

JOHN'S SCHOOLS & WHY MEN PAY FOR SEX

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INTRODUCTION

In this article I want to discuss the use of John's Schools, a diversion program which has become popular throughout the United States, as a way to deal with the customers of prostitution. However, in order to properly address John's Schools as an intervention strategy we must first understand what motivates men to seek anonymous sex.

There are two conclusions from my experience with five hundred Johns: first, these men are not one group with one set of motivations and psychodynamics. If they have anything in common, besides the fact that they all paid for a sexual experience, it's that they all have an "attachment disorder" or some impairment in their ability to handle emotionally relational sex, or intimate relationships. However, to compare the "monger" or "hobbiest" who organizes much of his life around this activity, to the opportunist who impulsively pulls his car over when a woman waves at him from the sidewalk, is to ignore obvious differences.

Likewise when designing a response to reducing the demand for commercial sex, specifically when addressing first time offenders, we need to design a program that recognizes that one size does not fit all. The most effective way to do this is to provide, in addition to an educational component, sessions with a psychotherapist to individually assess the underlying dynamics and provide counseling and referrals for further treatment. When compared with the current consequence in Denver for first time offenders - a \$500 fine - John's School, as alternative sentencing seems much more relevant, and has proven in other cities to reduce their chance of reoffending by half.

WHY DO THEY DO IT?

John's, or those men who seek out anonymous sex, specifically involving a monetary payment for sexual services, have been characterized on the one hand as "everyman" and on the other as "deviant sex offenders". I believe that the reality is somewhere in the middle of that continuum. I also believe that these men cannot be lumped into one group. The "monger", as they call themselves in Internet chat rooms, where men review their experiences with sex workers (1); is very different than the "opportunist" who impulsively solicits an apparently available woman. The former is part of a secret subculture where men consider their activities a "hobby". These same men may travel to countries like Thailand, Amsterdam and Costa Rica, specifically to buy sex. They regularly spend much of their money, time and energies on buying sex, whether locally or abroad. In contrast, there is the adolescent virgin goaded on by his peers; or the elderly man wanting to know if he is still capable of an erection; or the impulsive, the lonely; men who may only incidentally succumb to temptation.

The most vocal and published psychologist on this subject is Melissa Farley, Ph.D. Her findings were profiled in an article in *Newsweek Magazine* on July 25th, 2011, lending to her notoriety. She has characterized John's as predators, who feel entitled to sexually assault women, and are exploitive with no concern or empathy for the women involved. While attending a recent conference Dr. Farley co-presented her work with Julie Bindel, a journalist from the London Guardian, who introduced herself as a research partner. At the end of their presentation when I made the point that all these men are not the same, Ms. Bindel replied, "They're all serial rapists and should go to prison!" Biases this strong cloud the credibility of both researchers, and a number of other academics have challenged the conclusions of Dr. Farley. Teela Sanders and eighteen of her colleagues expressed similar sentiments: "... the purpose of the research appears to have been to vilify the population of men who were chosen to be interviewed... and the investigators make no attempt to disguise their contempt for their subjects."(2)

On the other end of the spectrum is the idea that John's are "everyman" with no factors which distinguish them from men in general. Kinsey (3) estimated that 69% of all men had been to a prostitute at some point in their lives, and Benjamin & Masters (4) said the figure could be as high as 80%. There is a common belief that it's just "in the nature of men" (6), and many Johns use this as a justification. Certainly, the proliferation of Internet pornography is likely to commodify sex and alter attitudes within our culture as to what is normal and appropriate. However, a more reliable estimate from a large sample in the National Health & Social Life Survey conducted by Gagnon et.al. (5) suggested the figure is closer to 16%, with only .6% having visited a prostitute in the previous year. Since that survey was done in 1994 the influence of pornography cannot be measured without their study more currently being replicated.

Of the sample I interviewed of over 500 men I found them to be "everyman" in the sense that they came from all walks of life, and were generally in committed relationships. My sample was biased in that to qualify for our program they had to have no arrest record, not only for soliciting but anything. Farley & Mondo (7) have found a trend towards more arrests in general among Johns. Nevertheless, I wouldn't characterize them as "everyman". The unique quality all of the men I saw shared was what I, as a psychotherapist, would characterize as an "attachment disorder", or difficulties with close relationships. Despite the majority being married, they weren't good at intimacy, commitment, and candid openness with their partners.

