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**DANCERS**

Continued from Page 20D

be complete without the *Oregon T & A Times*, and there is a rack full of the magazine right next to the door. I looked around for the man I was supposed to interview.

Rick Geoffroy and his wife Kim, both 34, opened Lollipops a little more than a year ago. The target was the 18- to 21-year-old crowd, kids too young to get into Jiggles, but too old to spend their Friday nights in a convenience store parking lot. The kids could come to Lollipops and party, and maybe even stay out of trouble on the streets.

Of course, many parents and other concerned groups did not see the juice bar in such a benign light. When it first opened, there were pickets for two straight weeks and threatening phone calls all day. Certain church groups damned Geoffroy's soul to hell. The local government wasn't crazy about Geoffroy's business either and wanted to send it to hell along with his soul, but everything about Lollipops is completely legal, and the city had no case.

Lollipops actually attracts more than just a younger crowd. During the summer, there are a lot of middle-age people (the trenchcoat set). On the weekends during the school year, it is about 80 percent young people (late teens, early 20s) and 20 percent middle-age. During the week, the split is about 50-50.

"Who's exploiting who?" asked June, 22, sitting in the dressing room.

Girls rushed in and out, some checking their appearance before their turn on stage, and others packing up to go home. June was discussing the commonly held perception that nude dancing objectifies women. June believes the roles are actually reversed, with the dancers exploiting the customers.

The customers pay to get in, then pay even more for "harmless visual stimuli," knowing they can never touch what they see before them. Dancers know which man in the audience has money and will lavish attention on him. It's like an auction — except that the highest bidder gets a pair of breasts in his face instead of a Van Gogh.

During the first dance, the tops come off. During the second dance, if the money's good, the panties come off. If the tipping is weak, the panties stay on, and the crowd starts whining.

The dancers come from diverse backgrounds and are by no means a monolithic group of aspiring porno stars.

Ruby, 20, loves dancing and has always fantasized doing it, but she plans to go into real estate. June is writing films, and Lexi, 20, goes to college. Some love dancing, some just love money.

None of the dancers I spoke with were ashamed of what they do — it is society's attitude toward what they do that is problematic. Lexi believes

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people are constantly judging her, and many dancers have lost their share of friends because of their occupation.

On the contrary, Ruby said most of her friends and her parents support her and "think it's great." Lexi's parents have no idea, and June's parents are "not happy."

The dancers generally get along, although there are occasional jealous scuffles over tips or "style infringements" (one girl using the mannerisms and dance moves of another). But all of the girls believed Lollipops was extremely well run, very clean, highly professional and is a caring atmosphere to work in.

All dancers at Lollipops are independent contractors, meaning they receive no salary, only tips. They are basically their own boss, although there are still employee rules and regulations they must follow.

This type of freelancing allows them to perform at other clubs, usually Jiggles or the Alaska Bush Company, on a rotating schedule. (There are roughly 130 dancers between the three of them.)

Lollipops is a favorite for the many of dancers under the age of 21 because it does not serve alcohol, meaning that the girls are allowed out on the floor to do table dances (\$5 topless, \$10 bottomless). In places that serve alcohol, minor dancers are only allowed to dance on stage.

Dancers make very good money, and although using specific figures seemed to touch a raw nerve with them, I'll say that the figures made me wish I was a woman. The dancers tip out the DJ, the bartender and the doorman — 5 percent each — and get to keep the rest.

I left the dressing room and found my friend with his eyes gleaming. Rick Geoffroy came up and gave us two free Lollipops posters, which look like the paper placemats you get at Long John Silver, except there was a picture of bikini-clad girls on a speed boat instead of a fish. These are available for \$3.

As we were leaving, I asked Geoffroy, "Why the name Lollipops?"

"Because it sounds like young, festive and fun," he said.

And depending on your disposition, it may be all of these things, or none of them.

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