

Editorial:

Sexual content on tv may lead to real problems

Psychologists theorize that entertainment violence can cause children to act in violent ways. Many believe constant exposure to "make-believe" shooting, stealing and other crimes desensitizes children and makes these acts seem "cool."

What we do not hear much about is how the constant exposure to sexual content in the media affects children. Sex is everywhere these days. Children are exposed to these situations on television shows, commercials, movies, music and video games.

If entertainment violence leads to real life violence, then it stands to reason that the constant bombardment of entertainment sex leads to children and teenagers exploring areas they have no business exploring.

According to cbs11tv.com, Mississippi has the highest teen pregnancy rate in the United

States. Since 2006, Mississippi's teen pregnancy rate has skyrocketed to 60 percent of the national average.

So, if entertainment violence makes children and teens partake in violent acts, could entertainment sex cause teenage sexual activity? You bet it can.

University of North Carolina researchers Jane Brown and Jeanne Steele conducted a study concerning teens and media involving sex. They found that there is a connection between the two, according to www.kff.org. In the Kaiser Teen Survey, more than half of the surveyed teens think that the portrayals of sex in the media are a factor affecting sexual activity.

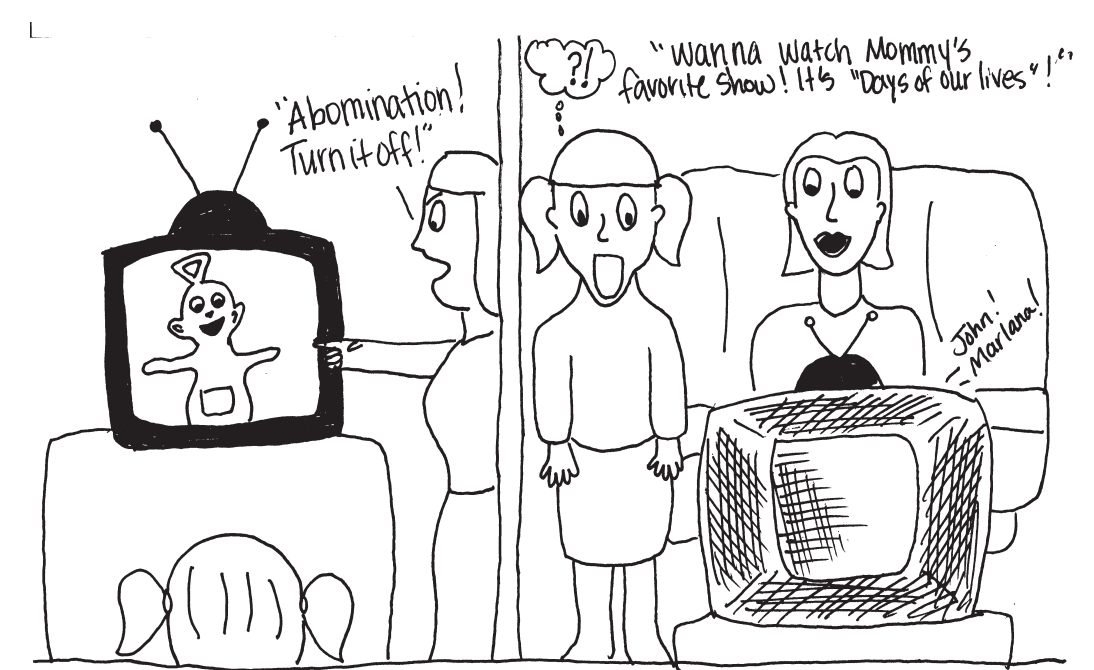
The media these days has become more available to teens and children. In 1993, the Kaiser researchers monitored the favorite shows of teens age

17 and under. In each episode, they found at least one sexual situation between characters. After a week of monitoring, only three out of those ten shows showed one message of sexual responsibility.

Just think, if this was in 1993, 16 years ago, think of how entertainment has changed from the 1990's.

It is our job, as a society, to talk to our teens and monitor what they watch. When teens watch sex on television or the internet, or read about it in books and magazines, many may feel compelled to act on what they see or read.

Many people are worried about the pregnancy rate in this county. If we could decrease the availability of sexual entertainment, there might be a decrease in pregnancy and other sexual "experiments." At such a



young age, teens have no business exploring sex, especially with no spouse, and many times, no love. Sex is treated with so much irresponsibility.

Entertainment was supposed to be for exactly what it says—entertainment. However, we as a society have let images of sex and violence be considered

"entertainment." Do not let entertainment violence make you hostile or angry and please do not let entertainment sex lead you to sexual activity. Be responsible.

Obama lifts ban on abortion funding

By: Jennifer Holifield
Staff Writer

Most Americans have heard about the case of Roe v. Wade. It is remembered as the historical case that changed America - and not necessarily for the better.

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Jane Roe, which, in turn, legalized abortion, the termination of an unwanted pregnancy. The court deemed abortion a "fundamental right under the United States Constitution."

