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Pornography Seems to Be Inescapable

PEOPLE who consider pornography to be evil claim that unavoidable invasion of their senses through communications media constitutes abuse of their freedom of speech and sight.

Those who choose to indulge in voyeurism maintain that any restrictions whatsoever on publication, broadcasting, movies or other display of pornography constitute censorship.

Which is right?

Our mail continues to bring complaints from readers that they cannot escape pornography and that their children are exposed to lewd songs, dirty movies, obscenities and lascivious magazines.

Proponents (and presumably buyers of such materials) argue that "no one is forcing anyone" to look, listen or buy.

The Supreme Court of the United States has waffled in determining where freedom ends and intrusion begins. The court's decisions seem to have left it to state and community laws to define what is obscene but other rulings have made enforce-

ment of laws impossible.

The permeation of every community with television, radio, magazine, books and advertising pushes pornography into the lives of every citizen, whether it might be enjoyed or abhorred.

There is no way to escape pornography other than complete isolation. Those who profit by peddling it seem to want it accepted as a regular part of American life.

Pornographers and their customers argue that "You can't legislate morals." This disregards the fact that morality is essentially a matter of laws and rules in any society. Without legislation there would be no morality and no civilization; only barbarianism.

To begin with, there are the laws of God, as stated in the Holy Bible, widely esteemed as the supreme rules of morality. Every nation, every state, every community, every tribe, and every clan in the world has some laws pertaining to morality.

Lodges, civic organizations, country clubs and other associations have standards of conduct which

members are expected to observe. High or low, they are legislated morality.

If morality were not fixed by custom, authority or belief, it would become merely personal preference and expediency determined by the individual or group, according to circumstances.

Such makeshift morality leads to dissipation by individuals, chaos in smaller social groups and ultimate dissolution in the larger society. Decadent systems of morality have led to the downfall of nations throughout history.

As is the case with most vices, the principal promoters of pornography are those who make money from it. Those who buy may be equally culpable, because they make the profits possible.

Pornography is outward evidence of lack of moral principles. It does not motivate anyone toward higher ideals.

It may be unconstitutional to deny prurient adults their pornographic materials but it is wrong to force them upon others.