

Tips to avoid getting busted

- An undercover does not have to tell you they are a cop even if you ask.
- Asking an undercover cop to touch you to “prove” she or he is a prostitute can get you charged with “Counseling to commit an indecent act”.
- You don’t have to say what you are doing if you are stopped by the police when you are with a pro. However, if you are caught while nude or performing a sex act you will be charged with “Committing an indecent act in a public place”.
- To avoid getting charged with “Communicating for the purpose” make sure that you know the person you are about to pick up is a pro.



Despair.

Supplication.

The Pros and Cons of John School

PROS

- Theoretically, if you successfully complete the program, you will not have a criminal record. However, a record of the charge will remain on the police records and can be brought up at any time.

CONS

- The possibility of a permanent record of your “sexual addiction” in your health file.
- John School demands a greater involvement of time and energy than the typical process of a single court appearance if you plead guilty.
- By agreeing to go to John School you are forfeiting your right to plead not guilty and fight your case.
- The real purpose of John School is to make you ashamed of your healthy sexuality. Prostitution is NOT illegal in this country, communicating in a public space is. (Remember, your car counts as a public place.)



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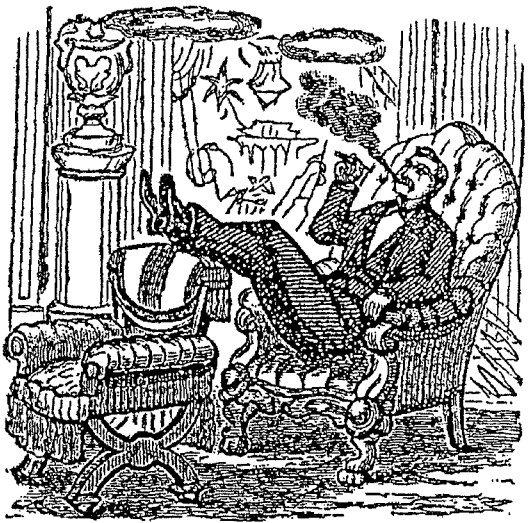
Maggie's 964-0150

PROSTITUTES' LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

EVERYTHING

you **NEVER** wanted
to know about

John School



Hah! John School, what a farce!
What is really needed is a school to teach
middle class moralizers to learn to live in a
mixed neighbourhoods without trying to push
their values down other peoples' throats.

What is John School?

John School (or the "Prostitution Diversion Program") is a program which will be offered to clients charged with "Communicating for the purpose of prostitution". It is part of a larger initiative aimed at reducing street prostitution: an effort that may include changes in the criminal law. John School, implemented by Metro Toronto Councillors Judy Sgro and Brian Ashton, will take place on the last Saturday of the month and there will be 30 people attending. If you decide to attend the school you will be asked for a donation of up to 250 dollars.

If I am charged what will happen?

At your first court appearance the Crown Attorney will advise you of your eligibility. To be eligible this must be your first charge. If you are eligible and you choose to go to John School these are the steps that will be taken:

- The Judge will delay your next appearance in court for two months so that you will have time to attend the school.
 - You will meet with a court worker who will inform you of the procedure:
- 1) Make an appointment to register.
 - 2) Meet for an in-person registration and set a date to attend.
 - 3) Once you arrive for class you must remain for the entire eight hours.
 - 4) Upon completion you will return to the administration agency for an evaluation and final interview.

- 5) If you successfully complete this process you will receive a formal letter which you must take back to court. The judge may then withdraw the charge.

"The diversion program is demanding and the onus is on the accused. The accused must make two appearances in court, one appearance at 'John School' and two appearances at the administrative agency.... If the accused misses any steps of our diversion program his case will be proceeded with through the criminal justice system."

From the Street Prostitution Task Force Communication by Brian Ashton, Vice-Chair to the Metro Toronto Police Services Board, January 9, 1996.



What you will 'learn'

Morning

- ✦ The day will start with registration and introductions. (Coffee will be available for a fee.) You will be required to disclose a personal detail to the class. You will also be informed that in order to complete the program you must participate in a co-operative manner.
- ✦ A Crown Attorney will come in to explain various aspects of the criminal code, and a police officer will talk about

prostitution related enforcement.

- ✦ After a short break a public health educator will deliver a two hour lecture on various aspects of sexually transmitted diseases.

In North America studies repeatedly show that prostitutes are at equal or lower risk of Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Money does not spread STD's, unsafe sex does. However, the John School will not teach you the safer sex techniques that you learn from your favourite hooker.

Afternoon

- ✦ After lunch representatives from a community group will lecture on the "problems" resulting from street prostitution.

Despite the fact that prostitutes, and you, the client, are a part of the community, we are being scapegoated for common urban complaints such as noise and littering.

- ✦ Next a former prostitute will "explain the impact prostitution has on women".

These women speak from their own experience but generalize that ALL prostitutes are female and are victims. This completely ignores the majority of pros that appreciate our clients and our work.

- ✦ After another short break an "expert" from the Clark Institute of Psychiatry will lead a discussion on "the reasons why individuals seek out prostitutes and how behaviour can be modified".

You might as well ask "Why do people seek out sex and companionship?". Don't take it as a given that your behaviour NEEDS to be changed.

- ✦ Finally you will complete a short quiz and fill out a reaction sheet.