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Project Summary

For my final project, I created a parody of a news article examining a pop star's controversial image, replacing a human with a bonobo. Through this project, I wanted to explore the unique sexual activities of bonobos, as well as show how heavily culture influences what humans perceive to be "normal" sexual behaviors. I based my parody on an article appearing in the February 12th, 2007 issue of Newsweek, entitled, "The Girls Gone Wild Effect," which examined how the sexual, party girl images of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton corrupted young girls.

Through the 2009 Scientific American article, "Bonobo Sex & Society", I learned that Bonobos are the only primates besides humans who engage in sexual activities that don't directly lead to offspring, as well as participate in homosexual behaviors. They are one of mankind's closest relatives, yet they use their sexuality in a completely different way than humans. Instead of having life-long pairings, bonobos have multi-male multi-female mating patterns. Bonobos also use sex as a way to resolve conflicts over resources and form social bonds.

Through my news article, I wanted to point out how human mating patterns could be perceived as odd or perverse if looked at through a different perspective. I was inspired by the introduction of *Sex at Dawn*, where they compared different culture's taste in food with how we view sex as appropriate or not. Hopefully the reader will see the absurdity in all the social constraints our culture imposes on itself, as well as become interested in learning more about bonobos.

The Congo River Times

Chastity Devine: Too Chaste for the Airwaves?

Popstar Chastity Divine has once again been sparking controversy south of the Congo River. Her new song, “B True 2 U 4Ever” was released just two weeks ago and is already topping the charts. However, some mothers in the Bonobo community think the song is sending a bad message to their children.

“The song is poison,” One mother complained, “There has to be a limit to what we tolerate as responsible mothers.”

The song, a catchy and infectious dance number, boasts lyrics some critics say promotes a deviant sexual lifestyle known as “monogamy”.

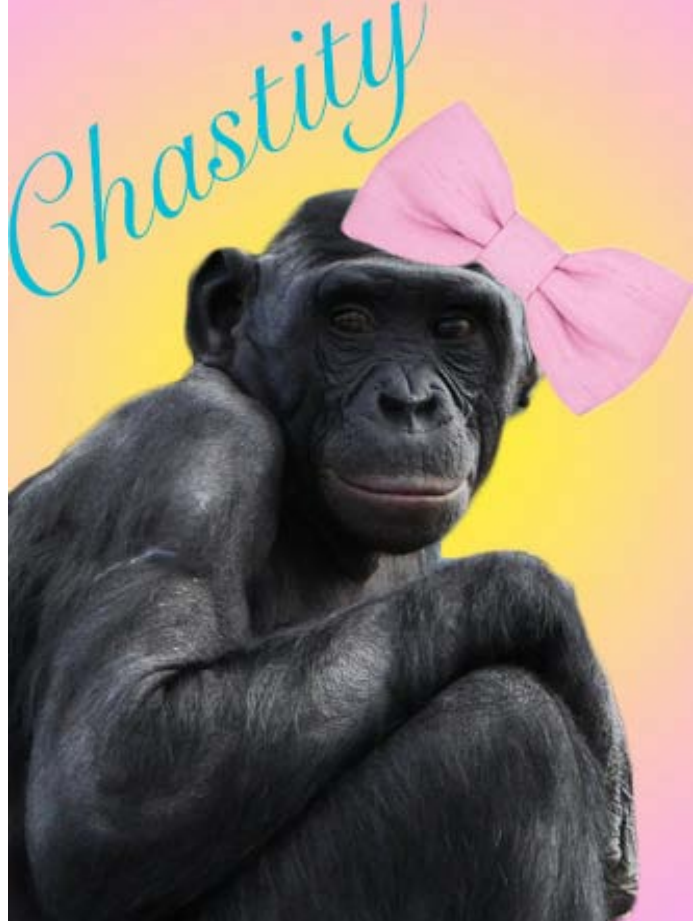
“I’ll follow my man wherever, I’ll b true 2 u 4ever!” sings Divine over the chorus. The lyrics, “I don’t want no other mate, its with you I want to procreate” and “I don’t believe in sex for fun,

All I want is true lovin’!” are particularly offensive to Divine’s critics, who feel she is setting a bad example for young girls.

“Every mother worries that their child is going to want to be like this idol that they see on tv,” said one mother, “I try to raise my daughter right, to teach her all the benefits and pleasures of sex, but I can’t control everything she sees! How is she ever going to adapt to living in a new community when all she cares about is staying with one man?”

This isn’t the first time Divine has caused parents to worry. Ever since her break-through single, “Eye 2 Eye” was released two years ago; she has been a magnet for controversy. “Eye 2 Eye” shook up the Bonobo community, with explicit lyrics such as “I want you to be my only guy, when we make love eye 2 eye”.

More shocking than her music though, was her image. Divine’s first music video featured her wearing leaves around her waist to conceal her genitals. Never one to be shy, Divine commented, “I think it’s beautiful to cover the genitals, to keep that area mysterious. What I’m doing is fashion, it’s art.” A fad quickly erupted of young Bonobos covering their genitals to appear more like the popstar, much to their parent’s dismay.



singer Chastity Divine



a Bonobo youth sports the latest fashion trend



a concerned Bonobo mother

“What she is doing is manipulating impressionable young girls. Most girls aren’t covering their genitals because they really believe in monogamy, they dress that way because its what they see in the media,” one mother commented.

The Bonobo Council for Sexual Peacekeeping (BCSP) has raised concerns about the long-term consequences Divine’s image might leave on today’s youth.

“Promiscuity is an essential part of keeping our communities strong,” says a BCSP representative, “if our children start to believe in these subversive sexual ideas, everything we stand for will be lost. Violence will erupt, we’ll end up no better than common Chimpanzees!” Though the BCSP’s claims are frightening, some members of the community find their claims to be overdramatic.

“I am a huge fan Chastity Divine, but that doesn’t mean I want to be monogamous,” says Tiffany, nine-years-old. “I still plan on leaving my community next year, and am really excited to engage in sex with tons of different partners.” Others Tiffany’s age seem to reflect this view, however that hasn’t stopped the BCSP from trying to get “Be Tru 2 U 4Ever” banned from the airways.

Divine is defending her music, stating in recent interviews that there can be multiple views on sexuality. “I’m not trying to convince people to be like me, I’m just putting it out there that there are alternatives to the norm. Music is innocent, I mean I’m only making pop songs!”

The innocence of her music will be up for debate this coming week, when multiple Bonobo communities are meeting to discuss if there should in fact be a ban on Divine’s music. Regardless of the result, one thing seems clear: Divine is set to have a long career ripe with controversy.