

# **Censoring Sex A Historical Journey Through American Media**

Meredith G. F. Worthen

#### **Censoring Sex A Historical Journey Through American Media:**

**Censoring Sex** John E. Semonche, 2007-07-20 In this gracefully written accessible and entertaining volume John Semonche surveys censorship for reasons of sex from the nineteenth century up to the present He covers the various forms of American media books and periodicals pictorial art motion pictures music and dance and radio television and the Internet The tale is varied and interesting replete with a stock of colorful characters such as Anthony Comstock Mae West Theodore Dreiser Marcel Duchamp Opie and Anthony Judy Blume Jerry Falwell Alfred Kinsey Hugh Hefner and the Guerilla Girls Covering the history of censorship of sexual ideas and images is one way of telling the story of modern America and Semonche tells that tale with insight and flair Despite the varieties of censorship running from self censorship to government bans a common story is told Censorship whether undertaken to ward off government regulation to help preserve the social order or to protect the weak and vulnerable proceeds on the assumption that the censor knows best and that limiting the choices of media consumers is justified At various times all of the following groups were perceived as needing protection from sexually explicit materials children women the lower classes and foreigners As social and political conditions changed however the simple fact that someone was a woman or a day laborer did not support stereotyping that person as weak or impressionable What would remain as the only acceptable rationale for censorship of sexual materials was the protection of children and unconsenting adults For each mode of media Semonche explains via abundant examples how and why censorship took place in America Censoring Sex also traces the story of how the cultural territory contested by those advocating and opposing censorship has diminished over the course of the last two centuries Yet Semonche argues the censorship of sexual materials that continues in the United States poses a challenge to the free speech that is part of the foundation upon which the nation is built Indeed in an era in which sexual images are pervasive and the need for reliable information about sex and sexuality is growing he questions the remaining rationales for censorship and the justification for Censoring Sex John E. Semonche, 2007 In this volume placing obscenity outside the protection of the U S Constitution John E Semonche surveys censorship for reasons of sex from the nineteenth century up to the present He covers the various forms of American media books and periodicals pictorial art motion pictures music and dance radio television and the Internet Despite the varieties of censorship running from self censorship to government bans a common story is told Censorship whether undertaken to ward off government regulation to help preserve the social order or to protect the weak and vulnerable proceeds on the assumption that the censor knows best and that limiting the choices of media consumers is justified Covering the history of censorship of sexual ideas and images is one way of telling the story of modern America

**Sex and the University** Daniel Reimold,2010 Who would think that Monday morning s page turning sports scores could be trumped by Sex on Tuesday But during the last decade or so college newspaper sex columns and campus sex magazines have revolutionized student journalism and helped define a new sexual generation They are the ultimate authorities on

student social interaction relationships and sex at a time when sexual activity sexual dangers and sexual ignorance are prevalent and sex has become the wallpaper of students lives Daniel Reimold gives readers of all generations an inside look at this phenomenon Student sex columnists and sex magazine editors are both celebrities on their home campuses One columnist echoing the sentiments of many said he became an overnight rock star golden child of journalism But with celebrity comes controversy These columns and magazines have sparked contentious and far reaching legal religious and intergenerational debates about sex the student press and the place of both within higher education They are also the most prominent modern student press combatants in the fight for free speech And they have blurred journalistic boundaries between what is considered public and private art and pornography and gossip and news Sex and the University explores the celebrity status that student sex columnists and magazine editors have received the controversies they have caused and the sexual generation and student journalism revolution they represent Complete with a sexicon of slang this book also dives into the columns and magazines themselves sharing for the first time what modern students are saying about their sex and love lives in their own words Screening Gender on Children's Television Dafna Lemish, 2010-04-05 This book offers readers insights into the transformations taking place in the presentation of gender portrayals in television productions aimed at The Mind of the Censor and the Eye of the Beholder Robert Corn-Revere, 2021-11-04 Beginning vounger audiences in the nineteenth century with Anthony Comstock America's censor in chief The Mind of the Censor and the Eye of the Beholder explores how censors operate and why they wore out their welcome in society at large This book explains how the same tactics were tried and eventually failed in the twentieth century with efforts to censor music comic books television and other forms of popular entertainment The historic examples illustrate not just the mindset and tactics of censors but why they are the ultimate counterculture warriors and why in free societies censors never occupy the moral high ground This book is for anyone who wants to know more about why freedom of speech is important and how protections for free expression became part of the American identity The Regulation of Sex-Themed Visual Imagery Lyombe Eko, 2016-04-29 Lyombe Eko carries out an historical and cultural survey of the regulation of visual depictions of explicit human sexual conduct from their earliest appearance on the clay tablets of the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in ancient Mesopotamia to the tablet computers of Silicon Valley The Regulation of Sex Themed Visual Imagery analyzes the contemporary problem of the applicability of the human right of freedom of expression to explicit imagery in the face of societal interests in the regulation of representations of human sexuality This book will be of interest to scholars students and broad audiences interested in comparative studies in pornography regulation the history of pornography the law of pornography and obscenity and visual culture and history alike Sexual Deviance and Society Meredith G. F. Worthen, 2021-09-30 In a society where sexualized media has become background noise we are frequently discouraged from frank and open discussions about sex and offered few tools for understanding sexual behaviors and sexualities that are