Further, the fact that I also was referred homosexual men, who were arrested for public indecency, was particularly fascinating in that these men's reasons for seeking anonymous sex were so similar to the Johns.

UNDERLYING PSYCHODYNAMICS

What were the psychodynamics that might explain their behavior? Why was anonymous sex preferable to sex with one's partner? In most cases these men, both straight and gay, were in relationships of more than a decade. If not sex with their partner, why not an affair? Why now and not last year? Wouldn't sex be more satisfactory with an emotional, relational aspect to it? Anonymous, by definition often means no verbal interchange. In fact, for some gay encounters it is so anonymous they only see genitals through a "glory hole."

What I found was that there was no simple answer, nor was there one answer to why men sought anonymous sex. They came from all professions, and levels of social standing: everything from the unemployed day laborer to the prominent department head at the local medical center. The program participants included cops, teachers, a martial arts instructor, a priest, a psychiatrist; and an oil rig worker who had spent \$14,000 in the previous year on call girls. Some of the sessions I had to do through a translator. The diversity spanned racial, ethnic and cultural lines; and included the blind, deaf, paraplegic, as well as exceptionally physically fit professional athletes. No conclusions could be drawn about these men based upon common perceptions. They weren't "losers" or failures in life. They weren't so physically unattractive women would shun them. They also weren't usually very young or old men, generally in their early forties. Many were lonely, although few were alone.

I did find that they grouped into a handful of categories. Although they are depicted here as neat and discrete from one another, in real life their motivations blend together and any one individual may have qualities from two or more groups.

STALE RELATIONSHIPS

Some of these men were in marriages that had "rusted in place". This applies to approximately one in four of the heterosexual men, and one in five of the gay men. Most have been in a relationship for over a decade. Most of the straight men have children.

Their relationships have grown apart as their marriage has been buffeted by life's changes. They are generally men who find it particularly difficult to talk about their feelings or needs. Sometimes they are caretakers, who are focused on their kids' activities and concerns; or they are workaholics who spend little time with their wives. The partnerships become roommates, or business partners. Their sex life is diverted by Internet pornography, compulsive masturbation, or a general malaise in their libido. They may also be on antidepressants, which have sapped their sexual motivations.

Depression among these men is common. They are typically in their early to mid-forties, and feel that life is no longer exciting. They feel stagnant, and having proven themselves in their careers are now asking themselves, "Is this all there is?" Life has lost its sense of purpose, and has been overcome by day-to-day drudgery.

For these men a prostitute is viewed as an adventure, a respite, a vacation. Sometimes it is a test to themselves that they are still alive. They often choose anonymous sex over an affair with the rationalization that it is not really cheating on their wives. I have yet to meet a wife who shares that sentiment, nor a husband who readily shares his adventures with her.

There are some gay relationships which are "open" and they come home to titillate each other with embellished accounts of their anonymous encounters. The longer their relationship, the more likely that may be a part of what is acceptable. It is viewed as "playing" or "recreational", separate from love making. Most, however, have rules around such dalliances; and a common one is, "don't ask - don't tell." To keep their primary relationship from being emotionally threatened, most insist on anonymous sex to differentiate it from an affair. Prior to the AIDS Epidemic, the majority of gay male relationships beyond ten years were not monogamous. Post Epidemic, however, those that permit outside sex do so on a much more infrequent and incidental basis. If it happens it's not a deal breaker. When it does happen, it's more because an attractive and uncomplicated opportunity arose. On the other hand, contrary to stereotypes, it's not something most gay men spend a lot of time seeking outside their partnership.

For gay men as well as straight, the stale quality of their partnership can be a big motivation for anonymous sex. One of my clients observed that the problem with relationships of any length is that they became like "dry toast". Many men hit an emotional ceiling with their wives and partners, unable to express their emotions and without good models about how to be intimate.

