

Video 'softporn' lives at home

United Press International
The "softporn" video invasion of the United States is on.
For as little as \$1.95 a month, more than a million homes with cable and satellite television services already can watch naked men and women in graphic embraces, mostly in movies too wretched for general release.

While commercial TV viewers get "Three's Company," cable subscribers can see "Self Service Schoolgirls."
The availability of softporn has raised constitutional battles over whether cable can be censored.

"The sex industry is coming to cable," said Rev. Morton Hill, national director of Morality in Media.

While there have been few challenges so far, cable subscribers are hunkering down with the lights on and off to watch the shows, most shown late at night and usually featuring naked women willingly obliging male fantasies.

In some cable areas, softcore films extend to lesbianism, homosexuality, sadism and masochism, and heterosexual relationships.

Some local access channels show commercials where viewers can see naked men and women for hire. On New York's Channel J, a man intones, "for the inflation fighting price of \$65, we'll deliver you a boy of any age."

Another clip begins with a woman stripping in front of a group of men. "That is patently offensive," Hill said.

Morality in Media is pushing laws to regulate cable television in Massachusetts, Utah, Louisiana, and Florida. But the National Cable Television Association thinks the group cannot legally win.

NCTA's Edward Dooley said they felt more and more people will try to limit what is shown on cable television.

There are about 24 million homes receiving cable in the United States. Thirteen major services offer adult programming including softcore movies, night club acts and concerts. Most offensive, however, according to Hill, are the local access programs.

For Morality in Media or any group to get softporn off the air, they have to prove what is being shown offends community standards as set forth in a 1974 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Miller vs. California.

That ruling said material could be considered obscene if it appeals primarily to prurient interests, graphically depicts sexual acts, or has no literary value.

In Utah last year, a law was signed to ban films on cable which included nudity, a prohibition that could have kept the

Oscar-winning "Kramer vs. Kramer" off the air.

U.S. District Court Judge Bruce Jenkins overruled that in January and stated, "there is no law that says you have to watch. There is no law that says you have to purchase a television set. There is no law that says you have to subscribe to a cable television service."

Hill argues, "the same criteria that applies to commercial television should apply to cable." But the federal government says cable can be regulated only by the states. So far, none has been willing to impose bans on adult programming.

"Cable has the green light," Hill said.

Or the red light.
In Massachusetts, conservative Gov. Edward J. King has formed a special task force to study his proposal to ban R-rated cable shows that highlight nudity and simulated sex.

That came after King was shown a clip taken by Morality in Media members of some shows available in the state on cable.

"It was disgusting," King said. Massachusetts Cable TV Commissioner Thomas Steel though says there has been little public outcry.

"People are more vocal about the governor denying them adult films," he says.

Through services such as the Playboy channel Escapade, Private Screenings, Rainbow, and New York's Eros, viewers with cable can see almost anything sexual that human beings do to each other — short of the most explicit.

Eros has a library of more than 1,000 movies and more than 200,000 subscribers, making it one of the three largest adults-only cable services.

Eros flyers say "the demand is growing. Adult cable TV viewers across the country want movies with a sensual flair. Subscribers want adult action, not just mature themes."

So Eros serves them such films as "The Sensuous Wife" and "Inhibitions," usually between midnight and 6 a.m. Films too tepid for viewers who demand hotter action are shown earlier.

"The true appetite for the hardest, most explicit stuff is absolutely enormous. It's just going to take someone to break the barrier," one Escapade official said.
Eros and other services have also promoted themselves at video shows where consumers can buy hardcore and softcore films on tape and records.

In the Boston area, a satellite transmission service called Star TV has begun offering "Adults Only" late night programming that is mostly vivid softcore simulation of sex.

Average student age increases

United Press International
Traditional college student types range in age from 17 to 24, but the so-called "nontraditional" type ranges in age from 25 up to 80.

By 1988, the National Center for Education Statistics estimates older students will account for nearly 44 percent of the college population.

Older students are being ardently wooed by many colleges. It's good business.

Unless they can boost enrollments, growing numbers of colleges — private colleges especially — expect to be on the financial ropes during the decade. Tuition from the older students keeps balance sheets from running with red ink.

The trek of older students to campus is the biggest quiet revolution in American education today, just 14 years ago, students 25 years-and-over accounted for only 25.9 percent of the college population — about one out of four.

By 1978, the number had moved to 4.2 million or 37.5 percent — more than one out of

three. If present trends continue, by 1988 one out of two students will be non-traditional.

The quest for a college degree by older students does not always mean a trek to campus. Via special programs, some go to college in their homes, some take courses on commuter trains, while others take courses at their places of work — beamed to the workplace via telecommunications.

Some take courses during regular class — a sort of 9-to-5 basis — while others are enrolled in the evening or just on weekends.

"It's never too late to go to college," Charles E. McCabe, who cited the figures and beat the drums for adult

McCabe, of Huntington, N.Y., spoke from experience. He was 31 and without a high school diploma when he got hooked on adult education at Adelphi College in Garden City, N.Y.

He went to class once a week several hours, then laced it with a lot of home study. His first degree, a bachelor's, was like eat-

ing one peanut.

At this point, McCabe, 42, has a master's degree and is working on a doctorate — all the while marching on in his career with an income tax preparation firm.

McCabe and his former college dean, William C. Haponski, have teamed up to produce a new guide, "Back to School — The College Guide for Adults".

In it they show older scholars how to:

—Choose the program and the college that are right.

—Get credit for what they already know, credit for lifetime experience.

—Boost chances of being accepted at a college.

—Find money or scholarship aid and loans to finance a degree.

McCabe said older students

shouldn't be bashful about inquiring at local colleges. The college will be delighted to hear from them.

The drop in the pool of traditional-age students is due to the decline in births following the post World War II baby boom.

This, coupled with the fact Americans are living longer than ever, provides colleges with a growing pool of non-traditional students.

But lifelong learning has become a thread in the fabric of American society.

Those bitten by the "lifelong learning bug" include:

—Retirees who want to spice up life.

—Adults re-tooling for a job. An accountant without computer savvy needs some computer knowledge to move up; he gets it

going to college week-end nights.

—A displaced homemaker her 30s, 40s, or 50s looks for college for job skills that will earn her more than the minimum wage.

McCabe said lots of who hanker for college are put off by the fact they are out of high school.

"You don't need a high school diploma to get into adult education," McCabe said. Instead, fill up on a year's worth of college courses and then, through test, qualify for a high school diploma.

When he picked up the diploma again, McCabe had difficulty.

—Being able to fit in something extra.

—Concentrating.

A GUITAR



NO HOLE

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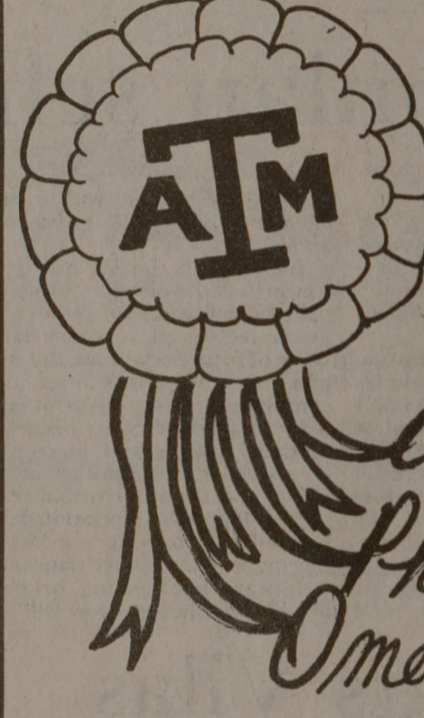
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