

Chair – Senator Lyn Allison
 Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
 Inquiry into the Sexualisation of Children in the Contemporary Media
 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
 Tel: 02 6277 3526 Fax: 02 6277 5818

Friday 18th April 2008

Dear Senator Allison,

Re: Nick Bellas (pseudonym Tony Paynter) Submission: No: 160

The Inquiry report date towards end of June means that the report will be in just before you bow out of politics along with the other Democrats leaving it to the Greens to keep the bastards honest. However, as you know, I've sent you heaps of submission material over many years in relation to 145-plus submissions to 43-Inquiries since 1986 and not so long ago sent you material on the sexualisation of children in the media in support of the Noni Hazelhurst view and which ties in with all the evidence of my submissions beginning with the Azaria Chamberlain case.

Obviously the media right throughout the western world with its epi-centre in Hollywood – (epi being short for epidemic) - is to blame for the exploitation of children not only in terms of sexuality but also in all the ways they possibly could be exploited from portrayal of gratuitous violence in video games & movies and the antisocial behaviour and callous winner takes all ethos epitomised in reality tv and the glamourisation of thuggery & underworld crime figures from Chopper Read to ex-pooliceman Roger the dodger "Blue Murder" Rogerson providing his review of Underbelly and the celebrification of glamour puss & model male crime detectives using latest high tech investigative techniques to solve crimes every serial which does not match with the reality of today's police forces and the sordid monotony & crim mentality of gangsta and rap music all of which has led to downward pressure on childhood, forcing kids into sexual maturity early and teens and even pre-teens committing adult crimes or engaging en masse or in small groups or as individuals, in anti-social behaviour in reckless disregard of what used to be social norms.

And related to all of this again is the chequebook journalism industry which was kick started in Australia in the mid 1980's by the Packer & Murdoch dominated Australian media which linked cash payment to scandal, notoriety, antisocial behaviour, misadventure, the occasional act of God or tragedy and the first which started it and not least, those suspected of or connected to child murder, regarded as the worst crime of all. Western media has a lot to answer for, particularly in Oz where the Packer & Murdoch media concentration dominates Australian media - overshadowing, Stokes & Fairfax which may further concentrate in a new combo should Packer offload his media assets, failing to flick pass CMH to Lachlan.

All of these corruptions are media created and one can't be treated separately from the other, because they all rub shoulders with one another and all impinge. All of it undermines society and weakens the social fabric, all of it being tied to corporate greed, market worship and the rise of politico-religio fundamentalism which has a dark sick underbelly to its flip side front of ethical purity, next to Godliness, and holier than thou could ever be righteousness and in corporate terms – world's best practice eco-ignomic rationalism. In the area of sexualisation of children, it is corporate paedophilia's theft of childhood. In the case of Bindi Irwin, there is none of the former but there is concern over the latter particularly as it i.e. her rise and rise and rise to super stardom way beyond any young girl's dreams, but not so for the corporate mastermind(s) behind it all - got the magic carpet ride on the death of her father which was the spooky thing about it. For a lot of people it didn't gel, something wasn't right.

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Although everything appeared normal and wholesome, there was something about it all that made people shudder. Don't go there? One couldn't go there even if one wanted. The cash in on Steve Irwin's death took off like greased lightning. Whatever happened was inked out and airbrushed over and ranks all round closed at every level. And there had been baby Bob and Macho Steve and the crocodile. Child abuse said some. But there was no dingo in the dark, but apparently just a "sting in the tale" from a bull ray which left Terry crying on the shoulder of the other Ray named Martin. Okay, child exploitation here but no sexualisation of childhood. Apart from the death of the little girl's dad, it was all clean as a whistle in that department. Being the kind of dad she had and mum and family and business of environment & wildlife it could not be done. It couldn't even be entertained as a thought. But, it's still a target-market which is being zoomed in on with a lot of "gotta-haves" for kids which is Bindi this and Bindi that which is okay if a kid's parents are rich. And it has a wash through it all, of education about wildlife & environment. So it's exploitation but not so bad, exploitation being defined as opportunists creating opportunity when under normal conditions it should not exist because it steps over the line that separates self interest from greed or in short, being extremely profitable without having a social conscience.

