



R U Joking?

Zack and Miri Make a Porno is the latest film pushing the language, sex and movie ratings borders. It was initially given an NC-17 rating. (This was formerly *Adults Only* or *X* but is now *No Children under 17*.) The NC-17 rating is considered the kiss of death by studios because so many cinemas refuse to screen NC-17 films.

Zack and Miri received the NC-17 rating for its language, sex scenes and what director Kevin Smith calls "the bodily fluid shot." (These are three of the standard elements that can get a film the *adults only* rating). Smith argued that since it is a comedy, these elements aren't intended to be taken seriously. The ratings board changed the film to an R.

Smith, a former altar boy, is raising his daughter in a household where people use profanity freely, "as an experiment," he says.

The Kairos Youth Culture Newsletter began one year ago. You could help us reach more people by forwarding it on to your family, friends, teachers and clergy. Remind them to subscribe [here](#) to receive it automatically.

I wanted to let you know that I really enjoy reading the newsletter. It is very enlightening, even to a high school teacher. Keep up the awesome work.

~ J.D. (Miami)

Game On!

Wii (pronounced we) is Nintendo's home video game console (like PlayStation or Xbox). A key feature is its wireless controller, the Wii Remote, which can be used as a handheld pointing device that detects movement in three dimensions. Each player controls the motions of the character he sees on the screen in front of him. Wii Sports allows you to play on-screen tennis, golf, baseball, etc.



Wii Fit is an application only released May 21, but expected to [finish number](#) one in video game sales this year. It appeals to a developing market for video games: young women. Wii Fit is a workout game.

Overall, Wii marks an improvement in video games. They are active and fun but less addictive than games played sitting in front of a screen.

Update

Mobile Phones

Sprint now hosts a cell-phone snack drama based on the popular TV show *Heroes*. Five-minute episodes run every Monday at 9 p.m.

Your iPhone will do your [shopping](#) for you. Need a deal? Need to know where to get that DVD or new Levis? iPhone's [Slifter](#) application will tell you which local store has it, at what price and how to get there.

Check in on Continental or American Airlines using your cell phone. Both offer [ticketless boarding](#) via your cell phone's display using a Quick Response code.

Video Games

The World of Warcraft, the most popular MMORG (massively multiple online reality game) now has 11 million subscribers. The World of Warcraft community is larger than the population of Belgium or Bolivia or New Zealand. One in every 625 people on the planet plays this game and pays \$14.99 a month to do it!

Rockstar has added a new feature to its popular video game [Grand Theft Auto](#). To win the game now you have to know how to deal drugs.

I have been doing youth work for over thirty years but I have learned something new about youth in each newsletter. Thanks for doing this.

~ M.B. (St. Paul)

Be Not Afraid!!

It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the... modern world, especially for parents raising children today. Hardly a week goes by without the news warning of another threat to a child's well-being. Everything is dangerous: the crib, the paint on toys, bicycles, the park. Even worse is parental paranoia for their teens! Modern parents have more to fear than their own parents did: internet porn, AIDs, date rape, rampant campus drinking, drug usage... What's a mother (or dad) to do!!!

Eat Dinner!

Yup! Eat dinner together as a family. Studies by [Tufts University](#), [Boston College](#) and the [University of Minnesota](#) show there is a very high correlation between family dinner and the avoidance of high-risk behavior among teens. If you want your sons to avoid alcohol or drug abuse – eat dinner together. If you want your daughters to avoid immoral sexual behavior – eat dinner together. If you want your children to do well in school – eat dinner together. This is more important than any warning you can give. But having dinner together regularly with teenage children won't happen unless you fight for it! Mom and dad must decide that family dinner is a priority. Getting to the dinner table together is half the battle. The other half is what to do when you get there.

Here Are a Few Ideas:

Say grace well. Better yet, connect family prayer with the meal. Sing a song, pray a psalm, do some petitions, say the Lord's Prayer, then bring out the food and give thanks to the Lord.

Expect some basic manners: saying please and thank you; waiting to eat until everyone is served; passing the food rather than tossing it, having one



conversation and not interrupting; not leaving the table during the meal without permission; ending the meal together.

However, avoid making dinner mainly a time to enforce order and manners. The best bet here is for dad to take the initiative in conversation by engaging each of his children to say something. Conversation can also take the form of discussion of current events. Mom and dad can also use the family dinner to give some simple instruction on faith or virtue or Christian living.

Sometimes we just laugh.

Eat dinner together. It's one of the most effective elements in raising great children and a better alternative than being afraid or watching TV.

Hints from God?

Eating dinner together may not be one of the ten commandments but God gives us some clear hints about the role of dinner: Heaven is a banquet, a dinner. The Last Supper is another dinner. Get the hint? Family dinner is important.

~ Gordy Demarais

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Lies & more lies & statistics

>According to a Dutch study [fearfulness](#) in children is related to fearfulness in just the mother, not the father. “Mommas don't let your babies grow up to be cowards.”

>[USA Today](#) reports the number of web sites about anorexia and bulimia grew by 470% in 2007 from 278 to 1,583.

>[Compared to teens](#) who have five or more family dinners per week, teens who have two or less are: three times likelier to try marijuana; two and a half times likelier to smoke; and more than one and a half times likelier to drink alcohol.

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**MOSQUITOS REMIND US
THAT WE ARE NOT AS
HIGH UP ON THE FOOD
CHAIN AS WE THINK.**

~ TOM WILSON