

# Hotel Porn Peddlers: Ignoring Obscenity Laws

*Buyer Beware: How hotels are pushing smut  
and porn to make a quick buck*



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Corp. makes it all possible.

But hotel pornography isn't just available to wayward husbands on business trips. Children can access it as well. All they have to do is turn on the TV, click on the adult section, push "order," and voila! ... Let the "comprehensive" sex education begin.

## **Hardcore pornography violates obscenity laws**

What's hard to believe is that many of the XXX movies LodgeNet provides may very well violate both state and federal obscenity laws. It's important to note that the Supreme Court has held that obscenity is not protected First Amendment "speech." Obscenity is illegal.

The 1973 landmark decision in *Miller v. California* provides law enforcement with basic guidelines to determine what constitutes obscenity. They are:

- (a) whether "the average person, applying contemporary community standards" would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest,

**T**hank you for staying at the Marriott. Here are your room keys. The kids will love the pool down the hall. Oh, and for just \$14.95, you and your entire family can treat yourself, in the comfort of your own room, to our wide selection of hardcore pornography. It's only a remote click away."

No, you probably won't hear the Marriott desk clerk say that as you check in, but she might as well. Marriott International, Inc. — along with hundreds of other hotel chains at thousands of locations — conveniently provides guests with extremely graphic and obscene pornography for viewing on their in-room televisions, and South Dakota-based LodgeNet Entertainment

- (b) whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law, and
- (c) whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Applying these standards, much of what LodgeNet provides is arguably illegal.

### **CWA and allies take on Big Porn**

Unfortunately, it's easier to get a room at a hotel during the annual biker rally in Sturgis than it is to get prosecutors to enforce state and federal obscenity laws in South Dakota or elsewhere.

But that hasn't kept Concerned Women for America (CWA), our friends at Citizens for Community Values (CCV) and the South Dakota Family Policy Council (SDFPC) from trying.

To their credit, CCV has recently turned up the heat on LodgeNet by putting together a website called TruthAboutLodgeNet.com. The website exposes the fact that LodgeNet's primary revenue source comes from peddling flesh. LodgeNet has been placed on notice that it is very likely in violation of state and federal obscenity laws, and CWA, CCV and SDFPC have called on prosecutors in South Dakota to enforce the law and prosecute LodgeNet to the full extent of the law.

While calling for action, Linda Schauer, State Director for CWA of South

Dakota, said, "Representing a women's organization, we strive to educate the public about the destructive, offensive, and degrading nature of pornography. It reduces women to mere sex objects. Pornography destroys individuals, families, and communities. The welfare of families and children should hold a higher priority to business than making a quick buck by peddling smut.

"Pornography creates a trap that's very difficult to escape. It entices viewers to view more and more smut and to delve even deeper into more graphic and obscene material. Studies show that it is highly addictive and breeds sex offenders who prey on women and children. It's addictive nature only serves to nourish the highly exploitive and insatiable sex industry," concluded Mrs. Schauer.

### **Your options: clean hotels**

But travelers don't have to stay in hotels that push pornography. A wonderful resource for traveling families is now available. It's called CleanHotels.com.

The mission of CleanHotels.com is to provide "a network of lodging facilities that — based on some of the best research available — do not offer in-room, 'adult' (pornographic) pay-per-view movies.

"Our primary purpose," says the site, "is to provide a service through which

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# CWA *at* WORK

A special report to friends and supporters of Concerned Women for America

★★★★★ Important News from Across the Country ★★★★★

## A Time for Recognition

Carole Denner became CWA's first-ever Project 535 Activist of the Year, an award given for her unwavering dedication since 1989 to bring Biblical principles to public policy. She received this award at a luncheon held during the August 15 Project 535 Training.

Project 535 consists of dedicated volunteers from around the country who come to Washington, DC each month to lobby for pro-family legislation. During the training

our ladies heard from a panel of Capitol Hill experts and learned the most effective ways to approach Senators, Congressmen, and staffers. Derek Baker of the Republican Study Committee provided an update on upcoming legislation, and CWA's Wendy Wright and Dr. Janice Crouse both shared pearls of wisdom from their lengthy experience in the pro-family movement. California State Director Phyllis Nemeth and Project 535 Partner Janet Viands shared their personal experiences about participating in Project 535. ■

## Hotel Porn Peddlers

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friends like you can book a room for your vacation, business trip or meeting with the expectation, first, that you and your family or associates will not be exposed to pornographic movies and, secondly, that you will be supporting a facility that cares enough about the well being of its customers not to make harmful pornographic movies available."

Yes, prosecutors need to crack down and enforce obscenity laws. But until they do, perhaps we can all do our own little part by staying at clean hotels. ■

*By J. Matt Barber, Policy Director for Cultural Issues*

## PRAY

Pray that God would move the hearts of hotel executives to eradicate the scourge of pornography from their hotel rooms. Also pray that those trapped by pornography might find freedom through Jesus Christ.

## PRAISE

Praise God that he is using CWA and other pro-family groups to shine the light of truth on the destructive and pervasive nature of pornography.

## ACTION

Please consider using CleanHotels.com while making your future travel plans. And let hotels that offer pornography know why you refuse to stay with them.