

**SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF  
COMMUNITY STANDARDS INC.**

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## Chief Censor Seeks Third Three-Year Term of Office Society Wants Him Replaced



**Chief Censor Bill Hastings**

(Source: NZ Herald)

Applications for the statutory position of Chief Censor of Film and Literature, currently held by Mr Bill Hastings, closed on the 1st of September 2006.<sup>1</sup> Hastings has indicated to the media that he wants to continue on in the job which he has held since October 1999. The Society has called on the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon. Rick Barker, to replace him and his deputy, Ms Nicola McCully.<sup>2</sup> Hasting's second three-year appointment as Chief Censor expires on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2006. McCully's first three-year term of office expired last year on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2005 and yet she still occupies the position. The Minister has done nothing yet to advertise her position, replace her, or renew her contract.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Advertising of the position of Chief Censor ran from 12/08/06 to 20/08/06 in the Dominion Post, Sunday Star Times, New Zealand Herald, and Christchurch Press. **Written Question** 10763 (2006). National Party MP Sandra Goudie to the Minister of Internal Affairs (14/08/06).

<sup>2</sup> SPCS Press Release 30/05/06  
Call for Chief Censor and Deputy to be replaced  
<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO0605/S00340.htm>

<sup>3</sup> "Nicola McCully's position as Deputy Chief Censor has not been formally extended. She continues to

Prior to his appointment as Chief Censor, Bill Hastings was Acting Chief Censor (from Jan. 1999), Deputy Chief Censor (from Dec. 1998), Deputy President of the Film and Literature Board of Review (1995-98), a part-time examiner for the Video Recordings Authority (1994) and a member of the Indecent Publications Tribunal (1990-94). He and his deputy have been viewing and assessing indecent sexually explicit hardcore porn, sadistic sexual violence, child porn, etc. for over 10 years.

In the Society's view, both censors must be replaced because they have become desensitised to the corrosive and toxic impact of the objectionable content that pervades the films, videos and DVDs they regularly watch and clear (sometimes with cuts) for R18 viewing. McCully and Hastings vigorously dispute this view (see "Desensitisation" p. 6) and want to hold on to their respective \$140,000-plus and \$180,000-plus salaries.<sup>4</sup>

Earlier this year, in two live interviews with Larry Williams and Mike Yardley on NewstalkZB, the Society secretary David Lane spelt out in great detail the reasons why the Society wants both censors replaced. He was also interviewed on End Zone (Shine Television) by Bob McCroskrie, and on Prime TV News (31 May) by veteran journalist and television commentator Barry Soper, on the same subject. Introducing the Prime TV item, which was replayed on Sky News, Soper highlighted a feature article on the Chief Censor in the Express<sup>5</sup> magazine, a mouthpiece of the Gay and Lesbian community, that proclaims: "he's gay, and his deputy [McCully] is a lesbian". In it Hastings says:

"... My staff get a diet of the worst, which is not healthy! The vast majority of commercial submissions [over 80% of the material submitted for classification]...are sexually explicit videos and DVDs [porn]. We also get lots of child porn sent to us..." [The classification of porn is heavily subsidised by the NZ tax-payer. See Feature article pages 10-12].

Mr Soper appeared very persuaded by the Society's view that it was time that Hastings was moved on from his lucrative job, due to the problem of desensitisation. The Society points out that both Hastings and McCully cleared the films Baise-Moi, (transl. Fu\*\* Me), Visitor Q and Irreversible for adult viewing, films that were the subject of lengthy

remain in office under Section 32 of the Crown Entities Act 2004." **Written Question** 10765 (2006). Sandra Goudie MP to the Minister of Internal Affairs (14/08/06).

<sup>4</sup> OFLC Annual Report 2005, Note 9, p. 66.

<sup>5</sup> Express (10-23 May 2006, pp. 12-13).

appeals to the High Court and Court of Appeal, taken by the Society.<sup>6</sup> Despite containing gratuitous, sadistic and lengthy depictions of brutal rape, sodomy, necrophilia, incest and extreme graphic violence, both censors allowed these films to screen in public cinemas and be studied by tertiary students in media studies courses. They have been responsible for the classification for adult viewing (R18) of literally hundreds of other misogynistic films, videos and DVDs containing lengthy and explicit depictions of women being sexually demeaned, degraded and dehumanised (sodomy, double penetrations etc.). Despite the fact that such depictions that dominate these publications, tend to promote and support sexual violence and misogynistic attitudes, and are against the law, these desensitised censors persist in allowing this rising tide of toxic, harmful moral filth to flood the country's video shops. Growing numbers of vicious sex crimes are being more regularly reported as involving perpetrators who have been influenced by an addiction to watching hard-core porn and explicit sexual violence.



**Hastings and McCully**  
(OFLC Annual Report)

In a report entitled "Watching The Defectives" published in the Sunday Star Times,<sup>7</sup> free-lance journalist Grant Smithies described the "**dirty job**" Deputy Chief Censor [and her boss] does:

."IN A typical working week, Nicola McCully might watch a couple of dozen people having sex. Sometimes they might be doing this in twos or threes; other times, there'll be a roomfull, going at it like rabbits. Sometimes they might be going at it with rabbits. And if it's not sex, it's

<sup>6</sup> While the Society failed to get any of these films cut or banned it did succeed in winning every Court case it mounted resulting in the Board being required to re-examine the films' classifications *de novo*. The Court determined that the Board committed errors of law.

<sup>7</sup> "Watching The Defectives" published in the Sunday Star Times 13 August 2006, pp. 5-6. Emphasis added.

violence. McCully looks on as people are murdered, tortured and maimed. Soft human bodies are set on fire, exploded by bombs, cut up and eaten. McCully might crunch her way through a tangy apple as a young man is slowly and gleefully decapitated. Other times a cup of tea might wet the whistle during a gruelling group rape scene. A gingersnoot with that? Sure, why not? It's all in a day's work for McCully, as New Zealand's deputy chief censor. **For the last 10 years or so, she has spent her working week viewing all manners of distressing and depraved things to decide whether we can watch them as well.** [Emphasis added]

"Censorship. **It's a dirty job**....why would someone voluntarily sit in a darkened room for days, months, years of their life, watching acts of extreme cruelty, harrowing sexual violence and the more repulsive ends of the porn spectrum?

"McCully estimates that 80% of her team's work is classifying the kind of sexually explicit DVDs that will end up in sex shops and the "adult" sections of video stores from North Cape to Bluff.... You might have six hours of sex DVDs to classify, and you have to watch them from beginning to end.... Each censor watches the day's assigned publication in individual viewing booths... Outside the row of booths is a desk piled with porn DVDs with titles such as Buttman Returns" and All Oral 6..."



.....  
In a video entitled "**Big Boobed Lesbian Cops**", typical of the lesbian genre that McCully and Hastings watch and classify R18, aggressive lustful lesbians use police batons as dildos ('sex toys') in penetrative sex acts reminiscent of the sex crimes claimed to have been endured by the Rotorua woman Ms Louise Nichols and dealt with in High Court jury trials that have shocked the nation with their gross and sordid details.

**If you wish to join the SPCS or make a donation see p. 16**  
***"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."***  
***(Edmund Burke)***

## **SPCS and Overview of OFLC and Competencies of Chief Censor and Deputy**

The Society has been informed in a letter dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2006 from Ann Shaw, Acting Manager of Community Policy, Department of Internal Affairs, that:

“The Department of Internal Affairs on behalf of the Minister of Internal Affairs intends to conduct a performance overview of the Office of Film and Literature Classification.”

### **The overview will include an “analysis of the performance of the Chief Censor and Deputy Chief Censor against the competencies in the respective job profiles.”**

The Society “has been identified as a key stakeholder of the Classification Office” and its opinion is being sought on a range of issues related to the performance of the OFLC, through a structured interview. The Society responded positively to a similar invitation it received three years ago from the Department, when the Chief Censor’s position first 3-year term of office expired. A formal 50-minute interview (held on 22/07/03) with the Society secretary was conducted by Ms Charlotte Williams who was contracted by the Department to carry out the review of the Classification Office. At that time evidence was provided to support the view that Hasting’s contract should not be renewed.

### **Objects of the Society (SPCS) from its Constitution**

- a). To encourage self-respect and the dignity of the human person made in the image of God.
- b). To promote recognition of the sanctity of human life and its preservation in all stages.
- c). To promote the benefits of lasting marriage, strong family life and wholesome personal values as the foundation for stable communities.
- d). To focus attention on the harmful nature and consequences of sexual promiscuity, obscenity, pornography and violence.
- e). To uphold and press for the proper enforcement of applicable law and its amendment where the law is ineffective.
- f). To support responsible freedom of expression which does not injure the public good by degrading, dehumanising or demeaning individuals or classes of persons.

## **The Film & Literature Board of Review**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2005 the Society was invited by the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon. Rick Barker, to submit nominations for eight Board positions, held at the time by members whose three terms of office expired on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2004. It responded to Mr Barker’s invitation in good faith and located 12 persons, all of outstanding character, with excellent qualifications and skills to do the job and who were keen to make a contribution and willing to be nominated to the Board. The names of these people and their CVs were submitted to the Minister via a number of MPs. In total the Minister received 24 nominations. None were appointed. Instead the Minister decided to reappoint all eight incumbents for terms ranging from one year to three years. Despite the fact that the maximum period of office for a board member is set in law as two consecutive three year appointments, the president, Ms Claudia Elliott and one other Board member were re-appointed until 2009 giving them eight years in the job (2001-2009)!! Three others, including the deputy president have been given seven years (2001-2009). (Continued on pp. 12-14).

### **Bradford’s Bill ‘Banning Reasonable Force’ (Repeal of S. 59 of the Crimes Act 1961)**

The Society has strongly opposed Bradford’s Bill that will take away the legal authority of all parents



**Green MP Sue Bradford**

(Source: [www.jobslatter.org.nz](http://www.jobslatter.org.nz))

to use “reasonable force” in the task of disciplining their children. Its written submission on the Bill was supplied to the Justice and Electoral Committee just before the submission deadline (28/02/06) and was recently followed up with an oral submission presented to the Committee by the Society secretary David Lane. The Society has been and continues to be a keen member of the Section 59 Coalition opposing the Bill, having thoroughly researched the issue and lobbied MPs on the matter.

## AGM 2006 & ‘Anti-Smacking’ Debate

Guest speaker Craig Smith, Director of Family Integrity, spoke at the Society’s AGM held on



**Craig Smith**  
**Director: Family Integrity**

the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2006. His topic was “Family Integrity vs. State Intervention”. Craig dealt with Green MP Sue Bradford’s Bill that seeks to repeal Section 59 of the Crimes Act (1961). Craig showed how this Bill – the Crimes (Abolition Of Force as a Justification For Child Discipline) Amendment Bill, removes the legal protection for parents to use “reasonable force” in the (domestic) corrective discipline of their children. Family Integrity as well as the SPCS strongly opposes the repeal of S. 59. A very worthwhile discussion following Craig’s lecture.

The Society’s 2005 financial accounts were presented and accepted by members and a new executive was appointed for 2006. A motion was passed that a Special Meeting be held before the end of September 2006 to discuss a number of financial matters that were unable to be resolved within the limited timeframe of the AGM.

### **The Absurdity of Criminalising “Reasonable Force”**

On Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> July the Society secretary David Lane presented an oral submission to the Justice and Electoral Committee considering Ms Bradford’s Bill. The Committee had read and studied the comprehensive written submission the Society supplied to the Committee back in February 2006. Since then the Society has been advising a couple, Don and Anne Eathorne, who have been considering an appeal against their convictions in the Greymouth District Court for assault against their foster boy; their ‘crime’ being that the foster mother used a wooden spoon to smack the boy twice on his open palm as corrective punishment for his willful vandalism, including that of their employer’s

property. They ended up having to pay the full bill for damages – over \$5,000 – as Child Youth and Family Services, who had placed the boy in their care refused to provide the foster parents with any financial reimbursement for damage done. CYF immediately removed the boy from the couple’s care, just days after they received a complaint over the smacking incident, which had occurred over two years earlier. The complaint was laid, not by the ‘victim’ but by another boy (known to CYF as a troublemaker), who heard about the smacking when he stayed with the Eathornes for a few days.

In early February 2006 following the first media reports on the convictions of the Eathornes, the Society sought and obtained a comprehensive written legal opinion on the Judge’s decision on the couple’s behalf; providing them with advice on the merit of appealing the conviction (legal services from three lawyers were kindly provided *pro bono*). The Eathorne case was covered extensively on TV One’s Sunday documentary (9/03/06) on which the Society’s secretary David Lane, the Eathornes and the CYF Manager of Operations, Ms Lorraine Williams, were interviewed by Jackie Maher. On the programme Williams repeatedly inferred that the couple were child abusers. (This is the same approach taken by the Children’s Commissioner, Dr Cindy Kiro, who considers all forms of corporal punishment of children, including smacking, to be child abuse. She strongly supports Bradford’s Bill).



**Dr Cindy Kiro**  
**Children’s Commissioner**

Lane presented the Society’s findings on the Eathorne case to the Select Committee, arguing that if S. 59 is repealed, more and more parents like the Eathornes will find themselves facing criminal charges, brought against them by the police, for using “reasonable force” (e.g. light smacking, and ‘force’ used to secure “time out”) in the corrective discipline of their children.

**Urgent:** SPCS Members, please write to your local MP urging them NOT to support Bradford’s Bill that will strip parents of all authority in child discipline.

## The Nationwide Section 59 Coalition

Aware that national opinion polls have consistently demonstrated that over 80% of New Zealanders oppose the repeal of S. 59, the Society has helped form a Coalition of like-minded groups that strongly oppose Bradford's repeal bill. These include the Sensible Sentencing Trust, Family First Lobby, Family Integrity. Jamaican-born Swedish family lawyer, Ruby Harrold-Claesson, was brought to New Zealand in July 2006 by Family Integrity to spearhead a national campaign to inform the public, MPs and civic leaders of the dangers of repealing s. 59. Family Integrity funded the visit and the Society helped with aspects of the organisation. (see videos for sale: Advert p. 14).

## Review of Prostitution Reform Act (PRA)

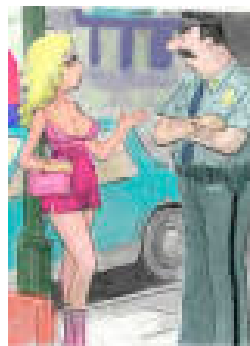
The Society wrote to the mayors of every city in New Zealand prior to this legislation being voted into law,<sup>8</sup> warning that if it was passed there would be an increase in underage street prostitution in some of areas in major cities, an overall growth in prostitution with its detrimental impact on society and zoning issues that would lock councils into lengthy and costly court proceedings where ratepayers would pay the price. All its predictions have come to pass.

The Society is very concerned that the group empowered under S. 42 of the PRA to investigate the impact of the legislation and report back to parliament – the Prostitution Law Review Committee – is years away from completing its report. United Future MP, Mr Gordon Copeland, is the chairman of a parliamentary working group that has begun examining the effects of the Act. They are focusing on street soliciting, underage involvement and the ability of local authorities

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<sup>8</sup> The Prostitution Reform Act (PRA) was passed by Parliament in June 2003 by the narrowest of margins – a majority of only one vote! Among other things, this Act decriminalises prostitution in New Zealand and introduces provisions that are supposed to protect the health and safety of sex workers and their clients. The Society vigorously opposed the proposed legislation from the time it first came before the Justice and Electoral (Select) Committee for consideration. It made lengthy written submissions, made two oral submissions before the committee and lobbied MPs. The Society was one of only four submitters recalled by the select committee to present its case again, following the NZ general elections. These four recalls enabled new MPs on the committee to hear from two groups opposed to the legislation (Maxim Institute and the Society) and two in favour (NZ Prostitute's Collective and the YWCA).

to control the location of brothels. They have already established that the PRA is not working and that the sorts of dire predictions made by the Society in its submissions have come true. For example, some councils have been very alarmed over the growth in the numbers of underage street prostitutes, the increased numbers of brothels now being located in suburban areas and their inability under to impose by-laws to control street soliciting.



“Who me? Soliciting - officer? Of course not. I'm operating a legitimate business. Some sell pizzas, I sell SEX!”

A bill to control street prostitution in Manukau City did not receive support from the majority of the members on the Labour Party dominated Justice and Electoral Committee and failed to receive parliament's support to be read a second time following debate on 11<sup>th</sup> of October.<sup>9</sup> Under the Local Government Act, Councils are supposed to be empowered to control street prostitution and the zoning of brothels. However, the courts have ruled that, in the light of their interpretation of the intentions of parliament embodied in PRA, Councils have now lost these powers. Prostitution is now regarded by the Courts and most MPs as a “legitimate profession” with the Prostitute's Collective receiving significant financial support from taxpayers.

## Follow Up on Critic (“Date Rape”)

Following up on the SPCS Newsletter Report (December 2005)..... The Otago Daily Times (10 Jan, 06) carried an article that expressed the concerns of the Society over the time taken by the Chief Censor to classify the Otago University

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<sup>9</sup> The conscience vote result was: 73:46. United Future Party list member Mr Gordon Copeland spoke strongly in favour of the bill. He pointed out that Manukau City Council currently requires all street vendors to obtain a licence with only one exception: sex workers selling their bodies. He argued that this showed how the PRA has led to prostitutes receiving special treatment, which should not be the case.

Student Association's Magazine CRITIC TE AROHI (Issue 23, Sept 19, 2005) that contained the highly controversial "how-to-do guide to date-rape". In a decision dated the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2006 and signed by the Chief Censor Bill Hastings, the Office of Film and Literature Classification (OFLC) classified the publication "objectionable" in terms of section 3(2)(b) and 3(2)(d) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 ("the Act"). The Society formally submitted this obscene and offensive publication to the OFLC for classification on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2005, a few days after thousands of copies were published by Planet Media Dunedin Ltd. and began to be distributed freely among university students at Otago University. The Commissioner of Police (NZ) and the Drug Rape Trust (NZ) also submitted the magazine for classification.

While the Society was pleased that the OFLC classified the magazine "objectionable" it is highly critical of the way the classification process took place. The publisher through its lawyer used unjustified delaying tactics in making its submissions to the OFLC. By the time the OFLC issued its decision the damage had been done. Thousands of copies had been distributed and read by students. The distributor has faced no penalty whatsoever for distributing "objectionable" magazine. What a farce!

**The spurious claims of the Chief Censor and his deputy that over-exposure to hard-core porn and violence does not lead to desensitisation, but has the opposite effect!**

In a self-promoting article published as an "advertising feature" in The Dominion Post (2/11/02), Bill Hastings denied that he had become, desensitised to sex and violence:

"The claim that repeated viewing of sex and violence has made him blasé about the classification process is unfounded, according to Mr Hastings, who says the opposite is true.

" 'I've found that, rather than becoming desensitised to all the violence you watch, I get more of a reaction to it. I can see the violence coming so I find myself closing my eyes and scrunching up in my seat. We used to take the cumulative effect into account, but under the current law now we don't – each publication is treated individually, which is odd because the

harm normally comes from a diet where you see the same kind of violent acts over and over.'

" ' **In dealing with the nasty end of the scale, Mr Hastings says he does not see it as a permanent career choice because of the continual diet of sex, violence and sexual violence... There are images I'll never forget that people should never see, even if they lived to be 500...'** "

The article entitled "The big-Picture Man" features a large coloured photo of Hastings with a picture of two homosexual men kissing in the background on a television monitor. It was published to coincide with the advertising of his statutory position, which had expired (to which he was later reappointed).



.....

"I get frustrated when people in a gay bar or a dance party recognize me as "the gay film censor". Being gay adds novelty value to a public position. In a way the recognition is flattering, but it also engages a public expectation about the role of the Chief Censor in society..." Bill Hastings (Interview with GayNZ.com)

.....

In the context of a discussion with Deputy Chief Censor, Ms Nicola McCully, on "the volume of very aggressive pornography" and "soul destroying crap" (her words) she had to watch as part of her job, she stated:

**"It's a myth that watching all these horrible things makes you blasé about them. You're more likely to become hyper-sensitive."**<sup>10</sup>

The Society totally rejects McCully's denial of the link between long-term over-exposure to hard-core porn and gratuitous sexual violence etc. and the consequent effect of desensitisation. A vast body of research clearly establishes the link and commonsense would have to be denied to argue otherwise. One only has to look at some of the many toxic and morally putrid publications McCully and Hastings regularly clear for adult

<sup>10</sup> "Watching The Defectives" published in the Sunday Star Times 13 August 2006, pp. 5-6

entertainment and examine them in the light of s. 3 of the Films, Videos and Publication Classification Act 1993 (which defines “objectionable” content) to see how callous and blasé they sadly have both become.

**Is the Sexuality of a Chief Censor and her/his Deputy Relevant to his/her ability to fulfil the statutory role?**

A few of the Society’s critics have claimed that its criticisms of decisions issued by the Classification Office, which is run by a gay Chief Censor and his gay deputy, are driven purely by “homophobia” (fear and/or revulsion of homosexuals as persons). Such criticism is ill-founded “gay rhetoric” and demonstrably false.

If one looks back over the work of the Society since its establishment as an incorporated society in 1975, it can be well-documented that it has, on many occasions, severely criticised the decisions of chief censors, none of whom were known to be homosexuals or lesbians (“gay”). For example, Chief Film Censor Arthur Everard, who shared the same liberal agenda as the current censors, was not a homosexual. He was a married heterosexual man. And yet the Society launched a prolonged campaign against him, based on his decisions and stated liberal agenda that had the effect of seriously harming the “public good”. No doubt decent-minded New Zealanders breathed deep sighs of relief when he lost his job and was put out to pasture. The Society is duty-bound to make noises as a “public watchdog” to highlight concerns over any Chief Censor and/or his or her deputy, whether they proclaim to be “straight” or “gay”.

In the case of Mr Hastings, he is the one, along with extreme elements in the gay community, who have trumpeted the fact that he is “openly gay” and that his deputy is a “lesbian”. To understand how important it is to Bill Hastings to be “openly gay”, consider the following:

When asked by gaynz.com “What is the worst thing for you about being GLBT? [Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transsexual]” Bill Hastings replied:

**“I get frustrated when people in a gay bar or a dance party recognize me as “the gay film censor”. Being gay adds novelty value to a public position. In a way the recognition is flattering, but it also engages a public**

**expectation about the role of the Chief Censor in society, which makes me unnecessarily more circumspect in my private life than I might otherwise be. I also never know if a person chatting to me is attracted to me, or to my office. I found myself one night at Studio 9 dancing alone in a room full of people, all of whom knew who I was.”**

To the question: “What is the best thing about being GLBT?” he replied:

**“For me, the best thing about being gay is more about being out than being gay. Being out allows me to show anyone who wants to see that being openly gay will not stop you being the chief executive of a Crown entity, being the Chief Censor..... Of course being openly gay attracts more than its share of battles, but I view these battles as opportunities to demonstrate in public that intolerance, fundamentalism and bigotry will never win in the long run.”**

To the question “Relationship status?” he replied:

**“I have been in a very contented, happy and fun relationship with Jeremy for nearly six years.”<sup>11</sup>**

In an article entitled “He sees what we won’t” journalist Val Aldridge wrote:

**“Mr Hastings and his Canadian wife of then just one week, Loretta, arrived in New Zealand in 1985. The couple are separated. He carefully explains he now has a new partner, Jeremy, and he and his wife share custody of the [three] children.”<sup>12</sup>**

**From the outset of his appointment as Chief Censor, Canadian-born Bill Hastings has sought to make it abundantly clear to the public that being gay is a central and defining aspect of his personal make-up and impacts upon all that he thinks, feels and does as a censor. At least he is honest enough to admit that making judgments on what constitutes the “public good” and what injures it, is informed by his world-view that is bound up with his “sexuality”. No doubt, the fact that he has children is another important factor, assisting him to take account of the impact of “objectionable” content on minors.**

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.gaynz.com/at\\_a\\_glance/Bill\\_Hastings.asp](http://www.gaynz.com/at_a_glance/Bill_Hastings.asp)

Accessed 17/10/2003

<sup>12</sup> The Dominion Post. Saturday People “He sees what we won’t”, by Val Aldridge.

## **Bill Hastings and the Living Word Video Ban**

One of many clear examples of the impact of Mr Hastings's homosexual lifestyle choice upon his flawed decision-making is his influence in the banning of the Living Word videos, when he was Deputy president of the Film and Literature Board of Review. The Court of Appeal was told by Counsel for the Board, Crown Office lawyer John Oliver, that Hastings wrote the decision that banned the two "talking head" Christian videos that were critical of homosexual activism and promiscuity.

### **The "Living Word Videos"**<sup>13</sup>

(Produced by Jeremiah Films)

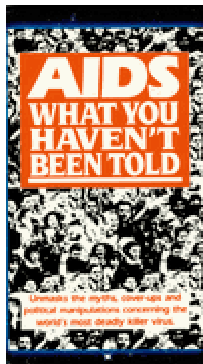
[www.jeremiahfilms.com](http://www.jeremiahfilms.com)



Gay Rights Special Rights: Inside the Homosexual Agenda

Full transcript of video available at:

<http://www.christian-apologetics.org/html/Aids.htm>



AIDS: What You Haven't Been Told

Full transcript of video available at:

[http://www.christian-apologetics.org/html/Gay\\_rights\\_Special\\_rights.htm](http://www.christian-apologetics.org/html/Gay_rights_Special_rights.htm)

<sup>13</sup> Marketed in New Zealand for Jeremiah Films by Living Word Distributors Ltd, 52 Collingwood St. Hamilton, New Zealand. [Livingword.Ltd@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Livingword.Ltd@xtra.co.nz)

After a protracted appeal process through the High Court and then the full Court of Appeal; the appellant, Living Word Distributors, succeeded in getting the videos reclassified as "unrestricted". Mr Hastings to this day remains upset that his former Board's decision and that of the High Court were overturned. He told the NZ Herald that the Court's interpretation "put in doubt the office's ability to classify as restricted or objectionable publications which ... treat a group of the public as inherently inferior by reason of a prohibited ground of discrimination".<sup>14</sup> (Counsel for the appellant [Living Word Distributors Ltd.] demonstrated convincingly to the Court that the videos content did not treat homosexuals as "inferior persons". Rather, they only critiqued their sexual lifestyle).

Mr Hastings was deeply upset that his Office could no longer ban material containing criticisms of homosexual lifestyle practice and the video claims that HIV transmission and the resultant AIDS epidemic is linked to the unhealthy practices of promiscuous male homosexuals. The fact that it never has had such an ability in law to ban free speech, seems to evade him! Commentators suggest that Hasting's inability to interpret the law correctly was clouded by his advocacy of homosexual lifestyle, deep commitment to gay activism via his statutory position and strong opposition to Christian fundamentalism.

## **California Homosexual Organization Admits HIV/AIDS is "Gay Disease"**

Thursday 5th October 2006

By Gudrun Schultz

**LOS ANGELES, California**, October 4, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center has abandoned a long-held homosexual activist contention by declaring on billboards posted throughout Southern California that HIV/AIDS is a "gay disease."

According to a report by the Los Angeles Times, the Center is trying to address rapidly increasing HIV infection rates among the homosexual population by rallying the gay community to increasing vigilance against exposure to the disease. Activists for the homosexual lifestyle have, until this current development, strongly, and sometimes

<sup>14</sup> Video ruling blow to powers, says censor". NZ Herald 10/11/01 (NZPA).



vehemently refused to admit that the disease is predominantly generated among homosexual men.

The ad campaign, which is also running in magazines, is in part a response to the findings of public health officials, who have noted that three out of four cases of HIV infections are found in men who engage in homosexual activity, the United Press International reported.

In 2005 US health officials reported an alarming eight percent increase in HIV infection rates in one year alone among homosexual and bisexual men. The Center for Disease Control also warned that a survey of 15-29 year old men who engaged in homosexual activity "reported that the proportion of unrecognized HIV infection was as high as 77 %."

A report by the Public Health Agency of Canada, released in August 2006, revealed a sharp increase in HIV/AIDS infections, with 51 percent of infections found in men engaging in homosexual activity.<sup>15</sup>

### Effect of Media Violence on Children<sup>16</sup>



The truly harmful effects of TV and video violence are well known and thoroughly documented. In July, 2000, a joint statement was made to the US Congress by the AMA, the APA, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. What they said was: "Well over 1,000 studies point overwhelmingly to a causal connection between media violence and aggressive behavior in some children".

<sup>15</sup> See the CDC's report:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5445a1.htm>

<sup>16</sup> The following websites are a mere sampling of the research:

1. [www.lionlamb.org/research.html](http://www.lionlamb.org/research.html)
2. [www.killology.com/stanfordstudy](http://www.killology.com/stanfordstudy)  
<.html" <http://www.killology.com/stanfordstudy>>.html
3. [www.apa.org/releases/videoviolence05](http://www.apa.org/releases/videoviolence05)  
<.html" <http://www.apa.org/releases/videoviolence05>>.html
4. <.html" <http://health.myway.com/art/id/527504>>.html
5. <.pdf" <http://jrc.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/42/1/3>>.pdf

## The Broadcasting Standards Authority

BSA. PO Box 9213  
Wellington  
Ph (04) 382 9508  
Fax (04) 382 9543

**For details on how to make a complaint go to:**

<http://www.bsa.govt.nz/makingcomplaints.htm>

**The Society encourages its members to make formal complaints to Broadcasters over specific programmes where standards of decency are clearly being breached.** It commends Mr Howard Owen (not a Society member) of Whakatane, who lodged a complaint with Television New Zealand over its screening of a short clip of a bashing scene from the controversial Stanley Kubrick cult classic – Clockwork Orange - during its arts show Frontseat which has a G (general) rating. The screening took place during children's viewing hours.

The film, which follows a young man whose pleasures are classical music, rape, and random acts of "ultraviolence", was banned in some countries and given an R18 rating in New Zealand.

Unhappy with the broadcaster's response to his initial complaint, Mr Owen referred the matter to the BSA which ruled that TVNZ breached standards of classification and children's interests by screening the repeat TV1 show featuring the Clockwork Orange clip with a G rating at 7.55 am on a Saturday morning.

Owen argued that the clip was wrongly classified, as it showed "graphic violence" during "unsupervised children's viewing time". The five-second scene featured a man repeatedly beaten in a tunnel. TVNZ had screened the same show late on Saturday evening before with an AO (Adults Only) rating.

The majority of the BSA found the segment was likely to be unsuitable for children and should have been rated PGR.

### Queen Street Boobs on Bikes

The Society issued a press release on the 23rd of August 2006 entitled "Report: Steve Crow's Erotic Sleaze Banned". (see picture of Mr Crow on p. 10) <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO0608/S00276.htm>

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*"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."  
(EdmundBurke)*

## Report: How NZ Tax Payers Subsidise Hard Core Porn via Censor's Office

Taxpayers are currently subsidising the examination, classification and registration of hundreds of sleazy hardcore porn videos every year and the Society wants this to stop and for the porn industry and distributors to cover ALL the costs involved. Deputy Chief Censor, Ms Nicola McCully “estimates that about 80% of her team’s work is classifying the kind of sexually explicit DVDs that will end up in sex shops and the “adult” sections of video stores from North Cape to Bluff.” She says that censors “might have six hours of sex DVDs to classify, and have to watch them from beginning to end. There’s no fast forwarding ... The misogyny in these sex tapes is very depressing.”<sup>17</sup> Of the 1,467 publications classified in 2004/05, 1,097 (75%) were videos or DVDs. Most of these fit this porn sleaze category. The classification fees (\$1100 per DVD and \$1000 per VHS video) paid by those like “NZ’s Porn King”, Steve Crow, who produce and market this sleaze, falls far short of covering the real costs of classification involved which are met by the New Zealand taxpayer.



