

Talking to a 'live girl,' but not about sex

By Sam Kepfield
Diversions Contributor

I thought twice about doing this. No matter how loudly I protest that all I did was do an interview, some smart-ass down here is going to give me a knowing wink and nudge every time secret pastimes are brought up. It's like the proverbial albatross.

But, because I care so much about my adopted third profession, and because I believe that I owe it to you, the reader, to do this, I sally forth.

Having said that, let's get down to the subject—900 numbers. Who hasn't heard of them? Look in the back of any skin mag (or in the advertisement section of "Rolling Stone"), or watch the USA Network

late on weekends when they show Z-grade sci-fi flicks or "Animal House" rip-offs and you'll see the ads.

"Talk to Live Girls! They're waiting Just for You! Hot, Sexy, Wild Women for Uncensored Conversations!" And, naturally, they run pictures of a silicon-enhanced, blond beauty wearing nothing but a smile and clutching a phone.

Does anyone think that the woman in the picture is the one you talk to? If you're calling one of these numbers in the first place, do you care? Probably not.

So, I decided to look behind the gauzy, glitzy curtain, and talk to a real, live 900-girl. And all I did was ask a few questions. Honest.

It was an interesting process. After dialing an 800-number, I was

treated to a breathy, come-on voice which told me . . . to call another number!

Not what I'd expected. But, duty called, so I did.

— " " —
Most people think it's a sex line, but it's not. It's a talk line.

—Tanya
900-number woman

— " " —
I was connected with Tanya. She described herself as 22 years old, 4 foot 11 inches tall, with brown eyes, dark skin. She never lies about

her appearance. "Why should I?" she asked simply. She got the job after her sister told her about it. She filled out an application, and sat through a regular interview. Interesting notions danced in my head of how such an interview would go.

Tanya told me, first off, that this was not a sex line. "Most people think it's a sex line," she said, "but it's not: It's a talk line."

Most don't take disappointment and false advertising as well as I did.

"Most guys want to talk about sex," she said. "When you tell them that we can't do that, they get mad and hang up."

How many callers a day does she get? It varies, though weekends are usually busiest. Do women ever

call? "A few. I had one who talked to me about problems with her boyfriend. Another called and just wanted to talk."

So what exactly DOES she talk about?

"Just about anything. I had one guy call me up, and he sounded depressed. I asked him what was wrong, and he told me he had just broken up with his girlfriend. I talked with him, gave him some advice. Then he said, 'You know, I'm going to take a shower, and go and get my girl back.' It made me feel good, being able to help like that."

Does it ever work the other way? "Sure. Sometimes I'll be down, and talking with a guy lets me feel good, in the process of making them feel good."

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