

The exciting conclusion to the skin

by Anne Stephen and Jim Miller

And now the exciting conclusion to Tuesday's feature about the seedier side of city life. After having obtained the interview with Charlie's Angels, the famed evening at Chez Pierre's was to become a reality.

Jim and I found ourselves on 105 st. We passed by several women wearing fur coats, and soon found ourselves inside Chez Pierre's. We asked to make sure we could take in cameras, and were told that they were OK, but only at the mud wrestling. Then we asked it if was alright to bring in a tape recorder. The man said, "What, are you kinky or something?" He didn't seem to see the humour in what he had said.

The evening turned out to be an experience. Although I didn't enjoy myself, it was interesting talking to the various people.

The names have been changed for obvious reasons in the following article, to protect the identities of those involved.

The wrestlers interviewed used the stage names Missy and Kelly. Mark, Kelly's fiance, also works at Chez Pierre.

Gateway: Do you enjoy helping out here?

Mark: Yeah, it's a lot of fun. There's nothing moral about it, or whatever, but if it wasn't for the money, I don't see much in this at all.

Gateway: Do you find the atmosphere gets to you more and more as you're around it?

Mark: Yeah. The biggest thing about this place is the atmosphere. I really don't like being here, every weekend night. Because of the clientele, like it's mostly guys out for a cheap thrill now, more than it used to be. It used to be people coming in here just to have a few laughs before. Now it's guys in here for a cheap thrill, like that really brought the atmosphere down. And the smoke in here! That's another thing that I've really noticed.

Gateway: Do you think prostitution should be legalized?

Mark: Uh...No. I really think prostitution is wrong. It is the world's oldest profession. There's no way of wiping it out completely. Because of that, I really think it should be legalized which would really cut down on the spread of infectious diseases. To control the clap, I think it should be legalized, in a government run house, where the jerk in Ottawa gets his thirty per cent. And the girls are not exploited by pimps and...

Gateway: Maybe less violence in it?

Mark: Yes, there wouldn't be girls standing on every street corner accosting men. As a noted psychologist once put it, without prostitution, respectable women would be attacked on the street.

Gateway: I'm not sure if rape is a sexual crime or a crime of violence by frustrated people.

Mark: It is a crime of violence.

Gateway: I think it is more a crime of violence than a sex-crazed maniac. How do you feel about sexual harassment of women and where they work?

Mark: I think it's sick. It's everywhere, but it's such a hard thing to control because there's always a girl blackmailing her employer, or vice-versa, it doesn't necessarily have to be a girl, but an employer can blackmail an employee into bed, or the employee can blackmail the employer into a raise just by false accusations sort of thing. That's another really touchy subject.

Gateway: What's your philosophy basically about men and women, and how they relate, how is sex involved in it, and how does this business affect those relationships?

Mark: I always believed for every man there was a woman made and vice versa, I'm not sure if this is straight from the Bible or what, but "and two shall be one," that is definitely straight from the Bible. There's one theory that one half of a being is place in one womb, and another is placed in a different womb, and they'll meet in life and become man and wife. That's the way I think it should be. one man and he takes his wife and they live happily ever after so to speak.

Gateway: Mutual respect for one another, or what?

Mark: Yes, yes definitely.

Gateway: So I guess you think this business isn't too good for building that up?

Mark: No. Because you get guys that it's not going so well for them at home, come down here and they see some girl up there, parading around, with not too much on, and uh.. Well, he starts to think that there's... he starts to see greener grass on the other side of the fence. It really leads to discontent at home, if you know what I mean.

Gateway: Why do you think guys come down here, because of what you said? Any other reason? Cheap thrill? Sexual thrill?

Mark: Yeah, that's basically the cheap thrill I was talking about. I've really noticed in human nature... in the boom times, nobody's really out to take the other person. But we've come on hard times now, the whole country's been hit, and you notice everybody's just ready to stick a knife in your back for a dime. If they can take you for every cent you've got, they'll do it. Because of the recession, you can't trust anybody anymore...

Gateway: Don't you think it's kind of sad that, like you say, there's one woman for every man but that a lot of people don't seem to be able to find or make a good relationship? That's kind of sad for people don't you think?

Mark: Well, almost any two people are compatible as long as they are willing to work at it. Life is no bed of roses. Any two people can make it work as long as there is love between them. I know Sue and I, we fight like cats and dogs most of the time, but I don't pack my bags, I'm not ready to hit the road. But, marriage has become too fragile, people are jumping into marriage - well, we can always get a divorce, if we don't like it.

Gateway: That's the attitude, eh?

Mark: Yeah, it's people's attitude.

That's just me; I'm a tease

Gateway: So um, how long have you been doing this?

Missy: About a month and a half.

Gateway: Have you ever done this kind of thing before, or anything like it.

Missy: Nope. Well, this summer, I came in, I was going to do it this summer, but I had a very jealous boyfriend then who wouldn't hear of it so... that canned that for a while.

Gateway: You don't have the jealous boyfriend anymore, obviously.

Missy: Nope.

Gateway: Alright. Why did you get into this business? Can you speak up a little, I'm not sure how this is going to record.

Missy: Extra money. See, I moved out.

Gateway: Where are you from?

Missy: Edmonton, originally, but I moved to Red Deer with a girlfriend, and so, we have a nice condominium and stuff. Extra money always helps, so I did it for the money.

Gateway: Do you do anything else besides this?

Missy: No... Oh, I have a regular job.

Gateway: Another job?

Missy: Yeah, I work in a law office?

Gateway: A law office?

Missy: Yup, I'm the receptionist and secretary.

Gateway: Do they know you're doing this kind of thing?

Missy: No, no one really knows.

Gateway: How about your family. How do you think they'd react?

