

**Drawing by Mary Anne** 

#### In this issue . . .

The Supreme Court decision

A look at Prowling By Night

Lamp Post: Notes from Cabbagetown

On Call: A Piece of the Action

Money Matters: More on Undercutting

**Personal Story**: Recovery, Our Profession, and US Treatment

**Programs** 

News: Whores in uniform (Or, Isn't hypocrisy fascinating?) • Interstate Soliciting • AIDS update • You can find us in the phone book! • Pro Press

Plus: Safe Sex is Our Business • Just for laughs • A review of

Working • Merchants of Love goes to

England • Poetry • Letters

#### incredible jerk award

Our "dubious honour" this issue goes to a group of four.

The majority of judges of the Supreme Court of Canada, who decided that it was just fine if the communicating law violates the rights of street hos, really earned their the "Incredible Jerk Award". What a bunch of guys, eh? (See the story on the next page for more details. And send us your nominations for the "Incredible Jerk Award" for the next issue of Stiletto.)



William McCormack

#### FIRST RUNNER UP.

What a contest it was this issue! Metro Police Chief William McCormack placed a close second with the comment, "Who would you believe, the chief of police or a prostitute?" (See the story on page 5 for details) Volume 1, Issue 2 - June 1990

#### Stiletto

is the newsletter of the Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes – CORP

Signed articles represent the opinions of the authors only.

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## AMOUS TRICKS VE (NEVER) KNEW









2/Stiletto

Giving the green light to whore-bashers

## The Supreme Court decision

The Supreme Court's June 5, 1990 decision to uphold section 195.1 of the Criminal Code, which makes it illegal to "communicate" for the purpose of prostitution in a public place, gives the cops the goahead to entrap, arrest and harass street prostitutes.

Alexandre Highcrest recounts the story behind the country's most recent "business as usual" legal benchmark.

liagara Falls, Ontario, was known as a good place to ply the trade, at least among some American hos and their Canadian sisters and brothers working in the industry. Canada's honeymoon capital had more to offer residents and guests than over-priced motel rooms, tacky souvenirs, and a nice view of the falls. The Niagara Falls Police Department, though, didn't care too much for the idea of the sex trade flourishing in their community (although making money indirectly off of non-commercial sex is okay!) and ratepayers groups were bitching about the developing strolls.

Niagara's Police Chief decided to act; he met with other police chiefs from across the country and they decided that a stiffer law was needed "to control the problem of street prostitution." The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police is a powerful lobby in Ottawa. They went to work and, by December of 1985, Bill C-49 had been passed. The infamous "communicating law" came into effect.

We are all familiar with the bare bones of C-49. The bill created section 195.1 of the *Criminal Code*, which makes it an offence to communicate



for the purpose of prostitution in a public place. "Communicate" can mean anything; a short conversation, a nod, a wink, or a wave. For the purpose of this law, a client's car is considered "a public place." Some of you hos think it's okay to negotiate in your date's Ford – uh-aah! If the prospective date is really a cop and you talk business in his car, you are busted. Quiet, secluded parks and back lanes are considered the same, so be careful, guys.

Since section 195.1 became law, it has been repeatedly challenged. A number of working girls who were busted for communicating pleaded not guilty on the grounds that the communicating law infringed on their right to freedom of expression, something guaranteed

under section 2 (b) of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes (CORP) has been campaigning along similar lines – and on the grounds that the new law did not, and does not, work.

C-49 included a clause that required that section 195.1 be reviewed after three years. So. in December 1989, three representatives of CORP went to Ottawa to present a brief supporting the decriminalizing of prostitution to the House of Commons' Committee on Justice. Our presentation addressed the unconstitutionality of the communicating law and its ineffectiveness. A study called Street Prostitution: Assessing the Impact of the Law, conducted by the Department of Justice as part of the review, confirmed what we were saying

about the fact that the new law has not decreased street prostitution at all.

There were a number of nodding governmental heads around the table – and they were nodding in agreement with what we were saying, not nodding off. A thin ray of hope in a fog of conservative, right-wing moralism. Truthfully, we did not expect to see decriminalization take effect simply as a result of this presentation, but we felt we had driven a few more nails into C-49's

#### news feature

coffin. Defeating the communicating law would have been one more step towards achieving our ultimate goal – decriminalization of prostitution.

In addition to the pressure applied to the federal government in general, the Supreme Court was also feeling the heat. In May, 1987, the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal said that the law violated the *Charter*, and struck it down; the police in Nova Scotia stopped enforcing it. Another case was decided in favour of the law by the Manitoba Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court was forced to decide between these two interpretations of the law.

As we waited for the Supreme Court's decision to come down, we watched the Mulroney government cut back funding for services for women. We watched as the conservatives reinstated abortion into the *Criminal Code*. And we cried when the Supreme Court finally said it was upholding section 195.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

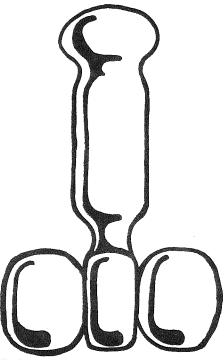
Defeat is a bitter pill to swallow. The nature of this defeat made the pill especially hard to swallow. The Supreme Court judges voted on the issue along gender lines: four male judges voted in favour of retaining section 195.1 as it stands; the two female judges voted to dump it. A heartbreaker.

Both Supreme Court justices Bertha Wilson and Claire L'Heureux-Dube argued against the law on two of grounds: that it enables the police to arrest citizens who are bothering no one simply because they are engaged in communicative acts concerning something that is not illegal; and that the definition of communicating "in any manner" is too broad. A citizen may be charged with communicating when he or she has nothing more serious in mind than hailing a passing taxi. To quote Judge Wilson, "some definitional limits would appear to be desirable in an activity labelled as criminal."

The four judges in the majority agreed that section 195.1 limits the

right to freedom of expression guaranteed by the *Charter of Rights* but said that "the limit passes the *Charter's* test of being reasonable and demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society." Chief Justice Brian Dickson wrote that "ending the nuisance-related problems caused by street solicitation is a valid legislative aim."

But the communicating law has failed to do this – a parliamentary study has proved this failure. It seems that the Court did not wait for the parliamen-



tary review before it sat to consider the law (which sure makes it clear what government studies are for).

