

Sexual labour

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women so they do not have to resort to prostitution."

Nina Hartley, a porn star and a feminist working for better working conditions in the porn industry, was one of the women interviewed by Chapkis.

Hartley does not like the fact that some women in the pornography business are only 19 or 20, and that a lot of them are not very stable.

But she also argued that the stereotype of the porn star is wrong.

"When I first got into this business, I had lots of value judgement about some of these women: They smoked, they drank, they didn't wear their seatbelts, they didn't eat their vegetables, and they didn't finish school," said Hartley.

Despite her work, she said she did not really feel like a "bad girl."

"I don't even do porn out of a need to rebel," she said.

At heart, Hartley sees herself as a "good girl" who wants to make the world a better place for everybody.

"I want to end hunger, no more war, no more rape," she said. "I pay my taxes, I help old ladies across the street, I'm kind to animals, I visit my grandmother."

Hartley, like Chapkis, thinks it wrong to lay all of the blame on pornography and prostitution. She believes that some mainstream images and practices are also responsible for sexual violence to women.

"In 99 per cent of commercially available pornography, a woman is depicted desiring sex, pursuing sex, having sex, having orgasms and at the end of the movie she's still alive, happy, healthy and well," said Hartley, who sees her work as important for women.

"Women really need to look at that message in light of what Hollywood has to offer and get off the kick that it's pornography that's violent."

Still, there exists a deep divide among feminists over prostitution.

Arian Amsberg, a writer and sexologist also interviewed by

Chapkis, believes the implication of the practice on society should be more closely monitored.

"One of the things that I regret is that our feminist movement doesn't think enough about the long-term effects of prostitution on society as a whole," said Amsberg.

"They only seem to be concerned about the women who want to prostitute themselves and how they can best be protected. But they don't think about what prostitution means, how it changes society and affects the possibility of equality between men and women."

Chapkis disagrees.

"Even if we want to eliminate [prostitution], we should want to make sure they [sex workers] are safe," said Chapkis, who believes a harm reduction model would be better than trying to eliminate what is seen as the "problem" of prostitution.

Chapkis thinks prostitution should be decriminalized as in the Netherlands, rather than legalized as it is in a few counties in the state of Nevada.

"The Nevada model is one you do not want to have anywhere else in the world," Chapkis said. "Sex workers are not allowed to work independently and must turn over a significant portion of their earnings to their male bosses. And women have no say into what sexual favours they will and will not perform. If they do not comply, they are fired."

Those who refuse to work under these stipulations and try to work independently, said Chapkis, face threat of arrest.

She pointed out that when inspecting these closely monitored establishments, health inspectors will examine the sex worker's health, but will never test clients, therefore putting women at risk.

Chapkis's research in the Netherlands has exposed what she believes is a better model for women performing in the sex world. By decriminalizing prostitution — doing away with laws dealing with the practice — Chapkis said women would gain control of the practice, improving work conditions.

Right or privilege

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duty to ensure the independence of its citizens.

Moreman, a speaker for the Opposition, disagreed. He argued that in order to protect a post-secondary education from being devalued, the government of Canada must not lower tuition rates below a level of sustainability.

"If the government makes post-secondary education completely accessible, everyone will have bachelors. Those who want a degree have to be serious and committed; we need [to give education] a high monetary value.

"The personal benefits [of receiving a post-secondary education] are greater than governmental benefits. Why should it be free? If you want a return from something, you have to pay for it. Education is an investment.

"The government is responsible for providing a high school education," said Moreman, "which is the logical cut-off for governmental 'parenting.'"

Cleversey, a speaker for the "Government," maintained that streaming society according to socio-economic backgrounds is an act of hypocrisy, "which doesn't follow what Canadians believe."

"The Government says that the doors are open," said Cleversey, "but one has to pay five to ten thousand every year to get credit for an education. Accessibility is not based on intellect, but on how much money can be acquired at the time of one's education."

She also maintained that universities should foster thinking, but pursuing intellectual development is not the current trend. The financial need for acquiring an education is restrictive, and is stunting the growth of intellect in our country.

