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Christian Right-Wingers Love Porn: New Studies Suggest the Bible Belt Has A Kinky Side

They preach abstinence and shame the adult industry, but findings conclude that the more Christian and conservative you are, the more you're into porn.

Do conservatives watch more porn than their liberal counterparts? Perhaps.

A quick Google search for political sex scandals will lead you to pages of naughtiness, Republican and Democratic alike. Human sexuality exists outside of party lines. Whether you're conservative or liberal, chances are you have sex.

A new study published in the journal *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, produced by researchers from Canadian Universities, found American states that identify as more religious and conservative are also more apt to search for sex online. Of course, the study makes a point of separating the religiously conservative from the politically conservative. The latter is more likely to look for sex specific terms, such as "gay sex, free porn and xxx," whereas those that consider themselves religious were looking for generalized sex terms that could've theoretically fallen under the "health and wellness" category.

In heavily religious states, abstinence is often pushed as the only safe sex, with very little to offer in the way of sexual education. Unfortunately, that leaves a growing number of people with questions about sex but no answers. Enter

Google: the best way to find an answer to personal, possibly embarrassing questions without calling attention to yourself. So of course the study finds that religious communities have a higher percentage of sex-related searches. That's what happens when you can't find it elsewhere.

"When people are touting these very hard lines about what others should and shouldn't be doing and then in their private lives they're not doing what they say, that doesn't surprise me."

Earlier this year, Homegrown Video announced the results of a six-month study on amateur porn demographics. Just under a third of all homemade sex tape submissions were created in the "Bible Belt." Perhaps even more surprising is the increased female involvement. According to Homegrown Video owner Farrell Timlake, women are now submitting their own videos almost as much as men. Mind you these are not porn stars, just regular folks at home who film themselves for the world to see.

But perhaps even more interesting is the type of user-generated content coming from areas of the country some

consider repressed. "We get so many interracial tapes from states that people would stereotype as being racially bigoted areas," says Timlake. "And that plays into the same thing: the more repressed it is, the more taboo it is, the more somebody is going to want to see it or touch that fire."

Conforming one's sexuality to perceived social norms is bound to create conflict—especially for a public figure who publicly fights for family values while personally going against them. Republican Senator David Vitter issued a public apology in 2007 for his involvement with the "D.C. Madam." His name came up as a prostitution ring patron, and yet that scandal hasn't seemed to hurt him much, considering his intentions to run for Louisiana Governor in 2015. Perhaps it was the way he apologized. Vitter both acknowledged his "sin" and wrote in a printed statement, "Several years ago, I asked for and received forgiveness from God and my wife in confession and marriage counseling." With this spiritual logic, people shouldn't feel guilty about looking at porn. If it goes against their religion, all they have to do is ask for forgiveness.

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Of course, Vitter isn't the only one. Former Democratic Congressman Anthony Weiner was caught sexting naughty photos, which caused his resignation. Former Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman came out as openly gay in 2010 after working on anti-gay marriage campaigns. There's a

colorful history of public figures kowtowing to their political beliefs publicly while privately indulging in their true desires. Until they get caught.

As sociologist Dr. Chauntelle Tibbals points out, “There’s nothing wrong with variability in sexuality, but when people are touting these very hard lines about what others should and shouldn’t be doing and then in their private lives they’re not doing what they say, that doesn’t surprise me... because they themselves are putting boundaries around their own sexuality, limitations on their own desires. It’s almost like they’re painting themselves into a corner.”

Sex is a basic human function; a physiological drive we cannot ignore. And yet, collectively our culture is still repressed when it comes to the subject of sex. According to Dr. Tibbals, even in 2014 with as much progress as we’ve made, we remain a sexually uncomfortable society. Ultra-conservative parents who won’t discuss sex with their children risk having the kids seek answers on their own, perhaps learning more extreme aspects of sex from easily accessible sites like Pornhub. As news headlines have shown, some people who bottle up their sexuality wind up acting out in a way that may be shocking to themselves, and those around them.

Obviously, a large percentage of people watch porn. The numbers don’t lie. But what’s more interesting is why people still feel ashamed about it. “The more parameters you add to anything the less play you have as an individual, thus the increased likelihood to feel trapped or in crisis or not happy,” says Dr. Tibbals.



