the criticism of your report has been overstated. It has tended to obscure the important data your research has uncovered. It was a survey, a content analysis of particular information. Perhaps it should be formally titled "A Survey of ..."

J. Gordon Muir, M.D.

Thank you for the opportunity to review Volume I of your report "Children, Crime and Violence in the Pictorial Imagery of *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler*."

By way of background, I am a physician with six years of experience in the clinical research departments of two of this country's leading pharmaceutical companies. I have been assistant director of clinical development and associate director of medical communications at the Squibb Institute for Medical Research, and I am currently director of medical communication at Glaxo Research

Laboratories. In this environment I have been fully exposed to the principles and practice of sound medical research and its proper presentation. I have also been lately associated with the North Carolina Chapter of the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, and partly because of this interest and what I recently have been learning about child abuse, I feel that the subject of your research is important, timely and of considerable public interest.

Just as physicians (and the public) have had a growing interest in the role of television in child abuse (see Wharton and Mandell, *Pediatrics*, June 1985), there would undoubtedly be a similar interest in the role, if any, of mainstream pornography. Now, for the first time, major documentation has been provided regarding how children are depicted in mainstream pornography and how images of children are related to situations of nudity, abuse, crime and violence. This has to be an important body of data and an important first step, if the methodology of data collection has been sufficiently rigorous. My own view is that the methodology employed here has been more than sufficiently exacting. And, while some modifications may be suggested for the future, I would concur with the statistical reviewer, Dr. Landau, that this is "a sound study providing high-quality data in a complex and difficult area, conducted in a scientifically sound fashion."

My chief conclusions from reading this report are as follows:

1. Children have been extensively sexualized in mainstream pornography. Documentation of this point alone is an important finding.
2. It is clearly established that there has been a pictorial trivialization of child sex abuse—particularly in cartoons. And as Harrison is quoted as saying in this report: "The cartoon is a unique force in modern society."

Socialization of other taboos, in cartoons especially, is also documented.

Bearing in mind that everyone is influenced in some way by what they see and read, it is absolutely essential that the impact of these child representations on both adults and children be further investigated. We are not dealing here with the content of television soap operas, etc. but with a pictorial medium that is seen to have a record of portraying the breaching of the most sensitive social taboos as a subject for humor. Serious investigation of the impact of this should now begin.

I commend you and your staff for an admirable execution of a complex task performed in a relatively short period of time. I look forward to the Department of Justice making this report available to the medical and child-welfare communities, as well as to the general public.

Linnea W. Smith, M.D.

The significance of your research cannot be overestimated, that of undertaking the most comprehensive to date content analysis of the three topgrossing erotic/pornographic magazines. This information is an invaluable precursor for the scientific community as well as society to critically evaluate issues of causation and potential for distortion of attitudes on human sexuality and antisocial behavioral impact.

There has been appropriate criticism of those of us in the medical profession in general, as well as those of us in psychiatry specifically, to be more cognizant of the role of mass media and its impact on the well-being of juveniles and adults.

These publications target juveniles as an important part of their readership and aggressively market their product to this segment of the population which may be most vulnerable during the formative years of sexual identity. Your analysis of the depictions of children in a sexual and/or violent context is especially pertinent. Recent surveys confirm an overwhelming majority of adolescents reported repeated exposure to this material.

Research examining the effect of precocious exposure to pornography on children's attitudes and behavior is seriously inadequate. Children must be assumed vulnerable to adverse health consequences unless and until proved otherwise.

It is imperative that your report be made available immediately to