The biggest picture that could stick in people's minds that not only reeked of the sexualisation of childhood but also linked to gruesome child murder mystery would be Jon Benet Ramsey and the huge industry in America of child beauty pageants and the dotting image of obsessed parents who groom & preen their little girls to "play grown-ups" who are professional contestants in early primary school. This is simply grotesque capitalism gone mad. It creates a big market in which tiny tots are indulged in adult-world products and taught to affect adult behaviour and mannerisms way before their time and to develop their psyche and emotional side, way ahead of their years and physical development. From this comes a huge flow-on effect to the rest of society that indirectly affects children everywhere who are not directly in the clutches of big biz corporate paedophilia that feeds this grotesque beast and is fed by it with the advertising industry at the beating heart of it in the engineering room cranking it all up.

Now that's America not Australia, but we're so tied to the US of A in a very big way through Murdoch's News Corp and the Packer media interests there and forays into casinos and the proliferation of Aussie celebrity stars in Hollywood and of course our Bindi is very big over there tied in with the very wholesome Wiggles and of course the tie in with the Lindy Chamberlain link to Patsy Ramsey in the Jon Benet case and recently in Europe with Kate McCann in the Madeleine McCann case, so that whilst these things happen over there, we are also very much aware of them here. 55 days after Patsy Ramsey's death from ovarian cancer, John Karr put his hand up and said he did it and that he was in love with the little girl and not ashamed to say so and later was found to be a wannabe who couldn't have done it and immediately the media declared Patsy Ramsey innocent before Karr was even properly checked out. Meanwhile photos of the sexualised child Jon Benet got another big run by the corporate paedophilic media at every opportunity and Lindy Chamberlain got a freebie plug as being exonerated when she'd only been pardoned and there was still an open finding. Lindy's John Karr happened to be Frank Cole who claimed he shot the dingo and his mates hid the child's corpse in a vacant block in Melbourne but a building had been built over it. What Karr and the investigation from that perspective uncovered was that there was a section of society who were closet "John Karrs", even married men who got off on it.

The sexualisation of children therefore is not only that it is harmful to children by corrupting their childhood it is also that there are a lot of sick puppy adults out there who are fixated on sexualised children which is a beast in society that is being fed by corporate paedophilia which performs the function of grooming children for sexual adulthood in childhood and encourages paedophilia amongst adults who go in for that kind of delicacy. For most kids it's only playing dress ups and acting out the fantasy which serves to help feed the corporate beast by swelling the market through parents getting their kiddies to use make-up from lipstick to eyeliner and nail polish and having adult hairstyles and wearing adult jewellery and dressing up like adults. There is much less opportunity with regards boys but there are counterpart kiddie models groomed from kiddie-hood for catwalk, theatre & ballet. And advertisers love it because it makes more business for them giving them more opportunity for more advertising to another target market. Don't stand in the way of progress because you'll get run over by their puffing Billy steam train.

This is okay in an innocent sense where there is no advertising of it, like when in the past it used to naturally occur at times when parents dressed up their little girls on very special occasions at large gatherings for very important social events where there was a lot of natural protection, like at weddings for example and other such times when everyone dressed up to the nines, and under supervision kids were made to feel special, to get a foretaste of what it will be like to be an adult. But there was no sexualisation with it. That's sort of nice in a way, and as young kids would say: "Cool!" Without advertising prompting anybody, that used to be always acceptable and okay. But where there's push push, and more push push that's different. And also the element of going overboard on top, that's taking advantage where advantage shouldn't be taken. That's trying to rig it to fix it as a permanent instead of one-offs here and there that naturally occur. It's corporate greed doing a pole vault on self interest, nothing more. It's the proverbial: given an inch and taking a mile. It's leaning on parents from both ends using the "Keeping up with the Jones's" on them and exciting the need for it in children where kids put the pressure on their mums and dads which would not have been the case if their desire for it hadn't have been awoken and if there had not have been the okay blessing on it rubber stamped by the advertising industry backed by the general media across the board, with both hands giving the big thumbs up: "go for it kid!" And they throw in un-called for unnecessary extras, selling bras to little girls who don't have the physical attributes to be wearing them. Sure, girls who'd passed puberty but hadn't developed and were flat chested would wear bras that had fillers in them, or even older teenage girls who felt they weren't well endowed put in false pads. But pre-puberty little kids, that's obscene. It's a form of psychological child abuse by an invasion of their mental space filling it with a preoccupation that is something that they're not ready for without artificial "insemination". Basically, society needs to get real. Advertising, which is in effect the defacto partner of the media needs to know that criticism does not equate with the critic being a prude but rather that rude is on the end of intrude and their rude self interest is the intrude-err! End of argument!

