

~~CENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM  
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

HON. DIRECTOR — David Webb, 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London SW3 4TD — Tel: 01-730 9537

COMMITTEE — David Kennington Litt.D., Gerald Fowler, M.A.Hon., F.A.B.E.,  
E.A.C. Goodman, LL.B.(Sol), Clifford Hanley, Pamela Manson, Eric E. Miller,  
Dr. Christine Pickard, M.B., Ch.B., Alexander Barrie AADipl, MAIE, Isabel Koprowski BA

The N.C.R.O.P.A. is affiliated to the National Council for Civil Liberties

NO/DAW/DP

22nd March 1989

The Editor,  
"Evening Standard",  
PO Box 2309,  
Northcliffe House,  
3, Derry Street,  
Kensington,  
London, W8 5ST.

Dear Sir,

Milton Shulman ("A Crusader with Double Vision" 16th March) and Mary Whitehouse (Letters 21st March) are both making the fundamental error of arguing their respective cases on the fallacious premises that (1) television viewers are incapable of differentiating between reality and fantasy, (2) anything seen on a TV screen is automatically and uncontrollably imitated or desired by the viewer, and (3) the causal link between real-life violence in society and that depicted on TV has been "conclusively proved". None of these is true, no matter how often or how loudly Mrs. W. and Mr. S may so declare.

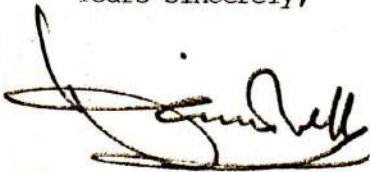
They both refer to violence on television being portrayed as "normal". Invented drama on television, whether classic serial or soap-opera, is neither 'normal' nor 'abnormal'. That categorisation is an irrelevance to the creative artist. True, it may reflect the reality of life in either today's, yesterday's, or sometimes even tomorrow's society, but to talk of its effect on a television audience without any acknowledgement of the viewer's (including the child viewer's) ability to make a reasoned assessment of it in their own right, is both stupid and insulting.

...../continued

continuation/.....

Finally, as "life enhancing" an experience sex undoubtedly is, the constant appetite for and pursuit of sexual fulfilment is also a very natural and instinctive biological phenomenon. 'Real' sex with 'real' love may be infinitely preferable, but is, unfortunately, denied to a great many, especially, incidentally, many handicapped people. Often their only sexual satisfaction is obtained through the stimulatory use of sexual material (which Mrs. Whitehouse would no doubt call "pornography"). It is a particularly smug, selfish, and even dangerous, kind of moralising which precludes these 'have-nots' even the harmless joys of the vicarious sexual pleasure derived from books, films or even television programmes designed for this very useful purpose.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Webb', with a stylized, flowing script.

David Webb,

Honorary Director,

National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts