

X-POP3-Rcpt: wrigro@saturn

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Reply-To: Forenpsy Forensic Psychology <FORENSIC-PSYCH@SJVVM.STJOHNS.EDU>

Sender: Forenpsy Forensic Psychology <FORENSIC-PSYCH@SJVVM.STJOHNS.EDU>

From: "Robert S. Wright" <wrigro@wwc.edu>

Subject: Re: Pornography in prison

To: Multiple recipients of list FORENSIC-PSYCH
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The issue of sex in prison is a good example of how non-sensical institutional policies can be. When it comes to these issues programming goals seem not to matter.

I broaden the issue to sex in prison because pornography is just a component of the larger issue.

Pornography: If prisons were concerned about rehabilitation I question if pornography would be allowed in prison. Alcohol is a legal substance but is forbidden in prison even though there are probably a lot of responsible drinkers behind bars. It is forbidden for either one of two reasons: It would be considered a luxury and we certainly couldn't have that, or we recognize that there are a lot of addicts in prison and so the substance should be controlled in such an environment. If the latter is the reason why alcohol is restricted than shouldn't pornography be likewise restricted? There are certainly a lot of people in prison who don't need to have access to that material.

Masturbation: I don't know what prisons think of this one. The unwritten policy seems to be "keep it under cover".

Same Sex Relations: Homosexual relationships seem not to be permitted in prisons. Even though sex needs are recognized (pornography is permitted, so is masturbation), meeting those needs with another inmate seems to be inappropriate. However, I am led to understand that protective pairing in which a daddy's needs are serviced by a punk, this is tolerated by institutions. Supposedly this practice maintains social order by limiting the beating up of, raping of and fighting over 'desireable' inmates. So same sex is forbidden if it is two people meeting their intimacy needs. It is allowed if it is only one person being satisfied and the pairing is meeting a security need.

Male Female Sexual Relations: Many institutions, I am told, allow contact visits between qualified prisoners and their spouses. Again recognizing the sexual need, prisoners are permitted to satisfy it. However, those

prisoners who have had partners on the outside to whom they were not married are denied such contact. Is this enforced morality?

Admittedly I don't have any answers here. The issue seems to be the inability to balance programming objectives, civil rights and community tolerance and understanding.

Personally I'd advocate the elimination of pornography in prison and the provision of supportive counselling to help prisoners begin to understand intimacy needs.

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