

Stiletta

"communicating for the purpose of prostitution"

The newsletter of the Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes



In this issue...

The cops vs *NOW* magazine

Trick or treat?

Poems and drawings by Helen Posno

Money Matters: Pros and the GST

Personal Story: On a European Tour

Safe Sex is Our Business: At the Fair

News: Maggie's opens • AIDS testing in California • Stripper MP in Manitoba • Murders in BC

Plus: Resources, Just for Laughs, a Review of *Personal Services*

Photo by Konnie Reich

Are we disposable people?

Well hasn't this been one hell of a summer to be a working prostitute? First of all, in the spring, the Gord Junger case blew open. You remember Gord, don't you? He was the 52 Division constable who got involved in the sex trade after beginning a relationship with a "highly paid call girl." Apparently business was good until Junger's lady friend and partner got pregnant by him, and he ditched her. She blew the whistle on him to internal affairs and shortly after, Junger took a drug bust as a result of a sting operation. Chief McCormack and the police commission did a lot of back-peddalling over that one. Charges against Gord were subsequently dropped – hmm. Seems there are two versions of the *Criminal Code*, one for cops and one for the rest of us. But didn't we always kind of figure that?

Then in June, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld section 213 of the *Criminal Code*, the communicating law, even though groups such as the Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes told the court that this law had not decreased street prostitution at all. Why uphold a law that does not work? According to the report of the Fraser Commission on Pornography and Prostitution, back before they passed the law, only 36% of respondents felt that the police in Canada should spend more time trying to bust pros. Why enforce a law that so many Canadians didn't even want enacted?

Then in September, *NOW* was charged with fourteen counts of communicating for the purposes of prostitution, an action unheard of in this country. The police fucked up royally on this one, as an article in this issue of *Stiletto* explains in detail.

What are these actions indicative of? Have the powers that be decided to wage open war against the sex trade? Perhaps, but I think this current runs deeper than that. The Junger case is an example of the type of hypocrisy and corruption that one can find within the

ranks of the Metro police.

When the Supreme Court upheld section 213, the judges who voted in favour of the decision admitted that the communicating law limits the right to freedom of expression guaranteed by the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, yet the law was upheld. Justice for all – except for hos, who are a nuisance.

I think the police action against *NOW* magazine sums everything up rather tidily. The questions that arose out of the *NOW* incident indicate that there's more to this than simply an increased reaction to prostitution. The police tried to use the communicating law in an attempt to censor the paper, totally disregarding *NOW's* rights to freedom of the press and freedom of expression. The *Toronto Sun* carries quire enticing, sexual ads, escorts do advertise in the *Star*, Bell's *Yellow Pages* contain 26 pages of escort service ads – yet only *NOW* was charged. The *Sun* is generally pro-police, the *Star* is fairly middle-of-the-road, Ma Bell – well, she just didn't figure in this. *NOW* has been critical of the police all summer, so they get hit. With communicating. Why? ...because they're a "nuisance?"

The police have said time and again that street prostitution must be "controlled." I think that what the cops really mean is "directed" – by them. Visible sex trade workers, street pros, provide the police with a renewable source of arrest statistics. When the Metro police need to show how efficient a force they are, they go out and sweep pros. Arrest statistics go up and, in the eyes of the few, the police look good. Ever wonder why there are always huge sweeps before every major event that occurs in Toronto, such as before the Shriners' convention last year? Imagine what would have happened if Toronto had gotten the Olympics? Standing room only at the West!

This city is in financial trouble. The number of people requiring social assistance to get by has increased dramatically, the TTC is singing the no-money blues as their ridership is way down,

social services are or will be suffering, and the Metro police have gone way over budget. Metro chairman Alan Tonks has gone begging to Queen's Park only to have Bob Rae tell him that the cupboard is bare. Tonks immediate solution to Metro's financial woes is to "cut the suit to fit the cloth."

So what of Emperor McCormack's new clothes? Foot patrol activity will be reduced and police response time to calls will increase. June Rowlands cancelled a trip to a police convention, and cancelled a magazine subscription! What of morality? Highly paid investigators examining *NOW's* business personals. How much did that cost? In July I watched a small part of a sweep happening on the Carleton stroll. The sting used five plainclothes cop and an unmarked car, and scored four or five client busts before we figured out a way to fuck the operation and forced the heat out of the neighbourhood. How much does a one or two night sweep cost? Visible patrols can reduce the incidents of real crime, as would quicker response time, making our neighbourhoods safer for everyone ... including prostitutes. McCormack has not mentioned any planned cutbacks in morality operations.

Why are cutbacks being made in areas of policing that many of us deem necessary at the same time no changes are being proposed in areas that so many of us see as unnecessary – or unwanted. It's time the police became financially, as well as socially and politically, accountable.

The disregard for the "guaranteed" human rights and freedoms of prostitutes is typical of the effects of the wave of right-wing, moralistic, conservatism that has swept over the country. Most societies have always considered prostitutes to be "disposable people." Think about what's been inflicted on the sex industry over the summer, and over the years. I don't like it. CORP doesn't like it, and we're doing something about it. The time for change is long overdue, but we'll have to bring about the change ourselves, together, as a movement.

Alexandre Highcrest

The cops go after *NOW* magazine A new girl on the block?

If you ask most anyone in Toronto to describe a working prostitute, you would probably get the same sort of response from most people. "High heels, short skirt, a tight, revealing top." Or: "Tight jeans or spandex, heels, ... you know, sexy looking." Not all working prostitutes dress in this manner when they're on the stroll, but you get the idea. The term "working prostitute" does conjure up a certain image — a stereotype — be it right or wrong. I'd be willing to bet the money earned from my last date that you wouldn't, however, get this sort of description: "Well, let's see, the working pro is a rectangular green box, about three feet high, with little black designs all over the front of her. She doesn't say much, but if you give her fifty cents, she'll give you a newspaper — the current copy of *NOW*." No, not likely.

Yet on August 31, *NOW* magazine was hit with fourteen counts of communicating for the purposes of prostitution. On September 6, four of the members of *NOW*'s Board of Directors; Michael Hollet, Alice Klein, Lelien Schaffer and Greg Keilty; were each served summonses charging them with similar offences. No other publication had been charged. Previous to his action, no other publication in Canadian history had ever been charged in this manner. The case against *NOW* was definitely a first.

When the story broke, the first thing I asked myself was, "why?" Metro Police Superintendent Jim Clark said the police were acting on a complaint, but he wouldn't reveal the source of the complaint or if there was more than one. The charges came about as a result of a six-month police investigation of advertisements in *NOW*'s Busi-

ness Personal ads section. A Metro constable earns a salary of approximately \$45,000 a year. To read ads in the back pages of *NOW*? Nice work if you can get it. Of course not everyone agreed with Clark. *NOW* has been criticizing the way the police have handled a number of controversial cases. Were the police striking back? McCormack said the police had no "ulterior motive" in laying their charges. Clark also said that morality consulted with the Toronto region of the crown attorney's office and they were advised that there was sufficient evidence to lay charges against the publication.

Yet, in the September 11 issue of the *Toronto Star*, John Yoannou of the regional crown attorney's office, said, "The police ignored their advice against charging *NOW*," and that the police comments regarding the presence of sufficient evidence were, "in-



After the charges were dropped: *NOW*'s publishers and their supporters meet the press

news feature

correct, a misrepresentation of the situation." In other words, the cops acted without the approval of the crown. The police chose to interpret the law as opposed to simply enforcing it. It seems the police interpretation was wrong – on September 21 all the charges against *NOW* were dropped.

The hue and cry did not end there. A number of people involved in the case demanded an explanation from the police, but as of yet, nothing has been forthcoming. Clayton Ruby, the lawyer retained by *NOW* to handle their defence, has stated that the police must be held responsible for bringing the magazine to court over a charge that was so quickly dropped. He also questioned the role of the Metro Toronto Police Commission, accusing them of "failing to provide direction."

"Who is in control over there?" Ruby asked, "Is anyone in control? Police policies have got to be examined, and the commission is directly responsible."

June Rowlands, the chair of the commission, responded by saying that the commission isn't responsible for how the police lay individual charges. "It appears a mistake has been made, though I'm not sure by whom. Unfortunately the police are going to take the blame, even though they're not responsible."

We would like to know who is responsible. The crown attorney's office, the police commission and the police themselves are all claiming that "it's not our fault."

NOW is to be congratulated on the way they continued to conduct business during all of this and the Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes (CORP) would like to say "thank you" to *NOW* for continuing to publish ads placed by sex trade workers. Prostitution is a perfectly legal occupation in Canada and pros should have as much access to print media advertising as do landlords, employers, and other entrepreneurs who advertise their services in this manner.

Section 213 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, the communicating law, was

"designed to control the nuisance problem of street soliciting." Toronto's police have added section 213 to their arsenal of weapons to be used against all forms of prostitution, even though prostitution itself is legal.

This new strategy that the police have employed is insidious. When the cops charged *NOW*, the case was well-publicized, and public support quickly fell in behind *NOW*. The police underestimated their opponent. So the police have chosen to attack the most vulnerable element – the individual. There will be no media coverage of this, no public support will rally around the individual prostitutes who are being threatened or charged as the public will not be aware of the activity. Sex trade workers may see themselves as being alone when facing the police and this attitude makes them potentially more vulnerable to intimidation – and

the cops know this. That is why they have chosen this particular tactic and why they have remained closed-mouthed about their actions.

But we know. We know about the intimidating phone calls and the visits to the homes of escorts. We know about the forms of entrapment that the police are using to bust individual women. We know about the hell this has caused in the lives of some of the people who have suffered under this form of harassment. It's time more people knew.

With information, we can act and fight this harassment. As long as the police continue their efforts to wipe out prostitution this issue will not end, and as long as prostitutes have to suffer under unfair laws, CORP will be around. Want to talk to us? Phone 964-0150.

Alexandre Highcrest

*Maggie's? Officially, it is a resource centre for prostitutes.
We like to think of it as our club.
Come by, have a coffee and check it out.*

Office Hours, starting this November:

Monday - 10 am to 6 pm

Tuesday - 10 am to 6 pm

Coffee-house Hours

Tuesday - 12 am to 4 am

Wednesday - 12 am to 4 am



Maggie's

298 Gerrard Street East, Upstairs

Toronto, Ontario M5A 2G7 (416) 964-0150

Maggie's opening

The Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes (CORP) will be sharing quarters with the Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project (PSSP) at Maggie's – the prostitutes' resource centre.

Our new address is 298 Gerrard St. East, second floor. We're still getting the place set up. If you want to take a look at it, or if you have time to give us a hand, call and leave your name and number on the answering machine at 964-0150.

Maggie's will offer condoms, coffee, and good company. B.Y.O. mug for coffee or tea – if you can spare a couple, bring an extra.

