

## There are worse things

There's an article in the February issue of Reader's Digest that recently got my dander up because it blamed a lot of the permissive attitude of young women today on the television show "Sex and the City" and threw it into the same class as "Spring Break" and "Girls Gone Wild." Now, I've never seen the latter two shows, but I have a feeling its content isn't anything redeeming, but rather a lot of young women, inebriated or worse — sober, — anxious to show what God gave them from the waist up if only for the point of a camera.



*As I  
see it*

Peg DeMarco

Granted, the article that riled me was written by a man so I figure that he was just on the wrong wavelength because of his sex or not a faithful watcher of "Sex and the City." Whatever his limitation, I can tell you firsthand that sex was the last thing that made "Sex and the City" so successful.

I've got the DVD's of the show — I buy one season a month as a treat to myself — so I'm watching the pure, uncut version and, sure, there is an occasional naked rump or two for a split second during an episode. The gals, Carrie, Miranda,

Samantha and Charlotte, are all in their 30's, which is considered ancient by the standards of a typical teenage girl. Should one of them bed down a man during the show, well, one sees more action on a Lifetime movie than on any episode of "Sex and the City."

And yes, it certainly could be viewed by purists as having a casual sex theme at times, but the author of the Reader's Digest article seems to have forgotten that the young women are bedding down young men. I'd like to know how come we're unequal to men in the workplace, but completely in charge of morality. Make no mistake that I'm not condoning casual sex, but I'm not following those purists and imitating an ostrich either.

Female adults who followed the exploits of Carrie and her friends knew early on that there was something about that show that struck a cord with us women. Why "Sex and the City" appealed to a vast female audience wasn't to catch a glimpse of some handsome man's behind. It was about female camaraderie, and its focus was usually built around the nurturing role so prevalent in the female psyche.

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Perhaps that's why the short-sighted author in Reader's Digest didn't get it. I have a feeling his idea of friendship was a slap on the back of his buddy and the toss of a beer can before settling down to a football game. As women, we're emotionally different than men.

I'm sure many of you ladies out there have found yourself holding a friend's hand as she cried her eyes out after being dumped by a boyfriend. You hated the jerk and were secretly relieved that he was finally out of the picture, but you knew better than to say it, just in case they got back together. Instead, you reassured your friend that her life would go on and that Mr. Wonderful was probably waiting for her right around the corner.

What destroys female bonding is women turning on other women whether it be for something stupid like borrowing a blouse and not returning it or, more seriously, stealing a friend's boyfriend or husband. Your friend may be dating a heel, albeit a good looking one with the smile and charm of Tom Cruise, and he may be flirting with you behind her back and asking you for "one little date." Should that ever happen to you, ladies, stop and think of yourself as Eve and him as an apple. Remember what happened to Eve?

Getting back to my defense of "Sex and the City" and the insane theory that it brainwashes young girls to become more promiscuous, I believe what really affects young women today is our casual attitude as parents and the shift in our thinking as far as our role as disciplinarians. Many parents strive to be "cool" to get through to their teenagers and that's fine — but there comes a point when being cool has to be pushed aside and the disciplinarian has to take over.

Take for instance the new fashion trend for girls to wear their jeans cut so low and, worse, to wear a thong and purposely be thrilled to let the thong show when they bend over. Moms and Dads, don't you think it's time to put your foot down? Won't you please stop us from becoming a nation of having to wonder how on earth the young women of America can wear such a contraption?

As far as the low cut jeans, pierced belly buttons, and tight knit tops, yes, it's the style and, hopefully, like poodle skirts and the ridiculous looking ultra pointy shoes, eventually the style will change to something more tolerable. In the meantime, try hard to get it through your daughter's head that expensive jeans that actually meet the waistline will be in next year while the low cut pair that she insists on buying will probably be passé. It may work or she may look at you like you have five heads — but it's worth a shot.

And for you dads that want to get involved, there's a group called "Dads and Daughters" that uses its Web site ([www.dadsanddaughters.org](http://www.dadsanddaughters.org)) to organize letter-writing campaigns against companies that use sex to market to young girls. The site is terrific and it provides some handy tools for men to become better fathers and advocates for their daughters.

And the next time you catch your daughter watching a half-naked Britney Spears slithering around in some video, shut off the television and offer to sit down and talk with her about school and about life. Maybe that's really the key to helping our daughters grow into responsible young women. Giving them our time.

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