

ket. We also have to ask what is wrong with men that they want to treat us in this way? We need to be lobbying for legislation to be drawn up to protect women and children from sexual exploitation and for men to be penalised for perpetrating acts of sexual exploitation. If this does not happen, the struggle for a free South Africa will have truly betrayed women.

Anne Mayne Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)

Anyone wishing to contact me for further discussion or information please, phone Tel: 083 679 4311 or e-mail avmlaa@iafrica.com

POEM BY JAMES MATTHEWS

Thanks to Zurayah Abass who submitted this poem for our newsletter

rapists run rampant
 shrieks of anguish
 rent the air
 spawns of evil
 defilers of morality
 engaged in torment
 lance the fragility
 of their prey
 compilers of law
 trapped in constitution
 dispensing equal rights
 restrain the restitution
 of justice accorded
 allowing the beast
 freedom of movement
 prowling the streets
 to inflict horrendous
 acts of agony
 upon body and mind
 of ravished womanhood.

Women's Media Watch membership is open to all people with a commitment to bring the voices, faces and issues of the least visible women and youth into the media. We monitor and respond to the current portrayal of women in the media and work towards access to channels of communication for all women.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

To help cover the cost of the production of the newsletters and keep the project running we are asking members who can, to pay annual membership fees. These may be paid monthly.

R240.00 per annum per organisation in South Africa
 R120.00 per individual in South Africa
 US \$50.00 for members in other parts of Africa
 US \$90.00 for members in Europe/USA etc

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES, LETTERS, CARTOONS AND IDEAS TO OUR NEWSLETTER, OR COME INTO THE OFFICE AND BE INTERVIEWED ON YOUR VIEWS ON THE MEDIA.

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WOMEN'S MEDIA WATCH IS A PROJECT OF MEDIAWORKS



MEDIA WATCH

NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE

- CARTOON COMMENTING ON WOMEN'S MAGS
- ANNE MAYNE SPEAKS OUT AGAINST PORN
- ART IS A WAY OF EXPRESSING MYSELF
- POEM BY JAMES MATTHEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

Budding cartoonist and feminist academic Clare Fauke submitted the **CARTOON COMMENTING ON WOMEN'S MAGS** In an article that looks at the impact globally and locally anti-porn activist **ANNE MAYNE SPEAKS OUT AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY** Nontembiso Mkhonto an artist with her strong commitment to women's rights and her creative roots firmly in the soil of the reality of women's lives in South Africa says **ART IS A WAY OF EXPRESSING MYSELF** in an interview with Marianne Gysae. Zurayah Abass of Molo Songololo sent a **POEM BY JAMES MATTHEWS** for publication in our newsletter which she feels women will relate to. A big thank you to our members for these contributions

KOZMO

BECAUSE YOU SUCK THE WAY YOU ARE!

FASHION: CLOTHES YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOR FIT INTO

HEALTH: PLUCK IT, SHAVE IT, WAX IT!

BEAUTY: HOW TO CONFORM TO WHITE STANDARDS OF BEAUTY

STYLE: HOW TO LOOK LIKE A HEROIN ADDICT WITHOUT EVER PICKING UP A NEEDLE

LOVE: IF YOU'RE NOT IN A HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU!



This cartoon by Clare Fauke comments on the various ways that women's magazines often put pressure on women. It speaks for itself.

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MEDIA WORKS
 COMMUNITY MEDIA

ANNE MAYNE SPEAKS OUT AGAINST PORN

*Please note that "pornography" includes soft-core and hard-core material.

Pornography encourages its users to view women as objects, not as people.

Erotica, on the other hand, depicts adults engaged in consenting, mutually rewarding sexual relations. A study conducted by Dr. Check (York University, Toronto) found that 1,000 men from various walks of life were able to discern the difference between the three types of sexually stimulating material. Unfortunately, as the U.S. Meese Commission on Pornography reported, there is very little erotica in circulation.*



Anne Mayne, right, speaks to Veronica Adams

Pornography is naked sexism, and in the same way racism and anti-Semitism, causes harm, sexism causes harm.