CORP will not give up the fight against the communicating law in particular and against the other laws which surround prostitution. In spite of the fact that prostitution is legal in Canada, there are a myriad of laws which surround the business and which make it difficult for sex trade workers engaged in prostitution to conduct their business and their own personal lives.

As the situation stands now, we cannot refer dates to other workers, we cannot support our older children or lovers financially if we choose to do so, we cannot work out of our own homes, and we cannot look to our homes as places of security. Even our bank accounts can be subject to freezing by police if we are unfortunate enough to get busted. This form of discrimination must be stopped. No other group of people is subjected to this level of government-approved, court-sanctioned discrimination.

To quote the June 6, 1990 Globe and Mail, "The federal anti-soliciting law was a sledgehammer when it was introduced and it remains a sledgehammer." The communicating law gives the police the power to harass and arrest people for communicating with their potential clients, clients who want to engage the services of someone engaged in a legal profession, because some people see the presence of the working prostitutes as "a nuisance." A prostitute may be tossed into jail if she or he "impedes the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic." Lawful assemblies and/or demonstrations often do the same thing; will this activity also be stifled in the future by similar laws? The Supreme Court decision has set a dangerous precedent. How many more basic rights of Canadian citizens will be limited or stripped away before this form of legislation becomes unacceptable?

Another government study, this one undertaken in the mid-eighties, found that the majority of Canadians do not see street prostitution as a problem. According to the report of the Fraser Commission on Pornography and Prostitution, only 36% of respondents felt that the police in Canada should spend more time trying to catch pros. And we all know that the communicating law is ineffective in controlling the so-called problem. Still, the Court upheld the law. Where is the justice, the desire for Canada to function as a democracy, in that?

#### Have you heard the one about the cop running an escort business?

#### To serve and protect – their own asses

lot of street girls had heard about Gord Junger before the story hit the press. Not that *Stiletto* has a problem with someone being in the escort business. Obviously the cops don't either, if you're a friend of theirs.

For those of you who haven't been following the story closely, this is how it goes:

Gord Junger had been on the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force since 1981 and was officer of the month in July 1986. He was a constable at 52 Division before he was forced to resign; before that he had been on the morality squad. He met a "highly-paid call girl" at the home of another morality squad officer and got involved in a relationship with her in the fall of 1989.

It wasn't long before he got involved in her business too, using the name "Greg." They ran ads in NOW magazine offering "executive style males, females and couples." They recruited a couple of other male cops to work with them; women were hired too but not until Junger had run their names through the police computer to make sure they didn't have a record.

Business was going along well. Then his lady friend got pregnant and Junger was enough of a cad to ditch her. She



Constable Gord Junger

recorded some incriminating phone calls that she had with him and took the tapes to police internal affairs. Internal affairs investigated Junger by setting him up with a female undercover cop who posed as a customer.

On December 5, 1989, they caught him red-handed – making the deal with the undercover cop and with a small amount of hash in his townhouse kitchen. They laid criminal charges against him for possession of drugs. He was suspended with pay the next day.

Although Junger's former partner's tape recordings include him talking about a deal with the cops, Chief of



Police William McCormack told the Star that no deals were made. The cops dropped the drug charges against Junger on February 28, the day before he resigned from the force. Junger was threatened with charges under the Police Act unless he resigned and he agreed to resign if the force gave him a letter of reference. (Presumably the drug charges were also part of these non-negotiations.) They dropped the charges and gave him the letter, and Junger resigned on March 1. That was the end of it as far as the cops were concerned.

But that was hardly the end of it for his pregnant former girlfriend and

Stiletto\5



William McCormack

partner. She wanted the tapes that she had given to internal affairs back so she could pursue a paternity suit against Junger. They refused to return them until she got a lawyer after them.

Alan Story, a *Toronto Star* reporter who was doing research about the sex trade, got wind of her situation. He interviewed her and a story about Junger appeared in the Saturday *Star* on April 7, sending the Chief of Police and the Police Commission into a tailspin.

Most commissioners couldn't remember having heard anything about the case until it appeared in the *Star*. Commission chair June Rowlands refused to comment on the case. The chief of police explained that he had made only very brief reports on it to the commission, at the end of meetings after the person recording the minutes had left.

The press kept after McCormack about the woman's allegations that there were other cops involved in the escort service. McCormack's response: "Who would you believe, the chief of police or a prostitute"? A funny question considering that her claims so far have proven to be true, while he has looked like a man covering his ass at every turn in this case.

#### news

The Ontario Police Commission (OPC) was appointed to look into the Junger affair. Then Douglas Drinkwalter, chairman of the OPC, told the *Star* April 18 that the case was "a tempest in a teapot" – before he had seen any of the files on it. The Ontario Solicitor General's office had the good sense to be embarrassed by this and OPC vice-chairman Frank D'Andrea was assigned to head up the investigation instead.

The OPC has since looked into it and Drinkwalter has changed his tune. He is now saying that they "are finding some very disturbing things" about the case and that there should be a public inquiry. The Police Commission has set up a task force, made up mostly of cops, to study how to handle the cases of officers who are being investigated by the force. We're not holding our breath on that one. But we are waiting anxiously to see if the OPC is going to drag Junger's former partner up before a public inquiry, recommend a major crack-down on escorts, or do something equally vindictive.

#### People living with AIDS in danger

## Ontario's chief medical officer wants power to quarantine

The Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project (PSSP) was well represented at the April 25 demonstration against Richard Schabas, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Ontario.

The demonstration was held outside the Westbury Hotel where the Ontario AIDS Advisory Committee was hearing a report from Schabas, in which he recommended that the status of AIDS, under the province's public health laws, be changed from that of a "communicable" disease to that of a "virulent" one. This would give public health officials greater power to lock up people who they believe are putting other people at risk for AIDS. According to an interview he gave the Toronto Star, that includes people who know they are infected with HIV, the virus associated with AIDS, who have any kind of intercourse - even if they're using a condom.

Schabas's proposal is dangerous for a number of reasons. First of all, people

living with AIDS (PLWAs) do not have a "virulent" disease the way tuberculosis is virulent. To say otherwise is to give people the mistaken impression that they are in danger from casual contact with PLWAs. Secondly, to suggest that people with HIV shouldn't have sex, even using condoms, suggests that condoms don't really work - so why bother with them. Third, giving people the idea that the government is quarantining everyone who is a possible danger suggests that all individuals don't have to take responsibility for protecting themselves from AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. These misconceptions undermine the work being done by AIDS education groups all over Ontario and around the world. It is outrageous that they should be put forward by the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Schabas and his ideas are a particular threat to people in the business. At a public meeting during AIDS Aware-

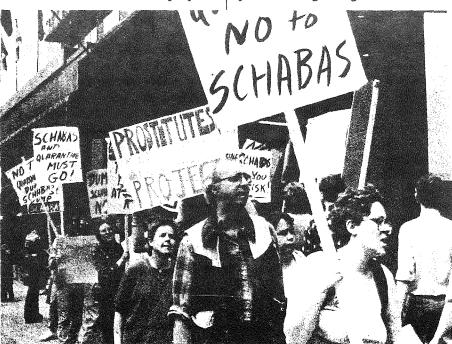


photo by Konnie Reich

6/Stiletto

#### **OLDEST PROFESSION** TIMES

A newsletter published by 90's Ladies and Friends, a group working for the repeal of laws against prostitutes.

OPT, 1125-9thStreet, Sacramento, CA, 95814 USA

Prostitutes Of New York P.O.N.Y. X-PRESS

A newsletter published by and for the New York City sex-worker community.

\$5 (US)/issue

PONY c/o Box 1331, Old Chelsea Stn, New York, NY 10011 USA

#### Working Girl

A magazine published by the Prostitutes Association of South Australia (PASA).

PASA PO Box 7072. Hutt Street Adelaide 5000 Australia

#### news

ness Week last fall, Schabas told the largely gay audience that it isn't them he's worried about, because gay men have done a good job of adopting responsible safe-sex behaviour. It's those other, less responsible groups in society who are affected, like IV-drug users, who he's worried about.

The City of Toronto's newly released report, Women and AIDS, says that 10 of the 100 or so women who have tested positive for HIV in the city are prostitutes. Nine of them are believed to have got the virus through sharing injection equipment. (A man with Schabas's kind of logic is apt to decide that this means that all pros are sharing

In a letter to the Star saying his comments about sex with condoms were taken out of context (whatever that means), Schabas used a couple of examples of people he wanted to control. One of them was an HIV-infected prostitute who shares needles. Of course, no one should share needles now that we know that it spreads AIDS, hepatitis and other diseases. Schabas's implication is clearly that this person is a particular problem because she's a prostitute – otherwise he wouldn't have mentioned her job.

The Toronto Board of Health has taken a position against Schabas's recommendation and has urged the Ontario Ministry of Health to reject it. And so did the noisy demonstrators.





Stiletto\7

#### **Pros' Press**

The prostitutes' rights movement media is looking good these days.

New from Prostitutes Of New York (PONY), The PONY X-press, is a 28page glossy magazine with some great articles and humour and lots of images and graphics. It's an inspiring way to find out about PONY and life in the business in the Big Apple.

Old reliable Oldest Profession Times (OPT) has been designed and laid out using desktop publishing for the past two issues and is looking much more professional and presentable. Unfortunately, that means that their costs are up and they aren't sure that they'll be able to keep doing OPT in the new format. If you've thought about subscribing in the past, now's the time to send them your cash. (See ads this page.)

#### Interstate tour with a difference

Scarlet Harlot's "Interstate Solicitation Tour" roared into New York City on May 24.

The outrageous performance artist and whore has set off to deliberately and publicly challenge the law – by breaking it – in her own dramatic style. She took her street theatre, with a bevy of Prostitutes of New York (PONY) supporters, right to where the money is. The colourful activists gathered a sizable crowd in front of TV cameras outside the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street for a rousing rendition of Scarlet's raunchy song, Bad Girl. It was a hit, as usual.

#### Look in the book!

Finally! After much wrangling with Bell Canada and some welcome assistance from the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), you can find both the Canadian Organization for the Rights

#### news

of Prostitutes (CORP) and the Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project (PSSP) in the white pages.

Bell was, of course, hung up about the word prostitute. But after PSSP's funders made a few enquiries and the CRTC told them, in a rapid exchange of faxes, that they were out of line, they backed down.

Naturally we're getting a few more prank calls as a result of the increased exposure, but it's worth it to have

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ANADIAN ORGANIZATION

BEVELOPMENT THROWN

Canadian Organization For Consumers

Canadian Organization of Small

Again Small

Again Organization of Small

Again Small

Again Organization of Small

Aga

people in the business be able to look us up in the book and give us a call. You will find that we have the answering machine on most of the time though, so please leave a number and give us a bit of time to get back to you. We promise to return every serious call that we get.

#### **Farewell to Danny**

Goodbye can be one of the hardest things to say in any language and that's particularly true when it comes to saying farewell to CORP spokesman and Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project co-ordinator Danny Cockerline.

Danny is, of course, still a member of CORP and is back on the board of PSSP. But we sure miss his hard work, insight, talent, dedication and sunny smile as the two groups slog through their day-to-day operations. And we're pretty sure he left some other broken hearts behind among his friends and customers in the business, too.

Danny is taking a well-deserved vacation after working long and hard to get PSSP set up and funded and then co-ordinating the project for the two crucial years that followed. He's rumoured to be having a good time in New York (look out

all you folks in PONY!) before he sets off to visit friends (and make new ones) in the rest of the world-wide whores' movement.

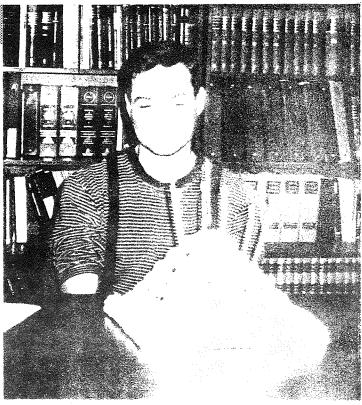


photo by Linda Gardener

We can only say, "Good luck and come back soon."