The centre could also use your help with decorating. Do you do art work that could be put up on the walls? Do you have ideas or and/or offers of performances for when we do our coffeehouse nights? Art and performances

Volume 1, Issue 3 – October 1990

Stiletto

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

Signed articles represent the opinions
of the authors only.

On the cover this issue: Sasha and Helen. Our cover girls just flew in from Buffalo where they did an interview for cable TV about the famous short prostitute movie, *Prowling By Night* which they both worked on along with Gwendolyn and many other girls.

Contributing to this issue –
Chris Bearchell, Erik, Gwendolyn,
Alexandre Highcrest, Helen Posno,
Will Pritchard, Sasha.

Production – Chris Bearchell,
Will Pritchard

Address – Box 1143, Station F,
Toronto, ON M4Y 2T8

Phone – (416) 964-0150

Call for advertising rates.

Deadline for Volume 1, Issue 4 is
November 15, 1990.

should be by people in the business. (See the ad on page 4 of this issue of *Stiletto* for our hours.)

Bad date list hits the streets of Toronto

The staff and volunteers of the Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project began collecting information for and circulating a Bad Trick Sheet in September.

You may have seen it already – in bright yellow, green or pink. The first few were all yellow but now the colour changes every time it's updated. A new one is printed when there's new info – and so far that's been every two weeks.

As the sheets themselves explain, you can pass information along to a PSSP worker or you can call it in to a special phone line. Most of the reports received until now have come in person, rather than over the phone. In any case, you don't have to give any information about yourself, just as much as possible about the bad date. (See the ad on page 14.)

The Bad Trick Sheet has just been distributed on the street but PSSP is looking for ways to make similar information available to indoor workers. Suggestions, anyone?

Condoms available in Alexandra Park

If you live or work in or near the Alexandra Park housing project just off of Queen Street West, a new source of condoms and other AIDS-prevention resources is available to you. Kenn Quayle, a supporter of CORP who has worked the streets himself in the past, has been hired as the new Alexandra Park AIDS educator. If he comes up and introduces himself to you, welcome him to the neighbourhood. If you need to track him down, he has a temporary office at Scadding Court Community Centre or you can call and leave a message at 363-5392. (He

works some days and some nights so you'll just have to catch him when you can.)

Unsolved BC murders

There have been too many unsolved murders of women in the Vancouver area in the last couple of years. And many of the victims have been women in the business, including 12 known prostitutes and two strippers.

Most recently, on September 19, the body of Cheri Lynn Smith was found on Vancouver Island. An article in a recent issue of the *Toronto Star* talked about the situation and quoted a street ho named Brandy who says, "I think it's a serial killer who's hunting hookers and nobody cares because we're hookers."

Trevor Rodney Peters was charged this September with the August murder of Nancy Jane Bob in Vancouver.

According to the article, he is being investigated for links to the other murders. But the *Star* also quotes a Vancouver cop who says, "there are some similarities in some of the cases but we're not prepared to say there's any link," and an RCMP sergeant who says, "there's no evidence to connect the murders."

However, the cops do believe that there is a connection between at least three kidnappings of Vancouver pros who have been tied up, raped and stabbed or threatened with a knife. Prostitutes, social workers, feminists and other members of the community have been pressuring the police to set up a special unit to investigate the killings, but so far they are refusing to.

Of course, some of the do-gooder aren't much help. One of the social workers quoted in the *Star* calls the murder victims "kids" and says "adolescence often extends up to 25, 26 with some of these women because emotionally they're only 15 or 16. We're dealing with young children here." (He's obviously so mature that he wouldn't complain about the murder of prostitutes unless he thought that they were too young to know what

they were doing.

The article, and the social workers it quotes, didn't think to mention how much of Vancouver's police budget goes into busting the girls (and guys) and their customers for "communicating," either.

California AIDS testing of Prostitutes

Recent issues of the US newsletter *Oldest Profession Times (OPT)* contain reports on the California law, passed in 1989, that requires a test for HIV, the virus associated with AIDS, for anyone convicted of prostitution.

Two prostitutes who tested positive for HIV, one from Van Nuys and the other from Oakland, were released from jail on the condition that they be electronically monitored.

Meanwhile a challenge to the testing law, brought to the California Supreme Court by nine women and two men, has resulted in a temporary order to block its enforcement. The 11 prostitutes are claiming that the intrusion caused by the forced testing law does not serve any valid public interest.

The law which a San Francisco court has ruled valid on the grounds that concern for public safety outweighs the right to privacy, also says that those

who are convicted after testing positive can face much more serious charges.

The September *OPT* quotes a San Francisco Women's AIDS Network (SWAN) staff person who says, "research shows that professional prostitutes consistently practice safe sex; not only do they routinely use condoms with customers, but many practice only oral sex, which poses virtually no risk to the recipient."

The SWAN staffer also quotes the conclusion of the US National Research Council's recently-released report *AIDS: the Second Decade* which says that the fear that female prostitutes would become widely infected and spread HIV to their customers appear to be unfounded, at least in the United States. "Rather the evidence suggests that the risk of transmission for this population is more closely associated with drug use than with multiple sexual clients and that the threat posed to and by prostitutes through sexual contact is greater in personal relationships than in paying ones." (Which is to say that female pros face the same risks in relation to HIV that all women do.)

Stripper MP visits Winnipeg

Declaring herself "an MP of the world," the Hungarian-born stripper Ilona Staller, who was elected to the Italian parliament in 1987, brought her show to four Winnipeg nightclub audiences of about 150 in late September.