Intimate sex involves a communication with their partners, not required by anonymous sex. With anonymous sex they trade intimacy for intensity. It is like comparing apples and oranges. Anonymous sex is all about adrenaline, and endorphins, whereas intimate sex is about oxytocin, the warm, fuzzy chemicals emitted in the brain; and an entirely different kind of experience. Intimate sex is an experience many men are afraid of, due to the baggage of our culture, and their family histories.

DON'T GET CLOSE

The difference between this group and those just described in stale relationships is that these men are typically not in a primary relationship - nor have a desire for one. They are often chronically single, or painfully divorced. They view relationships from the point of view of a victim, overly concerned with being engulfed or abandoned. A classic example is a man who married a woman much younger than himself, and set her up in Nashville to help her start her singing career. She had an affair with another musician, and when he came home from a business trip he found the house stripped of everything but the dining room table -- which was piled with her bills.

After that experience the only relationships this man had had were blatantly about sex for money. It wasn't always with street hustlers, as he would sometimes encounter women whom he would set up with cars and apartments; but it was a contractual exchange. His view was this was also what marriage was about, but these arrangements avoided the inevitable custody battles and alimony payments. As Clark Gable once remarked, "A prostitute you can pay to make them go away."

These men typically have major trust and commitment concerns, having felt burnt by their first girlfriends; or having witnessed the unhappy demise of their parent's marriage. One of my clients had grown up in the projects where a typical Saturday night started with his mother drinking, having sex with, and then violently fighting with one of the several men who passed through her life. The police were often called, and my client, as a young boy, quickly found classmates to spend the night with, or he just slept in doorways -- anything to avoid being at home. This man became a college professor, having a scholarship to a school across the city after the sixth grade. His mother never knew nor cared about what he was doing. He once asked me if I knew what a "player" was. His mother's behavior was what all the adults he saw in "the projects" (subsidized housing) doing. Even though this man married as an adult, and had been married long enough to see his daughters grow into adults themselves, he never fully trusted his wife or anyone; at least, not until she discovered he was having an affair, and didn't leave him over the transgression. Only then did he believe he was loved unconditionally.

In another case, a gay man had seen his father bleed to death in a ranching accident when he was fifteen years old. He had sworn to himself at that time he'd never let himself go through that kind of loss again. He would never let anyone get that close to him, enough to hurt him that deeply. The loss of a parent during childhood is one of the most traumatic events I see my clients experience; and the most pervasive on their subsequent relationships as adults.

These "Don't Get Close" cases are about twenty percent of all the men I see - gay and straight. In these instances an anonymous partner is viewed as uncomplicated and

emotionally “safe”. One feature of some of these men is a narcissistic personality disorder, although not symptomatically universal for this category. As a feature of their narcissism they feel superior to most people, entitled, and without empathy for others. In these cases their sexual partners are simply objects, or someone to admire them or help them feel powerful.

In 1995, Charlie Sheen announced that he had paid over \$53,000 on 27 occasions to the prostitutes of famed Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss. Sheen said prostitutes were timesavers compared to other women.

ISOLATED

I have encountered a group of men, about half the size of the two previous groups, that are very isolated. They often lack social skills, or experience considerable social anxiety. Some of these men can be diagnosed as an avoidant personality disorder. For them the prostitute is viewed as attainable, whereas a relationship is not. They can express a sense of profound inadequacy, and this may pervade most areas of their life. They may be underemployed, or their jobs may be all that is going on in their lives. They have difficulty identifying passions, hobbies or interests; and often experience a sense of desolation.

Their living arrangements may reflect this as well, often sterile, or sparsely furnished. One of my clients rented a room without more than an air mattress -- although he had enough money to buy a proper bed, chest of drawers and night stand. Another man rented a small studio apartment, and when not working as a crane operator he endlessly walked the streets of the city - talking to no one. He boasted about all the money he had saved, but had nothing or no one to spend it on.

Another man was so ashamed of his particular sexual fetish, and so cowed by his bombastic father that he lived alone in a small apartment. His only interest was Internet pornography. He had no friends, and although an extremely polite and well groomed individual; he was too shy to engage other people. He felt he had nothing to talk to people about, that he was empty and “sub-human” by his own estimation. He tended to overestimate the success and happiness of everyone around him and felt they would have no interest in him.