#### Parkdale Community Legal Services 1239 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON 531-2411

Monday

10 am to 6 pm

Tuesday

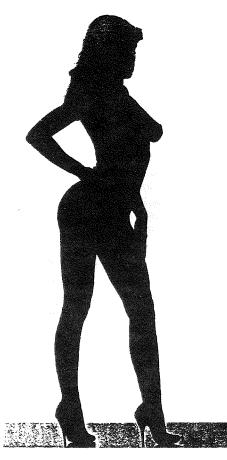
10 am to noon and 2 pm to 7:30 pm

Wednesday

2 pm to 6 pm

Thursday

noon to 7:30 pm



#### New funds mean a new home for PSSP

For the first time, beginning July1, the federal government will be funding the Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project.

The three-year, AIDS Community Action Plan grant will cover the cost of one staff salary and will help cover the cost of operating a more accessible resource centre/office space/meeting place. It will be open sometime this fall. Yes, your tax dollars will actually be going to something that is for people in the business!

In the meantime, if you see a likely looking location that you think the project should know about, call and leave a message on the PSSP answering machine at 964-0150.

#### Notes from Cabbagetown

Some nights there are so many girls out working it seems like a harem. Other nights I'll ride around for hours and not see anybody. Usually that means a sweep but sometimes it's just the moon.

"What about that red-haired cop? He turns ya, then he takes the money back."

"Who's supposed to be patrolling this street, 51 or 52? They're both always over here. Somebody should stay in their own division."

"I wasn't even working; I was just walking home. A guy pulled up beside me and said, I feel like getting laid. I said, yeah, that's nice, and kept on walking. I recognized him: I knew he was a cop. Then he pulls up beside me again and says, you're under arrest for communicating. I said, we never discussed a price, how'd you know I wasn't gonna do you for free? And you never showed me your badge so it won't hold up in court. He said, who's the judge going to believe, the police or a whore?" [He's been taking lessons from his chief.]

"Yeah, you haven't seen me for a while; I've just done 92 days. I was sitting in court. The judge was arguing with the prosecutor for half an hour on the case before mine. When I came up

the judge was in a bad mood – he didn't want to hear any details of my case. He called me "a burden to society" and gave me 90 days. I'm really pissed off."

The cops got this old guy to pretend he wanted me. He took me in his car to a parking lot and parked beside an unmarked cop car. They busted me before anything went down and gave me a ticket. Then, when I was walking home, the old guy pulled up beside me again and asked if I wanted a date.

[Was this another bust or did she get him horny?]

"Where is this 'zone of tolerance'?"

Ran into a girl I haven't seen in months. Turns out she's got a curfew so she can't work nights.

"What can we do about the 20-dollar hos?"

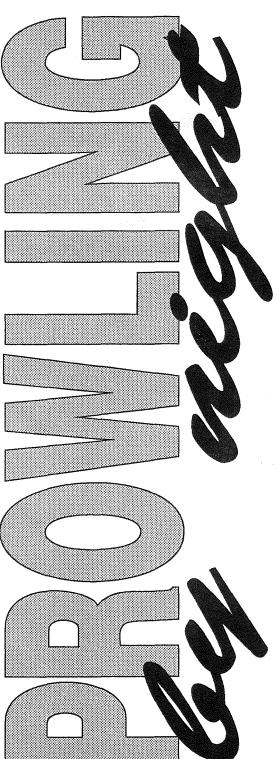
Favourite pieces from issue one of *Stiletto*: "Spermwhale," "Wild West Hos" and "Feed your pussy well."

"I can hand out as many Stiletto's as you can give me. Girls are asking for them from as far away as Oshawa. They've been photocopying my copy." [Sheila Pieschke]

"Have you got any more of that magazine? Oh, I've had that one sitting on my coffee table for months."

Gwendolyn





have seen many films about the business; those made by social workers, big-buck Hollywood

workers, big-buck Hollywood producers, T.V. documentary filmmakers and the like. But I've never seen a film about working made by hos – that is, until I saw *Prowling By Night*. This film is unlike any film dealing with prostitution that I have ever seen.

To read my initial description of *Prowling By Night*, the film sounds almost innocent. Gwendolyn, an outreach worker with the Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project, comedienne and parttime ho, made the film to document the experiences of two other Safe Sex Project workers and the street girls they work for. The format used was that of an adult, puppet cartoon — no

actors, no big budget, no glitzy special effects. But she did use working girls; street pros drew the pictures to represent themselves in the film, pros did all the talking and there was no script. Everyone spoke freely and openly about their experiences working Toronto's strolls. Valerie and Ryan, the two girls who work for the project, did the same.

The film follows Valerie and Ryan as they walk the stroll in Parkdale, passing out condoms, doing the AIDS rap and talking the politics of the sex trade. But the film focuses on the girls who work the street and the harassment they face at the hands of the cops. The language used is as real as the women who are speaking and the effect is moving and powerful. Hos, friends of hos and people who get upset when they see other people being abused or disadvantaged will all be af-



10/Stiletto

fected by this work. *Prowling By Night* is not a cartoon version of *Pretty Woman*. The film's imagery is vivid, often stark, but the message is driven home clearly. Cabbagetown's bikeriding "Condom Lady" and the twenty or so prostitutes who helped make the film have done one hell of a job.

Films, even shorts like *Prowling By Night*, need money to be produced and Gwendo's efforts were funded by a grant from the National Film Board's women's studio, Studio D. This year Studio D is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary by sponsoring the Five Feminist Minutes Project, which funded fifteen women filmmakers to each make a five-minute film documenting experiences of women in each of their communities. They will all be screened together at several festivals this summer. *Prowling By Night* 



drawing by Catherine

was one of the fifteen proposals selected from a field of many contenders and I have to give Studio D credit for making a wise choice.

Keep your ears open on the stroll or read *Stiletto* for information about when and where you can see this film. *Prowling By Night* is about police

harassment of Toronto's street prostitutes, but the stories the girls tell could have happened anywhere. The sad part of it is, they probably already have.

Alexandre Highcrest



#### SPECIAL SCREENING

Prowling By Night will be shown at the 416 Drop-in Centre for Women, 416 Dundas Street East on Friday September 28, 1990 at 2:00 pm.