In 2001, former President George W. Bush re-instituted the ban on federal money given to groups that perform abortion or even give out information concerning the procedure.

Unfortunately, the morality our former president has is something that current President Barack Obama seems to lack.

On January 23, 2009, exactly one day after the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Obama lifted the ban as one of his first acts in office.

"In the coming weeks, my administration will initiate a fresh conversation on family planning, working to find areas of common ground to best meet the needs of women and families at home and around the world," Obama said.

Notice that he did not say the needs of the unborn children that are being murdered.

In other words, American taxpayers' money is helping fund abortions not only in the United States, but also around the world.

Personally, I do not want to fund abortions at all, and I certainly do not want to help every other country pay for them either.

I do not find it acceptable

See ABORTION page 8

Mardi Gras celebration changes over years

By: Lisa Thompson
Staff Writer

An interesting and flamboyant tradition came and went at the end of February.

Mardi Gras is known worldwide as a week-long festival where excess is key. Participants are rewarded for how much madness they can muster.

However, this tradition was not intended to be celebrated in this way. American distortions of Mardi Gras are what we see on the crowded streets of New Orleans, Biloxi and Mobile.

Parades, beads, alcohol, music and sex are key factors in today's Mardi Gras celebrations.

Fat Tuesday is listed on our calendars. Many people host parties on this day as a culmination of Mardi Gras. However, Mardi Gras as we know it today has not always been as engrained in excess.

Mardi Gras began as a festival in France in the Middle Ages. Originally a Pagan festival, Catholics adopted it in the 17th

century incorporating it into the Lenten season leading up to Easter.

It has been celebrated in America ever since, where the original meaning of the holiday is skewed.

The religious aspect has been completely taken out of the festivals and now Mardi Gras is only a huge orgy on the streets of southern cities. It is sickening the way the masses conduct themselves at Mardi Gras festivals.

I believe that Mardi Gras should be respected as what it was set out to be and not what it has become. The distortion of the sacred Catholic festival is abysmal and despicable.

Maybe alcohol should be present in the celebration of Mardi Gras, as it was also important in the original celebrations.

However, I believe that the excessive sex and focus on getting fully wasted in every aspect of the word is something that should not be celebrated for a sacred event.

Government bailout comes with high price tag

By: Ashton Pittman
Staff Writer

During an economic address at George Mason University, President Barack Obama recently claimed that government is our only hope to save us from the current economic crisis.

He has clearly demonstrated this belief through his support of congressional Democrats' \$800-billion spending bill.

While Democrats in Congress claim this so-called "stimulus package" is intended to rescue the ailing economy, there is very little to evidence this claim within the bill itself.

How does giving Hollywood film producers \$246 million in tax cuts help the struggling farmer in Iowa to afford clothing for his family?

How does spending \$248 million

dollars to update government office furniture help to ensure that a hardworking family in Mississippi will not lose their home?

While many in Congress feel it is their divine duty to save the world from the dangers of incandescent light bulbs, it is a stretch to make the case that spending \$6 billion to turn federal buildings "green" will somehow create jobs for the unemployed in California.

These are just a few examples of the many excessive spending projects included in the bill.

The inclusion of such absurdities is not quite so puzzling, however, when put into the context of its authors and their agendas.

While there are undoubtedly some who support the package out of fear of being seen as "doing nothing," the goals of people such as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid are quite

different. They seek to use this bill to promote nationalized industry and create an economy at the mercy of its messianic government.

They are using this bill as a stepping-stone towards their ideal nation. In their America, the people will be at the mercy of elected officials, not elected officials at the mercy of the people.

The people will be in the hands of government, and not government in the hands of the people. We cannot afford to place our lives in the hands of government.

We must not ask what our country can do for us, but we should ask what we must do for ourselves.

The true root of our economic woes comes from a widespread lack of individual fiscal

see BAILOUT page 8

Able-bodied citizens must work for assistance

By: Destin Morris
Staff Writer

America has been described many ways throughout the years, such as America the great, America the beautiful and America the bountiful. Now there seems to be a new title given to America, and it is unflattering to many Americans. This new title is America the lazy.

America, known for her prosperity and hard-working citizens, has become a cesspool of laziness. With employment rates at a record low before the economic recession one might conclude that laziness might have something

to do with state in which America's finances are found.

Research from the US Census Bureau shows that more than 5.6 percent of Americans are unemployed.

Realizing that the vast number of unemployed will probably continue to increase, America must ask herself a simple question. Should government assistance be granted to able-bodied, unemployed Americans?

Obviously, there are some Americans who were laid-off and had no decision in their unemployment. However, even before this economic debacle America is facing

the number of unemployed was outrageous! Believe it or not, unemployment has been at a constant of around 5.6 million people for the last ten years.

Even more shocking than unemployment percentages is the fact that the government is basically rewarding laziness.