In the case of many men in this group they are estranged from their families, often by their own initiative. They are truly alone in the world, although their parents and siblings may have tried to stay in touch with them. And in other cases, their relationships shriveled and died from neglect.

Of note, is that this is probably the smallest of all the groups. One might surmise that men who seek prostitutes would belong to a club of lonely hearts. Yet this group is small

-- and even significantly smaller among the gay men arrested for public indecency, as compared with the heterosexual men arrested for soliciting.

LIFE CRISIS

This group probably comprises the largest category of men who seek out anonymous sexual partners. I would estimate they encompass approximately one in three of the men I see in the Diversion Program. In the two years prior to their arrest they often have experienced losses of people close to them either through death, divorce, or estrangement. They may also have experienced reverses in their health: accidents or illness. Or they may have found themselves unemployed, facing bankruptcy, or foreclosure of their house. Their futures are often uncertain, and they are plagued with a crisis in their self-esteem or identity as a result of these losses and reversals. Seeking prostitutes is more incidental and sporadic with this group than with others.

For these men an anonymous sexual partner is an escape into fantasy, a respite from a life which seems to be tumbling down around them. One man, for instance, was arrested just days after his wife won a custody battle and moved his children out of state. Another man had been in a very bad motorcycle accident, was unemployed for a year as a result, and his wife had left him. A gay man with a long and happy relationship was facing the terminal stage of his partner's AIDS illness. And another man was facing his desire to leave the priesthood, feeling his youthful decision to join was for the wrong reasons. And yet another faced the advancing loss of his arms, already a paraplegic.

So many examples come to mind, but the common theme is a life out of balance. The commonality these men shared was a life in crisis, often accompanied by a sense of great loss both of attachments, and also of self identity and esteem.

SEX ADDICTION

Contrary to the common perception, this group is only about one in six men who are arrested for soliciting or public indecency. To qualify as a "sex addict" these men have to be obsessive and compulsive with their sexual activity, to the point that their sexual acting out persists despite significant negative consequences.

The primary motivation is ironically not sex, but rather the intensity and excitement of danger. This is a "process addiction" in which the "high" is internally produced through adrenaline and endorphins rather than drugs and alcohol. I might add, however, that many of these men experience multiple addictions. They may do many things to excess, and "all things in moderation" is something they can't relate to -- at

work or play. It is often only when they are in recovery as alcoholics or addicts that they face their sexual compulsiveness as an addiction.

Their sexual activities are often multifaceted: pornography, massage parlors, crack addicted street hustlers, circuit girls with pimps, or Internet call girls or dating sites. For gay men it's the five "B's": bath houses, beaches, bushes, bars and XXX bookstores. With the advent of the World Wide Web the trend has been towards "hookups" via sites like Man-to-Man, and Craig's List. Often these sites just feature the photographs of the genitals of men looking for sex. There are even a few smart phone apps that, through the phone's GPS, will tell you who else in your vicinity is interested in a hookup.

Most live in a cycle of shame and secrecy. One described his addiction as the rotten core, disguised by a shiny apple. The intensity and frequency of their activities take up many hours of their week, primarily in the pursuit rather than the reality of sex. Cruising the streets produces the high they are seeking. In one case I inquired why this prominent attorney looked for street hustlers, who most likely were addicts and were often in a terrible physical condition -- when he could afford expensive call girls. He said he was hooked on the danger of it all. He was a self-described adrenaline junky who drove around with a loaded pistol under his seat. In a similar manner, a gay man described showing up at the apartment of a "trick", stripping naked in the hallway, and putting on a blindfold, before he knocked on the door. Another man ashamedly admitted having his infant daughter asleep in her car seat while he received a blow job from a street walker.

As the activities of these men become habituated they often need to up the ante to achieve the same high. They may seek out a dominatrix, or an S&M dungeon. One man compulsively and constantly masturbated, including in the men's room at work - between meetings. In some of the arrests for soliciting these men were masturbating themselves when they pulled their car up to the undercover police officer. In the case of one gay man, he would be masturbating as he passed eighteen wheel truck drivers on the highway.