As well as being a stripper, Ilona, whose dance name is La Cicciolina - "the little Fleshy one," has acted in more than 200 porn flicks. Her other job, as a Member of Parliament for the



With sensual love: La Cicciolina

Radical Party, sees her fighting censorship and promoting legislation to save the environment.

Born in Hungary of a minister father and a gynecologist mother, she told reporters before her show, with the aid of an interpreter, that she believes that "with love and sensuality I can return peace to the world." She has often gotten attention for her causes by appearing in scanty costumes at press conferences and has most recently made headlines by offering to sleep with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein if he agrees to free foreigners being held as hostages.

She planned to visit Iraq after her Winnipeg appearances and told reporters, "I have an appointment, I go there as an MP, not an artist."

correction

In the last issue *Stiletto* Alexandre Highcrest's article on the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the law against communicating for the purposes of prostitution referred to the anti-communicating law as section 195.1 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*. For most of its history, that is what it was. However, the government recently did a housecleaning job on the *Criminal Code* - adding a few things, taking a few away - and re-numbered it all. Those of you who have been busted for communicating in the past couple of months may have noticed that the law is now called section 213.

Notorious Mustang Ranch closes

After many years as the US's most preeminent brothel, Mustang Ranch has closed its doors due to bankruptcy.

At first there were reports that the US government itself planned to run Nevada's oldest legal whorehouse (located in Mustang, about 10 miles outside of Reno) until a buyer could be found for it. But the state's health laws force workers to be re-tested for sexually transmitted diseases every time they return to a brothel and since the girls had fled in response to rumours of an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) raid, the tax men couldn't get it operational quickly and so decided to close it instead.

(Because of the Nevada testing law, many US pros condemn places like Mustang as virtual prisons and shun the state despite the legalization of prostitution there. Such legalization is not to be confused with decriminalization which would force the cops to treat prostitutes as they would any other group of business people.)

Former Mustang owner Joe Conforte was reported to owe \$13 million in back taxes. Conforte claimed that IRS harassment killed a \$5 million deal to sell the brothel forcing him into bankruptcy.

News from Down Under

Speaking of legalized prostitution, the latest issue of *Working Girl*, the newsletter of the Prostitutes' Association of South Australia, has a story about a report from the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) on problems there.

In Melbourne, prostitutes complained to AIC researchers about in-house fines in brothels for things like not matching nail polish on fingers and toes.

The paper documented harassment in Queensland "where prostitutes had been arrested at supermarkets simply for being prostitutes" and although women can legally work from their own homes in Queensland, police had some pro's phones cut off.

According to the AIC's report, in Victoria many women choose to work illegally rather than in the brothels because brothel owners take up to 60% of clients fees.

Wife and whore

A woman in the city of Teramo in central Italy filed assault charges against her truck driver husband after

he tried to beat her up when he found out that, unknown to him, she was working as a call girl, according to a story from Associated Press.

The hypocritical husband apparently found out about his wife's secret profession when he showed up at an exclusive bordello and asked to see a woman who had been highly recommended to him by a friend. The woman turned out to be his wife.

Chris Bearchell

body talk

Allergies to latex

Doctors in Hamilton and Toronto have recently seen ten cases of extreme sensitivity to latex in patients who developed life-threatening allergic reactions comparable to those caused by penicillin or bee stings in some people.

A report to the annual meeting of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons described the cases in which patients suffered severe reactions to particles of latex that got into their bodies from doctors' gloves during surgery.

The article pointed out that the risk of such a reaction from condoms was far less than the risk of contracting an STD. But that is probably not much comfort to a prostitute with such a sensitivity whose work requires constant

exposure to latex condoms. Anyone who finds her or himself in such a situation one might want to consider using lambskin condoms, which aren't as good a barrier to STDs as latex is, and sticking to hand jobs. Or blow jobs, if they can stand to put the stinky lambskin condoms in their mouths.

Like anyone who notices they have a sensitivity to latex, a pro with this problem should alert her or his MD or dentist if they are going to have surgery. It seems the good doctors can get sterile gloves made out of something other than latex. Maybe we should be finding out more about just what these gloves are like in case we find we need to demand that condoms be made this way too.

Chris Bearchell



Parkdale Community Legal Services

Our new address is:

**165 Dufferin Street (south of King), 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 |

Trick or Treat

Fall is the time of year
when leaves change colour.
Fall is a loaded word
As in "I fell for you darlin'."
Don't kid yourself, honey,
We're fallen women
Here for the money.

Seein' squirrels scurry about
buryin' their nuts
reminds me –
Got to stash some cash for winter.

How's tricks?
An' the date is an old friend

October 31 Hallowe'en
You dress up as the real you
or be anybody you want to be.
Lots of cross dressers
do their first taste of bein' a girl
on All Hallows Eve.
The one night of the year
when kids can run free
talk to strangers
get sugar high.

On Hallowe'en
I always dressed as a witch.
A BAD GIRL
Wicked ... from Wicca ... the wise ones

Back in the middle ages
they burned witches at the stake
tied the women
to a great big phallic pole
and burned them to death.

On Hallowe'en I remember our history.
Women who were different
who disobeyed the church
the independent, mouthy broads
punished for their SPUNK.

In modern stories
the witch is always scary and bad
or else they play her for some old,
forgetful fool.

They lie about us
But we know
Witches were healers
Women who worked with herbs
chanting meditations, riding
broomsticks, flying high.

