

CONCLUSION

In Part 2 of this book, I have described my theory that pornography — both violent and non-violent — can cause rape, citing the findings of recent research that support this theory. I believe that my theory can be adapted to apply to other forms of sexual assault and abuse, as well as to woman battering and femicide (the misogyny-motivated killing of women). I have done the preliminary work on such an adaptation to the causal relationship between pornography and child sexual abuse and plan to publish this work in the future.

In conclusion, I believe that the rich and varied data now available to us from all kinds of sources, when considered together, strongly support my theory.

- A high percentage of non-incarcerated rapists and child molesters have said that they have been incited by pornography to commit crimes;
- Pre-selected normal healthy male students say they are more likely to rape a woman after just one exposure to violent pornography;
- A high percentage of male junior high school students, high school students, and adults in a non-laboratory survey report imitating X-rated movies within a few days of exposure;
- Hundreds of women have testified in public about how they have been victimized by pornography;
- Ten percent of a probability sample of 930 women in San Francisco and 25% of female subjects in an experiment on pornography in Canada reported having been upset by requests to enact pornography (Russell, 1980, and Senn and Radtke, 1986);
- Many prostitutes report that they have experienced pornography-related sexual assault (Silbert and Pines, 1984; Everywoman, 1988; and Russell, 1993a);
- The laws of social learning must surely apply to pornography at least as much as to the mass media in general. Indeed, I — and others —

have argued that sexual arousal and orgasm are likely to serve as unusually potent reinforcers of the messages conveyed by pornography;

- A large body of experimental research has shown that the viewing of violent pornography results in higher rates of aggression against women by male subjects.

It is no wonder that Donnerstein stated that the relationship between pornography and violence against women is stronger than the relationship between smoking and lung cancer (see epigraph at beginning of Part 2).

One of the effects of viewing non-violent pornography discovered by Zillmann is that “the more extensive the exposure, the more accepting of pornography subjects became” (Zillmann and Bryant, 1984, p. 133). Although females expressed significantly less acceptance than males, this effect also applied to females. Pornography has expanded into a multi-billion-dollar-a-year industry, and I believe we are seeing on a massive scale some of the very effects so brilliantly and carefully documented in some of the experiments by Malamuth, Donnerstein, Zillmann, and their colleagues. Donnerstein’s description of the desensitization that occurred in healthy pre-selected male students after only five days of viewing woman-slashing films may apply to ever-growing segments of our society (Donnerstein, Linz and Penrod, 1987).

Van White, the Chairperson of the Hearings on Pornography in Minnesota in 1983, commented as follows on the impact of the testimony by the survivors of pornography-related abuse: “These horror stories made me think of the history of slavery in this country—how Black women were at the bottom of the pile, treated like animals instead of human beings. As I listened to these victims of pornography, I heard young women describe how they felt about...the way women’s breasts and genitals are displayed and women’s bodies are shown in compromising postures. I thought about the time of slavery, when Black women had their bodies invaded, their teeth and limbs examined, their bodies checked out for breeding, checked out as you would an animal, and I said to myself, ‘We’ve come a long way, haven’t we?’

“Today we have an industry...showing women in the same kind of submissive and animalistic roles” (1984).

United States’ culture appears to have been affected by the very effects the research shows. The massive propaganda campaign is working; people now actually *see* differently. Pornography has to become increasingly extreme before people are disturbed by, or even notice, the violence and

degradation portrayed in it. Very few see the real abuse that is happening to some of the women who are photographed. As Zillmann and Bryant show, “heavy consumption of common forms of pornography fosters an appetite for stronger materials” (1984, p. 127). What was considered hard-core in the past has become soft-core in the present. Where will this all end? Will we as a culture forever refuse to read the writing on the wall?



These are some of the women activists in the rampage against *Penthouse* for its publication of the photo essay on Asian women in the December 1984 issue (see examples on pages 102-105), demanding a boycott of some of the businesses that advertise in this pornographic magazine. (Photo courtesy of Melissa Farley.)

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FEMINIST ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY EDUCATION AND ACTIVIST ORGANIZATIONS

Compiled by Jan Woodcock

This list is undoubtedly incomplete. Please send the names of any other feminist organizations that should be included here to International Networks (see the address below). Hopefully, they can be included in any future printings of this book.