### All pros and your invited guests WELCOME

Prowling By Night will also have two showings at the Toronto Festival of Festivals which runs from September 6 through to September 15, as part of the Five Feminist Minutes Programme. Call the Festival for time and place.

drawing by Mary Anne

## Working Ryan Hotchkiss reviews this seminal work by Delores French

The secret to being happy and successful in any career is having a job you are suited to. Football players are suited to playing football. Meteorologists are suited to being weather forecasters. I am suited to being a prostitute. - Dolores French

orking is a fine addition to the genre of books by prostitutes about the life such as The Mayflower Madam, by Sidney Biddle Barrows or Personal Services, by Cynthia Payne. These books are first-person accounts written by those most qualified to write about the business - those in the business.

Working was written in collaboration with New York writer Linda Lee and documents Ms French's career as a prostitute over a ten-year period. She has crammed a lot of experience into those ten years. Her sense of adventure and desire to travel and try new things have served her well in the business. She worked as a call girl, a streetwalker and a brothel worker. Her curiosity has taken her all over Europe, the Caribbean, and the U.S.A. She has even worked in the windows of the red-light district and in a brothel in Amsterdam.

The two years that she spent in the Caribbean made for some of the most entertaining stories. Dolores worked for part of that time at the Black Angus in San Juan, a loud and raucous place, "... it was like a boot camp for prostitution. It prepared you for battle, it made you physically fit and it was a

darned good place to meet other foot soldiers."

Dolores answers all of the typical questions: How did you get into the business? What was your childhood like? Do your parents know that you work? What about taxes? Do you have normal relationships? In the process, she explores the myths about pros-

titutes, destroys the stereotypes, and humanizes us.

Working has an easy-going, off-thecuff story-telling style which, along with its humour, disguises the fact that it's a highly political book. It gets across basic ideas about things like prostitutes' rights and AIDS, painlessly.

Dolores is angry at a hypocritical justice system that batters and dehumanizes women who are providing a legitimate service. Out of her anger, the Atlanta prostitutes' rights group HIRE (Hooking Is Real Employment) was formed in 1983. HIRE is a political lobby group that, like CORP, tries to lobby for the decriminalization of

prostitution. HIRE does public speaking and complains about how the cops, courts, health clinics, and hotels treat prostitutes. Like any prostitutes' organization, HIRE has had some trouble involving prostitutes. Dolores quips, "It was like trying to organize raw eggs."

Dolores turned her first trick at twenty-seven while working in a small radio station in Atlanta as an administrator and fund-raiser. She said of that first experience. "That man treated me with more respect than I had gotten in most other occupations, and he paid me a lot closer to what my time and mind were worth. He paid me with a smile on his face . . . and I was proud to have been able to help him." Dolores's pride in her

work and her love of the women she worked with shine through in this book. Dolores

found, as many of us have, that working as a prostitute increased her feelings of self-esteem and self-worth. The attitude that you adopt towards the business has so much to do with how it will affect you.

Ms French says a lot of positive things about the business without

glamourizing it. She acknowledges that it can be a difficult and dangerous profession. It is made dangerous by the laws that we are forced to work under and by moral prejudice. Working is chock-full of tips about how to deal with the down side of prostitution. She talks about what to look for in a trick, how to avoid creeps and cops, how to defuse potentially violent situations, how to put a safe on with your mouth, and what to do during your period. She says of one of her teachers, "She trained me to bring deeply buried thoughts, perceptions, suspicions to the front of my mind: You're alone. A mistake could mean anything from simple unpleasantness to jail or death."

Dolores is a highly skilled professional. She is good at dealing with people, uninhibited about sex, intelligent and articulate, and she thinks well on her feet. If you know anyone who thinks prostitution is an unskilled profession, have them read this book.

Working is a real morale-booster that makes you feel good about working without skirting the tough issues. One caution, however: Dolores makes you yearn for the open road, and if you have the wanderlust, this book is sure to fuel it.

Working by Delores French with Linda Lee. Published by E.P. Dutton, New York, 1988.

#### **Announcement:**

Women's Press is publishing a book called *Words from Within: Women Prisoners Write*.

If you are a woman who is or has been in prison and you have a message to share, they want to hear from you. All forms of writing, including songs, essays and poetry, will be considered. Pen names can be used and a fee will be paid upon publication. Send your writing to #233, 517 College St, Toronto, ON M6G 4A2, or contact them for information. Phone: 921-2425.

#### safe sex is our business

#### **Covenant House Hypocrisy**

Covenant House (CH) of New York has been getting lately.

Father Bruce Ritter, the founder of CH, has been accused of using CH money to get young male clients of CH to have sex with him. It's unfortunate, though, that Ritter is being at-

tacked for his homosexuality and for being a trick when it is his hypocrisy that is the scandal, Ritter opposes gay rights and prostitutes' rights and yet he appears to be both gay and a trick. Isn't there something in Catholicism about being honest?

CH's



Tim Warner, the Pro who blew Ritter's cover

moral thinking has always been somewhat fucked up. They say they want to help young people who are turning tricks on the street but they won't give them condoms. Better to let them die and have God sort them out, they figure.

It is because of CH, and agencies like it, that the Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes (CORP) decided to start Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project (PSSP). We wanted to try to undo some of the damage they are doing. The social services agencies are trying to save people from prostitution. They don't seem to realize that by treating prostitution like a problem that must be wiped out they are indirectly supporting the arrest, harassment, abuse, rape and murder of prostitutes. Rather than trying to save people from prostitution, CORP and PSSP are

trying to save prostitutes ourselves included from the laws and attitudes that hurt us and make our work more dangerous. We want prostitution decriminalized so that prostitutes have the same rights and respect as other

workers.

Unlike the agencies which treat prostitutes as "clients" or "victims" who need to be helped by educated social workers, CORP and PSSP are run by prostitutes and we want other prostitutes to get involved. Join us. Call (416) 964-0150 or write Box 1143, Station F, Toronto, ON M4Y 2T8.

Danny Cockerline

#### money matters

#### Undercutting only benefits the johns

hen the first issue of Stiletto hit the streets there was a piece in there written by a ho who was

bitching about the undercutting of prices on the street and by the boys who work inside. I work inside and I thought, "Well, it can't be as bad as all that. I'm still scoring my decent money dates." But he was right. I run a lot of fantasy and fetish scenarios and usually these kinds of gigs involve a fair degree of time and some preparation, yet the johns are balking at

realistic prices for this kind of service. For plain sex they practically expect

you to give it away.

