

THE BYSTANDER —★—

Sorry About that Sexual Revolution

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Some of us from the “sex, drugs and rock-and-roll” generation were honestly only into the music, but the tidal wave of adolescent revolt demanding permission to give and get “free love” splashed up onto everyone, regardless. We’ve gone from a society where our mothers whispered “don’t get pregnant” without telling us how that happens (or how to make sure that it *doesn’t* happen) to one where we have relentless prime-time TV commercials for Erectile Dysfunction medications but no ads for birth control of any kind.

Which brings me to the subject of Stormy Daniels and the reaction to her performing Martinsburg, getting top billing on the marquee of “Lust” as well as on the front page of this Sunday newspaper. Because of her alleged affair with the future President and his pay-off to her, she has become both victim and perpetrator in this sordid episode of the 45th administration of the Oval Office.

As personally likeable and credible as she seems, Stormy Daniels is a professional pornographer, which is a rank above merely acting in “adult films.” If we disapprove of how she profits from her Constitutionally-protected business, then we also should similarly judge her clientele. Instead of seeing her riding piggyback in her little fluffy red skirt, I would rather have seen a photo of the nightclubs’ parking lot, overflowing with the truckloads who came to see her.

The so-called “sexual revolution” was meant to equalize male and female to have the same power in any relationship, be it a one-night-stand, a pole dance, or a marriage; the idea was that women should have the knowledge, the power and the responsibility to make their own decisions. Back then, we thought we were being invited to a buffet of equal participation, but somehow we ended up being the waitresses, cooks and dishwashers, rather than taking a seat at the table. Half a century later we still see more of the same pattern; women are being blamed for the bad-boy behaviors that have

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never changed. And in the mean-time, encouraged by magazines like *Playboy* and *Cosmo*, women now seem to be eager to give themselves away for free, even though the demand and value of our “services” have not abated. That’s not how economics should work, even in this age of de-regulation.

For many of us, discussing sex-related issues doesn’t necessarily mirror our own personal attitudes. But that’s the only message some people hear, and justifiably why some don’t want to discuss it at all, like my own mother. I’ve had comments from readers of my abortion-related columns calling for me to be “neutered” (I already am, many thanks to nature!) and to control my “proclivities” (I had to look that up in the dictionary). But worse yet are comments from pro-choice responders who assume that since I speak for the right to abortion, I also share *their* support for legalized prostitution, pornography, womb-renting, orgies, polygamy and strip clubs.

Evidently, the past 50 years has taught us nothing if the message of the Sexual Revolution has been diluted into “if men can be bad, so can women.” For many, the Women’s Movement suffered its final fatal blow after Madonna (the pop singer) was described as a “feminist” because she cut out the middleman of the worlds’ oldest profession by becoming her own Madam. Like Stormy, she took financial control of her own objectification, and became a twisted icon for “women’s liberation.”

It’s examples like these that can make a girl realize that if the woman still gets the blame and the shame, she might as well get the money, too. Men have been raking it in by the truck-loads, without having to bear the same level of guilt and public scrutiny, since day one.

Judging from the comments printed in this newspaper, the Old-School Rules that slander *only women* for sexual misbehavior but give male participants a “pass” are still very much in effect. Women, anatomically, risk disproportionate consequences from sexual activity that are not shared by men. But if there is to be public shaming, it should be pointed equally towards both.