perceived as being out of the norm This book encourages readers to establish new ways of thinking about stigmatized people and behaviors and to think critically about gender sex sexuality and sex crimes Sexual Deviance and Society uses sociological theories of crime deviance gender and sexuality to construct a framework for understanding sexual deviance This book is divided into four units Unit I Sociology of Deviance and Sexuality lays the foundation for understanding sex and sexuality through sociological frameworks of deviance Unit II Sexual Deviance provides an in depth dialogue to its readers about the sociological constructions of sexual deviance with a critical focus on contemporary and historical conceptualizations Unit III Deviant Sexual Acts explores a variety of deviant sexual acts in detail including sex in public fetishes and sex work Unit IV Sex Crimes and Criminals examines rape and sexual assault sex crimes against children and societal responses to sex offenders and their treatment within the criminal justice system This revised second edition includes new theoretical approaches such as Norm Centered Stigma Theory expands into new fields of criminology such as queer criminology more deeply discusses nonbinary people s experiences includes updates to the landscape of LGBTQ rights reviews new forms of sexual deviance including incels and revenge porn covers the latest developments in the MeToo movement and expands on the discussion of SM including the Fifty Shades Phenomenon In addition this edition reviews the ever evolving world of sex work and camming by examining how Pornhub OnlyFans and exotic dancers strip clubs have revolutionized sex work during the COVID 19 pandemic Utilizing an integrative approach that creates a dialogue between the subjects of gender sexuality criminology and deviance this book is a key resource for students interested in developing a critical understanding of sex sexuality and sex crime Monitoring the Movies Jennifer Fronc, 2017-11-15 As movies took the country by storm in the early twentieth century Americans argued fiercely about whether municipal or state authorities should step in to control what people could watch when they went to movie theaters which seemed to be springing up on every corner Many who opposed the governmental regulation of film conceded that some entity boards populated by trusted civic leaders for example needed to safeguard the public good The National Board of Review of Motion Pictures NB a civic group founded in New York City in 1909 emerged as a national cultural chaperon well suited to protect this emerging form of expression from state incursions Using the National Board's extensive files Monitoring the Movies offers the first full length study of the NB and its campaign against motion picture censorship Jennifer Fronc traces the NB s Progressive era founding in New York its evolving set of standards for directors producers municipal officers and citizens its city plan which called on citizens to report screenings of condemned movies to local officials and the spread of the NB s influence into the urban South Ultimately Monitoring the Movies shows how Americans grappled with the issues that arose alongside the powerful new medium of film the extent of the right to produce and consume images and the proper scope of government control over what citizens can see and show Investigating Young People's Sexual Cultures Feona Attwood, Clarissa Smith, 2023-04-14 This book examines ways of developing research on young people's sexual cultures in the context of a media saturated and technology

focused contemporary culture an area of study that remains relatively unexplored despite heightened concern about young people sex and culture Unlike the widespread sensationalist reporting about the pornification of young people s lives and the policy documents which have emerged on sexualization the book foregrounds the need for a critical approach which recognizes the complexity of culture and is able to unpack what is at stake in the construction of particular views and practices It emphasizes how concerns about harm and risk however well intentioned can work against young people s interests and argues that education will only be effective if it engages with young people and is based on a commitment to young people's rights and to the broader notion of sexual rights Drawing together key researchers in the area the book examines health policy sex and relationships education sex abuse therapy television production sport internet use and the production and consumption of commercial goods and media This book will be of interest to the many academics and groups who are concerned with young people's sexual cultures and their place within society. This book was originally published as a special issue of Sex Education Companion to Sexuality Studies Nancy A. Naples, 2020-04-29 An inclusive and accessible resource on the interdisciplinary study of gender and sexuality Companion to Sexuality Studies explores the significant theories concepts themes events and debates of the interdisciplinary study of sexuality in a broad range of cultural social and political contexts Bringing together essays by an international team of experts from diverse academic backgrounds this comprehensive volume provides original insights and fresh perspectives on the history and institutional regulatory processes that socially construct sex and sexuality and examines the movements for social justice that advance sexual citizenship and reproductive rights Detailed yet accessible chapters explore the intersection of sexuality studies and fields such as science health psychology economics environmental studies and social movements over different periods of time and in different social and national contexts Divided into five parts the Companion first discusses the theoretical and methodological diversity of sexuality studies Subsequent chapters address the fields of health science and psychology religion education and the economy They also include attention to sexuality as constructed in popular culture as well as global activism sexual citizenship policy and law An essential overview and an important addition to scholarship in the field this book Draws on international postcolonial intersectional and interdisciplinary insights from scholars working on sexuality studies around the world Provides a comprehensive overview of the field of sexuality studies Offers a diverse range of topics themes and perspectives from leading authorities Focuses on the study of sexuality from the late nineteenth century to the present Includes an overview of the history and academic institutionalization of sexuality studies The Companion to Sexuality Studies is an indispensable resource for scholars researchers instructors and students in gender sexuality and feminist studies interdisciplinary programs in cultural studies international studies and human rights as well as disciplines such as anthropology psychology history education human geography political science and sociology

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