



by Anne Stephen and Jim Miller

The Gateway previously announced its intention to investigate the affairs of would-be advertisers featuring mud-wrestlers, exotic dancers and the like. The following interview and reports are the first part of our study in this area.

Our Friday classes over, Anne and I drive across town to investigate the seamier side of life. We're heading for Charlie's Angels, a newly formed entertainment agency featuring: strippers, g-string waiters, mud-wrestlers, etc. etc. Being the good reporter I try to remain objective but I am hoping these people at least have the ability to put a sentence together; that they know a few words of more than two syllables.

Our arrival is to a small bare office. We introduce ourselves. Jim and Anne meet Honey and Ted.

Carefully planned questions designed to expose our opponent begin. The telephone, much like a fight bell, punctuates the exchange. Beginning slowly we move in for the kill, watching and waiting for the signs of degradation we know must exist.

# Feminist stripper dema

Gateway: How do you feel about the present woman's movement?

Honey: I'm a woman. Other women might feel I'm being exploited. It's my choice. I make very good money. I'm an artist; I'm a very good dancer. I try to create a mood. If I can give someone pleasure, if I can make them feel happy and uplifted, that's a service right there. I make a little magic; a little fantasy; make people laugh. I get people excited, not so much sexually excited I don't know, I don't think of myself that way.

Gateway: Men and women as equals?

Honey: Men and women are not the same. They are not the same, how they think, how they act, how they feel... You create your own equality. Business wise, right wise, women have had the short end of the deal. When I go in a room there are 200 men and I'm the only woman. They're clothed; I'm nude. You take away all those barriers and if you can't find your own equality and stand upright and hold your own, well... Once you've been able to do that you know the meaning of equality... Being treated like a human being with respect - that's the meaning of equality.

Gateway: How does your service affect society and men's minds and the attitude they have about women?

Honey: Men are very chauvinistic. They tell me 'I'd never let my wife or daughter do this but I enjoy what you do.'

Gateway: The old double standard?

Honey: You betcha.

Gateway: Don't you think that double standard should be eliminated though?

Honey: The only way it's eliminated is by people becoming educated; more liberal. Take away a lot of the false barriers and people have to stand on their own.

There's a lot of double standards that have no meaning. If you can be a lady nude in a crowded room with 200 men then you set your own standards. I could dance before the Pope and still be myself and still command respect... because I demand it of people. Everybody has to do that and I don't think a lot of women do. They are more timid I think; men are more aggressive.

Gateway: Do you think it's a male characteristic to be aggressive?

Honey: No. But aggressive women are taboo. It is something women have tried not to be because it's non-appealing, non-feminine almost. Women try to submerge their aggressiveness and to be feminine and soft... Men who work with women who are aggressive find them very unfeminine and wouldn't want to be married to one. It's the old double standard again: But to be successful I think you have to have a certain amount of aggression.

Gateway: Should prostitution be legalized?

Honey: I never thought much of the question until last year when my sister was attacked... She wasn't raped. I thought to myself maybe if things were more accessible he would not have to go after my sister. If a product is forbidden it makes it more desirable. If it was readily available like every other product it might be better. I think legalized prostitution would make society safer for women.

Gateway: How else could society be made safer for women?

Honey: In this business you are a sex symbol. The first thing you need to do in this business is to make people understand you are a person. I'm not just a sex symbol, a girl in a glamorous dress. I'm a person. I can talk to anyone about anything in society. I'm intelligent and pretty well educated... If you get people to look deeper... A woman is a person, she has

feelings, she has rights. We need to educate people in general especially men, but also women. Maybe that will alleviate some of the problem.

Gateway: I guess that's one of our feelings that this kind of service might not go towards dispelling that kind of image of the woman as just being sexual. But you see it in completely opposite terms then?

Honey: Yes.

Fred: I think most all the dancers do, even the male dancers.

Gateway: You see yourself as sort of an activist then?

Honey: Yes, to an extent.

Gateway: How do you feel about sexual harassment at work for women?

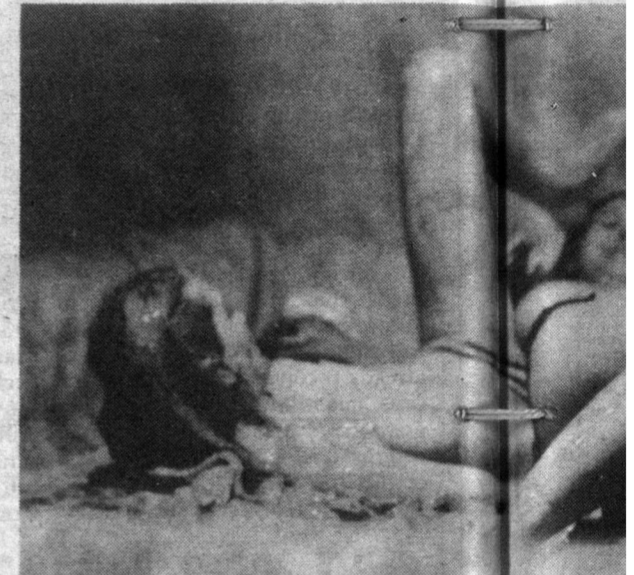
Honey: It's all in how you handle it. How you see yourself is how you make other people see you. I keep it light. I turn the joke around. I say, 'How would my

children feel. They go a laugh with harassment between me on for cent

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