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Brian Snyder/Reuters

CEASEFIRE OVER 08.25.15 12:57 PM ET



Roger Ailes Nukes Trump: New Attack on Megyn Kelly Is 'Disturbing'

The Donald renewed his verbal assault on Megyn Kelly last night, and the head of Fox News struck back for the first time in public, demanding an apology.

Donald Trump—self-avowed “ratings machine” though he might be—has finally gone too far for Fox News Chairman Roger Ailes.

The Republican presidential front-runner, who has spent the past day tweeting and re-tweeting nasty insults about Fox News star Megyn Kelly, owes her an apology, Ailes demanded in an extraordinary broadside against the reality-show billionaire, issued on Tuesday afternoon.

“Donald Trump’s surprise and unprovoked attack on Megyn Kelly during her show last night is as unacceptable as it is disturbing,” Ailes said about Trump, who has been a frequent interview guest on *Fox & Friends*, *The O’Reilly Factor*, *Hannity*, and other Fox News programs since the Republican presidential debate that Fox News broadcast on August 6 at which Kelly asked him a tough question about his history of calling women “fat pigs, dogs, slobs and disgusting animals.”

Trump immediately fired back in a statement.

“I totally disagree with the FOX statement. I do not think Megyn Kelly is a

quality journalist. I think her questioning of me, despite all of the polls saying I won the debate, was very unfair. Hopefully in the future I will be proven wrong and she will be able to elevate her standards to a level of professionalism that a network such as FOX deserves."

"Donald Trump's surprise and unprovoked attack on Megyn Kelly during her show last night is as unacceptable as it is disturbing."

Ailes issued his statement a little more than 12 hours after Trump's angry tweet storm.

"Megyn Kelly represents the very best of American journalism and all of us at FOX News Channel reject the crude and irresponsible attempts to suggest otherwise," Ailes continued, referring to a raging series of Trump tweets in which the candidate claimed Kelly was "off her game" on her first show after a 10-day vacation, and retweeted a crass assertion that the former Washington litigator is a "bimbo."

Ailes, who scheduled *The Kelly File* at the all-important 9 p.m. prime-time

slot, went on:

"I could not be more proud of Megyn for her professionalism and class in the face of all of Mr. Trump's verbal assaults. Her questioning of Mr. Trump at the debate was tough but fair, and I fully support her as she continues to ask the probing and challenging questions that all presidential candidates may find difficult to answer.

"Donald Trump rarely apologizes, although in this case, he should. We have never been deterred by politicians or anyone else attacking us for doing our job, much less allowed ourselves to be bullied by anyone and we're certainly not going to start now. All of our journalists will continue to report in the fair and balanced way that has made FOX News Channel the number one news network in the industry."

Ailes's verbal howitzer against the front-running Republican—a highly unusual deployment for any news organization, let alone one that has been the GOP establishment and home of conservative viewers—comes after what seemed a coordinated defense of Kelly by at least 10 other Fox News personalities today on Twitter and on air.

According to CNN's Brian Stelter, the pro-Kelly comments included *Fox & Friends* co-host Brian Kilmeade opining on Tuesday's show that Trump is "totally out of control"; *The Five* co-host Dana Perino tweeting, "The intelligence, class & grace of Megyn Kelly shined last night after her week's vacation with her family"; anchor Bret Baier, Kelly's co-moderator at the debate, tweeting that Trump "has made his feelings clear. But THIS needs to stop;" and Sean Hannity tweeting to Trump, "Leave @MegynKelly Alone."

So far, there has been no word on whether Trump will be welcome on Fox

News if he continues his attacks and refuses to apologize.



