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To the Editor:

The entire Super Bowl halftime show was a disgrace, not just Janet Jackson's part of the show (Sports pages, Feb. 2). CBS went too far in trying to hold our attention during halftime and to sell records of MTV stars. CBS and Viacom should be ashamed, and they cannot blame a faulty costume for the beginning of this tasteless show.

As a country, we are criticized by Muslim moderates and physically attacked by Islamic purists. They say our culture is morally corrupting. Did this show give them further confirmation?

Many in our country do not understand why people in the Middle East and other areas of the world hate us. We need to really consider who we are. Are we addicted to the pursuit of pleasure and wealth above all else? If we are, then we will reap what we sow.

RON PAGET

Houston, Feb. 2, 2004

That Halftime Show: Victory of Bad Taste

To the Editor:

Re "Patriots Win 2nd Super Bowl in 3 Years" (front page, Feb. 2):

One wonders what is going on when CBS rejects as inappropriate MoveOn.org's Super Bowl ad highlighting the huge deficits resulting from President Bush's fiscal policies and then broadcasts a halftime show featuring Nelly's crotch-grabbing and the baring of Janet Jackson's breast.

It seems clear that the country has lost its way. BETTY JANE JACOBS
New York, Feb. 2, 2004

To the Editor:

It is most unfortunate that the Super Bowl featured such a raunchy and inane halftime show (Sports pages, Feb. 2). The performances were, not surprisingly, in poor taste, as were certain commercials.

Humor is one thing; the promotion of immorality is quite another.

MATT C. ABBOTT
Chicago, Feb. 2, 2004

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Prime-Time Peep Show

Amen to Tom Shales's comments on the Super Bowl [Style, Feb. 2], in particular Janet Jackson's flash dance. Her performance was reminiscent of Britney Spears, who also has resorted to shock and sleaze to aid a stumbling singing career.

Ms. Jackson showed insensitivity toward young viewers and disregard for women who have fought for decades for respect and dignity.

It may not move her career forward, and it set the women's movement back 50 years.

JEAN SORENSEN
Herndon

I am far from a prude, but I thought the Super Bowl was supposed to be a family-type national extravaganza.

Super Bowl XXXVIII was a great football game seriously marred by the MTV-produced halftime debacle.

What is the deal with "dirty dancing" and an exposed breast in the middle of supposedly "PG" prime-time viewing?

Even more disturbing was the insult Kid Rock showed to the brave men and women in uniform serving our country in a war right now by wearing an American flag with a slit in it as a poncho.

Thanks, NFL, for making life even harder for responsible parents to explain to impressionable teenagers.

JON MORGENSEN
Montgomery Village

I don't get it. During the Super

Bowl, I saw commercials for toilet paper stating that the product was stronger for "your end zone." I saw a commercial where a flatulent horse nearly incinerated a woman. I saw a commercial where a dog was ordered to bite a man's crotch.

I was mortified that the kids in our house were watching this.

And the irony of it is that a 30-second commercial bringing attention to President Bush's deficit was deemed "inappropriate."

I thought that the Federal Communications Commission was created in part to keep trash off the airwaves and to allow the free expression of ideas.

As I said, I don't get it.

MICHAEL O'BRIEN
Dumfries