And long ago in another time
the whore was a priestess.
We tricked in the temple
giving head and handjobs
riding our dildos, flying high

And they call us wicked from Wicca
for wise
Because we know
The Oldest Profession is a holy calling
Giving pleasure is healthy and healing

So Happy Hallowe'en
And Blessed Be
to all the BAD GIRLS who ever have
been
And forever will be
fallen
May you be bad
May the money be good
May the trick be a treat.
OOB (for Boo backwards).

Gwendolyn
October 1990



**Wicked and wise:
Helen and Sasha.
Photo by Konnie Reich**

features

Business as usual

Truth is hard to
hold
money is
cold mankind the matter
old with relevance haunting
the steps of flesh revealing
mysteries secreting wisdom
throughout human nature come
seek and you shall
find incredible and intangible the
ways of magic immense in the
making small packaging
the final undoing rise up take
up your bed and
walk
your faith has made you
whole
whore heart

Helen Posno/90

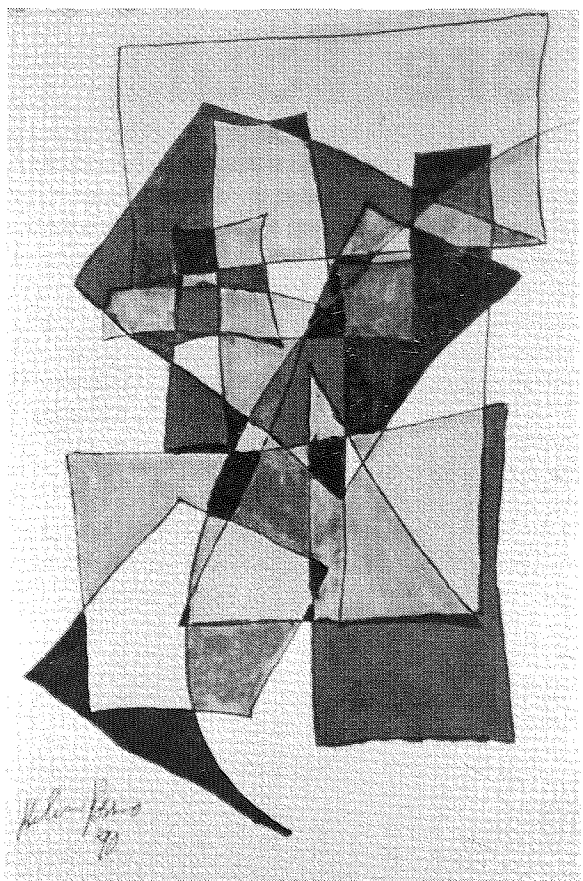
this is the way god is
meeting each day
prepared and
preparing for love
lovers wandering
over the face of the
earth haunted and
haunting
that is
what god is
preparing to meet and
love and accept all forms of
loneliness

Helen Posno/90

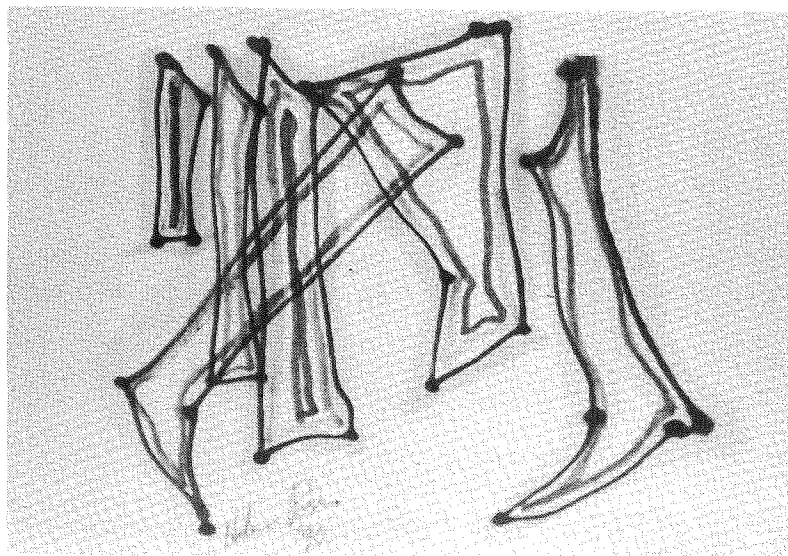
Freedom of screech

choosing things to
suit the purposes
selecting the purposes to
uphold the reasons
collecting the reasons to
maintain the precepts
claiming the precepts to
support the philosophies
hurling the philosophies to
foster the theories
nurturing theories to
cultivate the laws
declaring the laws to
question realities

Helen Posno/90



poems and drawings by Helen Posno



Stiletto/9

A European Whore Tour

For those of you who haven't been to Europe, let me tell you, everything you've ever heard about it is true. I travelled a few of the major centres of the "old world" and fell in love, with the sights, the sounds and the people. Being there for a month was barely enough to absorb everything. But it was just enough to get a good taste of a very relaxed society.

Amsterdam was the first stop on my agenda. Mainly known for its legalizing of prostitution and drugs and refusal of architectural alteration causing any of the original buildings to be demolished. It's a beautiful little town, quaint and friendly. People told me it would be filthy and garbage ridden, I didn't find it so terrible (they obviously have never been to New York).

The RedLight District is just that. Red lights line the streets as if it were Christmas. It's the perfect place for window shopping. You pass houses with wide, open windows and in each

is a girl in sexy lingerie – usually white to be accentuated by the black light above their lavish perch. In the same area are theatres where they have live sex shows. I didn't get a chance to see one, but judging from the pictures outside, I figured they must be something else.

So, if you're looking for a place where you would be able to vacation and pay for trip at the same time, I highly recommend Amsterdam.