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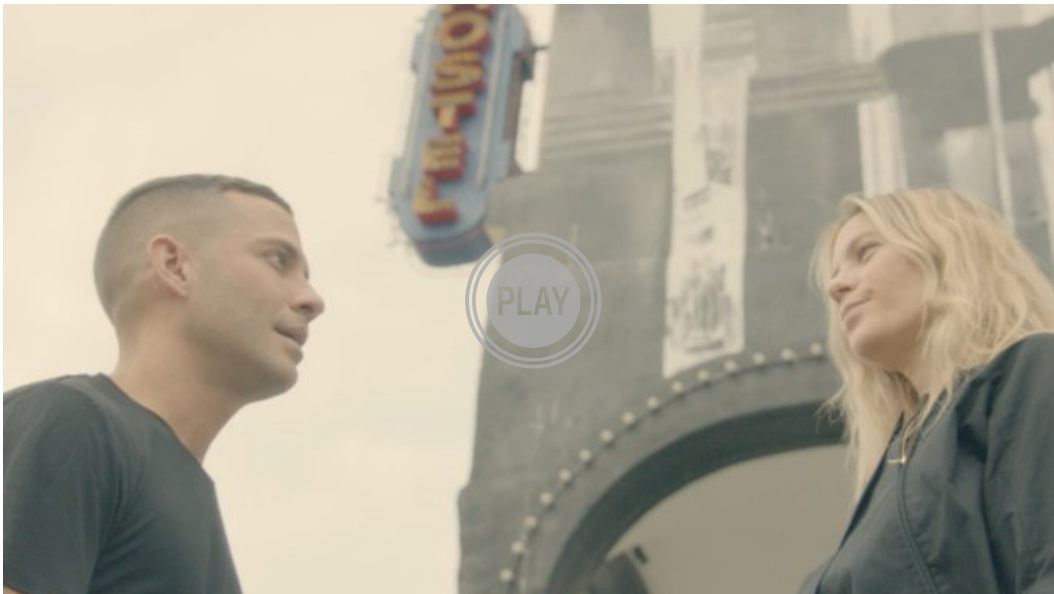


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LUX LIFE 08.11.15 12:00 AM ET

The LUX Life with Fashion Designer William Anzevino and Stylist Tara Charne

We spent a day with these fashion-savvy, L.A. locals and visited all of their favorite spots where they like to get inspired.

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Live like a VIP with LUX Life, your insider's guide to exploring the premium side of Los Angeles.

There are two things designer William Anzevino and stylist and costumer Tara Charne love: fashion and Los Angeles. The Daily Beast spent the day with them to check out some of their favorite spots and hear more about what inspires them. When asked what makes this city so special, Anzevino says, “L.A. is a cultural melting pot.” As we cruise through the streets of Venice, Charne further remarks, “It’s something special with a city that’s situated between the mountains and the sea.”

In this installment of The LUX Life, join these fashion-savvy locals as they give us a look into premium L.A. living.



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Photo Illustration by The Daily Beast

SOLD OUT 08.25.15 8:45 PM ET



Why The Feds Just Busted Gay Escort Site RentBoy.Com

Federal agents arrested the CEO and six other employees of what claims to be 'the world's largest male escort site' on Tuesday.

Thousands of men across the world have just lost their companions.

On Tuesday, federal agents raided the New York City headquarters of RentBoy.com, a digital platform that bills itself as "the original and world's largest male escort site."

CEO Jeffrey Hurant and six other employees were taken into custody while authorities begin to question the legitimacy of the business

They are alleging that \$1.4 million of the company's \$10 million proceeds from the past five years were illegally obtained as a "global criminal enterprise," according to Glenn Sorge, the Acting Special Agent in Charge.

The bust comes during a time of long-standing debate over the legalization of sex work, which would undoubtedly legitimize the RentBoy business that falls into a very murky grey area as well as the act of prostitution nationwide.

RentBoy, or their legal team, could not be reached for comment. Hurant and the six employees are expected to appear in court later Tuesday.

“I’ve had clients tell me about their coming-out stories, how if it weren’t for escorts, that they’d have probably committed suicide.”

Authorities believe the organization has been facilitating the “promotion, management, establishment and carrying on of an unlawful activity, namely an enterprise involving the prostitution,” according to the complaint filed with the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of New York.

After all, “rent boy” is British slang for a male prostitute.

The subscription-based website—rates range from \$59.95 to \$299.95 a month—lists thousands of paid advertisements describing the physical appearance (height, weight, penis size)

and sexual preferences (position, fetishes) of thousands of working men.