Missy: They'd flip. Yeah... Oh, I don't know.

Gateway: Do you enjoy what you're doing?

Missy: Sure, it's not bad. I don't mind it. Like, we didn't use to do it topless. We just started. This is only the second time I've done it topless, so I'd rather not do it topless, but... Everyone's got a body, so...

Gateway: Why do you object to doing it topless?

Missy: The men get out of hand a little. I don't know.

Gateway: When you say you sort of enjoy it, do you find it enjoyable to be on the stage and in the spotlight?

Missy: I like to see men want you, but they can't have you. That's just me, I'm a tease. I don't like them to touch me or anything, I just like to see them want me. Sounds sick, eh? No, I'm not sick.

Gateway: Well, at least it's honest.

Missy: I'm not a high school drop-out or anything, I've gone through my first year of college, and I'm going to college in the fall. But I just needed a semester off right now. My family's got money, so if they knew I was doing this, they'd really... But I wanted to do it on my own. They've always done everything for me, like I've gone to school, they've paid for my school, they've paid for this, they've bought me cars, they've bought me everything, and I just had to do something on my own.

Gateway: So you definitely see it as a sexually arousing sort of business?

Missy: Yeah.

Gateway: OK. How do you feel this affects men and their attitude towards women?

Missy: I think most of these men that come here probable have girlfriends or are married. They just need an escape, someone they can look at but they don't have to get emotionally attached to. So I think that's just an escaped for them, somehow. Because, if you look around, most of these men are probably married. That's my viewpoint.

Gateway: Do you think it's good for them to have that kind of escape?

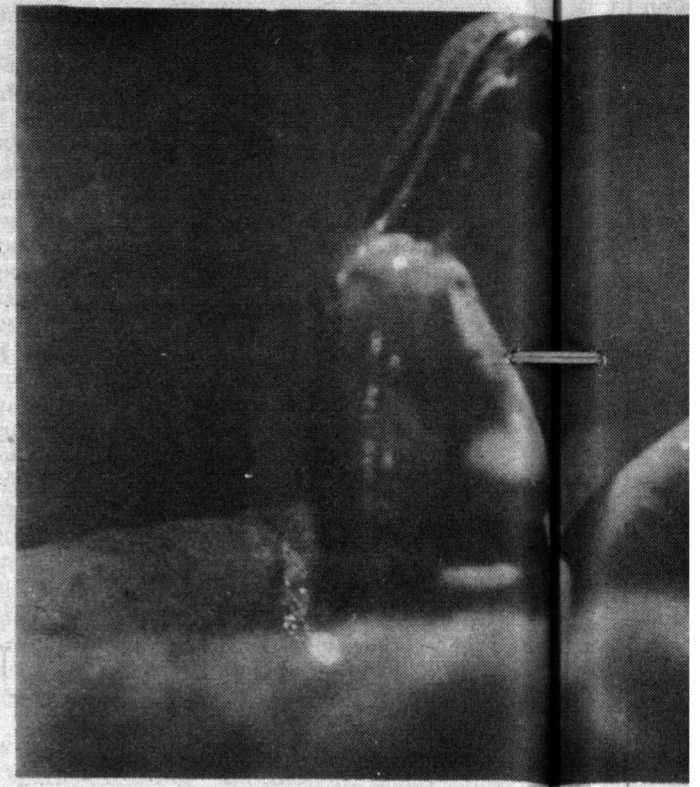
Missy: No, if I had a husband, I sure as hell wouldn't want him doing that. I wouldn't want him coming to a place like this.

Gateway: Would you think there'd be something wrong in your relationship if your husband felt he needed to go to a place like this?

Missy: Yeah, I'd feel there was something lacking in me, if he had to go get aroused by someone else.

Gateway: Okay, do you think it's sort of a sign of the society generally and the relationships between men and women that some of the men have to come to a place like this? Or that there are places like this?

Missy: I think so. If you go back in time, even the songs, they sang about people being in love, like, you know, 'we're going out to the corner store, my lover and I, you know, his girlfriend, right? Now you look



at the songs, and it's all about breaking up, him taking off or her at the street corner. I think our whole society has taken a change that way.

Gateway: Do you feel that what you're doing is contributing to that decline though, or not?

Missy: Umm, I think everything is. This, I think is one thing, yeah.

Gateway: You know, I don't want to ask you really hard questions or anything, but, are you proud of what you're doing here?

Missy: No, that's why I don't want anybody to know. It's strictly for the money, but if I really hated it I wouldn't do it either.

Gateway: So there's a bit of an inner conflict in you, then?

Missy: Yeah.

Gateway: Sometimes you feel good about it and sometimes you...

Missy: No, I don't feel good about it but when I'm here I don't mind doing it.

Gateway: So you get into it, kind of?

Missy: Yup. You kind of lose yourself in what you're doing.

Gateway: Do you get sexually aroused by it?

Missy: No. That sounds... but I don't.

Gateway: I don't know... this is my first experience with this whole kind of thing... maybe my last, I don't know. I'm just going to check my list here. Do you feel like you're exploited, or you're exploiting people at all in this kind of business?

Missy: Uh... being exploited... no, because it's your personal choice. I think being exploited is something that they do to you... This is a choice.

Gateway: What's your views on prostitution, do you think that should be something that should be legalized.

Missy: No, not at all.

Gateway: No, not at all.

Gateway: Why?

Missy: Because I don't think it's right. Because I don't think people should have to pay for... I guess men are different, but I feel, emotionally, if you're ready for sex, you'll have it with somebody you love. But then again, men are different.

Gateway: What if there is no one around to love, or no one that you have an emotional involvement with? Do you think that there should be some way to satisfy that feeling?

Missy: No, no one will die if they don't have sex. I mean really. They can take their emotions and train them into a different

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