A case in point is the delightful Nikki Webster, that wholesome teenager whose future career as a singer looked absolutely assured when she was lowered on that giddy entrance down from a great height at the opening of the Sydney 2000 Olympics. That 14-year old with the "little girl" look and a beautiful voice, won the hearts of all in front of the eyes of the world, at what was regarded as the world's best ever Olympics and to which her part contributed. She was Australia's older version of Shirley Temple. That girl went nowhere. From the great height that she descended into the audience at the opening, her descent into obscure oblivion was just as breathtaking and swift. She came back as a vamped up sexualised twenty year old in a desperate bid to compensate for what is virtually a taboo these days i.e. thoroughly natural, undeniably unadulterated, totally innocent pure childhood, in the highly sexualised raunchy young person's world of today, to give her career that had instantly stalled some traction, when everyone had said that girl's going to go places, she was going to become a very big star. She was carrying one of the biggest handicaps a teen girl could ever not hope to be saddled with. There was no doubt the girl could sing. If she had not sung at the Olympics in front of the whole world and instead started up as a sexualised kid doing raunchy numbers she'd be a massive sensation, in terms of big, equal to Bindi. Now, I believe she's opening a dance school with her brother. While she's at it, the entertainment media and advertising industry should open a dunce school for themselves and sit in the naughty corner for more than two minutes.

What's happened is that we've gone from one extreme to the other. In the post war 50s & 60s we had the white picket fence "Victorian era" puritan style repression where the dirty-linen was kept out of sight and little kids were to be seen and not heard and got the strap, where bloody and damn were swear words and the f & c words earned one way tickets to hell via a mouth full of a bar of soap and deviance, real and perceived was closeted, and a facade front was kept up the whole time behind which often was concealed domestic violence and child abuse on tap with children born out of wedlock earning the unsavoury tag of bastard and unwed mothers labelled sluts and those unbaptised earmarked to be despatched in the next world to the land called limbo which only recently the pope said doesn't exist any more, lucky for some. These were the days when we had street corner and door knock proselytising as common practice specialising in using hellfire and damnation to preach salvation as in the book of Revelations harping on about heaven and all the little angels having their private parts hand painted over replaced with halo & wings & all the bad people going to hell as a present. Now little angels get a makeover in photoshop, no more hand painting anymore. That's too slow and passé, unless of course one wants to get on the net and look at non-religious classical art.

Everything's all there out in the open and although it's in a very stark naked way, there's no veneer of sexualisation of children in it. It's just real life as real life happened to be in those days without any adulteration of it in the warped sexualised way of paedophilic pornography although in their own fertile "grey matter", paedophiles then and now would have a field day mentally drooling over them. Religion thus had an unwritten "shield law" as a protection against depravity in which amorality and asexuality were the desired focus and modesty in dress for adults was noble obligation leaving much to the demure imagination.

