

A New Take on Russian Roulette

(Last month the KYCN described the danger of curiosity. This month's KYCN illustrates it.)

Chatroulette is a social web site created in late 2009 by a 17-year-old Russian. Users are connected through their webcams to an unnerving and random succession of strangers from across the globe. You talk to them, they talk to you. You see them, they see you. Chatroulette is akin to speed-dating tens of thousands of perfect strangers – some clothed, some not.

The home page is sparse, with two empty boxes – one labeled *Stranger*, the other, aptly, *You*. When you press the "Play" button, your webcam is activated and you are told that Chatroulette is "looking for a random stranger." Up pops a live video and you can chat with the person who comes in view. Hit "Next" and you are confronted with a new stranger. It's a game of roulette.

The *New York Times* ran an [article](#) on Chatroulette. The author said: "I used the service for the first time a few weeks ago, and I found it both enthralling and distasteful, yet I kept going back for more.

"I was sitting in the living room with my wife when we were siphoned by computer into a dimly lit room with a man who told us he was

in Russia. Moments later we were watching a woman dance half-naked in a kitchen in Turkey, and then we stared in shock at a gaggle of laughing college students in a dorm room somewhere. With each click of the



mouse we were transported into a stranger's life – then whisked along to another jarring encounter.

"After five minutes, we disconnected and sat in silence, disturbed by the rawness of some of what we had seen.

"But our curiosity drew us back the next day. It's very strange. It's not just that we parachuted into someone else's life – invited crashers – but there is the eerie thrill of true randomness, who, or what, will show up next?"

The *chat only* version is similar. In the words of a 13-year-old girl quoted in *The New York Times*: "The first time I went there with my friend we was scared. We started talking with some stranger about stuff, and we pretended we were doing stuff we weren't doing, you know, like sexual stuff. It got too embarrassing so we quit. But the next day we were back. It was too much of a rush. So we got into another conversation and, well, we went further and we did what we said this time."

Curiosity is combined with **shock** is a highly potent mixture.

That is the Chatroulette formula.

Romans 13:14 Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

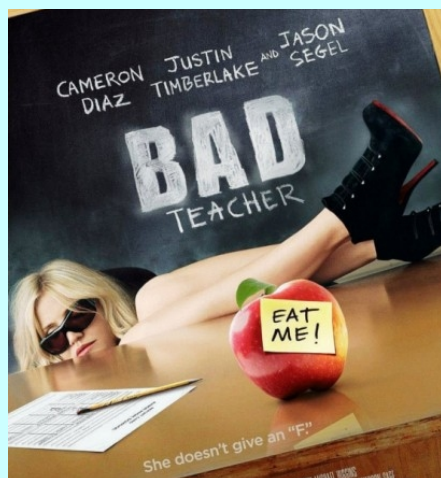
Bad Decision

The **Teen Choice Awards** honors the year's biggest achievements in music, sports, television, film and fashion, as voted on by those aged 13-19. Winners receive a surfboard designed with the graphics of that year's show.

There are the usual categories of best actor, TV comedy, pop song, but here are a few you probably don't know about: the best liplock (kiss), hook-up song, hissy fit (tantrum), hottie, twit and vampire.

Many recipients are no surprise. *Twilight*, *Harry Potter*, Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez.

Some of the awards are rather regrettable, but they reflect what teens think, often to their parents' dismay. The best comedy film was *Bad Teacher*. Cameron Diaz plays a



marijuana smoking, ditzzy drunk who sleeps during the class she teaches. She tries to seduce a rich man so she can leave teaching. Then she learns that the teacher with the best, state-wide test scores gets a cash bonus, so she drugs and seduces the test holder and steals the answer sheet. By the end she somehow becomes the school guidance counselor.

The Way is a movie that could be worth seeing. It is based on an experience Martin Sheen's grandson had on the Camino de Santiago (The Way of Saint James). Tom (Sheen) is an American doctor who comes to France to collect the remains of his adult son (Emilio Estevez) who was killed in a storm while walking the Camino. Rather than return home, Tom decides to complete his son's pilgrimage. He doesn't plan on the impact the journey will have on his "California Bubble Life." Hollywood producers seldom knows what to do about Christianity but they cannot ignore it.



Footloose

A remake of the film *Footloose* premieres on October 14, 2011.

The story is based (loosely) on events that happened in Elmore City, Oklahoma. In 1980 the city did not allow public dancing. In January the students at Elmore City High School asked to have a prom. It led to a hot debate by the school board, but the proposal was passed.

A few girls learned some dance steps. Most of the boys couldn't dance and didn't really want to. It wasn't much of a story.

The upcoming film portrays the primary conflict as between the youth and the board. It glorifies a rebellious city kid who whose goal is to shake things up, and a girl who is living a double life.

The adults are no better. They have no idea what their kids are doing and fail to provide the leadership they should. The adults and the youth are both bad models for how to relate to each other and how to solve a moral/cultural conflict.

In the end the youth get their freedom, but it's mainly the

freedom to be self-centered and do wrong.

The dancing in the movie is both slick and erotic. (There's dancing, and more than dancing.)



MTV is one of the producers and, typically, promotes bad relationships and makes them look cool.

Expect the movie to be reviewed as "better than the original."

Millions of youth will see the film. They deserve better.

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