

You know you want to look...

Utah porn czar an unnecessary waste of taxpayer money

With the full blessing of its misguided legislature, conservative Utah recently became the nation's first state to institute a government position devoted solely to filtering and banning pornographic images — a porn czar.

As is so often the case, people have let their good intentions render them completely mindless, because no state, regardless of its heavily religious population, will ever be able to successfully legislate morality.

So what exactly does a porn czar do? Aside from wasting taxpayer dollars, a porn czar, whose official title is Obscenity and Pornography Complaints Ombudsman, attacks bookstores and internet sites in an effort to protect people from the "evils" of the human body. Paula Houston, a celibate, never-married 41-year-old devout Mormon, was Utah's hands-down choice for the job.

The burning question is this: what, if anything, can a libidinous, celibate 41-year-old add to this country's ongoing debate over pornography and indecency? Absolutely nothing. Houston is no way qualified to make any kind of educated decision regarding pornography. Her job is nothing more than a laughable, useless position created so all of Utah's housewives can sleep a little more soundly at night.

Because, in all fairness, the only pages turning in Utah come from the Book of Mormon, not Hustler or Penthouse. In fact, the very idea that Utah has a pornography problem is utterly ridiculous.

As Joe Santilli, a writer for Utah's *Desert Tribune*, put it, "This would be like appointing a porn czar in the Vatican, where at least it is regarded as normal that [the] middle-aged are celibate."

Since taking office, Houston has done nothing to benefit society. So far, her meritless attacks have centered around Victoria's Secret ads and Redbook and Cosmopolitan magazines.

Her worst case to date has dealt with the removal of a mall advertisement in Provo, Utah. The ad in question depicted a model covering her breasts with her hands, and is the same picture used in malls across the country.

Despite of her official title, the former lawyer has very little power, which makes her \$80,000 annual salary look even more like a handout. In fact, she does not even have the authority to prosecute obscenity cases, assuming that one would be willing to accept her definition of "obscene."

The only thing obscene is that Utah has an official pornography czar in Houston. In the name of decency, she shuts down newsstands and destroys companies' legitimate advertising campaigns, all the while patting herself on the back and telling everyone how much good she is doing. That is more destructive and vulgar than pornography can ever be.

Many critics consider her actions thus far grossly counterproductive, and rightfully so. "She's focusing attention on pornography, and that is good for us," said Hustler publisher Larry Flynt. He also noted that the people of Utah buy very few issues of his magazine anyway.

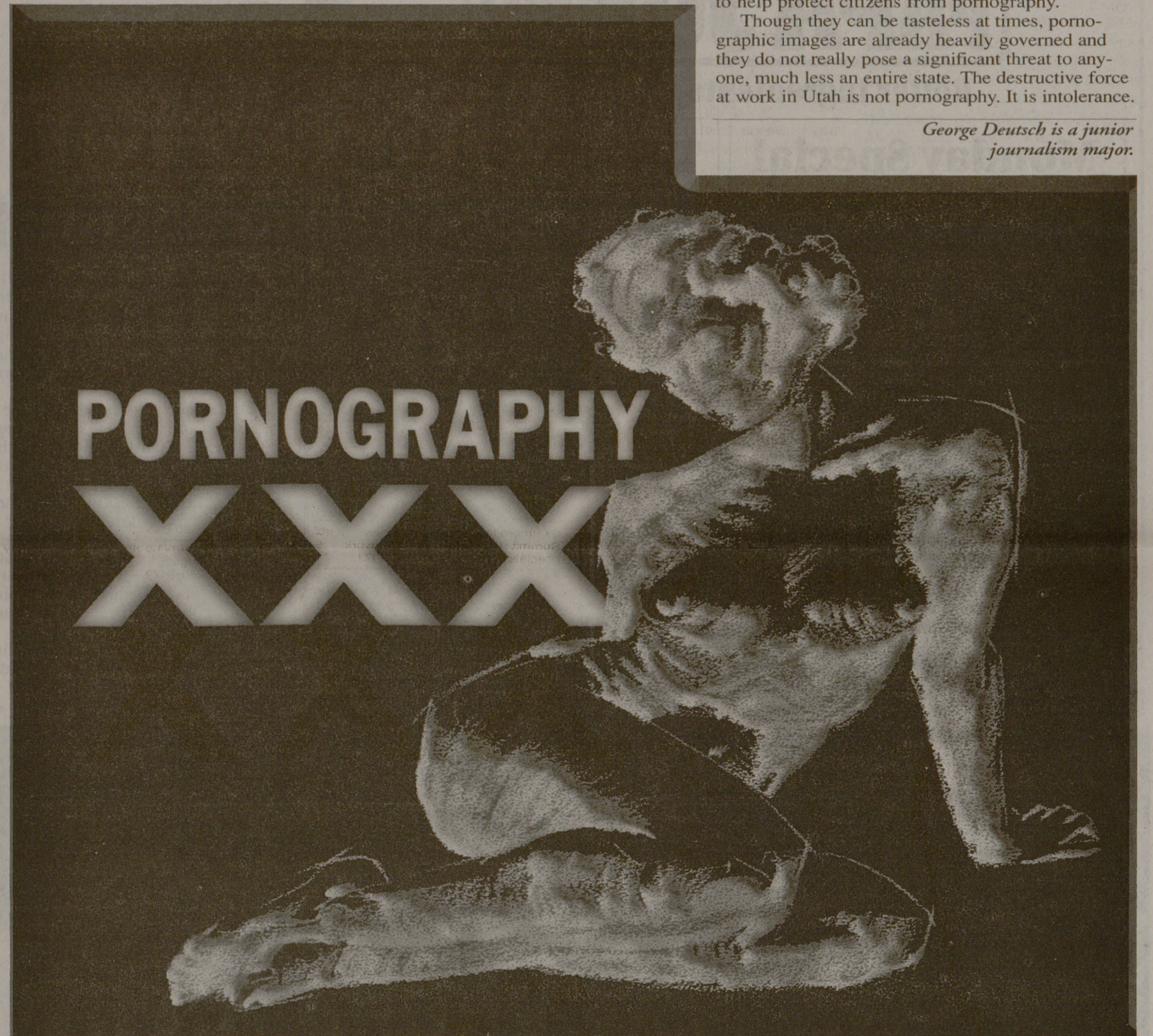
But there are larger concerns than drawing attention to pornography. Free-speech advocates realize that an ill-informed moral watchdog like Houston poses a legitimate threat to the First Amendment and due process. As Carol Gnade, executive director of Utah's branch of the American Civil Liberties Union noted, "This position isn't necessary, [because] there are laws in existence to help protect citizens from pornography."