Because these men live with such a pervasive sense of shame they invalidate any positive quality, any sense of accomplishment in their lives with the underlying belief, "If you really knew me, you wouldn't like/love me." In a stroke of irony many of these men seek validation from those with whom they have anonymous sex. It's a fantasy of being fully known, and of still being wanted and "hot". This is expertly described in the book *Velvet Rage* by Alan Downs, about the experience of growing up gay in a culture that derogatorily labels them as "faggots". (8)

I have found a strong correlation in the backgrounds of these men -- both straight and gay: they often come from homes where they experience abuse, and even more so,

emotional neglect. I recall in my sex addiction group a man who was infuriated by his mother's attempt to call him on Thanksgiving -- using a phone number he hadn't had in many years. The man next to him said, "That's nothing. My father called me and wanted to go out for coffee. But I had moved out of state two years before that!" We went around the room and every group member had a similar story: their parents had emotionally checked out of their lives.

These men retreated into what one client called "Sex Land" which featured internally produced highs, and fantasy validations for their rotten shame-filled cores.

CLOSET CASES

Here we have a group which used to consistently comprise a large portion of my private practice. In this case we are talking only of gay men. Their numbers have continued to drop over the years as our culture has moved to greater acceptance. When I first did my master's thesis in 1969-72 on the then controversial premise that homosexuality was a "variance" rather than a "deviance", we never imagined that we would now be contemplating fully integrating the military and gay marriage. In those days even the chairman of the Gay Liberation Front used a pseudonym to protect his profession as a high school teacher.

Typically, the bastions of closet cases these days reside with men who felt they had to get married, have children and lead heterosexual lives. However, as one of my clients observed: "You can *act* straight, but you can't *be* straight." As a result, many of these men find furtive liaisons that lead them to be arrested for public indecency. They often come from the cultural tidal pools of conservative religion and small towns. They may be men of the church or political careers, hypocritically known for their homophobic views. Our local example is the Evangelical minister, Ted Haggard outed by his gay masseur, Mike Jones, the latter indignant by Haggard's anti-gay political stands who subsequently wrote the book, *I Had to Tell Someone* (9).

For these men anonymous sex is the only homosexual outlet they perceive as open to them. On their side of the closet they perceive coming out would spell disaster in their lives.

NAIVE

Finally, there is one last group who seek out anonymous sex by soliciting prostitutes. These men actually aren't looking for sex at all. They often don't have enough money on them to pay for the services they are soliciting. Their intention is to flirt, enjoy the banter and attention, and then drive off. Their view of the women on the street is one of curiosity, or conquest. They want something for nothing. They are like Bambi in the jungle with no real idea of what they are getting into. They are inviting entrance into the criminal world of crack or meth addiction, and desperation.

I recall one man who said he was writing a novel. He was initially viewed with understandable skepticism -- until he pulled out his several hundred page manuscript. He had solicited an undercover cop for more material, with the full knowledge of his wife. He got more than he'd bargained for with a night in jail, several thousand dollars of attorney's fees, community service, and the Diversion program.

I have had three men in this category who fully intended to attempt sex with a prostitute. All three had undergone prostate surgery and were subsequently impotent. Apparently, because of the lack of education by their doctor, they wanted to see if having sex with a younger woman would reawaken their virility.

All of the men seeking anonymous sex ultimately fall into this category in their lack of consciousness of the potential consequences - or in the case of some, using this potential to fuel their brain chemistry high. One prominent physician was being blackmailed by a prostitute. Another had lost his career as a business consultant, due to a closed head injury, when he was thrown to the curb trying to stop a prostitute from driving off with his car. Many were the victims of a "grab and go" where the hooker got the money and their customer was left without the merchandise. As has often been said, "If you do this for very long, you have stories." These are stories of robbery, beatings by pimps or gangs, sexually transmitted infections, arrests, being publicly exposed, losing jobs, wives, or being labeled sex offenders. One man told me of being in an alley getting a blow job when a pimp tapped on his car window with a pistol. He was left without his wallet, or his pants while the pimp and the girl drove off with his car. And then there was the gay off duty deputy sheriff who only escaped his trick's grasp because his body was so slippery with his own blood, after having been stabbed by a knife from his own kitchen. Or the gay man who once showed his men's group a mug shot to illustrate the "rough trade" he was attracted to; who was whacked in the jaw by a hatchet as he was leaving one sexual encounter.