More government assistance programs for the unemployed are being created daily, and more and more assistance is being given to those who give absolutely nothing to America except a bad name and a hard time.

So what are we to do about the ideal

See ASSISTS page 8

Smoking, drinking both pose burden to public

By: Jeanie Smith
Opinions Editor

As we all know, public businesses have placed bans on smoking in their restaurants. This was not done to persecute anyone, but because the owners and many customers/clients do not like the smell of smoke.

Many of these people are afraid of the dangers associated with second-hand smoke and how it might affect them.

I do agree that cigarette and cigar smoke is highly odorous and an unwanted intrusion. Scientists have proven that cigarette smoke can give off second-hand fumes and cause illnesses including lung cancer. Both are good reasons to want to ban smoking.

Restaurants do not allow smoking, the hospital will not let you smoke in the parking lot, as well as many businesses. Smoking is highly discouraged. However, there is one thing that appalls me about banning cigarettes: the blatant acceptance of public

drinking.

I have grown up around smoking. My parents and grandparents smoke. I am used to it; however, I do not like the idea of it and I wish that my loved ones would quit the habit. Nevertheless, drinking brings on another issue.

I abhor alcohol. I cannot stand to be around it. The smell alone is enough to make me sick, and my stomach is not easily turned.

Many of the same people who say that cigarettes kill, smell bad and are a nuisance, then go and chug down a beer or two. Does anyone else see what it happening here?

Alcohol kills as well, but people are in denial! Alcohol smells bad, and is also a nuisance. You can get diseases from alcohol, as well.

Alcohol can affect every system in the body, causing liver failure, kidney failure, etc. Under the influence of alcohol, one can kill someone, unintentionally.

Alcohol drastically affects one's mental capabilities. Smoking cigarettes does not cause a person to look at a barely visible stranger and say, "Your place or mine?"

Cigarettes will not impair one's vision or cause a person to make wrong choices. They will not cause a person to wake up in a motel room with a wedding band on her finger either.

Drinking heavily impairs judgment and can cause such things to happen. When one is intoxicated, it impairs vision and other motor skills one needs to get around.

Drinking and driving has been the grim reaper of many accidents and deaths. It makes people do things that they would not ordinarily do.

Therefore, I believe more problems result from drinking alcohol than smoking tobacco. If anti-smokers can get together, protest, and win so easily, why can't anti-drinkers get together and accomplish the same things?

Be yourself, despite media standards

By: Shauna Sherman
Staff Writer

What should girls like? What does the world say they should like? What does God say girls should look like? Does it even matter what they look like?

I am a t-shirt girl. I love my t-shirts and lazy pants. I love them because they are comfortable. Whenever I try to dress cute, I beat myself up in the mirror. The world has this set image of what the perfect girl should look like, and I just do not qualify. If I feel this way, I wonder how many other girls do, too.

The perfect girl should be skinny and tan, and wear pretty clothes that show off her perfect curves and her huge chest. Her short skirts should show off her pretty, long legs. Why is this the perfect girl and why does it matter?

Fad diets have become more and more popular because girls are more and more aware of their outward "imperfections" at younger ages than ever before. You could probably do a survey of ten random girls that look anorexic to extremely obese, and they would all be hard on themselves.

The skinniest girl would be worried that she is too fat. I know so many girls who are smaller than I am that think they are fat. That makes me feel even worse about myself.

Girls fight with these issues with everyday. Some even resort to harmful habits to make their bodies come to even the smallest baby step closer to the world's "Miss Perfect." There is a song that I absolutely love, and I encourage everyone to listen to it.

It is a country song by Kelly Pickler, "Don't You Know You're

See MEDIA page 8

The Radionian

Jones County Junior College - Ellisville, MS 39437
radionian@jcc.edu

News Editor: Stacey Williams
Opinions Editor: Jeanie Smith
Sports Editor: Miranda Black

Features Editor: Terrisha Buckley
Entertainment Editor: Lindsey Johnson
Lead Photographer: Joseph Gibbons

Staff Writers: Skylar Blackwell, Sabrina Brown, Koby Easterling, Jennifer Holifield, Cia Kinard, Engitshun Magee, Jessica Martineau, Destin Morris, Josie Munn, Ashton Pittman, Missy Prince, Leanna Scott, Shauna Sherman, Dennis Smith, Caleb Thompson, Lisa Thompson, Christina Walsh, Jennifer Zachary

Photographers: Kandace Martin, Asta Pague

Jones County Junior College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability in its programs, activities, or employment practices. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and grievances regarding the non-discrimination policies: (ADA/ Section 504) Katie Murphy, ADA Coordinator, Jones County Junior College, 900 South Court Street, Ellisville, MS 39437, 601-477-4028; (Title IX) John M. Carter, Title IX Coordinator, Jones County Junior College, 900 South Court Street, Ellisville, MS 39437, 601-477-4161.