

University Forum

Articles submitted for publication on this page from the university body must be typed triple-spaced and signed. Articles must be submitted no later than 12 noon on the Friday before publication.

This week the EXCALIBUR initiates the University Forum page. People from the university are invited to contribute articles of any nature for publication. All articles must be typed and signed. The editor reserves the right to edit articles which appear on this page. There are no restrictions on content. Articles may be humorous, or otherwise.

Le Strip: the joint with a little less on it.

By PHIL CRANLEY
and LICIO CENGARIE

Squeezed between two pulsating clothing stores, Lori Lane's "Le Strip" is a welcome addition to the Yonge Street entertainment jungle. "Le Strip" is unique, in that it fulfills a long unsatisfied throbbing need.

First of all, the strip-tease artists themselves, wanted a place with more class than the Victory, a place better suited to display their talents.

Secondly, there was a strong but primitive urge on the part of the public, for a more stimulating interchange between the raw-sex artist and the lip-smacking patron. With a mere ten rows comprising a hundred and sixty seats, in front and beside the stage, each and every customer is well within the seducing range of the stripper. The front row customers have, without doubt, the most enviable position. They are continuously pampered by the kisses and caresses of the performers. As yet "Le Strip" has no liquor licence. So anyone who pays the two and a half dollar admission charge is served a steaming fistfull of sex only. What you see is what you get!

The acts cater to the most discriminating of palates. Each one is different, most are exceptional, but all leave little or nothing to the imagination. The show consists of ten performers, five in the afternoon shift and five at night. The burlesque is continuous and each girl does her act twice per shift.

We took in a Wednesday afternoon matinee, which included unforgettable performances by: Terry Darnell-grinding her whole sum, on a table-top; Georgia Peach-she literally bent over backwards to comply with one customer who yelled "Show us your peach fuzz"; and lastly, the sensual and innovative Fifi — (often referred to as the cleanest act in the business). Elegantly dressed in absolutely nothing, she bathes herself with real soap and water on stage in a glass tub twice a day. As a point of interest, Fifi has a noticeable lack of pubic hair (take note you merkin salesmen).

These girls, being talented dancers, get paid handsomely for their specialty. According to the proprietress and part owner, Lori Lane, these performers start at \$150 a week and can earn as much as the market will bare. This can be upwards of \$300.

After savouring the ninety minute show we were able to coax Miss Lane into her private office for an informal interview. We learned at that time, that Lori also has a strip-tease act. She fills in for any performer that is late for a show or is ill.

Lori started out as an amateur dancer and then switched to burlesque for its financial rewards. She served her apprenticeship at the "Victory" and she soon made her mark as an innovator by being the first to perform without



Lorie Lane

pasties. Miss Lane insisted that she did this not to flaunt the law or for sensationalism, but because of the simple fact that she was experiencing discomfort caused by repeatedly applying and removing them.

We opened the conversation with a discussion of the universal problem facing all burlesque-house

janitors — male masturbation in the audience. "We don't see it too often because they usually cover themselves with a newspaper or an overcoat," explained Lori, "but whenever I happen to notice an overly rhythmic customer, I yell something at him like, Hay fella, you missed a stroke. That usually deters them." Miss Lane pointed

out that it would be very difficult to police such occurrences without disrupting the entire show. "Besides," says Lori, "as long as they don't spray me, I don't really care!"

Keeping an eye out for relevant topics, we then ventured onto the subject of the women's liberation movement. Lori has appeared on

numerous television and radio shows which have pitted her in heated debates with members of the movement. She claims that from her experience with these people most women's liberationists don't want liberation but instead equality with men. In fact, claims Miss Lane, this is tantamount to superiority over men.

"Because men don't wear bras, they don't wear bras, because men play professional sports women should be able to compete for money too and because there are no men doing strip-tease they feel that women are being exploited." Lori suggests that these women would be satisfied only if men were on stage stripping as well. "Men are most virile when they have an erection," she claims, adding coyly "But I'll bet there isn't a man on earth who can maintain an erection for twenty minutes while dancing around on stage." We were not prepared to dispute Miss Lane's assertions at that time.

In discussing the recent fiasco with the musicians union, Lori revealed that by having recorded music instead of a four piece band "Le Strip" saves \$1,100 per week. Meanwhile no union musician can play there, and "Le Strip" has been "black-balled." (women's liberationists: that should read "black-ovariated.") The stereo system now in operation adds a more professional touch to the acts themselves. The girls choose their own music and because they can rely on a record's consistency, there is far more precision in their work.

When Miss Lane was asked if she had ever been to a nudist colony the conversation once more focused on sex. She exposed her deep down desire to visit such a camp. However there is a restriction that you must bring a person of the opposite sex with you and remain with that person for the duration of your stay. Lori confessed to not having a friend with whom she would consider spending a weekend. Ill-prepared to help solve her problem, we quickly moved to another topic.

The last thing we asked Lori was why she performs nude on stage. "I am not an exhibitionist but rather, call me an entertainer," said Lori "I do it because I enjoy it and because of the money. Most of the girls who work here have been trained by me in our strip-tease school which is held once a week. So the thirty-five artists around Toronto who perform either here or at the Victory or the Westover are personal friends of mine. We treat our profession like you would any other job."

Upon leaving her office we ventured to ask the forbidden question: "Is Lori Lane your real name?" She confided in us that Lori Lane was just a stage name (surprised?) Her real name, she whispered, was Paris Night. We nodded understandingly as visions of an erect Eiffel Tower danced through our heads.