The following is taken from a fact sheet put out by the Canadian campaign "Coalition for the Safety of Our Daughters: "Studies Linking Pornography* to Sexual Assault

The following study summaries are referenced from the chapter, "The Link to Pornography", in the book *Criminal Neglect: Why Sex Offenders Go Free* by Dr. William Marshall and Sylvia Barrett.

Denmark

When Denmark decriminalised pornography and prostitution (in the 60's), the number of violent rapes increased. The original study neglected to highlight some very important points:

Prior to the new laws in Denmark, pornography and prostitution were counted as "sex crimes".

The original study (by Kutchinsky) compared the wrong information and mistakenly reported that sex crimes went down. They only appeared to go down because pornography and prostitution were no longer counted as "sex crimes" after the new laws were in place.

Australia

Two Australian states handled pornography differently. Queensland refused to allow the easy distribution of pornography while South Australia relaxed its laws and permitted easy and accessible pornography.

In comparing the rape rate per 100,000 at risk over a 13-year period,

a study conducted by John Court found:

Queensland, which did not permit pornography, showed no increase in its rape rate.

South Australia, which allowed easy access to pornography, had a rape rate that increased six-fold over the same period.

New Zealand

New Zealand also found that its rape rate increased in conjunction with the easy availability of pornography. Its government then restricted the distribution of pornography and the rape rate in that country began to decrease.

United States

In the mid-1980's, sociologists at the University of New Hampshire compared the circulation of 8 soft-core pornography magazines with the crime rate in each state. The data revealed a high correlation between the proliferation of pornography and the incidence of rape. There was no correlation between the sales of pornography and other violent crimes.

The following is a statement from the Supreme Court of Canada 1992: "It is reasonable to presume that exposure to images bears a causal relationship to changes in attitudes and beliefs." To those who argue that these studies don't categorically prove that the widespread distribution of pornography hurts women and children, let us remind you that not one study categorically proves that smoking causes lung cancer.

Yet we have enough evidence to support the link and so citizen action groups push for regulations that more adequately protect the unsuspecting public from the ravages of lung cancer.

Similarly, we have enough evidence to support the link between pornography and violence against women and children.

To quote from Marshall and Barrett's book *Criminal Neglect: Why Sex Offenders Go Free*, "A society that permits public expressions of contempt for women can only expect that women will be victimized."

The women made into pornography are also harmed.

Research done by Dworkin, MacKinnon and Barry and many others has found that women and girls used in pornography report being physically injured and psychologically manipulated and abused. The most violent forms of pornography depict rape and torture and at the end of the scale there is pornography that depicts murder, which is recorded on video, this is called Snuff. Women who have survived extremely violent pornography have testified that the violence is not simulated but real.

Brief history of the rise of the pornography and sex industry in the West.

Before 1995, when Hugh Hefner began marketing Playboy magazine, the making and distributing of pornography was a small, underground activity.

Hefner was the first pornographer who believed that he could bring pornography into the mainstream, i.e. popular culture, and get his magazine distributed by mainstream magazine distributors. Since that time, approximately 40 years ago, hundreds of magazines similar to Playboy have come on to the market.

Hustler, which is the most violently sexist, racist, child-abusing magazine (i.e. it contains cartoons depicting sexual abuse of children and photographs of simulated child pornography) to be distributed by popular magazine distributors has become a serious threat to the Playboy market, and has in fact ousted Playboy entirely in South Africa. The title of the magazine "Hustler" is the word used in the US to describe a prostitute.

During the 60's, which is described as the era of, "sexual liberation", in the West, the pornography industry took off. Feminist social historians say that during this period a great confidence trick was played on women. The popular ideas

(continued on page 6)

ART IS A WAY TO EXPRESS MYSELF

Artist Nontembiso Mkonto interviewed by Marianne Gysae



Nontembiso Mkonto is a visual artist. She has been a Women's Media Watch member since attending the first Gender and Communication's Course in the early nineties. Being recognised as an artist hasn't always been easy, especially as a woman.

