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Porn debate good for OSU

By:

Posted: 11/5/07

Ohio State hosted a debate Sunday between adult film star Ron Jeremy, star of almost 2,000 adult films, and pastor Craig Gross, founder of xxxchurch.com, an anti-pornography Web site. In debates at other universities, the two discussed the relative merits of the adult film industry, such as whether women who star in these films are degraded and demoralized.

It is an especially hot topic on college campuses, where the name Ron Jeremy still brings a familiar image with it and, it is safe to say, many individuals watch adult films from time to time. Jeremy said in a similar debate at Texas Tech that, "My biggest audience is the college crowd."

As of the writing of this editorial the OSU debate was not yet completed, but one of Gross's major points in debates at other universities was that pornography is an illusion that creates an unrealistic image of what sex should be. This is a good point students should keep in mind when they think about their own sex lives. But mainstream movies also create illusions, and most people take them for what they are worth.

In the other debates, Gross stayed clear of pushing for a ban on pornography altogether, and was more focused on discussing the effects porn can have on viewers and participants. Jeremy admitted some people could become addicted to adult entertainment, but compared it to aspirin. "You take aspirin, it cures your headache," he said. "You take too much, it poisons you and you die." Although we are hard-pressed to think of a case where porn can cure a headache, we believe his point is valid.

We applaud the Ohio Union Activities Board for holding the debate, because in an age where issues of morality are at the forefront of the political and cultural debate, it is helpful to have two individuals from opposite sides brought together for a civil discussion. We hope the students who attended the debate came back with a more thoughtful outlook on both sides of the debate.

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