

MISS UTH ASHTON

NORFOLK

20th JANUARY 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a 23 year old female and I am writing this letter to you to express my same concerns as you have about pornographic top shelf magazines in Newsagents and other newspaper outlets. I understand it is a very big subject and an extremely difficult subject to handle due to the many different ideas and view people have. I feel very sad to think that the people who decide to buy this sort of despicable material need it to satisfy them and obtain sexual gratification from it.

My present boyfriend has brought these sort of magazines for years from influence from a so called friend he uses to have. He was made to buy this sort of material for the friend as he said he was too embarrassed to buy it himself. Then he has been buying it. When I found out I was totally furious with him and we had a big argument about it and I told him that I would either burn the material or tear up all of the magazines. He has now fortunately come to his senses, because I said if we are getting married next year I am not having this sort of material hanging around and if we have children I certainly do not want that sort of material assessable. He has stopped buying the magazines, as these sorts of things apply to the lowest common denominator and that is not you.

I want to find out what ways you as an organisation have taken to remove this dreadful material from the shelves and will it ever be removed?

There are so many more pleasant issues in life other than all this sort of filthy obscene material. It is totally unnecessary and I find being a woman it is insulting and very offensive. I am a woman and not a "chick, piece of fluff" or any of these other derogatory terms men use to describe woman. I am proud to be a woman and it is totally offensive for a man to address a woman with these terms.

My boyfriend is not like that. I have been very lucky to find such a kind and respectful person. He did have some bad ways with calling me sexy, but I soon stopped that, but he was taking off the other men at work which some of them act in that way. I told him that is not on and he totally stopped.

The issue about all this is young children spotting these types of magazines and looking through it. The illustrations would be very offensive for them and this is what our younger generation of totally may think this is what sex is. It is not, as it is a trustful loving activity between two people who love each other and want to be close and intimate.

I feel that our society nowadays is being made sex mad and this is what our children and young to mid-age teenagers understand and I think why there are so many unplanned/unwanted pregnancies. There is more to life than sex.

It is very important that young people are made fully aware of what the subject initials but much of it is made over the top and totally commercialised so companies who are print this filthy muck material are earning packets.

I just wish that people would come to their senses and think what are these magazines trying to convey to people? It is also about time that these companies sat back and thought what sort of influence this material is having on people who buy them, as they could have long term bad effects on the way many people view themselves as an individual and what they feel about society.

I would be grateful if you could send me a letter on the views your organisation feels about what is going and what you are planning to do in the further.

Yours Faithfully



Ruth Ashton (Miss)