Though they can be tasteless at times, pornographic images are already heavily governed and they do not really pose a significant threat to anyone, much less an entire state. The destructive force at work in Utah is not pornography. It is intolerance.

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GEORGE DEUTSCH



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No CLASS

Texas Tech fans should be ashamed of themselves

Texas A&M was not the only loser in Lubbock Saturday. Hundreds of Red Raider fans allowed unbridled, juvenile emotion to eclipse good judgment when they stormed their own field and tore down the goal posts in a post-victory melee.

Dr. Mike McKinney, chief of staff for Gov. Rick Perry and father of Aggie center Seth McKinney, was injured as he tried to stop the childish students from carrying the goal posts into the stands. He received eight stitches. Many more could have been seriously injured by such a stupid and disgraceful action.

Red Raiders, you should be ashamed. Texas Tech fans should be ashamed that the student

have said so publicly. But some Tech fans have absurdly claimed that this behavior was in response to their reception in College Station last year.

While a few Tech fans may have had a bad experience, the number pales in comparison to the number of people who laud Aggieland for its hospitality. Just ask a Notre Dame or Iowa State fan. They actually want to come back.

Aggies would never do something as dangerous and classless as what happened in Lubbock this weekend. These actions were also disrespectful to the more civilized parts of the Red Raider community.

The actions of some Texas Tech fans are not necessarily indicative of campus-wide senti-

Actions of Red Raiders an embarrassment

I would like to write to apologize, on behalf of my fellow students here at Texas Tech, for our classless behavior on Saturday. I must say that I was happy with the game until our fans displayed their inability to take a win with grace. This is an embarrassment for our entire school. I can understand how your school must be angry, and believe me, I would be too. However, I plead with you all not to judge our school based on the actions of a few of our students.

Whether anyone is willing to believe this or not, the vast majority of our student body was disgusted with those who chose to represent our school so poorly after the game. In a time when we would all normally be thrilled after defeating such a great team, we are all silenced by the realization that our fellow Red Raiders participate in such mindless acts.

Again, it is our hope that our school will not lose anyone's respect, although, I will not be surprised to see Texas Tech University ridiculed in the future. Please do not let your opinion of my school be shaped by those few students who conduct themselves in an immature manner.

Clayton Nash
Texas Tech sophomore

I'm a Tech alum, and I would like to apologize to the A&M community for the Tech students' behavior after the game on Saturday. The excitement was understandable, but the behavior was not, and I am extremely embarrassed by the way they acted.

Many of the students at the game feel the same way, and we would like to let you know that. We have great respect for the fans and the students of A&M, and I am so sorry that they were treated so poorly.

Lenae Moore
Texas Tech graduate

I would like to apologize for the act of immaturity and disrespect of the student body of Texas Tech University. I am sad to say that my fellow students were as childish as they were Saturday following the game. There was no need for the reaction that the students gave. I would like to say that on behalf of the rest of the student body who was not involved in that act of stupidity I am very truly sorry.

I have spoken with other Tech students about what had happened and I can tell you that a large majority of the Tech campus does not feel the way that was shown on Saturday afternoon. I pray that you accept this apology and understand that what

MAIL CALL

occurred was not representative of the entire student body. Please accept this apology. I pray the next time you visit Texas Tech you will be treated with more respect than was shown Saturday. Once again I am very truly sorry.

Abby Marcum
Texas Tech junior

After reading about the disgusting antics of Texas Tech "fans," I feel compelled to write. I am an Aggie, but also a Tech parent. I was not overly excited when our daughter decided to attend that

school, but soon saw that that the campus atmosphere was what the "college experience" should be.

To me, it is obvious that "the other education" is lacking at Tech. By that, I mean the part that makes a young person an adult with good values. At Kyle Field, opposing schools and their fans are treated as guests in our house.

My two personal experiences at Jones Stadium, one in 1963 and one in 1999, were enough for me. I shall not return.

Tom Phillips
Class of 1967

CARTOON OF THE DAY



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