In addition, these men do not have a full understanding or appreciation of how women in the sex trade come to the streets. Many don't care, but the fact that many of these women are teenage "throwaways" should make them care if only for their own self-interest to avoid being arrested for the felony of sex with a minor.

DENVER'S DIVERSION HISTORY

We didn't call it a John's School, but we did have a diversion program in which the Denver City Attorney's Office sent me over five hundred men from November 1998 to November 2011. I was referred men arrested for soliciting prostitutes in massage parlors, on Craig's List, or on the streets of Denver; as well as men arrested for having sex with each other in public parks or pornographic bookstores. My job has been to interview these men individually and help them figure out what were the underlying motivations to explain why they sought out the kind of sex that violated city ordinances, and lead them to be arrested.

The Denver Diversion program was offered to first time offenders as an alternative to a fine, and upon program completion, shows up on their record as a dismissed case. In addition to assessment sessions with a psychotherapist, participants had to complete a "Life Strategies" class, and twenty hours of community service. If they were arrested in a vice squad sting, whether they elect Diversion or a fine; they most likely had their car impounded (a nuisance abatement program), and spent the night in jail. Diversion participants also underwent screening at the Health Department for sexually transmitted infections, and at the conclusion of their Diversion requirements they were required to write a "Reflection Report" about their experience. All aspects of the Diversion program were paid for out of pocket by the participants, with the exception of the Diversion coordinator's salary.

My part of the Denver program was specifically offering the component of individual assessment and counseling. Typically, this was a two to four session activity, of which the actual content was confidential. What I relayed to the Court was a checklist which affirmed that the participant had completed the requirements of the program. At the conclusion of the sessions I would review with the individual what we have surmised was the underlying reasons he found himself in this mess in the first place; and make some recommendations as to further treatment. This could involve attending meetings of Sex Addicts Anonymous, AA, marital counseling, or further individual psychotherapy. I have a therapy group for sexually compulsive behavior, but most of its members did not come to the group by way of an arrest. More typically it was under the threat of the end of a relationship by their wives or partners.

By virtue of the nature of this program, it self-selected for the motivated; those men concerned with their reputation and criminal record. Most would seek to have that record expunged after the required length of time. For this reason there are some things which I have never had confessed to me: violence against the prostitutes, or sex with underage participants (which by law I would have been required to report).

Other studies of prostitutes have characterized their profession as more dangerous than military deployment, with regular beatings a part of the job. Also, prostitutes are a vulnerable and common target for predators, pedophiles, rapists, and serial killers. These men are not the individuals I am likely to encounter through the Diversion

program. And although Farley (8) characterizes the majority of John's in this way, even her own research does not support this conclusion.

Unfortunately, in November, 2011 the Diversion program was discontinued for budgetary reasons, and the Diversion Coordinator was laid off. To date, there is no longer a John's School in Denver. Ironically, I have subsequently had numerous requests to describe my program to various agencies, and researchers; and to speak at conferences on anti-trafficking and prostitution.

THE CURRENT TREND IN JOHN'S SCHOOLS

In an excellent and extensive report completed by Michael Shively, et. al. (10) they found that John's Schools in 58 U.S. cities, with an average of four new programs being developed each year. Many of these were modeled after the program in San Francisco which has had a 50% reduction in recidivism rates, and hasn't cost the city anything (all costs were borne by the participants).

Shively's report found that the content of such classes focused on overcoming the faulty beliefs of the Johns:

1. The belief that the risk of arrest and legal sanction are low.
2. Denial or ignorance of the risk of contracting STDs or HIV.
3. Ignorance of the risk of being robbed or assaulted by prostitutes or pimps.
4. Denial or ignorance of the negative impact prostitution has on the neighborhoods in which they occur.
5. Ignorance of the links between prostitution and larger, organized systems of sex trafficking.
6. Denial or ignorance of what motivates them to solicit prostituted women.
7. Denial or ignorance of the negative impact of prostitution on "providers".
8. Denial or ignorance of the fact that money is the only reason prostituted persons have sex with them.
9. The mistaken believe that the women they hire care about them, and that they are in some kind of relationship with them.
10. Denial or ignorance of the anger, revulsion, or indifference that many prostituted have while they are having sex with johns.
11. Ignorance about how to have the healthy relationships that could replace their reliance upon commercial sex.