Often times, they include sexually explicit videos and photographs with their hourly, or nightly, rate.

It’s teeming with porn stars and industry hopefuls. Previous clients are even able to rate their sexual satisfaction.

But by offering “companionship” instead of “sex” and outlying their “Terms of Services” to include that “this site may not be used for the advertising of sexual services or to engage in activities requiring the payment of money for sex or other illegal activities,” the company has lived in legal grey area that has previously prevented them from being classified as prostitution.

“The difference between escorting and prostitution is that a prostitute offers sex for money, whereas an escort offers time for money,” Duncan Black one of the site’s escorts told *The Daily Beast* last year.

“If you were to book me, you wouldn’t be booking me for a specific sexual act—you’d just be booking me for my time. We could go to dinner, or for a walk, or just hang out and talk... or, y’know. Other things can happen, too!”

Whether or not physical intimacy is involved is superfluous, because these clients are paying for the *time*, not the *sex*. The distinction has kept Black—and thousand of others escorts and clients—grounded on the right side of the law, even when sex is what they are typically known for.

Since 2006, RentBoy has recognized the physical attributes and sexual talents of their most popular escorts at the Annual International Escort Awards, aka “the Hookies.” They’ve doled out awards for “best boyfriend fantasy,” “best dressed/style” and “best cock.”

Last year, when *The Daily Beast*, profiled Black who was up for two of these

awards—“Best Newcomer” and “Best Ass”—and is exclusively signed with one of the Internet’s biggest gay porn studios, CockyBoys, he insisted that the only service he has ever offered was his time, not sex.

“I’m not a hooker,” he asserted, before describing some seemingly innocent situations with clients in which he describes as “social service.”

“I’ve had clients tell me about their coming-out stories, how if it weren’t for escorts, that they’d have probably committed suicide,” he said. “They don’t have someone to talk to, but with escorts, they can talk about their sexuality and their feelings.”

But not all of the escorts are as coy about their profession. Some know that’s exactly what clients want and sees the value in the commodity without fear or the escort-or-prostitute.

Fellow RentBoy escorts Raj and Viktor Belmont emphasized to *Mic* that their “jobs empower people to enjoy sex more and be less ashamed of their innate desires,” Belmont said in an article titled “7 Surprising Things We Can Learn About Sex and Intimacy from Professional Sex Workers.”

“There’s so much stigma,” Raj said. “And there’s a fear of being judged.” His clients are able to find solace in non-normative desires—kinks and fetishes—by hiring a RentBoy who is open to the same sexual fantasies.

And while sex may play a huge part in the websites dynamic, they are also looking to give back to their community in a big way.

Just recently, they initiated the “Cash4Class” scholarship fund, which is still accepting applications.

In a 500-1000 word essay or a 1-5 minute video, escorts advertising on their site must reveal why going to school is part of achieving their dream. The winners receive \$1500 towards any college expense.



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Photo Illustration by The Daily Beast

FREE FALL 08.22.15 11:33 AM ET



I Skydived with the Preppy 'Rapist'

Why there are no easy answers when it comes to protecting the public from convicted felons.

A few years ago I went skydiving. The purpose was twofold. I wanted to check the experience off of my bucket list, and I was also writing about it for a women's magazine.

As it turned out, jumping out of the plane ended up being the least terrifying part of the experience.

During the hours I spent at the jump location waiting for my turn I kept telling my friends a man there looked familiar. It bugged me much of the afternoon, and at one point I assumed he was maybe a character actor who had one of those “that guy” faces recognizable from bit parts in film and television.

But it all became crystal clear whom he was when we went up in the plane with him and just three others. The pilot called the man “Alex” and we then noticed an ankle monitor peeking out of his clothes. The man whose face I recognized

was none other than Alex Kelly, the infamous “Preppy Rapist.”

Kelly became notorious when, after being accused of raping two students in his upper-class community in Connecticut, he fled the country and gallivanted around Europe. He escaped capture for years, thanks in part (according to the FBI) to the financial support of his parents. His story was the subject of endless media coverage, including a made-for-TV movie, and he was eventually extradited back to the U.S. after surrendering to Swiss authorities. In 2007, he was released after serving a decade in prison.

