

The events of the past few weeks have made my heart ache.

I ask myself what can be done. It feels like tragic news is all there is—and it involves macabre murder of our nation's children.

Where are we headed?

Just lately, the kidnapping and murder of two young girls—one in the Denver area who was 10, the other in New Jersey who was 12—makes me fear the future for my granddaughters and young women in my life who I love.

These girls were old enough to walk to school, to go places with friends, to be let out of their parents' sight.

Another murder in Oregon this week of a young woman in her early 20s who was found in a field indicates none of us are safe from the evil grasp of a crazed person.

Am I just being paranoid? No—the truth is, it's happening more and more and more—shootings in public places, kids being snatched off the street as they walk to school or ride their bikes to meet a friend. Adults are assaulted or shot on their way to work, sitting in a movie theatre, or having a drink with friends in a bar.

It's not a safe world out there—so here's my soap box: WHY do we as adults pay money, give our children money, or worse yet, drive them to see a movie that has nothing but violence.

Don't get me wrong, I am not against the movies. What I am against is the movie makers—the people who write the script, the actors who take on roles. Every week there is a new movie that makes me shake my head in disgust.

The choices of what to see don't vary much: Here is a list of the adjectives used to describe them: Intense sequences of violence, rude humor, scary images, language, nudity, drug content, terror, strong violence. (I'm curious what the difference is between intense sequences of violence and strong violence). I won't be finding out.

Please explain to me what kicks there are in movies where human beings violently murder each other.

But more importantly, why does the public support that? Why do people spend money on "entertainment" that makes them shudder, feel sick inside, and makes their skin crawl with fear of the reality that it's happening right outside on any given night on any given street or sidewalk or back alley or subdivision in America?

We need to wake up. Americans need to stop giving in to the promotion of violence and murder. I can't help but wonder where the sick people who have murdered two little girls in the last two weeks got their ideas.

And who are the sick people who spend their life writing a fictitious screenplay that becomes a billboard hit because it has a big name actor who is filling the role?

I'm not against movies, and yes, there are some great movies out there that are rated R and have great themes with action-packed story lines. Some are based on fact, some are right down funny, they're entertaining and worth watching again.

What I'm talking about are the worthless violent movies our youth are exposed to because they don't have much choice. There is nothing like going to a movie when you're young....that's where puppy love begins, it's fun to giggle with friends, munch on popcorn, kick back in a seat without a care in the world—until you go outside and realize that the real world is no different than the sick world just viewed on the big screen.

I wonder if a voice or two can start to make a difference. I wonder if the movie makers would get the message if violent movies became flop after flop because they were boycotted.

I know happy, feel-good movies aren't the reality of the world we live in, either. But the trend needs to start shifting somewhere, and I believe kids should not to be led to think that violence is acceptable, that it's okay to attack and torture and kill. It isn't.

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