Paris is a majestic city – definitely the capital of Europe. It is quite expensive, but well worth it, in the downtown area anyway. Now, as far as work, the girls seemed to be everywhere. They're quite discrete and judging from the way they're dressed are doing extremely well.

The mother-tongue of course is French. The Parisiennes aren't really that stuck up, they just prefer you to speak French. But if they like you

enough they'll speak English, because most do. And if they know you're Canadian they're even more amiable.

All in all, Paris is tolerant of our business affairs. I didn't get a chance to inquire about its laws on the subject, but I'm sure there is really no difficulties.

Barcelona is really tropical, situated on the Mediterranean it's quite beautiful as well but you're more aware of the poverty that resides there. The people speak Spanish and Catalane (a language very similar to French in writing but not when pronounced) and almost no English. I found it difficult to get along for that reason.

Prostitution is used more for a means of survival, than an actual business, due to the lack of jobs and high cost of living. A girl can make about \$10-20, a boy about \$5 (Canadian currency). So I wouldn't recommend working there since people practically give it away.

I had planned to also go to Germany, Italy and England. But I bit off more than I could chew with the places I'd gone to. But I did get a chance to talk to people who were vacationing from those places, and found out some useful information. Germany is very tolerant to prostitution and quite abundant money wise. It helps also to specialize in certain things such as S&M or B&D.

Our work is legal in Italy, but it is best to work through houses or agencies, otherwise there isn't much money to be made. Work is abundant in England as well but it's highly risky. The Vice Squad is everywhere. (Sound familiar?).

Erik



photo by Chris Bearchell

OLDEST PROFESSION TIMES

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

OPT, 1125-9th Street,
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

money matters

What about pros and the GST?

With all the talk about Ottawa's new tax, I couldn't help wondering if the federal Tories are prepared to admit that the government of Canada wants to "live off the avails?"

I called the GST enquiries number. A machine put me on hold and told me, in English and French, that my call would be answered as soon as possible. Then Sandra answered. She snickered when I explained that I was writing about the GST for *Stiletto* – and who the newsletter is for.

She put me on hold when I asked if pros had been calling to find out if the tax applies to sexual services. She said I'd have to get that information from someone in Ottawa then gave me a wrong number there. I got the machine again when I called back to get the right number, then another person (who didn't say his name) put me on hold to find Sandra and, in the process, I got cut off. That's what I get for calling the government.

I finally got through to Gordon Lee at Revenue Canada in Ottawa. He spluttered when he heard my question and answered sarcastically "All services are taxable. If the madam of the house wants to register with Revenue Canada ..." I interrupted him and explained that working in a brothel is illegal under the bawdy house laws, so most of Canada's prostitutes work as independent freelancers. Lee responded that it didn't matter that prostitution was illegal, it was still taxable. I explained that prostitution per se was not illegal, just communicating for it in public and working in brothels – but such subtleties were obviously lost on him.

I made one more stab at trying to get useful information. I said that I understood that certain health care services were exempt from the GST and asked if that included the services of sexual surrogates. He replied indignantly that

I was "getting a bit intimate." Clearly he wouldn't have been able to answer if I had asked him if the GST would apply to the poor premature ejaculator or the guy who pays for sex but then can't get it up.

I pieced together what I was able to find out in all these conversations. Here it is:

A freelancer in any profession is required to register with Revenue Canada and charge Goods and Services Tax if they earn more than \$30,000 a year. To register as a freelancer, you fill out a form which you can get from the Post Office. Or you can have it sent to you by Revenue Canada (if you can stand to go through the hassle of trying to get a hold of them).

The form comes with a little booklet that's supposed to help you decide whether or not you should register. The form asks you to briefly describe your business activity.

I was able to ask Sandra whether a description like entertainer, consultant, or artist would be good enough? She said that they might want to know more but, since the regulations haven't been applied before, she wasn't sure so, "you could try and see."

I asked if the new tax law will say which services are or are not taxable? Sandra said that there is a list of some services which are not taxable and gave the example of health care and educational services. Escorts, prostitutes, artists, consultants, and entertainers are not on the list of exemptions. So, if in the past you have filed your taxes in any of those categories, or if you plan to in the future, the government wants you to collect taxes for them on your services.

It would seem that the federal Tories have no problem at all with "living off the avails of prostitution" – as long as they're the ones who get the bucks!

Chris Bearchell

PSSP goes to Cabbagetown's Festival '90 Prostitutes at the Fall Fair

Gwendolyn looked as tense as I was as she hurried toward me from across the park. I had already cased the grounds with my little girl in tow.

The day was busy, crisp and bright. Everyone in Toronto seemed to be out to thoroughly enjoy the festivities of the well-publicized Cabbagetown Fall Festival '90:

Gwendo's and my anxiety would seem out of place on such a day as this. The uplifting mood of the numerous artists and sellers whose booths wound through the parks and streets certainly dispelled any feelings of tenseness in the day. Families flocked together up and down to view creative works and goods on display.

Gwendolyn hurried us back to the meeting place. I could see Alexandre, puffing worriedly over a cigarette.

I do believe in all of our hearts, we were feeling more than slightly out of place. Family day at the festival is somewhat questionable grounds for the establishment of a Prostitute Information booth. Our decision had been made, however, to follow through with our contribution to the public, and when prostitutes are ready to work, work they do.

