

Sex, pornography, holocaust not the same thing

Dear Ann Landers:

I am scared stiff that the entire population is going homosexual and mankind will be doomed. Wherever one looks, there is exploitation of sex. It's on TV and radio, in magazines, books, newspapers, the theater and films. Pornography is everywhere. I'm afraid we are going to become so jaded that no one will be interested in normal sex anymore. Could this be the day of reckoning the Bible has warned us about? Will a nuclear bomb be dropped by lord

Dave Milo Mumgaard

problem, there won't be any others — because there won't be any people. (Lincoln Journal and Star, Jan. 30, 1983)

Ann Landers knows her stuff. She speaks from incontrovertible logic that, after the commencing of nuclear warfare, there will be absolutely no problems to worry about. Including sex.

This is not to say that I consider sex, in itself, a problem. But many people do, running around wringing their hands and wailing about how sexual permissiveness will be the death of this great nation. Our morals, decaying like clockwork, will some day reach such a deplorable condition that, as Sweet Thunder suggests, perhaps it would be best to blow us all up and start over. Yet Will Rogers saw through this, by saying that so many times as our country has been said to be going to hell, it's a wonder we hadn't got there yet.

True, people in the United States seem to have a vast curiosity about sex and anything sex-related. This is a result of the early Puritanical days, when sex was buried under the idea that it was something smutty and somehow unnatural. We expend considerable energy worrying about moral decay while watching our buried urges exhibit themselves in all sorts of bizarre (and frankly disgusting) ways.

This massive denial of basic humanity leaves a very dishonest and disillusioned nation, more unhealthy because of repression than otherwise. One can simply read Shakespeare, with all his fun and clean references to sex, and realize that the Puritans and the Victorian Age really did a

trick on our being above-board about sex.

Yet the modern day Puritans continue their rampages, unfortunately with little consistency. Readers Digest, that fount of wisdom, regularly features pieces on how morally depraved our country is, while by my own count their last four issues have had outer covers featuring shapely young women wearing skimpy little outfits and doing stretching exercises, beneath headlines screaming about how to make yourself a better lover. And this past weekend, Right-to-Lifers picketed Planned Parenthood, calling for less funding to Planned Parenthood while also demanding we legalize abortion, pushing it even farther out of mind and sight. Yet these people have profoundly misread what Planned Parenthood is all about. Education and awareness will eventually do more for eliminating abortions than the force of unobeyed law.

I conclude with D.H. Lawrence (as well as advising Sweet Thunder that she has less to fear from homosexuals than from nuclear bombs): "So we can dismiss the idea that sex appeal is pornography. It may be so to the grey Puritan, but the grey Puritan is a sick man, soul and body sick, so why should we bother about his hallucinations?"

knows who and blow up everything and everybody, so the world can start anew? The prospect of total destruction boggles my mind. What do you see ahead, Ann?

—Sweet Thunder

Dear Sweet:

You've mixed your fear of homosexuality with the danger of nuclear holocaust. Two subjects any more diverse would be hard to imagine . . . on the other hand, the threat of a nuclear holocaust is very real. Methods to prevent this insane form of mass genocide should take precedence over everything else. If we don't solve this

Guest Opinion

Disabled want acceptance, not telethons

Telethons. What are they? Hours and hours of sophisticated electronically televised begging and pleading, dehumanizing people with disabilities. Telethons, as they are used now by local charities, are a waste of time.

This weekend I watched the United Cerebral Palsy telethon. Forgive me, dear professors, for wasting valuable time, but I hoped this year's telethon would have been different. It wasn't.

This year's telethon still pictured cerebral palsy as something to be defeated because, as everybody who watched the telethon knows, it is a "crippling" condition that should be whipped — for mom, hotdogs, hot apple pie, Anthony Steels and the Huskerettes.

It still had celebrities spending 99 percent of their time making people feel guilty by playing on their sympathies and tugging at the audience's heartstrings. I think it's called emotional blackmail.

One actor from the TV show "Dynasty" said:

"Please give to United Cerebral Palsy so that thousands of unborn babies have a bright and promising future."

I have cerebral palsy, and my future is bright and promising. In May I will get my degree in journalism (not that a degree in journalism will make my future all that bright and promising) and have a good chance of establishing a writing career. I'm far from being hopeless or helpless.

