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People v. Larry Flynt Analysis

The film, *The People vs. Larry Flynt* (1996), introduces a young Larry and his younger brother, Jimmy, running from their father. In the scene, Larry is upset with his father for drinking away all his profits and chooses to stand up for himself—even though it was not the most sensible. The next scene cuts to a much older Larry as the owner of a gentlemen’s club named, the Hustler Club. The “hustler”, or entrepreneur in him decided to pursue other ventures and popularize his brand. The *Hustler Newsletter* was the first of many publications that Flynt went on to publish. He risked losing all his profits after going broke to invest in a new magazine widely known as, *Hustler*. With that being said, Larry Flynt was willing to risk it all just to express his right to produce content like many other companies with similar audiences.

As a result, his actions upset quite a few people, especially extreme religious groups, politicians, and community leaders. He was the first publisher to issue “highly lucrative” depictions of visible vulvas or “pink shots” as they were often referred to. I was not a fan of the amount of backlash Flynt faced because of this, especially since there were other notable magazines producing explicit content such as, *Playboy* and *Penthouse*. While I could empathize with the concerns over children possibly witnessing the mature content in everyday environments including, grocery stores and pharmacies, I did not agree with the national condemnation of the magazine. Growing up in the south, I know that it is easy to feel as if you have to conform to certain unrealistic standards. Specifically, the bible belt emphasizes the

significance of following the word of the bible and living a Christian lifestyle. Therefore, sexual relations with the same sex, being intoxicated, fornication, and interracial sex are all examples of blasphemous acts to nearly all southern Christians, and cause for an uproar of contempt.

Unfortunately, Flynt was forced to face all the backlash after facing jail time and making several court appearances.

Be that as it may, Flynt never backed down. He was always one to go against the criticisms of those against him. To him, he wanted to earn a living doing what he desired and did not take well to limitations. As for his upbringing, it is not common for those raised below the bible belt to own gentlemen's clubs or own pornographic magazines. To Christians everywhere, his acts were shameful and worthy of prison time. Throughout his entire career, he was had to go against the disapproval of society and fight for the freedom to print and release photos and speech of anything he desired.

Nevertheless, he did face even more backlash for his obnoxious behavior during court appearances. Realistically, he probably would have had more supporters and less difficulty being faulted by adhering to certain guidelines and having tact. Despite that, I still feel as if it was exceptionally brave of him to advocate for himself while so many were against him. Even after being gunned down outside of the court room and being paralyzed from the waist down. It seems as if he overcame his obstacles and went harder for his publication.

I was incredibly anxious during the Supreme Court hearing. I was pleased to find that Larry Flynt's lawyer, Alan Isaacman, continued to represent him even after all his antics. I was honestly surprised that the court ruled in his favor, being that this is the highest court. Flynt was able to be heard and express his fundamental rights to entertain and produce content. In addition, he was able to maintain his legacy and make his late wife, Althea, proud.