Nontembiso: I have had art in my blood since I came out since I came out of my mother's womb. But I had to overcome many obstacles to become an artist. Growing up in the Eastern Cape with my three brothers and one sister, my interest in art was never taken seriously. As a girl I was expected to do tasks in the house and fetch water, but I rather joined the boys looking after the cattle. And whenever I could, I helped my maternal grandfather, who was a blacksmith. And I learned how to heat and bend iron. I even made an axe and helped to build an ox cart. But nobody in my family, except for my grandmother understood me. Often I even got punished for refusing to do "girl's" tasks.

The problems continued at school. I was very keen on joining the boys in woodwork and although I was good with my hands, the teachers only allowed me to do needlework with the girls. When I kept on bringing back boy's homework I was regularly beaten. I still managed to become quite good in needlework and in Standard 5, I won two awards for an embroidered tray cloth and a girl's dress.

My real interest though was art and I started to draw sketches of teachers as a joke. But I didn't have the chance to develop this skill further in school.

I later moved to Cape Town, finding piece jobs replacing domestic servants, when they were on leave. Although I had very little spare time, I used every moment for drawing. In the early eighties one of my employers noticed my interest in art and helped me to enrol with the Community Arts Project (CAP). A few years later, I was offered work as a facilitator with CAP, teaching children art, drawing, painting, wood carving and working with clay. We used art to express ourselves, to convey messages and make political statements.



My linocuts are examples of the work I did.

"You teach a youth, you teach a nation" was meant to make people aware of the importance of equipping young people with skills as they are the future.

Another example is the linocut about Amy Biehl. I made this piece of art to honour her as a woman after she was brutally killed.

I was quite successful as an artist and I started to sell some of my work. I was even invited to exhibit overseas. At the same time though, I was experiencing more and more problems at home with my husband. He couldn't accept my independence, became jealous and started to beat me. But it took me quite some time to recognise that he was abusing me. But finally I found the strength to get out of this relationship and I got divorced.

Art helped me to work through my pain and anger. In my linocut "Stop Abuse" I am referring to the problems I experienced, I included the children in this work because the whole family suffered abuse through my husband.

I went through a hard time, especially when I lost my job. And I started to lack inspiration and energy for art. Only recently have I started to recover and now I am feeling strong enough to get back into art. My dream is to illustrate my own book and at the moment I am attending a course at the Community Video Education Trust to develop my script writing skills.

I don't understand why artists are often not taken seriously. How many times have I been told that "only stupid women are doing art!" They call us dirty because we are covered in paint while we work. But we can also look smart. I like to encourage other women to get involved in art because it is a great way to express ourselves. And you don't need expensive special training.

(continued from page 3)

of the 1960's had little to do with liberating women sexually. It became popular to stop thinking of, so called, "good" women as being asexual, and to recognising women as sexual beings, but at the same time manipulating women into believing that our "liberation" lay in sexually servicing men and making ourselves available for men to use.

This was a far cry from recognising women as sexually autonomous beings.

The dichotomy of woman as the Madonna or the whore still lay beneath the façade of "the sexual revolution." Instead of strengthening women and girls sense of autonomy we were encouraged to believe that we would find pleasure and liberation through being men's playthings/mates and sexual servants! Pornography carries this sexist message to its consumers.

The pornography industry has come a long way from being a small, hole-in-the-wall business, run by sleazy men in scruffy clothes, it is now part of Pop Culture! Hefner's dream has come true, pornography is now mainstream. Given the research that shows a strong correlation between use of pornography and sexual violence, this is very bad news for women and girls.

The pornography/sex industry has become a multibillion-dollar business, some of the richest men in the US, Britain and Europe are pornographers, the "porn barons" as they are called. Many are linked to crime, organised and otherwise.

The establishment of the sex industry in South Africa

The beginning of the legal pornography industry in South Africa began soon after the ANC was unbanned and Mandela was released. The pornography vultures were watching hungrily and swooped down on a vulnerable SA. In an article in International South Africa, dated Feb. 8 1991, Ralph Boffard, who held the S.A. publishing rights to Penthouse magazine states, "The day I heard FW de Klerk make his February 2 speech to parliament on my car radio I felt the time had come..."

Soon after this we saw newspaper headlines saying "SA's Huge Sex Industry - Should the R500m business be legalised?" "Sex industry plan's to seduce free South Africa", and then the headlines read "Proposed porn law fails children".

