

## The President's Pen

It was a nice, hot summer. A good time to fight pornography; a bad time to watch pornographers get richer and more airtime on television. They have an ogre's foothold on the "dot.com" domain of the World Wide Web. Now they want their own domain and many good people think it would be an acceptable compromise to have a red-light district zoned into the Web forever. Sounds like what Chamberlain gave to Hitler, the Sudetenland for peace. "That's all we want and we'll leave you alone." Give them a "dot.porn" and they'll be easy to spot and filter and block out and we can keep our kids and grandchildren out of that combat zone. I don't like the smell of it. When our 7 year old daughters and 4 year old grand-daughters are taught in Computer Tots class that there is a special place on the Internet where kids shouldn't go, they'll ask us what that means. How will we explain that there are "adult" pictures they shouldn't see on all the "dot.sex" sites? Do we ask -please don't look at any of those hot-links you're offered when searching for "toys" or "teen" or "girl" stuff? Will they be impressed that a "dot.xxx" domain was created by responsible adults in their parents' generation, that this special zone was set up by our lawmakers and is a wonder of technology figured out by brilliant computer geniuses in our universities and by the kingpins of the Internet industry? Will they believe us when we tell our little loved ones that this was all done "for the children" or do we confess that it was done to accommodate men and boys who like to look at dirty pictures of girls their age or the ages of their older sister or cousins? Do we say we were scared or tired or just gave up fighting to stop what the Supreme Court called the "crass commercial exploitation of sex"? Do we laugh it off as "boys will be boys" or make sarcastic remarks about the price we pay for freedom? Should we preach a "right" for "adult entertainment" to sell pictures of girls without their clothes on and that this is just another part of the Constitution that founded our great Country. America will cease to be great when it ceases to be good. True enough. We aren't done fighting yet. We filed four good and tough *amicus* briefs this summer. We were your "friends of the court" in cases fighting porn teasers on commercial Websites (*ACLU v. Reno*), fighting porn signal bleed that cable companies won't scramble (*US v. Playboy*), fighting immunity for Internet Service Providers who refuse to police their own networks yet want the courts to protect them under the "Good Samaritan" law (*Lunney v. Prodigy*), and fighting to restore the right of cities to prohibit strip-joints from hiring young women to gyrate naked in "gentlemen's clubs" and call it "nude dancing" (*City of Erie v. Pap's AM*). I think we should keep fighting the porn syndicates. I don't think we can trust pornographers to stay in their "zone" and I'm afraid most parents, schools, and libraries won't use filters on all the children's computers. I also can't forget that the good citizens and business owners who are stuck next to the infamous Combat Zone in Boston are still fighting to move that red-light district out of their neighborhood, after a quarter century of such "combat." We should bring back the "banned in Boston" obscenity and prostitution prosecutions and push the criminals back out of the free world. I don't want to give Hitler someone else's homeland and hope he makes no further demands. I don't want to hope he leaves us alone if we appease his lust for power and money. It doesn't work that way. We gotta fight them.

See you on the ramparts,  
Bruce