We're into summer and business should be picking up for everyone as



Toronto fills up with horny tourists and the like. These people all have money to spend and I for one would like to make some serious dollars over the

next six months. No one has to roll over for forty or fifty bucks and if no

> one did we'd all make more money. The clients will pay, they have no choice; a customer's urges are not linked to his wallet. And it has nothing to do with your age, either; in the January 26 issue of *Xtra* they interviewed a 45-yearold pro who charges \$50 per date regardless of what he has to do. A "Bargain Ho" if I ever heard of one. I

also know a 20-year-old ho who bases everything on the \$50 date. Sure, maybe you can make money turning cheap tricks but you have to work all the time. I'm in The Business because I love it, but I also have a life outside of prostitution. I don't want to spend all of my waking hours waiting for the phone to ring or sucking cock.

We can educate the clients to the realities of The Business only after we have educated ourselves. We are the commodity; we can dictate the price. Come on ladies and gentlemen, lets conduct ourselves like the freelance business people we are. Undercutting only benefits the customer while we, as a group, suffer financially. My rent is not going down, is yours? The Scarlet Harlot, a politically active whore out of San Francisco, summed it up quite nicely in a line from a poem she has written, entitled Cheap.

"Cheap is when you want less than pleasure, a baby or a hundred dollars." And that's a hundred bucks American.

Alexandre Highcrest

## Hassle Free Clinic

for birth control and sexually transmitted diseases 566 Church St., at Wellesley, 2nd floor, Ste. 2

#### Women's Clinic phone 922-0566

hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri - 10 am to 3 pm

Tues & Thurs - 4 pm to 8 pm

by appointment

STD drop-in (no appointment necessary)

Tues & Thurs - 4pm to 6pm

#### Men's Clinic phone 922-0603

hours:

Mon & Wed - 4 pm to 9 pm

Tues & Thurs - 10 am to 2 pm

Fri - 4 pm to 7 pm Sat - 10 am to 2 pm

no appointment necessary

Free and confidential health care services.

## Recovery, our profession and USA treatment programs

am a recovering heroin addict and may name is Julian. I have also worked Grosvenor street as a hustler for about six months this past winter, fall and summer. My chosen profession allowed me to support a one- to two-bag-a-day junk habit on the good days. However, I wasn't without sick days, on and off the job.

When I heard the words "social worker" - when I hear the words "social worker" today - I cringe, My experience on the street with the dogooders was consistently bad. As I said in a previous commentary in this 'zine, a lot of times there were more social workers on the street than hustlers and johns. I had made a conscious decision to work the street without help from social services and I resented the outreach these workers were forcing on me and my co-workers. After all, their very presence caused us to lose money. My resentment was amplified by the fact that more often than not I was junk sick and needed that money to restore me to a fully functional state of being. Their presence hampered my efforts to achieve this goal.

As I sit writing this, I am fully functional – or as much so as I could hope to be – and I achieve this without junk. I have been clean for a month and a half, approximately, and firmly believe I wouldn't have lasted more than a few days in this attempt had I not received the help I did.

I had sort of hit bottom. Meaning I had fucked everyone there was to fuck in several different ways and was left with an uncontrollable urge and an empty hype. There seemed very little hope of any sort of happiness in my life and I had burned all my bridges to resources.

I made a decision to enter a treatment facility in the United States and to see if the thirty days clean could start me on a different course.

I knew upon entering that the centre based its principles of recovery on the philosophy of the twelve-step programs of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous and I had no intention of conforming to these principles.

As more time passed, I became more aware that these people were not as

My career choice does not force me to use drugs but conversely my drug dependency did help in my career choice.

moralistic as I had anticipated. In fact they were only concerned with the issues in my life that I personally had trouble with.

For instance, the prostitution issue, which I knew would come up, has never been a moral problem for me so consequently when I explained my past financial endeavours and my attitude towards them (fair trade) I ran up against no opposition or socialworker rhetoric. I'm sure these people do have these opinions on the subject as a whole but I was not made privy to them, which was fine with me. I was there for my recovery – not theirs. My career choice does not force me to use drugs but conversely my drug depend-

ency did help immensely in my career choice. To sum up, I maybe talked to my counsellor (also a recovering addict) for about fifteen minutes in a thirty-day period about the subject of prostitution.

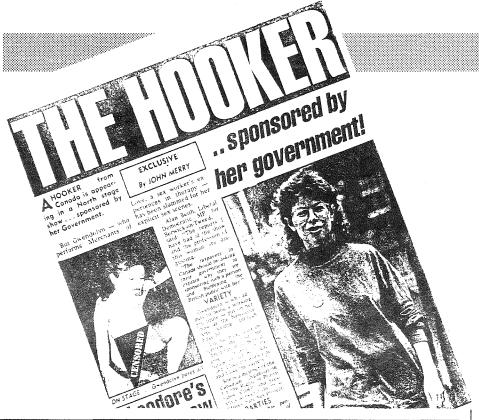
Back to the program basis – the twelve steps, and more importantly, the god concept. For one, the only thing I was asked to do while I was there was admit that I was powerless over my addiction and that my life had become unmanageable; then, to con-

sider and be open to the possibility that there is a power greater than myself. It was totally up to me how I defined this power. I could call it God or I could call it George – the name and religion are irrelevant. For me, at the risk of sounding Pollyanna-ish, this is just the power I witness when love is demonstrated in relationships and in the beauty of nature – a thunderstorm, the blue sky of a clear day. These are things that I did not create

and that demonstrate to me an existence far greater than this afflicted body.

So, upon leaving the facility, my attitude to the program had changed. I am still Julian, I am healthy, I am clean and I am a much more contented individual. The twelve steps have allowed me certain insights, although I do not spend twenty four hours a day wrapped up in their written word. For me, this treatment was extremely beneficial and has allowed me a certain amount of peace and serenity and the ability to regain control in a drug-free existence – to get on with my life.