Eastern United States

- Women's Alliance Against Pornography, P.O. Box 4, Northampton, Massachusetts 01061-0004
- Women's Alliance Against Pornography, P.O. Box 2027, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02238
- New York Anti-Sexist Men's Action Network, P.O. Box 150-786, Van Brunt Station, Brooklyn, New York 11215
- Women Against Pornography (W.A.P.), P.O. Box 845, Times Square Post Office, New York, New York 10108-0845
- Men Against Rape and Pornography, P.O. Box 81856, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217
- Men's Anti-Rape Resource Center, P.O. Box 73559, Washington, DC 20056
- Feminists Fighting Pornography, P.O. Box 6731, Yorkville Station, New York, New York 10128
- Pornography Awareness, Inc., c/o Southern Sisters Book Store, 411 Morris Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701

Canada & Midwestern United States

Montreal Men Against Sexism, 913 de Bienville, Montreal, Quebec H2J 1V2

Resources Against Pornography (R.A.P.), P.O. Box 695, Toronto Postal Station "C", Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6J 3S1

International Networks, P.O. Box 1068, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48804-1068

Women's Resource Center, c/o Dept. of Political Science, 1200 Academy St., Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Students Organizing Against Pornography, Dept. of Philosophy, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056

Sexual Violence Center, 1222 W. 31st Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

Men Stopping Rape, Inc., P.O. Box 316, 306 North Brooks Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53715

W.H.I.S.P.E.R. (Women Hurt In Systems of Prostitution Engage in Revolt), P.O. Box 8719, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

Northwestern United States

Council For Prostitution Alternatives (C.P.A.), 710 S.E. Grand Ave., Suite 8, Portland, Oregon 97214

Stopping Violence Against Women (S.V.A.W.), c/o Downtown Women's Center, 511 S.W. 10th, Suite 905, Portland, Oregon 97205

Men's Issues Discussion Group, Reed College, 3203 S.E. Woodstock Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97202

Citizens Opposed To Media Exploitation, 926 N. State Street, Bellingham, Washington 98226

Mexico & Southwestern United States

Centro de Orientacion y Apoyo a la Mujer, 6 a. Rayon y Victoria #99, Apdo. Postal 1133, Suc. "A", H. Matamoros, Tam. Mexico

Centro de Orientacion y Apoya a la Mujer, P.O. Box 4282, Brownsville, Texas 78520

Media Watch, P.O. Box 618, Santa Cruz, California 95061

Always Causing Legal Unrest (A.C.L.U.), P.O. Box 2085, Rancho Cordova, California 95741-2085

Naturists and Nudists Opposing Pornographic Exploitation, and Citizens for Media Responsibility, can also be contacted at the A.C.L.U. address.

National Organization For Men Against Sexism, c/o M.O.V.E., 54 Mint Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California 94103

