

## Soft Porn Continues to Haunt By Tim G. Echols

Despite Playboy founder, Hugh Hefner, being dead and gone, his legacy is destroying boys, men and their marriage every day. Soft porn, as it is called, is just a click away from every person holding a phone today too.

Playboy is viewed as harmless by many in modern culture. Not so, says Judith A. Reisman, Ph.D., former professor now at Liberty University. Her research, examining even the cartoons, articles and ads in magazines like Playboy, demonstrate why the original allegedly innocent “girlie” magazines has done more harm to children, women, men and their families than has “hardcore” illegal entertainment.

“Playboy was the first mainstream magazine to popularize illicit drug use and rape—even the rape of children and virgins—by college men,” said Reisman. “Today, sexual harassment, trickery, and sexual sadism are epidemic.”

Judith Reisman did a content analysis on every issue of Playboy in a 25-year period and looked at some recurring themes. Over this same 25 year period Playboy took the image of Santa Claus—what advertisers call a “child magnet,” and depicted Santa 329 times with 170 times in sexual activity: 91 of those instances Santa was associated with adultery or with orgy; nine times as a participant or observer in minor sex; four times having sex with animals.

Reisman, who was also retained by the Department of Justice, found that soft porn magazines over a 25-year period had 6004 images of children under 18. Playboy cartoons have depicted children being sexually assaulted by their foster parents, selling prophylactics on the street with their prostitute mother, and hundreds of other situations that the average person would probably consider deviant or risky behavior. Most scenes were in the home, bedroom or yard—normally places of safety for a child. Playboy routinely promoted a view of children and sex that is unhealthy and often times illegal.

In urging men to have recreational sex, Playboy stated “date virgins, or very young lovers, or people who were monogamous for the past decade, and you cut down your chances of being exposed to the virus (May 1987).

From its maiden edition, Christmas 1953, Playboy has focused on giving men step-by-step instructions for tricking girls out of their virginity, said Reisman. For 64 years, this magazine has touted an anti-family, anti-marriage, anti-virgin message through its text, cartoons, photos, articles, jokes, film and record interviews, and even wine and cheese recommendations.

By the magazine’s own admission, outrageous letters from young girls describing various sexual exploits were falsified along with other letters supposedly from Priests or law enforcement touting a risky lifestyle. Advice from the magazine is equally outrageous suggesting to the

reader that sadism is fun, child sexual abuse is normal, illicit drug use okay, and incest is on everyone's mind.

I have a counselor friend who says that her female clients regularly report that the Christian man they thought they were marrying had a secret porn addiction, and it impacts their marriage and intimacy ongoingly.

While we can't stop the production and distribution of pornography in the culture, we can protect our own children. Giving children smartphones too young, particularly before age 13, is linked to significantly higher risks of mental health issues, including increased depression, anxiety, poor body image, and suicidal thoughts, alongside physical risks like obesity and insufficient sleep, according to Nationwide Children's Hospital. Early access restricts crucial social-emotional development, causes lower empathy, and exposes children to cyberbullying and inappropriate content like pornography.

In my work of combating human trafficking across Georgia, expert after expert has pointed to the nexus between strip clubs, pornography, extended-stay motels and human trafficking. Degrading and objectifying women is something we all need to stand against.

Let's redouble our effort to protect those around us.

*Tim Echols is the father of seven children and married to Windy Davis Echols. He is the Executive Director of Pray Vote Stand Chapters for Family Research Council.*