A man who was mildly effected with cerebral palsy was

asked by an interviewer:

"Gee, you don't look like you have cerebral palsy." The implication was clear: people with cerebral palsy look disfigured and unattractive.

The same announcer then said: "Please give in the fight against UCP."

In a way, his comment wasn't too far off base. If UCP continues talking about folks with cerebral palsy instead of letting them tell their own stories their own way, without being considered as being "exceptionally courageous," I might consider establishing a telethon to eliminate the organization.

You may ask after reading this column, "What can I do to help people with disabilities if telethons are so bad?"

Just accept people with disabilities. Don't regard them as disabled, but differently abled. Support building designs that have ramps, and bells that enable deaf people to know that elevator doors are opening.

I appreciate the Huskerettes standing in the Centrum, guarding the fishbowl. I would appreciate it even more if one of them came up to me and offered me a chance to develop a give-and-take relationship with her.

I do not need a well-meaning celebrity begging for money for me on television, nor do I need people's sympathy. I need to be regarded as a person who is capable of being useful.

Bill Rush
senior, journalism

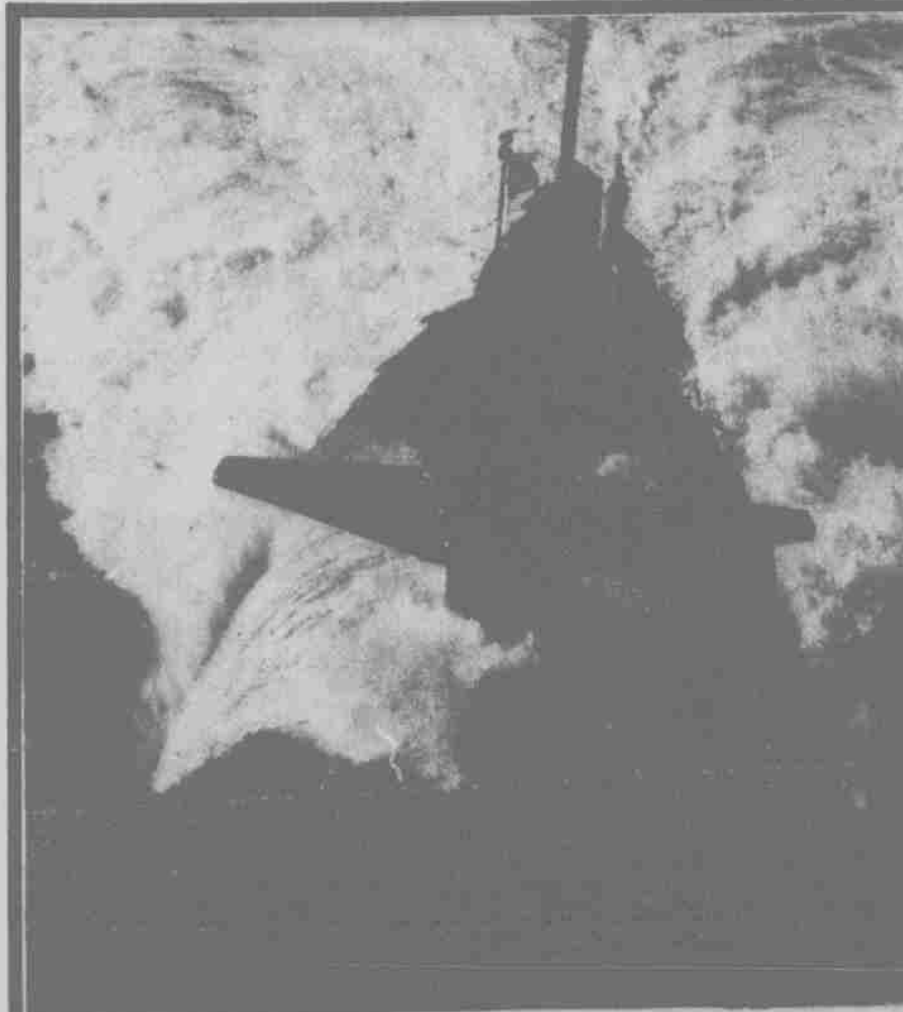
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