Then medical advance against unwanted births via contraception which freed women from the baby production factory assembly line and led to the freelove hippie era championed by John Lennon & Yoko Ono (although recently Paul McCartney discovered money can't buy you love and that all you need is love ain't a truism having fallen for his own propaganda) culminated in the new age of high divorce rate and the rise of dinki-di dinks leading the shrinking of family size to zilch and the breakdown of the traditional family into new forms on the back of the vatican's shame for its "monster-erie-o delicio" celibate priests and their soprano choir boys whom they ensured would reach those high notes and the Anglican & Protestant clergy who became the default laymen in the church that has led God's representatives here on earth across all denominations into disrepute and the dwindling number of bums on church pews in mainstream churches as a result, except in the evangelical fundamentalist "with it" hard hitting hard right religio politico big biz which in the old days were Billy Graham crusades which then morphed into the Bakkers now deceased up to the Benny Hinn's of today whose "walking on water" tricks are made easy when it's on a snake-oil slick on an ocean of money and a well paid team of bovver-becfoake to protect the golden calf, leaving the mainstream churches in their wake.

In this golden era based on the sexualisation of children in the contemporary media, politico-religio-economic fundamentalism has been made virtuously respectable at a time the family as a unit, traditional or otherwise is under great stress and sense of community is becoming mysteriously absent and educational skills of the nation's youth are at an all-time low in literacy and the three's Rs and higher education has become a financial nightmare debt-trap and there's downward pressure on society as a whole with the dumbing-down of news and the layers of opinion interwoven into the news presented as fact, spinning us another one and also the media circus of chequebook journalism and its trial by media overshadowing the justice system and nameless teens on trial for the most horrific kind of adult crimes. One would have to be pretty thick not to sense that there is something desperately wrong with our world today, and that wrong, one wouldn't be wrong to point out - is the factor of fundamentalism which is fundamentally at the epidemic-centre of the problem, it being a sick idea of fun-in-da mental-department, correctness which is anything but that and high-horse one-upmanship that will endlessly split hairs and have you forever going round in circles driving one mad to give up and give in, because one can't win - they're unbeatable no matter what. Its win at all costs, no matter what the cost is. It's whatever it takes, because they're on the take and it's set up for them to take and take and keep on taking, to strip to the bone.

They've got everyone where they want them under their rule of thumb with everyone wearing the blinkers of blind-faith, sitting in the hallowed halls of deafening quiet perfect match for the silence of the lambs. Wolves in sheep's clothing licking their chops just love it. Per head of population, fundamentalist Christian groups are the richest in Australia when their main preach is one turning their back on the pursuit of making money and finding true satisfaction in non money grubbing pursuits and seeking happiness in an "abundance-of-less" in a con that says: "Money doesn't make you happy, so give it all to us and let us do the suffering for you!" "What do you want it for anyway?!" This goes hand in hand with call centres that protect the product or service provider from face to face contact with the customer and endless fees and penalties charged by banks and financial services. It's the embedding of the legalised rip-off into everyday transactions and the encouragement by overt and covert including subliminal advertising & promotional tactics that compromise and goad us into living beyond our means and living for the here and now and paying for it later, just to enjoy the moment never mind the down the track consequences and the suck in to investment in port-folly-ohs with concealed detours off the beaten track leading to loss of roof over head and shirt off back, the rationale being: "Who gives a stuff? If you were that stupid to have fallen for it then you deserved to have been ripped off!" (You were sucked in that you were going to make a killing not be financially killed!) And, you're not the only one who's being fleeced or about to but doesn't quite realise it yet. Life really is only for those at the very top who've got the game sewn up, not for the fools who don't realise especially in adverts & promotions: "All that sparkles isn't gold, often only fool's gold!"

So we began with the Greed-1980s and the corporate crashes of October 1987 when those in hock to the eyeballs came crashing down which also coincided with the chequebook journalism deals kick started by the Azaria saga and its attendant whodunit which has led all the way to Wayne Carey's 180,000 chequebook dollars for his tale of sport's idol gone wrong dummy-spit (and in the background we have the dark cloud of the islamo-fundamentalist terror plot having its eye on the MCG AFL grand final). Then from the greed 1980s for a little while there was a semblance of coming to our senses when we upped a gear or two to an even greedier 1990s and noughties and not only Oz-astray-lia but the entire western world's economy is skating on very thin ice when up ahead the boom will go kaboom and we're going to be hit with a tsunami worse than the 1930s depression as a comeuppance for accumulated sins of greed beyond social conscience, reason why that silly billy in Kirribilli named little Johnny deliberately shot himself in both feet with the Lindsay fake flyer stunt a few days before the election when it was a deadheat and going to be a bobbing head finish, the Libs outing themselves without any help from anyone else, being an election anyone in their right mind wouldn't want to win, when it became evident the tsunami that had looked to be years ahead was suspiciously not far off on the horror-rizon up ahead which is why he and Ruddock et al not only threw in the towel just before the main bout but also jumped ship with their other confederates slinking to the back benches ready to do same at right time.