..... .  
**Steve Crow NZ's "Porn King"**  
(Photo: [www.uncensored.co.nz](http://www.uncensored.co.nz))

McCully described the porn sleaze she and her team of 15 censors spend hours watching, checking and rewatching, “soul-destroying crap” (SST 13/08/06). The Society agrees! It does not believe that tax-payers should subsidise the

<sup>17</sup> Sunday Star Times (13/08/06), pp. 5-6

exploitative hard-core porn industry championed by the likes of Steve Crow, that is so damaging to the “public good”. It believes that the majority of New Zealanders would be horrified to know that their hard-earned tax money is being used to subsidise and promote such degrading, demeaning and dehumanising material.

### Detailed Analysis of Tax payer funding of Chief Censor's Office

According to the 2005 Annual Report of the Office of Film and Literature Classification (OFLC) a total of 2,256 publications were received for classification in the year 2004/05 [Table 2, p. 34 and p. 68]. Of these 2,136 were actually examined [Table 3, p. 36 and p. 68], but classification decisions were registered for only 1,468 “in the reporting year” [p. 41]. The question arises: What are the 668 publications which were examined but for which no formal classification decision is issued? The answer can be found in Figure 11 of the Annual Report that shows that of the 2,256 publications received, 706 (33%) were poster advertising slicks which only take a few seconds at most to approve or disapprove and categorise in terms of display condition options. A formal classification decision is not required to be written for slicks. For a junior censor it would take less than a day’s work to assess the 706 slicks, while in contrast, a standard DVD, film or video would take somewhere between one to three hours just to watch and each one has to be watched in its entirety.

The minimal time input in assessing advertising slicks, for which 43% were approved with no conditions attached, suggests that the vast bulk of the censors’ time involves examining, classifying and registering the decisions related to six other publication categories: DVDs (692; 32%), Videos (405; 19%), Individual Computer Files and Printouts (176; 8%), films (71; 3%), digital games (71; 3%) and books (43; 2%) [Fig. 11, p. 38].

One of these categories – “Individual Computer Files and Printouts” – shares much in common with that of advertising slicks as it involves static images that can be assessed very quickly compared to a DVD, film or video. However, because classification decisions need to be written up and registered for each image, the time taken to complete the process would take longer than approving an advertising slick.

In a recent report in The Sunday Star Times (13 Aug 2006) The Deputy Chief Censor, Ms Nicola McCully, “estimates that about 80% of her team’s

work is classifying the kind of sexually explicit DVDs that will end up in sex shops and the “adult” sections of video stores from North Cape to Bluff... In addition to [her] and chief censor Bill Hastings there are 15 classification officers who assist in classifying incoming publications.”

Given this revelation as to what Ms McCully and her team of 15 censors spend 80% of their time doing, is it not reasonable to ask: How much of it is funded for by tax-payers as opposed to funded by those in the hard core porn industry who apply to have sex publications classified so they can distribute them? To answer this question consider the following...

For the year ended 30 June 2005 the OFLC received Crown Revenue of \$1,337,706 (i.e. taxpayer funding) for the "examination, classification and registration of publications" received that year (defined as "Output 1" in the Annual Report). However, note that Crown Revenue was but one of the sources of funding enabling Output 1 to be achieved.

If we assume that all Crown Revenue funding was consumed in order to achieve Output 1, and ignore other sources of funding; then to provide an estimate of the average cost to the taxpayer of having each of the 1,468 publications classified in 2005, we divide Crown Revenue by 1,468. This gives a unit cost of \$911.24 to the taxpayer per publication. However, because there was a surplus of revenue over expenditure of \$141,466 in relation to Output 1 [p. 67] the total revenue and expenditure needs to be examined.

Additional revenue to Crown Revenue to fund the delivery of Output 1 was received by the OFLC in 2004/05. \$975,311 was received from “Third Party Revenue” (fees paid by those submitting publications for classification) and \$160,039 was received from “Other” sources “Including Interest”: a Total additional revenue of \$1,135,350 over and above Crown Revenue [p. 67].

If we divide the total expenditure by the OFLC to achieve Output 1 (\$2,331,590) by 1,468 we find that the expenditure per publication is \$1,588.30 per year.

When we take account of the fact that a person submitting a DVD or video for classification pays a fee of \$1,100 and \$1,000 respectively, and that the Crown’s contribution was \$1,337,706 to achieve Output 1 in 2004/05, it should be obvious that the Crown is heavily

subsidising the exercise. Taxpayers are heavily subsidising every porn distributor who submits a publication for classification. The fee such a person pays covers only a proportion of the true cost to the taxpayer involved in getting the publication classified.

**The Society asks: Why should taxpayers be funding to the level they are, a classification process focused predominantly on clearing adult sex DVDs and videos for the home ‘entertainment’ market; material that degrades, demeans and dehumanises women and sometimes even contains gratuitous and explicit depictions of sexual violence and torture? Why should the Chief Censor Bill Hastings be receiving an annual remuneration (plus benefits) of between \$180,000 and \$190,000 and his deputy in the range of \$140,000 and \$150,000 to fulfil their respective roles?<sup>18</sup> Few taxpayers would be aware of the extent that they are aiding and abetting the sex sleaze industry via their financial support for these two censors and their 15 co-censors. The Society believes it is time for both Hastings and McCully to be replaced.**

The millions of dollars used to subsidise the sex sleaze industry would be better used to shorten hospital waiting lists. Quite a few hip-replacements could be done with the money lavished on hard core porn promoters!

In addition to the Crown Revenue the OFLC receives annually for funding its censorship tasks (Output 1), it also receives Crown Revenue funding its Information Services (Output 2). In 2004/05 it received \$622,294 for the latter and ended up spending \$539,158 leaving it with a surplus of \$83,136. It funded one planned research project focused on “Users of Sexually explicit material” expanding the research on the same topic carried out in 2003/04. The annual Report explained the “primary purpose of the research” as follows:

**“The Office receives more sexually explicit publications for classification than any other type of publication.** Staff expressed interest in knowing more about the viewing habits of the audience for the material they classify. The Office was interested in the circumstances under which viewers watch the material, who they view it with and their reasons for selecting the material they do. Following on from the pilot study on the same subject in 2003/2004 the research aimed to enlarge the sample by gathering

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<sup>18</sup> OFLC Annual Report 2005 Note 9, p. 66.

data from a different region of New Zealand” [Emphasis added].