The educational portion of the previous Diversion Program differed from the typical John's Schools in that ours was inclusive of people arrested for other violations of City

ordinances, such as underage drinking. It did not specifically focus on the misconceptions of Johns listed above. The gist of the Denver program was to increase the participant's awareness of their propensity to act out in some way when their life was out of balance with too many stressors, or the opposite: when they were "rusting in place".

Most John's Schools have a "scared straight" approach to educating the customers of prostitutes, and dissuading them from reoffending. The more typical agenda of a John's school specifically includes an encounter with a "recovering" sex worker, a representative from the affected neighborhood, discussion of human trafficking, sexually transmitted infections, sexual addiction, discussions of the dangers interacting with pimps, addicted and desperate individuals, and the other negative consequences.

In many instances a portion of the money collected for the School is diverted back to helping women who are trying to escape from a life as a prostitute. The general trend has been to emphasize the criminality of soliciting, with more enforcement and consequences for the John's; while at the same time providing more rehabilitative programs for the women. This has been viewed as the way to reduce prostitution - by putting the emphasis on reducing demand. This approach has worked well in Sweden, in contrast to countries which have legalized prostitution and found it proliferate -- including aspects which remained illegal, i.e. sex with children.

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE JOHN'S SCHOOLS

I would recommend three options, all of which have counseling as a component:

Option 1. STANDARD JOHN'S SCHOOL

This would involve partnering with Empowerment, an agency for empowering women, which specifically conducts a program to help women with alternatives to being a commercial sex worker. This program is called Chysalis, and I have discussed a collaboration with Carol Lease, Empowerment's director. They could do much of the educational component, i.e. first-hand confrontations for the John's with the women they have solicited; dispelling the myths of the prostitute's point of view and the impact on her life. Further, the fees could help support the rehabilitation of these women.

The educational component would cover:

Sexually transmitted infections: HIV, syphilis, etc.

Legal risks: arrest, sex offender registry etc.

Illegal risks: robbery, assault

Sex Addictions

Risks & Effects on the lives of sex workers

Human Trafficking

Impact on the Colfax Corridor

The therapeutic component would be:

2-4 individual sessions with assessment, screening & counseling

Referrals for follow-up

The anticipated cost of the program would be \$300-\$600 for the educational day, and \$210-420 for the private therapy sessions.

ADVANTAGES:

1. There would be no cost to the City, as tuition would come from the Johns.
2. The program would support rehabilitative efforts for the women.
3. This is similar to the San Francisco model which has a demonstrated reduction in the recidivism rate by half.

DISADVANTAGES:

The disadvantage of this program is that to do the educational portion a minimum of eight participants would be required who could all take the class at the same time. That would either require offenders to put off their disposition as they waited for a class to be convened, or it would require the results of a sting (or more than one) to recruit a sufficient number of John's facing their first arrest who wanted this option versus a fine. Stings are expensive due to the manpower involved, and the Vice Squad would have to view this as a priority over other activities.

Option 2: JANE'S SCHOOL

It is my understanding that the new law was not put into effect due to the lack of differentiation between John's and prostitutes with a soliciting charge. Since a John's school would not be appropriate for the women, the use of the law was dropped.

I would propose that an alternative "Jane's School" be adopted, with a focus of helping these women leave "the life". This could be done by the Chrysalis Project, which is already set up to provide this service.

The advantages and disadvantages would be the same as Option 1.

Option 3: JOHN'S SCHOOL LITE

In this option all sessions would be conducted by the psychotherapist. To cover the educational component the therapist would use a DVD produced by Chicago's John's School, produced by the Cook County Sheriff's Office. In addition, I have an interview profiling an x-sex worker talking about her customers. An additional session could be devoted to discussing the issues these audio-visual aids bring up.

Homework could also include community service and STD testing.

A total of 3-5 sessions would be required, costing \$315-525 (*standard fee for private practice clients*).