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

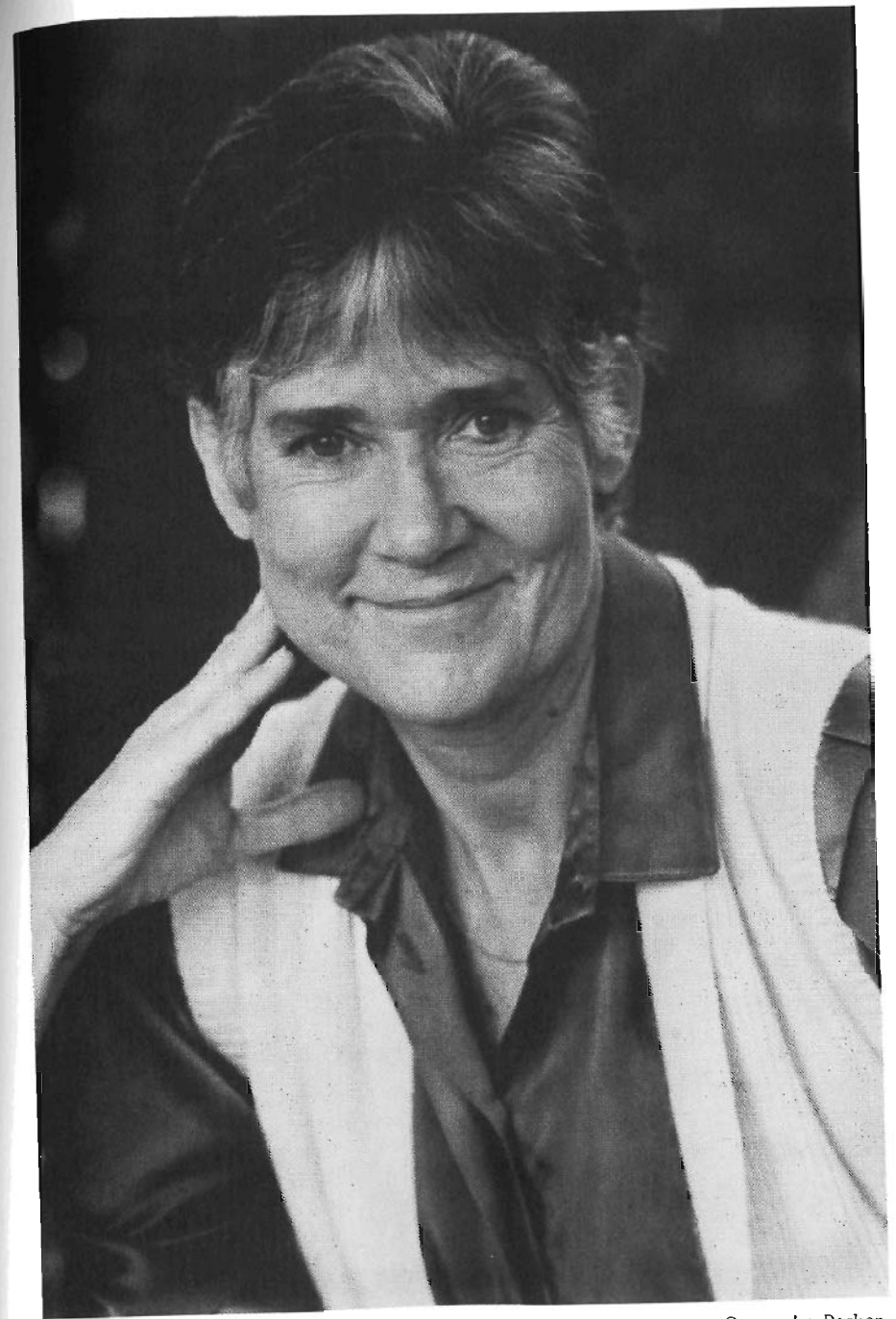
Diana E. H. Russell obtained a Postgraduate Diploma (with Distinction) from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1961. She was the recipient of LSE's Mostyn Lloyd Memorial Prize awarded to the best student studying for the Postgraduate Diploma. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1970.

Diana is Professor Emerita of Sociology at Mills College, Oakland, California, where she taught sociology and women's studies for 22 years. She is author or editor of 11 books (see the list at the beginning of the book). *The Secret Trauma* won the 1986 C. Wright Mills Award. This award is given annually by the Society for the Study of Social Problems for outstanding social science research that addresses an important social issue.

Diana has been active in the women's liberation movement since 1969. She started teaching the first course in women's studies at Mills College at that time. She was one of the main organizers of the 1976 International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women. In 1976 Diana became one of the founding members of the first feminist anti-pornography organization in the U.S. (Women Against Violence in Pornography and Media — WAVPM). She remained active in this organization for many years.

Diana has lectured widely, in the United States and abroad, about the political situation in South Africa, rape, incest, child sexual abuse in general, pornography, and all forms of violence against women. She has been arrested three times for her political activism, in South Africa (1963), in England (1974), and in the United States (1990).

Diana is currently conducting interviews with incest survivors in South Africa for a book entitled, *Telling Men's Secrets: South African Incest Survivors Speak Out*. She is also looking for a publisher for a book of case studies of woman-killing titled *Fatal Attractions*. She will be returning to the United States in September 1993.



Cassandra Parker

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