

EDITORIAL

Prostitution, the oldest profession in the world, has inspired centuries of debate. Typically, one side argues from a purely moral point of view while the other generally takes a more practical, reasonable stand.

We know prostitution won't be eliminated. As long as women and men still have hormones and along with this attribute, lust - we can be quite sure there will be someone around to buy and to sell the commodity called sex.

Furthermore, prostitution is one of the few "crimes" without a victim, thus establishing itself as a law formed by men acting on emotion rather than intellect. It is a law which is essentially a throwback from the witch-hunt era.

What, then, is wrong with trade where both the buyer and the seller are generally happy with the exchange of services for resources?

First, on the streets, where a good deal of the women and men of manifested ill-repute work, are very often a marketplace for the buying and selling of illegal narcotics. Not the kind of stuff many people sneak into rock concerts, but dangerous addictive chemicals.

Secondly, social diseases are increasing in both the number of cases and the number and variety of strains. The street sex market is undoubtedly a large contributing factor to this social dilemma.

Third, the people who work the street are usually subjected to the whims of a pimp. It is unfair that these human beings, who are simply trying to make a living, must often be subjected to beatings, death threats, and other such abuses.

These are the real problems with prostitution, not silly objections by some professional moralist preaching from a pulpit. We do not need some patronizing horse's ass telling us what is right and wrong. What we need is a solution to the problems associated with prostitution.

And the solution is embarrassingly obvious.

If the provincial government established several large brothels, all of the serious problems associated with the profession would be drastically reduced.

The place should be in a well-lighted area with easy access and plenty of parking. It could be run by civil servants and policed by a relatively small number of cops. This would leave most other police officers the opportunity to do their work preventing the crimes which have victims.

I suspect the revenue from the cat-house would easily cover the cost of administering and policing it. Still leaving a sizable chunk of money to pay for other bureaucratic bangles as well as the merchants.

Narcotics could be quite easily controlled in this type of situation. Less hookers would become junkies and fewer kids would be subject to temptation.

The government could run a check on venereal diseases quite easily in this sort of situation. They could employ doctors to take routine blood tests on all of the patrons and all of the hookers.

There could be a section for both the people without social diseases and another for those who had one careless night. This would accommodate virtually everyone with little or no risk involved.

Finally, and most importantly, prostitutes would not have to live under the domination of another person. This is probably the most degrading thing about the system as it stands today. Street law quite often dictates only the strong survive. By retaining the law as it stands today we are as guilty of the brutality inflicted upon these human beings as the actual animals (the pimps) who subject them to physical and emotional cruelty.

If we know the system is not working properly now and we also know prostitution is neither likely to decrease or stop completely, why not change the law? Police could start to spend their time effectively controlling crime rather than hassling innocent people who have only chosen a practical indifference to an outdated codified morality.

Ken Lenz

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Staff this Issue

It was early in the day, as all good Gilbertologists were out meeting their LSD quotas, while Dan Watson, Mark Lane and Jerry Lindberg preached on Jasper Avenue, and Jordan Peterson, K. Auther and the astral projection of Nate LeRoi pilfered the empty office buildings, with Zane Harker and Ninette Gironglla running interference with the cops. Then, Martin Shugg, in a vision of Algard risen, sent Sally-Ann and Sandy Vickerson to Africa and Berg for HUB Burgers, and Maureen for two Java Jive dark, one with cream.

Published by the committee to Rere-elect Robert Greenhill.
 The Gateway is the newspaper of University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm. 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm. 256D (ph. 432-4241) Students' Union Bldg., U of A, Edmonton, Alberta T6C 2J7. Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press.

gateway
 Sept. 15 — Volume 74, No. 3



« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Et tu Gunnar

Re: Second Wind by Gunnar Blodgett, Wednesday, September 7th.

I would like to suggest that Mr. Blodgett get his facts straight before he ventures into the world of column writing, especially columns of opinion.

