

## FCC Broadcasting Indecency

In 8th grade, my teacher wanted to show Schindler's List to the class as we studied the Holocaust. I decided not to watch the film because the subject matter was not age appropriate. My friends in the class who stayed had to deal with emotions they were not ready for after watching the film. In lieu of watching the film, I was sent to the library to write a report on the Nuremberg Trials. A quote by Edmund Burke from the trial helped me solidify my stance; "all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

While society continues to push for greater liberties, those in government have the delicate task of protecting the rights of the populace while enabling the freedoms that make our country great. Recently, a proposal to relax the FCC restrictions on profanity and nudity have been proposed. While some may see this as a freedom of expression, the effect on society as a whole needs to be evaluated. When profanity and nudity is broadcast, it is hard to control the audience that receives the message. The affects of profanity and nudity is not a well-studied topic. As I mentioned, my friends in middle school were not all ready for the movie that was shown.

Profane words will never edify. Can you imagine Shakespear's St Crispin's day speech laced with profanity? Would replacing the adjectives with the f-word be more inspiring? No. Studies show that leaders who use profanity are less likely to have the support of their subordinates. Other studies have linked profanity to physical and relational aggression. Besides swearing there are other words that are used to diminish and abuse people. Words degrading race, beliefs, handicaps, physical appearance, and social standing. Even with freedom of speech, society is pushing these words out of our language. Similar studies show nudity (and pornography) also leads toward degrading feeling and actions. Additionally, we know that pornography affects the brain and diminish one's ability to think of other things, like work and life. The government should continue to improve the quality of life we enjoy by not freely letting profanity and nudity be freely broadcast.