So we got into the mess assisted by the "second industrial revolution" of the computer & internet age that also gave the world a bird's eye view front row seat to the Gulf War, Sept 11 2001 and its little brothers in Bali, Spain, London and the Iraq-Afghanistan "con"licts and their shock and awe Hollywood style Baghdad Ali "comedy store" commentary as death and destruction reign supreme with a lot of collateral damage despite the precision bombing. And children got a front row seat to it as well with a lot of shock and awe to their little minds. And they became a target to stalkers and bullies on the internet and they can access porno sites which are rich-yes sites not poor-no sites for those that own them and can send sexualised shots to each other's mobile phones. And pre-puberty kids have experienced oral sex amongst each other when in Little Johnny's childhood, oral sex meant sitting around a table and talking about it, or being lucky to peep through a crack in the wall at an adult men's get together watching a porno movie in secrecy more excited by the risk of being busted by the cops than the actual naughty flick after a card game. Now that card game is a multi-million dollar event at the casino and all the pubs are little casinos with their pokie "woe"kie machines and their bells and clangs and whistles and flashing lights that for the hopelessly devoted user compares to drug addiction. And it's not only encouraged it's endorsed not only as good clean fun but as entertainment where one can get lost in it without having to communicate with anyone else. And the pub and club is a honey pot for violent anti social behaviour in and around them, keeping an army of security guards in employment many with serious criminal records, some combed out with new regulations.

So in line with the sexualisation of children, the little freckle faced pre-teen boy is also a target with the gratuitous violence in sport and the glamourisation of gang crims like the Bra Boys and celebrification of criminals and anti-heroes all of whom like women have facial treatments and specialised body care products, sportsmen and criminals in the old days would have called poofy and wussy. Even if the kid didn't come from Maroubra, the bra would double for the word bra-vado from brave. And he'd have a little girlfriend for m-oral support who'd wear a bra before she even had little titties. And he could act the little toughie with his little habette or two or three and in these days of equal opportunity for little Vicki it would be vice versa. Which is why the downward pressure is pushing little girls into puberty at ten and eleven when in the past that used to be an extreme rarity. Now it's the median - an advertising and media induced media-n.

The media and its kissing cousin Peddle-Feel-ya advertising should be made to adhere to what the medical definition of the physical age of puberty should rightly be and what the medical, psychiatric and social work professionals would define as stages of development in pre and post pubescent children and the right age band for puberty in children to occur presumably around the thirteen-fourteen year age stage when they are better equipped to handle the change of life and loss of innocence. It's a medical and psychological-mental health emotional development issue. Religio-spiritual is a secondary matter not to be twisted around to be the primary overrider. There should be a two year band for each stage with tolerance for late and early developers and the very rare occasions when there's very early very late and not the very early median puberty age we have now which has become the rule rather than the exception.

The altar of market worship would and has sacrificed all that. In the days of little Johnnie when religious puritanism reigned supreme with its mental straightjacket handed out to all and sundry, it was the priesthood and clergy that preached sexual abstinence and the evils of the pleasures of the flesh and the wondrous rewards of delayed gratification, the latter which should be taught to the fourth estate and its battering ram the advertising industry, and there was only a soul purpose as to why God gave man and womankind a sensual nature in the Garden of Eden when Eve thought she heard Adam's trouser snake, although he couldn't have given a fig leaf about wearing trousers at that stage, tried to con her into believing that his rude thing was a very delicious apple and God got the shits when she got sucked in and gave them their eviction notice and told them they'd better wear sack-cloth as punishment, no fashion designing allowed nor fashion label. And they'd have to suffer in the wilderness, What an A-hole. No Gucci or Armani suit for Adam and not even a Collette Dinnigan for Eve. Not even a Jodhi Meares swim suit bikini for her. Oh well it was desert anyway. Of course all the religious zealots would love to stick the bible up the fashionistas and the media and their advertising mates. They wouldn't "buy that bull". It would be a waste of good clothes if they were all gonna die in hell, anyway. Maybe, we're all gonna die in hell if global warming doesn't end up like Y2K and we won't have to leave this planet to get there either.

