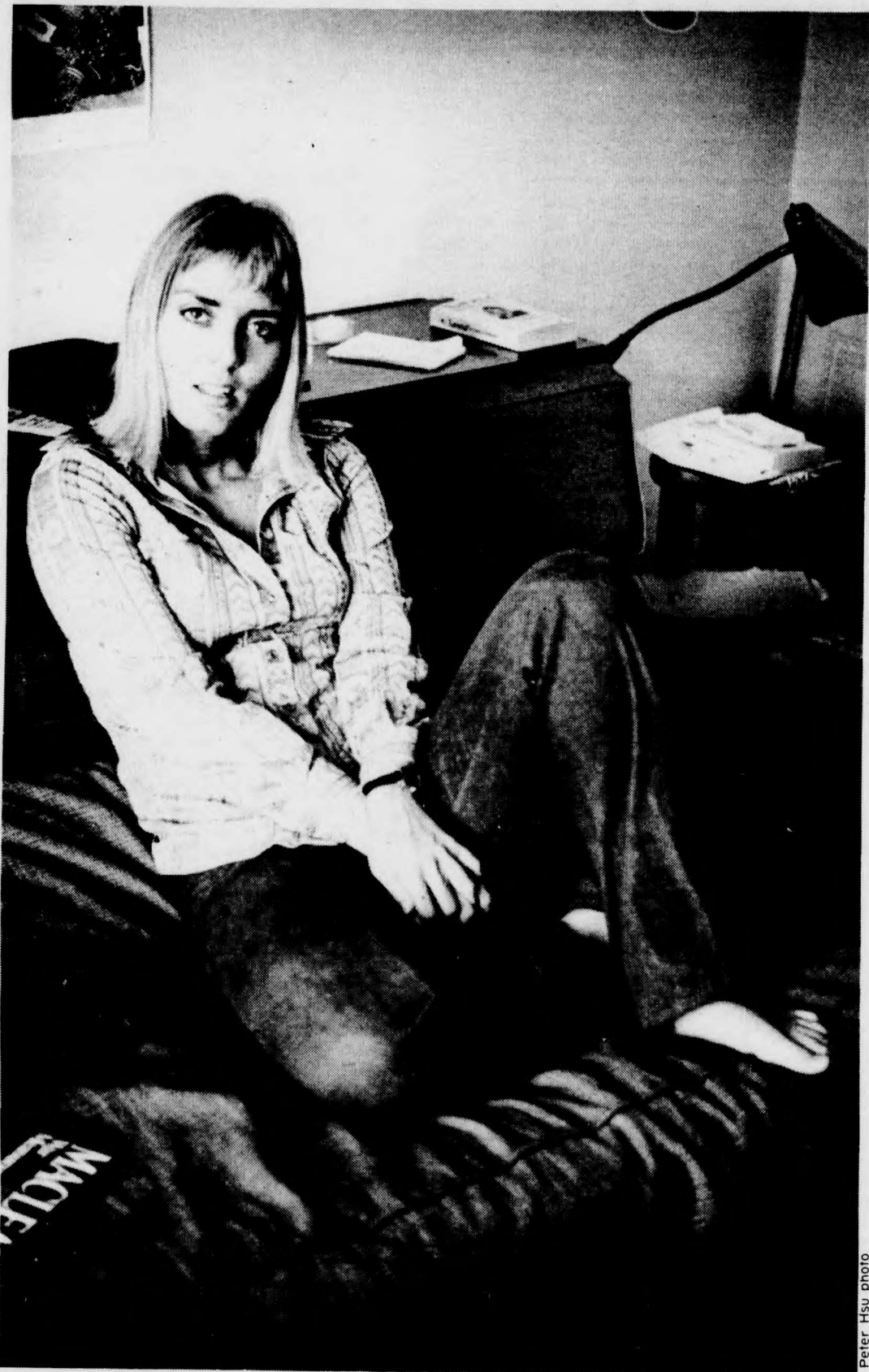


The Happy Hooker on leaving the business,



By MIRA FRIEDLANDER

What is there to say about Xaviera Hollander that has not already been said? That she is beautiful, intelligent, charming, and fascinating to listen to?

Those are indeed the facts that perhaps should be stressed as being the outstanding attributes of the Happy Hooker. For those who are looking for the slinky, sleazy, seductive Madame X, you are out of luck.

The first thing that hits you about Xaviera Hollander and her surroundings is the utter simplicity and lack of pretense. There is no put-on, no catering towards her all-too public image of a sex-symbol. Indeed, when I arrived at the door of her apt. two weeks ago I was greeted by a striking woman, wearing no make-up and dressed casually in a man's shirt and slacks. As we settled down to talk informally her innocent Dutch face changed quickly to impishness when she talked about herself, and just as quickly became serious when she discussed the 'Business' and the difficulties prostitutes face in a prejudiced society.

In order to do justice to my interview the best way is to simply let her speak for herself, in the lively casual manner she has.

Excalibur: What do you think of Women's Lib?

Hollander: I am not for the paranoia and hysteria of the movement as it is quite often in New York city with the demonstrations; and let's throw the bras out; and castrate and emasculate our men. I am however for equal rights. If a woman wants to do the same job as a man, or go to the same school and study the same subjects she should be able to. She should get paid the same amount and have the same opportunities.

I believe that I am one of the most sexually liberated women around and that is why in lectures I would like to teach or at least give an idea to men as well as women, how to get rid of their frustrations, hang-ups, inhibitions and double standards, and in doing so liberate themselves. So in that sense I am definitely for Women's Lib.

However I would still like to find a man, (or actually I have found one) where there is mutual respect, who is not living off me because I am Miss Hollander, a celebrity, but who simply knows me as Xaviera. He even refuses to read my books because he doesn't want to have anything to do with my past. This is not an ostrich mentality, he hears

about it nearly every day, but he simply wants to know me as a woman, for who I am, not for what I was, and that is the most important thing.

A woman should indeed be considered more than just a sum of her private parts, and quite often in that sense the man needs liberating more than the woman.

Excalibur: How does a Hooker get back into society once she retires? How was it for you?

Hollander: For me it could be compared with the movie Deep Throat. Deep Throat is a porno movie that used to play in porno houses, but because it had something different, (this woman had a clitoris in her throat and she really loved it), everyone who saw it could see this woman enjoyed sex. It wasn't like the average porno movie, where it's the slam-bam-thank-you-ma'am deal. They do it because they are getting paid to do it. So this movie had socially redeeming value up to a point and it's now being shown in big theatres all over America. Maybe one day it will get to Canada, and when this happens it will help to break down the censorship and the barriers. My book has done the same. Both my book and my profession were first looked down upon by society. However I had the guts to be honest about it, and to open the door to a place almost no woman knows about. Men know about brothels but women are very curious about them and no one has ever dared to write such an open report about it; not only on prostitution but also on the different deviations — the sexual aberrations of mankind. It's been very sad in a way to read that there are men and women that are like that, but it's been honest and because of my honesty I think I've been rewarded by having such a tremendous amount of readers.

But back to the question of how the girls get out of the 'Business'. It is of course very hard. First of all, when they do get out, they've either been hurt very much because they've been involved with pimps; or they're broke and on drugs; or they're at a point in their lives when they've got nowhere to go. They've made hundreds and hundreds of dollars a week and now their looks are going down.

There is nothing more pathetic than an aging prostitute whose looks go down — prices go down and she goes down. But if she plays it smart and has some brains she'll have invested her money and she'll go straight. Sometimes it means moving out of a certain area. If she lives in a big city she could move to a different part of town, or if need be to another city. Here she can start with a

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