

Rock 'n' Roll Model

By Reg P. Wydeven
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When we were kids, I remember looking up to Bruce Jenner, the Olympic decathlete who was on the 'Wheaties' box. My sister admired Marie Osmond, the wholesome Mormon singer. She also liked Kristy McNichol and Olivia Newton-John.

Today, I'm a little nervous about the role models my daughter will have to look up to. Paris Hilton is definitely out. When she's not partying or getting into car accidents, she's making home movies that will definitely never show up on 'America's Funniest Home Videos.'

Lindsey Lohan is no better. The former Disney movie star is in and out of rehab, drunk driving and doing more drugs than Roger Clemens. Sixteen-year-old Nickelodeon star Jamie Lynne Spears recently announced she's pregnant. And the seemingly most innocent of all adolescents, a Mousekateer, big sis' Britney is the most egregious of all.

In the past year, Britney Spears has shaved her head, forgot her underwear often, been committed, and lost custody of her children. She's on the cover of every tabloid and is the subject of every celebrity gossip report.

Spears is such a fascinating figure that the City of Los Angeles recently proposed a new law, dubbed the "Britney Law," which calls for a personal safety zone around individuals targeted by the media.

The measure is intended to protect celebrities, in addition to pedestrians and drivers, who may be at risk from swarming photographers. The law came on the heels of Spears' admission to a psychiatric hospital that cost taxpayers about \$25,000 because the police had to enlist several vehicles and a helicopter to escort her ambulance and shield her from a crowd of photographers.

The State of California has had an "anti-stalkerazzi" law on the books for 10 years that allows celebrities to sue anyone who invades their privacy. In addition, California also passed a law that imposed increased liability penalties on photographers who impede celebrities or are responsible for car accidents.

Because of these existing laws, The Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists opposes the Britney Law, claiming it infringes on their First Amendment rights. Not surprisingly, the Screen Actor's Guild supports the law.

Wisconsin currently has no such laws. Accordingly, local celebrities, musicians, sports stars and newspaper columnists are afforded little protection from flocking paparazzi.

My last hope for a role model was Miley Cyrus, who plays the title role of the 'Hannah Montana' TV show, movie and concert. The daughter of "Achy, Breaky Heart" singer Billy Ray Cyrus, Miley lives with her parents outside of Nashville, Tennessee. By all accounts, her parents do everything they can to shelter her from the Hollywood lifestyle.

But apparently, Miley isn't perfect. According to 'Consumer Reports' magazine, the 15-year-old superstar is seen in her new movie, "Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert," riding in the back seat of a Range Rover without a seat belt. In less than two weeks, the movie has grossed more than \$50 million at the box office, so lots of people have seen both Miley and Billy Ray unbuckled. Consumer Reports also claims that 65 percent of the 13- to 15-year-olds killed in auto accidents in 2006 were not wearing seat belts.

I think I'll buy my daughter Marie Osmond's latest album.

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