



Nice-looking girl next door may be a Lincoln prostitute

Editor's note: The names in the following story have been fictionalized to protect the subjects' identities.

By Ron Wylie

Do you see that nice-looking girl over there near the dance floor? Her name's Joyce. She's a college girl. Maybe she'd like to dance, or perhaps it would be interesting to talk to her.

But getting acquainted could be expensive. She's a hooker.

Joyce, 20, a UNL psychology major is paying her way through school by working as a prostitute.

She is one of a dozen women known to some hotel clerks, businessmen and bartenders around town as a call girl available on short notice. In this group, they say, are three other students, several housewives and divorcees and one family team consisting of a mother and two daughters.

These women contact customers through procurers, hotel clerks or bartenders. Failing that, they work cocktail lounges and night spots. Several report a healthy telephone trade, references being made from one customer to another.

Businessman and students

The clients, they say, are generally traveling businessmen, college students and local professional men. They pay from \$25 to \$100, the price varying from girl to girl and service to service.

The prostitutes report that Lincoln hotel and motel management is either friendly or indifferent to the trade and local law enforcement, they say, is not a problem.

Lincoln police say there is no organized prostitution in the area. But, they explain, "By-

organized, we mean that there is no house of prostitution or regular streetwalkers like in some cities."

Vice squad detectives are familiar with the names of some of the area's procurers and are aware of each method of operation.

"But these guys (the procurers) are working the girls strictly as a sideline," one detective offered. "Their chief concern and ambition is to sell a little coke (cocaine). When we set out to get them, we'd much rather work up the drug case."

Prostitution cases are hard to set up, police contend, because in today's relaxed moral climate, "it's hard to know who's hustling and who is just looking for a good time."

A bartender at a place frequented by Lincoln's hookers and their prospective clients said, "Everyone knows you can buy it here. No one is especially upset at this. These girls provide a service that any city needs."

Girl next door

"Most people, and maybe the police too, think a call girl is going to look like something they've seen in the movies," remarked one hotel clerk, recalling an image of a sloppy, unwholesome bag with gin-sotted breath, bad teeth and skintight clothing. But that is rarely the case, say those who work with the girls.

"The best hookers," said one pimp, "have always looked and acted like the girl next door."

One such woman is a waitress at one of downtown Lincoln's bars. Pam, 21, lives with a boyfriend and uses him for protection, but insists he does not procure for her. She said she makes her own contacts.

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