Julian



#### poetry

#### by Hell-in

it makes a difference just what colour bag you choose to carry and in which hand also as you realize that you are leaving this place this time walking out as they so often say with every care behind you but the close deliberation of each step you take each mark you make before you find yourself run all full fool circle and the pattern starts again as one more lonely gambling lady leans out in the sun for just a moment thinking yes i can of course i can pretending as she dawdles by the rail in quiet warmth that she can fly is weightless yes and childless too no anchors tie her silver steps and then you know for sure that you have caught her eye as you put one bag down to measure faith and distance for the present for the price of one night shuffling and you eye her too because you both know there is no touch no communication and there will be always balconies just off the street

and solitary strolling passersby and each knows each as they say i must really keep to my own path but if your mind is open or(e) my bags get too damn heavy then i will consider entering your place and maybe i will

stay false promise in the dust you know but both of you rush to the meeting blind as they do say and nobody ever stops to look at all leaves falling as the heart of this particularly colourful street truth flows by

# Gwendolyn's show, Merchants of Love, goes to England

Merchants of Love, prostitute activist Gwendolyn's multi-media presentation about "a sex worker's experiences in therapy," which was the hit of last year's "Fringe of Toronto" theatre festival, was performed in Britain twice in May.

Gwendolyn appeared at the "Edge 90" festival in Newcastle upon Tyne on May 20 and then did the show again in London a week later for the London Film Makers' Co-operative.

Some of the notorious British tabloid press got in a predictable flap about the fact that a self-confessed hooker was representing Canada at these events. "The Hooker . . . sponsored by her government!" screamed the headline on a story which quotes Alan Beith, Liberal Democratic MP for Berwick-on-Tweed, saying: "The reports I have had of the show and the profession of this women are disgusting.

"The taxpayers in Canada should be asking their government to explain why they are supporting such a person and burdening the British public with her."



#### scarlet letters

Dear Editor:

Thanks for the copy of *Stiletto* that I received from one of your workers at the International Women's Day fair.

I found the magazine to be well-written, witty and full of helpful information.

However, I'd like to point out an error. I represented the Elizabeth Fry Society at the meeting Valerie reports in the News section. Jennifer Stephens represented NAC. The views expressed in the report seem to be a mixture of Jennifer's and mine, but it is certainly true that the Elizabeth Fry Society is for decriminalization of the criminal code offences surrounding prostitution and that we feel prostitutes have the right to be treated "as human beings deserving of dignity."

Good luck with the magazine. Sign us up as subscribers!

Yours truly, Rosemary Aubert Director of Community Relations Elizabeth Fry Society

#### Editors:

First, let us say that we found your magazine both informative and interesting and look forward to future issues.

As counsellors at The Works, we would however, like to respond to the article about our program that appeared in your first edition of *Stiletto*.

Unfortunately there has been some misunderstanding about the function of The Works and how it operates and we want to clarify this.

The Works is an AIDS and Drug Use Prevention Program. The purpose of our program is to prevent the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, among injection drug users and their sexual partners. At The Works you can exchange used needles/syringes for new ones, get free condoms and get free needle cleaning kits. We also offer counselling, support, health information and drug treatment referral. All services at The Works are free and confidential.

When someone comes to The Works they are given a code. In the article the writer was very concerned that being assigned a personal code could result in the person being identified by name. This is not true. There is no possible way that this code can be traced to a specific individual or identification, like a social insurance number. The code was designed so that people could remain anonymous but could also remember their code. We ask for the first initial of their first name, the second and third letters of their mother's or pet's name, the month of birth and the year of birth.

Each person has a code so that we know how many people return and what type of services people are asking for. Having this information helps us in two ways. First, we are able to find out how useful our service is by the number of people who return. Second, this information helps us plan and develop our programs to meet the needs of our clients. We encourage people who have questions about The Works to contact us at 392-0520 or drop by our office. The Works is located at 660 Dundas Street West and we are open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm and on Tuesday from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

We hope this letter has cleared up any misunderstanding.

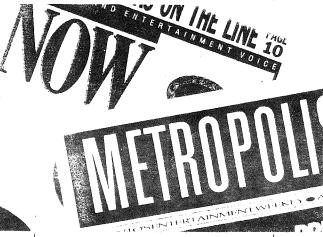
Sincerely, Sheila Scott, RN Counsellor The Works



#### A Piece of the Action

aving been a pro for about 13 years, I'm not used to paying to get screwed; the money usually flows the other way. Of course that doesn't apply to advertising and since I work inside, advertising is an essential part of my business.

NOW magazine knows how important an inside sex trade worker's advertising is; they've been taking advantage of their position, and us, for years. NOW is not the only place for a ho or escort service to advertise; most personal contact magazines will accept ads from us, as will Xtra. However, none of these publications can boast of a readership comparable to NOW's (240,000 per week, according to the publication) nor are they as publicly visible and accessible. These features, along with the fact that NOW allows fairly explicit ads, make advertising in NOW potentially lucrative in spite of the fact that we are gouged weekly (the "Business Personals" are the most costly ads of their kind in the mag; we pay



double everyone else's rates). Enter *Metropolis* magazine, a publication which just recently opened its doors to advertisers from The Business. As of March 1, their weekly print run was 150,000 copies – respectable.

Metropolis is also visible and accessible and their advertised rates are cheap; \$10 per initial insertion (one "form" of 100 characters) and \$8 for each additional insertion. A month's worth of advertising can be bought for \$34, right? Wrong! Not for prostitutes.

We pay \$25 per week, flat, with no deals for multiple insertions. That's 2.5 times the rate for initial insertions and more than three times the rate for subsequent insertions. NOW just charges us double and they're up-front about it when they publish their fees. I don't agree with their rationale for doing this; they claim that our ads take more effort to administer, but I do appreciate knowing exactly how much I'm paying for something. Metropolis's \$25 per week is exclusively for us and

this special rate is not advertised anywhere in the publication.

Among Toronto's major papers, *NOW* has enjoyed a virtual monopoly on sex trade workers advertising until Metropolis loosened up its policy. The big three papers won't touch our ads at all unless they're suitably camouflaged as "personal" ads - whores in good girl's clothing. Then I heard from a reliable source that Metropolis would be accepting ads from people in The Business, provided they weren't too explicit. A major pizza firm delivers Metropolis to many houses unsolicited, so the editors are concerned about the possible "lewd content" being delivered into the homes of children. I thought, someone is taking a quiet run at NOW's monopoly. Apparently not - it seems that all Metropolis is doing is trying to cut itself a piece of the action. Considering the fact that NOW's Business Personals are rumored to generate approximately \$8,000 per issue, there's a fair bit of action to be had. But Metropolis got none of mine. Alexandre Highcrest

#### just for laughs

#### A Little Ho Humour

couple's conversation, overheard in the lobby of a downtown hotel:

Well-dressed man: "Would you go to bed with me if I paid you \$10,000.?" Attractive woman: "Hmmm...well, I might."