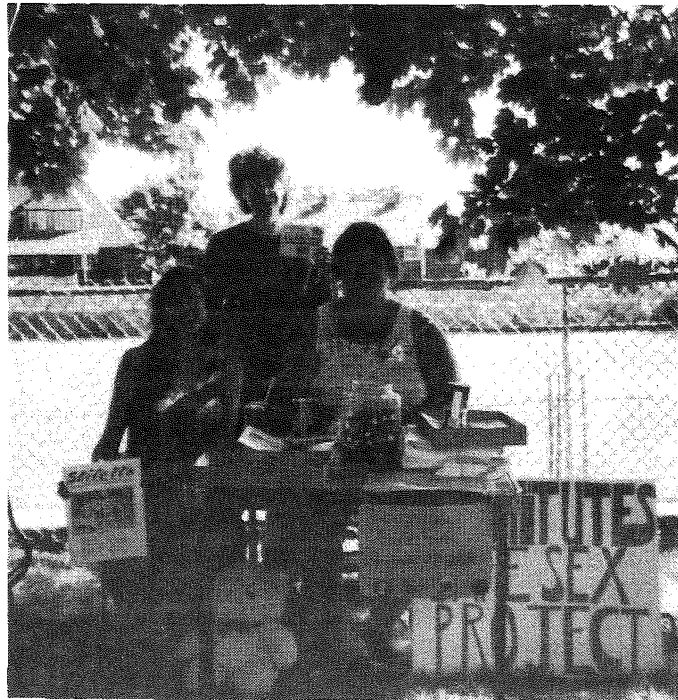
We loaded our table and chairs along with posters and goods to a fairly respectful location. We somehow felt that setting up our red light between the lemonade stand and the corn roast line up wouldn't go over too big. Business might have been stickier than the discrete side street we chose.

We busied ourselves with the work of stringing up our lovely red light from a near-by tree. We propped up our

posters and covered our table with condoms and literature. Our famous buttons were displayed as well.

Needless to say, by this time we were getting some interesting looks from the passersby. Ours was not a used clothing booth, easily approached.

For all of you hos our there who've been receiving your literature, con-



doms and buttons free from us, you'll be pleased to know that we charged the public for buttons and *Stiletto*. A buck a throw.

After setting up our display, Alexandre had to leave us to attend another of the numerous conferences where we represent the many people in our profession.

Shortly after however, we were joined by Chrissy who brought more goodies to sell.

Then, strangely, they all left me. Even my daughter. Errands here and there, things to do places to go. They did come back a little while later. In the meantime, there I was, all alone.

Me and my whore booth. At least I was ready for action. My pop and corn-on-the-cob would be coming along soon. Time to relax and get ready.

My first prospect was lurking and pacing right across the street. I gave him the wink and he scurried toward me, head bent low, eyes shifting from back and forth. I engaged him in light

safe sex conversation for quite a while. It was a necessary ice breaker for other people, seeing someone else talking so openly with an advertised prostitute. People came slowly but surely, and then, steadily.

Older people, wiser than the middle-aged. More able to speak freely. Very pleased to see us. The remarks were animated, from "It's about time," to "What's really happening out there?"

A close running to our seniors were straight women. Perhaps curious, but mostly truly interested in what we had to say, and offer. *Stiletto* sales were a big hit with the women.

Young people came. Some of them after walking past us five or six times. They wanted to know what was going on. Needless to say they walked away with a few free condoms. Hopefully with an ingrained message on how to use them.

Men came, HA HA, and left with condoms.

Button sales were big with everyone. We had our token drunk for the day. He drew a little more business just by being there, but we had to get rid of him. A few times. Sadly he left his cigarettes behind on his last trip out. We considered it payment for dealing with all his bullshit.



We shared with people from many walks of life. There was a school teacher we talked with quite extensively. Later, after we closed our booth, I walked through the festival grounds with my daughter. I saw this teacher sitting off to one side from people. He was propped up against a tree, quietly reading *Stiletto*. I watched him for quite some time, just contemplating, I think. He had earlier made his

concern for our uneducated, unworldly young people very clear to us. Nobody wants anybody to contract AIDS.

Would school-going people listen more closely to whores than to teachers in an auditorium? Perhaps the freedom of speech we offered during our display in Cabbagetown struck a note with him.

With all professionals and the many parents who came to us with their children we believe we struck more than a note.

It was suddenly okay to talk about everything with us. To ask anything, and be answered, straight ahead.

Sasha

Stiletto

"communicating for the purposes of prostitution"

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Rent it for your next video party
Personal Services is brilliant

Personal Services is a recently released video directed by Terry Jones. It is set in London, England in the late '70s to late '80s. Taken from the life story of Cynthia Payne, it's a factual, realistic, plus positive look at prostitution in a conservative, hypocritical city.

Julie Waters, who's been in movies such as *Educating Rita*, Monty Python's *The Life of Brian* and *The Holy Grail*, is cast in the leading role. In this comedy/drama she gives a hilariously incorrigible, yet worming performance of being a sex worker, in a sexually suppressed society.

It all begins when she discovers that the lady she cleans house for once a week is a prostitute (dominatrix style), due to the frequent visits of gentlemen while the lady is on holiday. Assuming that she herself is in the business, the

men blatantly ask her of her availability. At first shocked and appalled as any proper English lady would be (guffaw), she refuses them. At the same time, she finds that she's quite intrigued by the idea of sex for money and thus slowly works her way into becoming a successful sex worker, then later an entrepreneurial Madame.

Written by David Leland, of *Mona Lisa* fame, it's a brilliant rendition of an existence we indoor pros are all quite familiar with, therefore I feel you will agree with most of the contents of this film.