In Cape Town and the suburbs, my superficial research finds that we now have 17 up-market brothels, (one very luxurious one called The Ranch, on the Wine Route) 6 strip clubs and 11 sex shops, and a growing number of children being prostituted and trafficked. Is this the freedom we have been fighting for?

The buying and selling of women and girl's bodies (trafficking in women) and the South African tourist industry.

This brings me finally to the issue of trafficking in women and tourism and sex tourism in South Africa.

In certain parts of the world prostitution is a planned and institutionalised part of the national income. In South-East Asia and Europe mass, legalised prostitution exists. The sex industry is structured in such a way that it makes use of the media, airlines, hotel chains, international communication and the banks. In other words the sex industry would not exist, or develop without the encouragement and agreement of these institutions.

Janice Raymond, co-director of the international organisation, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) states, "This kind of trafficking in women for prostitution is linked with economic development policies in certain countries, which encourage it, and they also directly or indirectly encourage sex tourism in order to gain foreign currency.

The internationalisation of the labour markets, and free trade has also meant the internationalisation of women's bodies for sex.

Migration, from the poor countries to the rich countries in search of

work, has turned into migrant trafficking, and it has also become a bonanza for organised crime. Large numbers of women from developing countries and, with the end of the cold war, from Russia and Eastern Europe are illegally brought into western European countries for sex. These international crime syndicates are very sophisticated, far-flung networks, with access to high-tech communications equipment and the best legal advice money can buy.

Women become goods and services in an industry without national borders.

The sex industry treats women as moveable property, passing them from one country to another."

We know that some of the major operators in these sex trafficking crime syndicates have set themselves up here in South Africa. Newspaper reports have revealed that the police raided a brothel in Long Street and found young Thai girls in there, and Thai, and Burmese girls have been found in brothels in Johannesburg.

Pressure is coming from some sectors of the community, and some policy makers, to get prostitution legalised here in South Africa. This will create a situation where the sex traffickers can have free rein to do what they like. There is a huge population of poor, uneducated, vulnerable girls who can easily be drawn into this industry.

In Thailand, which is the sex tourism centre of the world at the moment, there are more brothels than schools! 70% of northern Thai girls over the age of 11 are recruited into the sex industry in Bangkok, where their lives are destroyed through prostitution.

At a recent conference of Asian women's organisations it was estimated that over 40 million women and children have been traded and sold into prostitution since the 1970's, never in the history of the world have so many women and children been prostituted.

Those in power in South Africa, are desperate to develop a really attractive tourist industry and gain foreign currency, are they going to feel no compunction about throwing women and girls bodies in as part of the package deal? They will be under a great deal of pressure from foreign tour operators to do this.

Silencing women's protest about the harm caused by the sex industry.

In 1993, Frene Ginwala, now the Speaker in Parliament, invited Diana E.H. Russell Ph.D an internationally recognised academic researcher and writer, and specialist in the area of violence against women, to prepare a proposal on pornography for the ANC. This proposal appears to have no influence as the ANC government chose to adopt a laissez-faire policy towards pornography and lift all restrictions on the pornography industry.

When the Films and Publication Act was being drawn up in parliament, women's organisations were not properly consulted. The ANC Women's Caucus encouraged women's organisations to send in statements at the last minute and they were flooded with faxes from these organisations, who were unanimously against pornography, fearful of the harm it would cause women and girls. The ANC Women's Caucus tried to get the period of consultation extended but were unsuccessful. The STOP Pornography group in Johannesburg, collected two hundred and fifty thousand signatures on a petition, asking the government not to allow pornography into the country, this was ignored. The STOP Pornography group briefed MP's from every party making available to them the latest data on the correlation between consumption of pornography and acts of sexual violence, and in a country which has the highest rape rate in the world, this information was ignored!

South Africa has the most progressive constitution in the world, in which human rights are protected. A safe, fair society can develop here if we are guided by our constitution. Sexual exploitation of women and children is a human rights issue and we women need to ensure that our rights are protected and that women and children's lives are valued and not degraded into commodities in the sex mar-