Well-dressed man: "Would you go to bed with me if I paid you one dollar?" Attractive woman: "Certainly not! What do you think I am?"

Well-dressed man: "Oh, I think we've already established that. Now we're just haggling over the price."

Back stage at a major network television studio, a prominent TV evangelist and a well-known local prostitute were waiting to go on camera to debate the pros and cons of the sex trade. As part of the intro to the talk show the host was airing a couple of the evangelists videos where the minister was pitching his religious beliefs while soliciting money for his church. The minister asked the pro to watch the vids, as he felt she might learn something about his faith. At the end of the video broadcast, just before the two guests were to be introduced, the whore turned to the evangelist and said, "Well honey, in spite of our differences we do have one thing in common."

"Oh, what's that?" asked the evangelist.

"Obviously," replied the ho, "neither of us believes in free love."

#### resources

#### **LEGAL SERVICES**

- Legal Aid: Old City Hall 598-0200, College Park - 598-1260, University Avenue - 598-0200.
- Parkdale Community Legal Services -531-2411
- Neighbourhood Legal Services 961-2625
- Justice for Children (under 18 years old) 920-1633
- Lawline 978-7293
- Dial-a-law 947-3333
- Lawyer Referral Service (includes free 1-hour consultation) - 947-3330 Pissed off with your lawyer? Call CORP at 964-0150, leave a message on our answering machine, and we'll get back to you as soon as we can. We can help you find the kind of legal advice you need.

#### **HEALTH SERVICES**

- AIDS Committee of Toronto 926-1626.
- Alexandra Park Community Health Service - 64 Augusta, 364-4107.

- Bay Centre for Birth Control 901 Bay St, 920-1263.
- Birth Control and VD Information Centre - 2828 Bathurst, 789-4541.
- Davenport-Perth Community Health Centre - 1944 Davenport, 658-6812.
- Hassle Free Clinic 556 Church St, Men - 922-0603, Women - 922-0566. (See ad for hours.)
- Niagara Neighbourhood Health Centre - 674 Queen St W, 363-2021.
- Parkdale Community Health Centre 1257 Queen St W, 537-2455.
- St. Lawrence Health Service 45 Lower Jarvis St, 864-6000.
- Street Health (free nursing services) at All Saints Church, Open Door, 315 Dundas E Tues 2-4 pm. Or Fred Victor Mission at Queen and Jarvis Wed 5-7, 863-1610.
- South Riverdale Community Health Centre 126 Pape Ave, 461-2493.
- The House (planned parenthood youth clinic) 36B Prince Arthur, 927-7171.
- The Works (needle exchange) 660 Dundas Street W, 392-0520.

#### **EMERGENCY SHELTER**

- City hostel (for families) 674 Dundas W, 392-5500.
- Covenant House (Catholic; for men and women under 21) 70 Gerrard E, 593-4849.
- 416 (drop-in for women; daytime) 416 Dundas E, 928-3334.
- Nellie's (for women) 275A Broadview Ave, 461-1084.
- Robertson House (for women) 291 Sherbourne, 392-5650.
- Seaton House (for single men) 339 George St, 392-5522.
- Stop 86 (for women under 21) 922-3271.
- Street Haven (for women) 87 Pembroke, 967-6060.

#### FOOD BANKS

Daily Bread Food Bank. Will tell you locations of food banks near you. 769-5155.



"communicating for the purpose of prostitution"

Subscribe to Toronto's sharpest new magazine. And help us keep on communicating.

Enclosed is	a cheque or money order, payable to Stiletto.
Check one:	individual subscriber, at \$ 10 for six issues supporting subscriber, at \$ 20 for six issues agency subscription, at \$ 30 for six issues I am also enclosing a donation of \$
City/province	/postal code:

## PROSTITUTES ARE SAFE SEX PROS.

STUDIES ARE FINDING THAT WE ARE MORE LIKELY TO USE CONDOMS THAN PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEX FOR FREE.

BUT SEX ISN'T THE ONLY WAY YOU GET AIDS.

A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T KNOW YOU CAN GET AIDS FROM SHARING A NEEDLE FOR SHOOTING DRUGS ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM THE CITY, THERE ARE JUST OVER A HUNDRED WOMEN IN TORONTO WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR HIV, THE VIRUS THAT IS BELIEVED TO CAUSE AIDS. TEN OF THEM ARE PROSTITUTES. NINE OF THE TEN GOT HIV FROM SHARING INJECTION EQUIPMENT.

IF YOU SHOOT DRUGS, TRY TO USE A CLEAN NEEDLE EVERY TIME.

DO NOT SHARE A NEEDLE (OR WATER OR COOKER) WITH ANYBODY, EVEN A LOVER.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR OWN NEEDLE, CLEAN THE NEEDLE FIRST. DRAW BLEACH INTO THE NEEDLE AND SQUIRT IT OUT A COUPLE OF TIMES TO KILL VIRUSES AND GERMS. THEN DO THE SAME THING WITH WATER TO RINSE OUT THE BLEACH.

TALK TO A PSSP AIDS EDUCATOR ABOUT WHERE TO GET CLEAN WORKS OR BLEACH KITS.

THESE CLEANING TIPS APPLY TO NEEDLES USED FOR DO-IT-YOURSELF PIERCING AND TAITOOS.

FORGET YOUR CO

RE SURE TO USE A LATEX CONDOM, EVERYTIME EVEN WITH THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE, LAMBSKIN CONDOMS DON'T STOP AIDS. USE WATER-RASED LUNE LIKE ASTROGLIDE OR K-Y, OIL-RASED LUNE LIKE WASELINE OR HANDCREAM, BREAKS CONDOMS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 926-1626 OR 392-AIDS. PSSP CAN BE REACHED AT 964-0150 AND HASSLE-FREE CLINIC AT 922-0603/922-0566.

