

EroS iN tHe sUnSHine StAte

By Kristen Gallagher

PART 1

Guns, Prayers, and Porn (not necessarily in that order)

On Tuesday, February 21, 2018, high school students who survived the shooting in Parkland, Florida traveled to the state Capitol to witness what was supposed to be a vote on an assault rifle ban. Instead, they got an earful about what lawmakers believe to be the real battle these teens face, the battle against the degrading effects of pornography.

Tuesday's Florida House session opened with prayer led by Rev. Randy Ray from North Florida Baptist Church. After prayer, Florida House lawmakers immediately voted on whether to open debate on a bill that would ban assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines. The motion to debate the bill required a two-thirds vote. 36 lawmakers supported it, while 71 voted no. The vote failed. Its merits were never considered. The entire topic was discussed for less than three minutes.

But what happened next stunned the students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School just as much as seeing their bill so quickly fail to even make it to the floor. Florida lawmakers followed the down-vote on a gun debate by introducing and supporting a bill that declares pornography a public health risk. Florida state Rep. Kionne McGhee, the lawmaker who asked for the assault weapons bill to be brought to the floor for debate, called this an "extraordinary procedural move." "How could they do that to us? Are you Kidding me???" tweeted student Emma Gonzalez after the House vote, "the Anger that I feel right now is indescribable."

I guess porn really does traumatize the youth, but not in the way lawmakers seem to think.

The bill "recognizes public health risk created by pornography and acknowledges the need for education, prevention, research, and policy change to protect citizens of this state." Public

health risk? How many people have died from porn? I'll wager way more have died from assault rifles.

Orlando's Slogan Is "The Fun Spot" for Many Reasons

When the Republican Party voted to hold its 2012 Convention in Tampa, much was made of the fact that Tampa is the US's "Strip Club Capital of the World." However, a lesser-publicized fact is that earlier that same year, a study sponsored by *Men's Health* showed that Orlando ranks #1 out of all major cities in the USA for number of users of pornography. The study was based on totalling the amount of porn DVDs purchased, rented or streamed; number of adult entertainment stores; porn searches on Google; and Cinemax-subscribing households.

One might think the porn capital of America would be either sex-positive San Francisco or New York, or perhaps Las Vegas with its Bunny Ranches, or Los Angeles for its famed "San Pornando" Valley. Nope. Orlando. Disney World. Sea World. "The Fun Spot."

These threads of Orlando are not as separate as one might imagine. In fact, they create a special synergy in Orlando's night life. A recent Occidental College study of the working poor in America found that Florida Disney cast members (the people wearing the costumes of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Pluto, etc) are among the highest number of working poor concentrated in one work place, with hundreds of people working in extreme heat conditions for minimum wage.

But the findings also mention what Disney's working poor do for second jobs, and a surprising number also work in the sex industry. "The hours complement each other," said one woman, "Regular Snow White by day, Bad Snow White by night. I've even incorporated some of my Snow White moves from the day job into my night act. It all really complements."



QUIZ: These Floridians are gathered in mass protest against:

- a) Guns
- b) Porn
- c) Poverty

ANSWER: A



More Study of Porn Will Surely Be Needed

Democratic state Sen. Kevin Rader stated that the fact that the lawmakers were in session makes it more likely that they could attempt to take action on guns again, compared with after the 2016 shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, which never led to any attempted actions by lawmakers, because that shooting took place during summer recess.

It's hard to predict what the outcome of this battle will be. These students are not backing down. But one cannot help but feel cynical, imagining that not only will lawmakers do nothing to ensure children are not in danger of mass shootings in their school, or that they won't grow up to be working and poor, but they will do nothing much about porn either, and it's not clear that people in Florida have asked them to do anything about it. It appears the people of Florida like their porn just the way it is. Most likely the Florida house will just study it in detail, a deep, incisive amount of detail. They'll use tax dollars to view, discuss, and chastise any enjoyment of any and all varieties of porn. Florida House members will probably all get to write off their own Cinemax subscriptions. Maybe this whole thing a ploy for them to write of their Cinemax subscriptions.

PART 2: MICKEY MOUSE, THE STRIPPER

Off come the giant white gloves
Off come the giant yellow shoes
Off come the red shorts with white buttons
Off come the circular black mouse ears
The mask stays on

In the audience, in far right rear, hiding
under an FSU Football baseball hat
complete with Image of mascot
Chief Osceola
Marco Rubio gets a hardon

PART 3: AFTER PARTY





PART 5: QUICK SURVEY ("Disney Guns")



Guns: Good enough for Mickey
good enough for Me



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