Anyway the priests and clergy laid it on thick that the sole reason why we were given a sexual nature and Adam and Eve fell out of grace with God was that sex was not to be enjoyed for sexual gratification. It was purely reserved for procreation. Of course, that'd mean more little Christians running around and more chipping in their proverbial tithes into the collection plate. Why, even in pre-Christ times, men were allowed to have multiple wives to build the numbers up. Well, and if they reserved their energy only for procreation and spent less time enjoying themselves and thus worked more and earned more money and spent less on themselves, there'd also be more for the church to expect them to cough up. But it was these same priests and clergy, if not paedophiles themselves, then covered up for paedophiles within their ranks to hide the disgrace to protect the church which was supposed to protect society from that kind of thing. And there were clergy who had improper relationships with parishioners daughters or wives which was the same story of cover up and so on.

It's also today, that a lot of critics will argue against the sexualisation of children on moral and religious grounds but one must bear in mind that those who claim to have the spiritual antidote to society's ills, also have a vested interest in on the other hand of promoting the disease for which they can provide the cure all which is just in the preach of a speech when many of the corporate paedophiliacs who profit from it and make the big figures from figures of speech in print and action on video, would be nice people who sit in the pews at church or are totally upstanding citizens who support community charity organisations and whose wives do the church number for them and slip funds to those young thugs who've come up through the ranks from pre-pube sexualised childhoods to do their dirty work for them when they need someone screwed over when they might be getting to be too much of a challenge because all the A-holes stick together and it's all the A-holes who've got the upper hand today with a lot of bad boys and girls finishing first and the genuinely good not even in the race, a distant last, so that it doesn't really pay to be good. The work of the devil, as preached about in the good old "happy days" fonzie era has become a reality today with the contemporary media and advertising genie geniuses out of the bottle. It's about time the genie went back into the bottle.

Yours sincerely



Nick Bellas - Researcher

Pg Daily News
Pg 18 AUGUST 06

Image that fanned suspicion

COMMENT

By ANITA OUGLEY

IT was the photographs of Jon Benet Ramsey that fanned the fires of hate.

A parent who could smother such a young child in make-up and dress them in ridiculous beauty pageant outfits could surely also be capable of murdering a child.

You only need to scan "Jon Benet" and her parents did it" into Google to know that was the consensus of thousands.

Now, with the arrest of an American man in Thailand, it looks as though those who stood as judge, jury and executioner got it wrong.

Just like Lindy Chamberlain, which of the quintessential all-Australian another image, neither did the husband

beauty pageant-obsessed Ramsey's fit the wholesome American family.

Enckel of Lindy Chamberlain's enough to be excused. — Jon Benet's mother Patsy Ramsey does not. She died from ovarian cancer 55 days ago.

She died knowing many thought her responsible for the beating, strangulation and sexual abuse of her daughter in the basement of their home in Boulder, Colorado on December 26, 1996.

Should this latest arrest lead to a conviction, then Jon Benet's father John, may feel some vindication.

A piece of paper yesterday taped to Jon Benet Ramsey's headstone read "Dearest Patsy, Justice has come for you and Jon (sic). Rest in peace. Justice far too late."

KMPR WAS ARRESTED BY THE 16TH AUGUST
ON THE INSTANT NEWS SPREADS ON 18TH AUGUST
IN 2006 - 17TH AUGUST 2006 WAS 26TH
ANNIVERSARY OF AZMAYA SKGA

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Protecting children: Hysteria won't help

WENT TO MAIL
Anita Quigley

THIS Friday is the deadline for submissions to the Senate Inquiry into The Sexualisation Of Children In The Media.