ADVANTAGES;

1. Coordination of preparations and schedules would only involve one professional (the psychotherapist), and much greater flexibility.
2. There would be no minimum number of participants required, and it could serve the needs of many from a sting, or one arrest from patrol cops.
3. There would be a speedy completion of the requirements.
4. There would be no cost to the City.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. Possibly less impact than direct confrontation by women, recovering sex addicts, neighborhood representatives etc.
2. This option does not support Chyalis, and the women in rehab.

REDUCING DEMAND FOR COMMERCIAL SEX

1. At a cultural level we need to somehow reduce the avalanche of pornography on the Internet. There are over 400 million pages of porn on the Internet. I believe it is shaping the attitudes and expectations of those that watch. As the authors of the book, *Porn Trap* assert: "Porn's focus on power teaches a self-centered approach that causes all kinds of problems in real life." (11) Porn is akin to a gateway drug which not only leads to an emotional and sexual estrangement from a partner, but down a path which leads to buying sexual services.

2. We need to put our emphasis on the buyers of sex rather than sex workers. I don't believe the answer is legalization, based upon the experience of countries that have tried that approach. They have faced a proliferation of both legal and illegal prostitution, i.e. an increase in underage girls and human trafficking. The approach that seems most effective is a focus on the Johns, with alternative rehabilitative programs for the women.

3. Johns need to feel the chance of them getting arrested is high through frequent stings, both on the streets and through Internet sites; and publicity that this is occurring.

4. A night in jail has proven to be a great deterrent for my clients, who don't have a previous criminal record. After that experience the risks are perceived as unacceptably high.

5. Melissa Farelly and Julie Bender seem to feel the consequences are too low for Johns. In one study Farelly asked Johns what would deter them. At the top of the list was being labeled a sex offender (7). The flaw here is that if they had asked if a firing squad would deter them even more I am sure the respondents would have put that at the top of the list. What literally would deter Johns and what is actually appropriate are not the same.

There needs to be a recognition that the underlying psychodynamics vary greatly among Johns. Certainly, pedophiles, rapists, and predators should be labeled sex offenders. However, many of the Johns described in this article would inappropriately be treated as a sex offender.

There also needs to be a recognition of the indirect negative effects of an arrest: marital strife, divorce, loss of professional license and/or loss of a career, public humiliation; and as a result the loss of considerable income. Case in point is the local Federal Judge who lost his place on the bench, his pension, and his wife.

6. I'm opposed to the shaming strategies such as publishing the offenders on billboards, newspapers, or John's TV; as it also shames the entire family. It also increases the probability of marital disillusionment, and the breakup of families. If the underlying problem is an attachment disorder, this punishment leaves them less

attached with more reason to reoffend. It is an irony that among sex addicts, shame can actually lead to an increase in their acting out.

On the other hand, billboards, particularly on the Colfax Corridor and along Federal Boulevard, warning potential Johns of arrests might serve as a deterrent.

7. For first offenders, I believe a John's School with a psychotherapeutic component is the best way to address the problem. The alternative is a nominal fine, the current amount being only \$500 for a first offense. It is too easy for a John to not have to reveal his behavior to his spouse, to continue to have the denial and cognitive distortions described by Shively (10), and not address the underlying reasons for his sexual acting out.

8. The one ingredient I believe is essential in any of the John's school options is individual assessment and counseling by a psychotherapist with a knowledge of the sex trade, and a specialization with various forms of sexual acting out. As it relates to gay men and public indecency charges, I believe a psychotherapist needs a specialized knowledge about the gay subculture, the norms which vary and are similar to heterosexuals, and an awareness of his own potentially homophobic views. There are established standards of practice for work with homosexuals. (12)

With only an educational component there is the potential, especially in large classes, for participants to be too passive, or exchange snide comments to their neighbors, reinforcing their skepticism and cognitive distortions.

They can't hide with one-to-one psychotherapy. They have to talk about themselves, and superficialities like, "I just needed a blow job, and my wife doesn't do that." is insufficient. If they are deceptive, avoidant, or too resistant they have to keep going for sessions. More common is men feeling relieved they have someone they can discuss their secret life with, and their anguish and ambivalence about what they're doing.

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