The OFLC gathered its self-selecting sample of porn viewing participants by leaving invitations for video/DVD customers in the adult sections of video rental businesses where porn is on display. So keen is the OFLC to hear the views of such participants, it regularly offers a “koha” to make the task of self-disclosure attractive to porn viewers (one-to-one interviews).

In contrast, for over six years, the Chief Censor, Bill Hastings, and his Deputy Nicola McCully, have refused to meet with executive members of the Society to discuss the very real concerns they have over the brutal sexual violence and degrading sexual material that fill the hundreds of videos and DVDs these censors regularly clear for adult consumption each year.<sup>19</sup>

### South Park Episode – ‘Bloody Mary’



.....  
This episode of South Park was screened on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2006 by C4 Television. The Society forwarded a comprehensive “formal complaint” to the broadcaster. The Chief Executive, Mr Rick Friesen, apologised to the Society for the offence the programme had caused but rejected the basis upon which the complaint had been lodged. He argued that it constituted legitimate satire and did not contravene the Broadcasting Standards guidelines for free-to-air television. The Society chose not to take an appeal against that decision to the BSA as it was aware that a record number of complainants had done so including the Catholic Bishops Conference. The Society’s submission was made available on its website and forwarded to interested parties. The Society has little confidence in the BSA’s ability to uphold standards of decency in programme content.

<sup>19</sup> References: (1) The Annual Report 2005, Office of Film and Literature Classification. For the year ended 30 June 2005. (2) “Watching the Defectives” by Grant Smithies. Sunday Star Times (13 August 2006, pp. 5-6).

### Film and Literature Board Appointments

(continued from page 2)

It is clear that the intention of parliament was to put a six-year upper limit on the period a member could serve on the Board of Review, a task that involves viewing “objectionable” film content including hard-core porn and other “objectionable” content. A reappointment period should never be recommended by a Minister that allows any member to serve on the board continuously beyond the six-year limit. The law is clear: a Board member can be appointed for no longer than two 3-year terms.



**Hon. Rick Barker**  
**Minister of Internal Affairs**

Instead of re-appointing Ms Elliott and Mr Mark Anderson so that their terms expire within the six-year maximum term period provided in law, the Minister has re-appointed them from 20 April 2006 until 31 March 2009. This cements them in place for an eight-year continuous period (2001-2009), when the intention of parliament was clearly to limit the duration of Board member to six years maximum (2001-2007).

The Society has asked the Minister to explain why he has seen fit to re-appoint three other members of the Board – the Deputy president, Greg Presland, Dr Brian McConnell and Marion Orme as members from 20 April 2006 until 31 March 2008 – allowing them to serve for seven continuous years on the board (2001-2008), beyond the maximum time period prescribed in law (six years).

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**"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."**

**(Edmund Burke)**

## Nine Incumbent Board Members Reappointed

Nos 1-8 Announced by Minister on 8 May 2006

No 9 Announced on 2 October 2006

1. **Ms Claudia Elliott** (Board President).

First Appointed 12 June 2001. Expired 31 May 2004  
Re-appointed as President on 8 May 2006  
Effective from 20 April 2006 to 31 March 2009

**Ms Elliott**, has been a barrister for nearly 20 years with experience in all aspects of family law. She was a partner with Ms Jan Walker in a Rotorua law firm that specialised in family, mental health and employment law. Her partner Jan Walker moved to Auckland when she was appointed as a Judge in the Family Court. Elliott then moved to Auckland to set up her sole law practice and since then has been appointed as counsel in a number of Family Court cases. She holds a Masters in Business Studies (Alternate Dispute Resolution) and before practice in law was a teacher. [www.lexisnexis.co.nz](http://www.lexisnexis.co.nz) (May 2006).

2. **Mr Presland** practises as a barrister and solicitor in Auckland. Serves on several subcommittees of the Auckland District Law Society (Picture: [www.ltsa.govt.nz](http://www.ltsa.govt.nz))



**Greg Presland**

First Appointed 12 June 2001. Expired 31 May 2004  
Re-appointed as Vice-President on 8 May 2006  
Effective from 20 April 2006 to 31 March 2008

3. **Mr Anderson** is a scientist at HortResearch in Auckland. He has a strong interest in film and literature. (HortResearch News).



**Mark Andersen**

First Appointed 12 June 2001. Expired 31 May 2004  
Re-appointed on 8 May 2006  
Effective from 20 April 2006 to 31 March 2009

4. **Marion Orme** is a lecturer in literature, film and drama at Massey University College of Education



**Ms Marion Orme**

(Massey News)

First Appointed 12 June 2001. Expired 31 May 2004  
Re-appointed on 8 May 2006  
Effective from 20 April 2006 to 31 March 2008

6. **Dr Brian McDonnell** is of Tuhoë descent. He is a senior lecturer in English and media studies at Massey University (Albany Campus). (Picture: Massey News)



**Dr Brian McDonnell**

First Appointed 12 June 2001. Expired 31 May 2004  
Re-appointed on 8 May 2006  
Effective from 20 April 2006 to 31 March 2008

6. **Peter Cartwright** was Chair of the Broadcasting Standards Authority and Indecent Publications Tribunal Has extensive legal experience. Husband of former Governor-General of NZ – Dame Silvia Cartwright.



**Peter Cartwright**

(Source: [www.gov-gen.govt.nz](http://www.gov-gen.govt.nz))

First Appointed 12 June 2001. Expired 31 May 2004  
Re-appointed on 8 May 2006  
Effective from 20 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

7. **Stephen Stehlin** of Auckland is of Samoan descent and is the producer of television programme Tagata Pasifika. (Photo [www.tvnz.co.nz](http://www.tvnz.co.nz)).



**Stephen Stehlin**

First Appointed 12 June 2001. Expired 31 May 2004  
Re-appointed on 8 May 2006  
Effective from 20 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

8. **Dr Lalita Rajasingham** (no picture available) Associate Professor Academic Staff, School of Information Management, Informatics Group, Victoria University. First Appointed 12 June 2001. Expired 31 May 2004. Re-appointed on 8 May 2006. Effective from 20 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

9. **Ani Waaka**. Former Chief Executive of the Māori Television Services and the New Zealand Māori Arts & Crafts Institute. She is a consultant for Tall Poppies Limited.