To be sure, one cannot "allegedly bomb" a plane. One cannot even "bomb" a plane! The Korean airliner was shot down in mid-air by a missile fired from a Soviet fighter jet. Trivial mistake? Maybe. I would even have let it go at that, however, Mr. Blodgett erred further as his "factual" attempts gained momentum.

Anyone as interested in politics as Mr. Blodgett should at least be aware that George Bush is the Vice President of the United States and not the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State is George Shultz. So maybe he overlooked that one, after all, they both have the same first names, don't they?

If Mr. Blodgett implies that the entire issue could be "farfical and unworthy", he must first realize that the killing of two hundred and sixty-nine unsuspecting people is not a farce, it is an unwarranted catastrophe. Numerous heads of state are furious over the Soviet actions and the media has reported what has come directly and indirectly from news sources of the countries. How then can he suggest it as a "Trial by Media"?

If Mr. Blodgett wishes to assume an opinion, which is credible to the reader, perhaps he should investigate his "facts" more thoroughly. Factual enough? I think so.

Donna Murchie
Arts II

FAS for the memories

On 31 August, 1983 the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) was officially dissolved. This followed the decision made in March, by the delegates representing students, to wind up the organization. Equally important, though, those delegates reaffirmed the need for students to work together on the issues affecting them.

FAS existed for eight years. It's dissolution is a time to reflect not only on why the organization was dissolved but on why it existed. The Federation existed because of a commitment to improve the post-secondary education system and because of a conviction that united students could effect the needed change.

Although FAS no longer exists, the pressing issues for students remain and the need to address them is more pressing than ever:

- Tuition has been indexed and government policy means it will continue to rise.
- Incidental or "fee for service" charges are skyrocketing.
- The student loan system is unfair, inefficient, and wasteful. It should contain a bursary component as in other provinces.
- Cutbacks in instructors, libraries, books and classes continue to erode the quality of our education.

These are just a few examples of the problems that cry out for attention from our governments.

The Federation of Alberta Students had a number of successes for the students of Alberta. FAS proved that determined students working together can get results. It is essential that this work continue.

Students can contact their students' association and get to work on increasing awareness, lobbying the government and getting organized. Students' associations also have information on a trust fund established with the Federation's remaining funds to help students work together provincially.

Finally, on behalf of all members of FAS executives and staffs over the last eight years, we would like to thank all of those who helped us and to say it has been a pleasure, an honor, and a learning experience to work with and for the students of this province.

Federation of Alberta Students
The 1983 Executive Committee

Better red than Ken

I find it very disturbing that the peace activists I've conversed with condemn the U.S. for their efforts to contain communism and maintain a balance of power, while simultaneously ignoring Soviet human-rights violations and their massive military buildup.

For example, one outspoken member of the U of A Group for Nuclear Disarmament, tried to justify the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan when he said, "Afghanistan is close to the Soviet Union, and the Soviets prevented the Americans from entering Afghanistan." How considerate of them!

Farley McGee, another active peace marcher I talked with, actually said the following, "I support unilateral disarmament because the Soviets will never disarm. Evidence of this can be seen by their symbolic color, red. This represents that communists are willing to shed human blood to spread their system. Once we (the peace movement) gain enough power, we will force the democracies to dismantle their nuclear weapons. Inevitably, the Soviets will attack the West, possibly with nuclear weapons, and we will live under communism. However, it's better red than dead."

I could hardly believe what I heard! The good news, he told me, was that Western disarmament would ensure that the Soviets would not be killed after they destroyed the West with their nuclear missiles.

It is no coincidence that there are communists backing the so-called peace movement (*The Journal*, Feb. 23/83). As CFRN's Bruce Hogle pointed out, if the peace movement is so concerned about peace and human life, why are they not marching to protest the Soviet bombing of the Korean airline?

Their left-wing leaders are striving to divide and weaken the NATO alliance. Achievement of this goal could precipitate a Soviet invasion. These same communists would then become our permanent rulers. Not realistic? Then consider how Vladimir Lenin, communism's co-founder, defined peace: "As an ultimate objective, peace simply means Communist world control."

Ken Shipka
Business III

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be no more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.