"People are not able to give back to society," she said. "People must choose their own destinies, and the government must not close doors. Education should be a right."

Mr. Kehoe, leader of the Opposition, disagreed.

"Education is not a right, since it cannot be given to everyone. There aren't enough prof's and T.A.'s in the country," he said, "be-

cause we cannot compete economically with the U.S. Canadian tuition is one sixth of the tuition Americans pay, ignoring the conversion values.

"Rights must be guaranteed, and education cannot be guaranteed."

Kehoe pointed out that in the recent past, the Canadian government had set out to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000, which isn't responsible legislation. Too many people with B.A.'s are not fulfilling what they are trained to do; "there aren't enough positions to satisfy what people are trained for."

"There comes a point where


the government has to stop holding the hands of its citizens," he argued.

The Prime Minister had the final word at the debate.

"Education is not a right that is guaranteed unequivocally," said Georgas, "but there are other sources of rights, like contractual duties of the state to its people."

He also recognized that there is no such thing as an absolute right. Post-secondary education shouldn't be free, but accessible.

"Degrees are a preparation for a career," he said. "Degrees are worth a lot, which is why people have to be able to get them."



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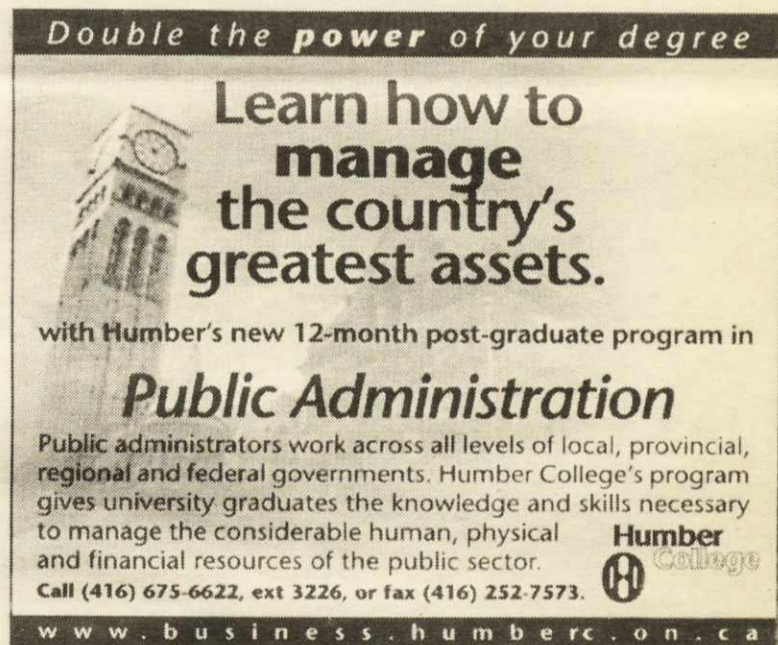
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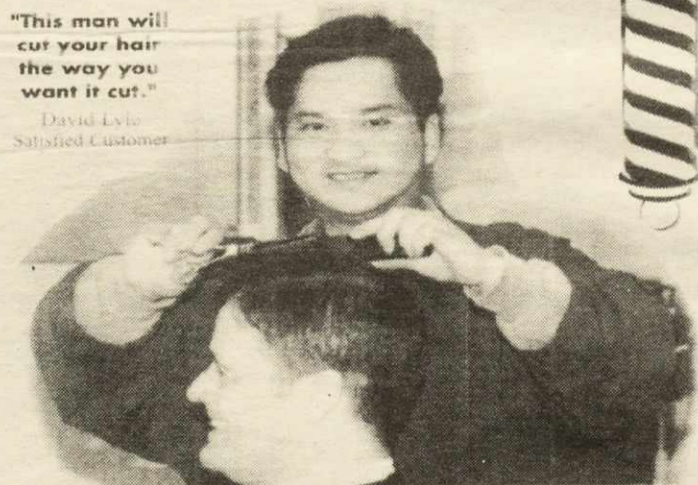
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