**Ani Waaka**

(Photo: [www.tallpoppies.co.nz](http://www.tallpoppies.co.nz))

First Appointed  
1 September 2003 to 31 August 2006  
Re-appointed on 2 October 2006  
Effective from 1 October 2006 to 31 August 2009

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The Minister Rick Barker's decision to re-appoint Peter Cartwright, Dr Lalita Rajasingham and Stephen Stehlin for terms commencing on 20 April 2006 and concluding on 31 March 2007 does conform with the Act. Their period of Board membership cannot exceed the six-year time limit. Likewise the reappointment of Ani Waaka conforms to the law.

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In the year ended 30 June 2005 the Board issued 11 decisions. The Society was granted leave by the Secretary of Internal Affairs to have five classifications reviewed by the Board. The Board confirmed the OFLC classifications in four and ruled the 5<sup>th</sup> review was bought out of time. The remaining six reviews were brought by film owners or distributors. The OFLC classifications were confirmed in five and in the sixth it was lowered from R18 to R16 (the film Closer).<sup>20</sup>

## Advertisement 3 Must See DVDs

Send Orders to Family Integrity

PO Box 9064

Palmerston North, New Zealand

Fax: (06) 357 4389

E-mail [family.integrity@xtra.co.nz](mailto:family.integrity@xtra.co.nz)

**DVD-1 'For The Love of Our Children'**  
**DVD-2 Public lecture & forum: Swedish Family Law expert Ruby Harrold-Claesson**  
**DVD-3 'Debate & Forum Sue Bradford MP, Peter Dunne MP & Craig Smith**  
Prices: \$10 each or \$25 for three (price includes postage)



<http://www.familyintegrity.org.nz>

<sup>20</sup> Brief to Incoming Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Rick Barker. Section 2b. By W.K. Hastings, Chief Censor, Film & Literature.

The following excerpt comes from an extensive interview with Chief Censor Bill Hastings published by Express Magazine.<sup>21</sup> His responses show why the Minister needs to be replaced:

**“Pornography always gets an R18 rating. But sexual assaults depicted in porn films can lead them to be banned. So how is sexual assault defined? Can you give examples of what’s OK and what’s not OK?”**

[Hastings] “Well, for example, some of the sex tapes are ‘set ups’. Some guys in an exotic country put an ad in the local paper to get girls. These girls don’t speak any English, and they might get shown explicit sex magazines, and asked ‘can you do this stuff?’ They get nervous, and say no, but eventually no becomes ‘yes’. Well, **we cut all that ‘set up’ out, because that part is the ‘coercing’ of someone to consent to sexual conduct, which is not OK. If the sex itself is fine, it’s the [sic] just the ‘set up’ we’d cut out. Presumably afterwards, the girls would have signed a release, allowing the tapes to be sold.** So this is focused on the message being conveyed, and the message here is simply – ‘no’ means ‘yes’. It perpetuates the ‘rape myth’. [‘rape myth’ = The idea the women enjoy getting raped. Emphasis added]

“So if we feel that a video promotes or supports the use of violence or coercion to compel any person to participate in or submit to sexual conduct, it will get cut or banned. If it’s quite theatrical, sort of S&M [sadomasochism] type ritualised stuff, that’s OK. But there’s got to be stuff in that video that quite clearly indicates that the ‘submissive’ party is agreeing to it....”

“With pornography, if we’re concerned about something, we can give a distributor an option – to make cuts and then get an R18 rating, or don’t make cuts and we’ll ban it, so it’s up to them.”

Here we see how Hastings’s Office turns a blind eye to the evidence of coercion in the ‘set up’ of the porn video, excising that section, so the quality (“fine”) sex acts involving the demeaning, degrading and dehumanising of women can be salvaged and enjoyed by men who feed their minds on hard core porn. Hastings is only concerned that the behind-the-scenes coercion elements are not included in the main feature to sully the “fine” sex. If they intrude into the main action they are only cut if there is a high level of promotion and support of

coercion. He has become so desensitised as to where the boundary should be set - defining a tendency to promote and support - that he has classified many films for cinemas containing explicit and lengthy scenes of brutal rape, sodomy, necrophilia etc. Censors in Britain saw fit to cut the explicit penetration scene in the French rape Baise-Moi, while the Australian censors banned it. And yet Hastings cleared it for cinema screening and allowed students attending tertiary film media study courses to view it.

Many desperate women with drug habits to feed, prostitutes in debt to their pimps and young girls desperate to escape the trap of squalid poverty and trying to pay their bills, are regularly coerced by unscrupulous pornographers into the sordid industry. Their “fine” sex performances that so impress Hastings, reveal nothing of the personal trauma and degradation they feel having to perform. They are coerced into committing sex acts that degrade themselves and others. Hastings believes that a “fine” sex performance, stripped of its ‘set-up’ elements of coercion, constitutes “consensual sex.” It does not. Any element of coercion that is detected in the ‘set-up’ to any porn shoot means that the release for distribution of such material is unethical. Porn actors regularly sign releases for material under duress. Hastings wrongly presumes that all ‘actors’ in porn filming sign releases and that is the end of the matter. Not so. The world-wide growth in the trafficking and exploitation of women for sexual gratification purposes and the power of men to laud it over women trapped in drug habits and prostitution, are some of the toxic elements that make the porn industry anything but ethical and a bastion of human rights!

For Hastings and his deputy, the odd smile from a porn star is taken as clear proof that the participant is involved in consensual sex. That it appears consensual is all that matters to them - allowing the publication to be classified R18. Critics point out that it is a wonder that a homosexual man and lesbian deputy can so accurately and astutely discern the finer nuances of consensual heterosexual love-making. But of course such critics overlook the fact that there are 15 well-balanced classification officers like “Susan” and “Mike” (surnames withheld by the OFLC: whose photos appear in the recent Sunday Star Times report on the Chief Censor’s Office) who assist them. Classification Office decisions on hard-core porn films clearly state that the misogynistic depictions of sex acts demean the participants and strongly suggest coercion. And yet they move on to say that the girls appear to be enjoying themselves so the activity must be consensual.

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Check out the SPCS website [www.spcs.org.nz](http://www.spcs.org.nz)

<sup>21</sup> Express. 10-23 May 2006, 12-13.

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