Though I was completely rattled by being in close quarters with him, and confided so in the tandem instructor hired to jump with me, I refused to let this rapist ruin an experience I’d waited a lifetime for. So I remained in the plane and completed my jump. Looking back I now realize that the fear I felt being trapped in an enclosed space with a sex offender probably made it easier for me to jump out of the plane: Who wouldn’t want to find the nearest exit when confronted with a sexual predator?

When I landed, I confronted the people working at Connecticut Parachutist, the company that coordinated my jump. They assured me that putting him in my plane was a rare misjudgment and that he would not be placed on flights with female customers again. Convinced by their seeming sincerity, I decided not to publicize the incident. I take the responsibility of having a public platform seriously, and I weighed the likelihood of how harmful my revelation could have been to a mom and pop business for what, according to them, was an unintentional mistake.

Furthermore, I discussed the matter with friends, who were split on the issue. A few shared my outrage, while others said begrudgingly “Well, technically he has paid his debt to society, so...”

But this week it was revealed that Kelly has spent recent years working as a tandem instructor and was even promoted to a management role, meaning he continued going up in small flights with passengers, including unsuspecting women.

“Nearly one in four adults have a criminal record. Because the racial disproportionality of our criminal justice system, this disproportionately affects black men.”

This may not seem like a big deal to some but, as anyone who has gone skydiving will tell you, it’s a fairly intimate experience. In addition to the close quarters, you all buddy up and help each other. I didn’t think twice about my tandem instructor making sure I was zipped snugly into my jumpsuit and repeatedly stroking my hair to get it out of my eyes to make sure the photographer got the perfect shot. I would have thought twice if he were a rapist. (When reached for comment for this article, all the company would say is that “[Alex Kelly] is no longer affiliated with Connecticut

Parachutist.”)

Which raises the question: How do we find a balance between giving former felons a second chance, and making sure the public feels safe?

The “Ban the Box” movement—which looks to end the practice of asking questions about criminal history on employment forms—has been gaining traction nationally.

While progressive criminal justice advocates have been the movement’s primary supporters, in recent years the effort has gained bipartisan backing.

Koch Industries, the business enterprise of the Koch Brothers, has banned the box from its hiring practices, joining other major businesses such as Wal-Mart. And a growing number of both Democratic and Republican governors who have outlawed the practice in their states. Connecticut, where Alex Kelly works, passed such a measure in 2010.

Alyssa Aguilera is the political director for VOCAL-NY, and is credited with helping to pass the country’s strongest “Ban the Box” law in New York City in June. The city’s Fair Chance Hiring Act prohibits employers from asking about criminal records until a conditional job offer has been made. In an interview Aguilera explained, “Nearly one in four adults have a criminal record. Because the racial disproportionality of our criminal justice system, this disproportionately effects black men.”

When asked about the Kelly case specifically, Aguilera was not surprised that, unlike most felons, he seemed to have a fairly easy time establishing himself in a new career shortly after release, and that it was important “to bring in the bigger context of discrimination in hiring.” Aguilera cited the numerous studies that have found racial bias in employment decisions. A particularly notorious study found that black men without a criminal record had as much chance of being hired as white men with one.

Kelly is white and affluent, so his post-prison journey—despite being convicted of a violent crime that made international headlines—has still likely been easier than that of many minorities convicted of non-violent offenses.

Aguilera noted that the Fair Chance Hiring Act excludes jobs that include working with “vulnerable populations,” such as children or the elderly. But when it comes to those convicted of violent offenses seeking employment, she acknowledged there are no easy answers.

“There are some people who did some pretty heinous stuff,” she said. “But I think that we have to figure out how to deal with them because if they’re out of prison they’re in our communities and we have to give people the opportunity to be productive and rebuild themselves.”

The only other solution I can think of isn’t a policy one. Unfortunately, maybe the time has come for female consumers to get used to asking those we do business with directly if they’ve done background checks on their employees. You know, before I let that maintenance guy into my home, or let that skydiving guy strap himself to me.



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