By late yesterday about 30 had been posted on the Parliament of Australia website, with the majority from "concerned parents" and a handful of organisations such as the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney and the Australia Institute.

A Senate committee spokesman said they were expecting a late rush of many more, with some organisations having already secured extensions.

Let's hope so. Because, from what I have read of the individual responses thus far, the considered ones have yet to arrive.

For the most part they provide few specific examples of the sexualisation of children by the media and enough sweeping generalisations to make you think we live in Sodom or Gomorrah.

"Rabid" doesn't begin to describe a number of them. Many are simply irrational in their condemnation of television, magazines, newspapers and billboards, with even the likes of former Miss Universe Jennifer Hawkins being vilified for finding success because of her looks.

Take part of Graham and Carol Phillips' submission:

"Our society is now a toxic environment for children to grow up in," they write.

"If one compares the Australia of even 30 years ago, a huge change has occurred. The most 'raunchy' show on TV in children's air time when we were growing up was *Petticoat Junction*. Now we have *Home and Away*, *M.A.S.H* repeats, *Two and a Half Men*, *Friends*, etc all of which contain, to some degree, an element of sexualisation."

While I am not turning a blind eye to the problems we face I refuse to believe we live in a "toxic" society.

Equally, I don't think for a moment it's such a bad thing that we have moved on from programs such as *Petticoat Junction* to *Friends*.

Nor do I accept most of the arguments the Phillips raise in their 17-page submission, which condemns just about every aspect of modern life.

I feel sorry that they believe they live in such sinful times and I pity their children for having parents with such a cynical view of the world.

The same old Corey

I find it funny that people blame Corey Worthington for hosting an out-of-control party but nothing gets done about alcohol advertising on television (Binge classes, April 7). Ridiculous shows like *Big Brother* desensitise kids to unacceptable behaviour, so what do you expect?

Greg Cooper
Kingswood

If there's an award for overexposure, Bindi should get it. On television she seems so programmed and robotic.

There will probably be no recognition in the submissions for the likes of this newspaper's firm opposition last week to the organisers of Fashion Week, who planned to use 14-year-old model Monika Jagaciak as the face of their campaign.

Nor is it likely to be acknowledged that, as a result of *The Daily Telegraph's* coverage, legislation was proposed to restrict future child exploitation and organisers were forced to raise the minimum age for catwalk models to 16 — effective immediately.

Kath Albury, a research fellow at the University of NSW, is one of three academics writing a joint submission for the inquiry and is the first to admit she would hate to see us revert to the society of 30 years ago.

Dr Albury believes this backlash against the media comes from the fear that, now young women are more comfortable with their sexuality, it's like "the genie that got out of the

bottle and can't be stuffed back in".

"There's this fear we can't go back to the more innocent times. But do we want to ... return to 30 years ago, when young single mothers had their babies forcibly taken from them because it was viewed they deserved to be punished for one bad decision in their sexual past?" she said.

"I find it strange how we have extended the category of childhood to now include 15- and 16-year-olds, yet when I was at school 14 years and nine months was when you could legally leave my high school.

"There were only about 20 girls completing final year, with the rest working. Now we see that age group as children."

It is also worth noting that in the submissions thus far there is no personal accountability.

For all their condemnation of the sexualisation of children, there is no acknowledgment of the "moralisation" of parents,

Could it be that they are also to blame for the sexualisation of their children? That we are, in fact, witnessing a serious decline in parenting skills?

Surely, one only has to watch Channel Nine's latest reality show, *My Kid's a Star*, for five minutes to figure that out.

When the inquiry was announced last month, Young Media Australia president Janet Roberts said more government regulation was needed.

"Slippy underwear is being developed for 8- to 10-year-olds. None of this is helpful to children," she said.

No, it isn't. But who usually buys these products? Mothers?

While there is justifiable concern for the sexualisation of our young ones, we should also be wary of hysteria.

Daily Telegraph
Join Anita's blog at

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