And maybe, just maybe, it'll give you some fun new ideas for home and office.

Erik

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

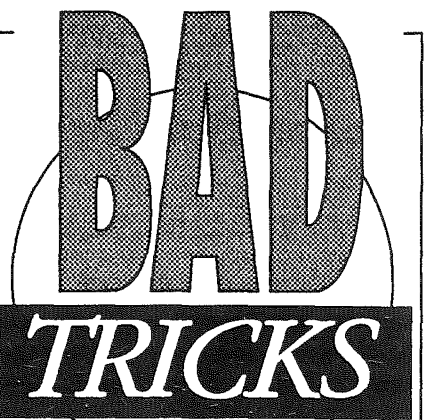
hours: Mon, Wed, Fri - 10 am to 3 pm
 Tues & Thurs - 4 pm to 8 pm
 by appointment

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.
 Hassle Free does *anonymous* HIV testing.



THIS IS A LIST
 OF BAD DATES.
 WATCH OUT FOR THEM,
 AND AVOID THEM!

Lists are updated weekly and are distributed on the street by the staff of the Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project.

If you've been assaulted, harassed or ripped-off by a date, call us anytime and tell us what happened!

We ask for details about the incident only.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE US ANY INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF.

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resources

LEGAL SERVICES

- Legal Aid:
Old City Hall - 598-0200
College Park - 598-1260
University Avenue - 598-0200
- Parkdale Community Legal Services - 531-2411
(See ad for hours.)
- 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, 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.

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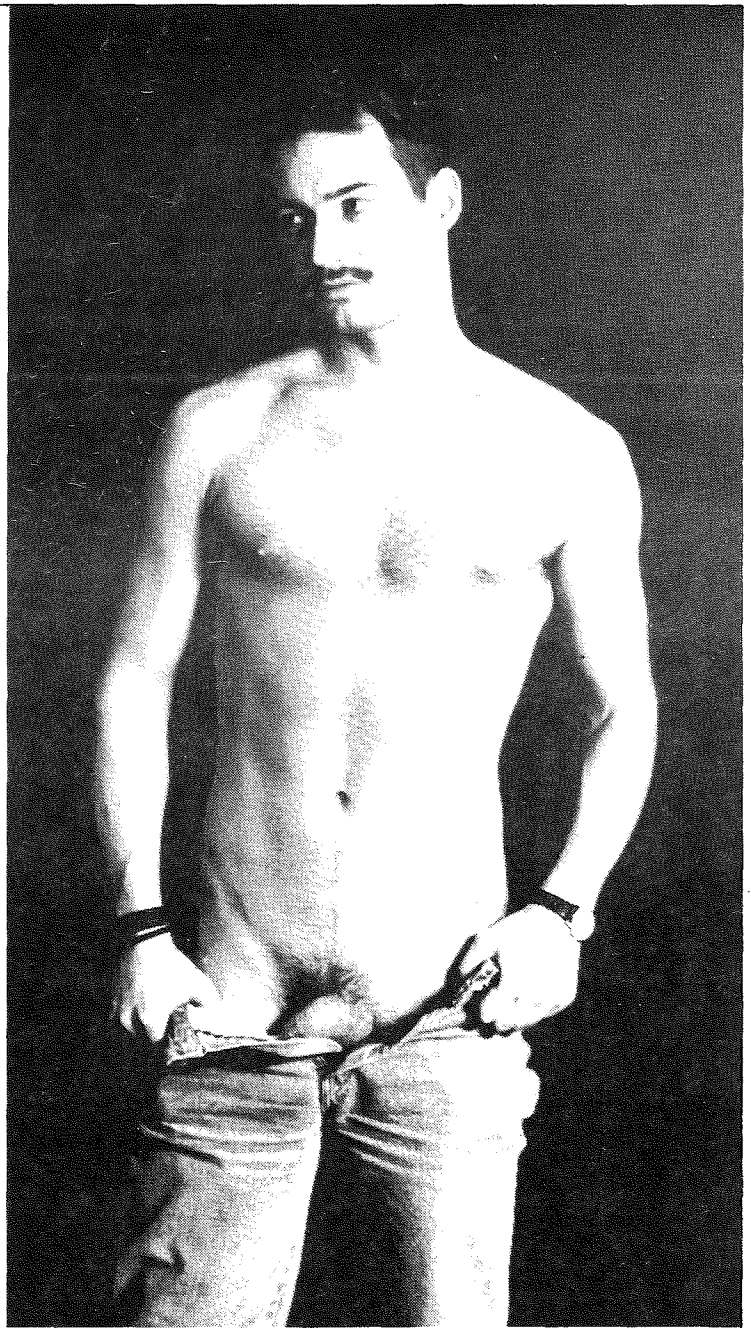
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**HE'S NO
TRICK...
HE'S MY
TREAT!**



Most prostitutes use condoms with our tricks, but like so many other people, some of us think we do not need to use condoms with our lovers. Many people get AIDS from lovers they think are healthy — from lovers who don't know themselves that they are carrying the virus.

If someone will not use condoms with you, chances are they have had sex with other people without a condom. People are not always honest about what they did before you met them.

A lot of people get AIDS from sharing a needle when using drugs.

If you shoot drugs, do not share a needle with anybody, not 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.

For more info, call ACT 926-1626, Public Health 392-AIDS, or Hassle Free Clinic 922-0603/922-0566.
Produced by the Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project (PSSP), Box 1143, Station F, Toronto, ON M4Y 2T8.
PSSP can be reached at (416) 964-0150.