

Chicago News Articles

Covering CSEC

Prepared by: Lisa Ther, MSW

Contents

Operation Cross Country.....3

**Other Cases of Chicago CSEC
.....7**

Internet involvement in sex trafficking.....18

Rockford and Springfield.....27

International Sex Trafficking.....36

Chicago Responses to CSEC.....41

Other Relevant Articles50

- Acorn scandal
- Study on men who buy sex
- Other articles on prostitution including spa/massage parlor based
- Prostitution stings

Operation Cross Country

Forty-Four Arrested In Child Prostitution Sting In Chicago

Today the national sting operation spearheaded by the FBI called Operation Cross Country has busted a child prostitution ring in Chicago, Illinois. Forty-four adults have been arrested as a result of the sting.

Several years ago, the Innocence Lost National Initiative came into effect. This would be an initiative to crack down on child prostitution and pedophilia. It would be spearheaded by the FBI Crimes Against Children Unit in conjunction with other national, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Its main goal is to go after those that victimize children and bring them to justice. A major part of the Innocence Lost National Initiative would be a national sting operation called “[Operation Cross Country](#).” It would set up stings to break up the sex trafficking of children. So far, this operation has bared much fruit.

In 2008, “[Operation Cross Country II](#)” was launched. Over five-hundred and fifty adults were arrested in that sting operation.

Today, it has bared much fruit in Chicago, Illinois. So far, [forty-four adults](#) from the Chicago area have been caught and arrested as part of Operation Cross Country. Most of them will be charged with prostitution. Others will be charged as “pimps” and patrons.

Perhaps this is one of the biggest child sex slavery stings in the state of Illinois. Overall, this can be counted as proof that such an initiative is working. Perhaps there could be more stings in Chicago in the near future.

www.digitaljournal.com/article/267873

44 arrested in FBI prostitution investigation

- February 23, 2009 1:41 PM | [28 Comments](#)



Forty-four people were arrested on prostitution charges in the [Chicago](#) area over the weekend as part of a nationwide FBI investigation into child prostitution.

The arrests, in Cook, DuPage, Lake and Will Counties, were part of an initiative titled "Operation Cross Country" that resulted in 571 arrests in 29 cities, the FBI said in a release. The investigation resulted in the recovery of 48 minors who were engaged in prostitution.

Of those arrested in the [Chicago](#) area, 5 were charged with running prostitution operations, 34 were charged with prostitution, and 5 were customers, according to the release. No minors were found.

More than 100 local police officers were involved, including the county police and officers from these communities: [Alsip](#), [Arlington Heights](#), Bensenville, Clarendon Hills, [Des Plaines](#), Downers Grove, [Elk Grove Village](#), [Evanston](#), [Glenview](#), [Glenwood](#), [Grayslake](#), [Gurnee](#), [Highland Park](#), Lombard, Melrose Park, Mt. Prospect, [Mundelein](#), Naperville, Oak [Brook](#), Oak Lawn, [Prospect Heights](#), Richton Park, [Rosemont](#), Sauk Village, [Skokie](#), Westmont and Willowbrook.

52 Kids Rescued in U.S. Prostitution Sweep

FBI, Police Arrest 60 Pimps in 36 Cities; Youngest Victim Just 10 Years Old

(CBS/AP) FBI officials say they have rescued 52 children in a series of raids around the country aimed at under-age prostitution.

Authorities say the youngest victim was just 10 years old. The bureau and local police officials also arrested 60 pimps during the three-day enforcement effort in 36 cities.

The raids are the latest in a long-running Operation Cross Country aimed at child prostitution rings around the country. Almost 1,600 agents and officers took part in the raids, which led to federal and state charges against a total of 691 suspects. The investigations typically target places

where minors are likely to be sold for sex, including truck stops, casinos, public streets, and Internet Web sites.

The Toledo, Ohio busts include a mother who allegedly prostituted her 10-year-old daughter to migrant workers, **CBS News** has learned.

Nearly 90 people were taken into custody and charged in South Florida, reports **CBS station WFOR**. Miami-Dade police say during the operation a 14-year-old girl was rescued from a life of prostitution.

"Child prostitution continues to be a significant problem in our country, as evidenced by the number of children rescued through the continued efforts of our crimes against children task forces," said Kevin Perkins, Assistant Director of the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division.

Juveniles Recovered by FBI Field Office:

Atlanta - 2

Chicago - 4

Cleveland (Toledo) - 7

Dallas - 2

Houston - 3

Las Vegas - 4

Los Angeles (Riverside) - 2

Miami - 1

New York City - 5

Portland - 4

Sacramento - 4

San Diego - 3

Seattle - 9

Tampa - 2

© MMIX, CBS Interactive Inc. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

52 children recovered, 60 alleged child pimps arrested in crackdown

October 26, 2009 2:43 p.m. EDT

- 3-day Operation Cross Country IV conducted on federal, state, local levels
- FBI says more than 690 people in all were arrested on state, local charges
- "Child prostitution continues to be a significant problem in our country," FBI says
- Operation is part of initiative aimed at ending domestic sex trafficking of children in U.S.

(CNN) -- Law enforcement authorities have recovered 52 children and arrested 60 pimps allegedly involved in child prostitution, the FBI announced Monday.

More than 690 people in all were arrested on state and local charges, the FBI stated.

The arrests were made over the past three days as part of a nationwide law enforcement initiative conducted on the federal, state and local levels, the bureau said.

"Child prostitution continues to be a significant problem in our country, as evidenced by the number of children rescued through the continued efforts of our crimes against children task forces," Kevin Perkins, assistant director of the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, said in a written statement.

"There is no work more important than protecting America's children and freeing them from the cycle of victimization."

The three-day operation, tagged Operation Cross Country IV, included enforcement actions in 36 cities across 30 FBI divisions nationwide. It is part of the FBI's ongoing [Innocence Lost National Initiative](#), which was created in 2003 with the goal of ending sex trafficking of children in the United States.

The initiative, conducted with assistance from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, has so far resulted in the recovery of almost 900 children, according to the FBI. It has also led to more than 500 convictions.

Other Cases of Chicago CSEC

Man gets 15 years for using drugs to recruit prostitutes

Tribune staff report
January 26, 2008

COOK COUNTY - A Palatine man was sentenced Friday to 15 years in prison and fined \$100,000 for using cocaine to recruit young women to work for him as prostitutes.

Michael Spencer, 35, of the 500 block of South Oak Street, was convicted last month on felony drug charges stemming from an escort service he was accused of running. Prosecutors alleged Spencer used cocaine to recruit and pay the women, some of whom were high school students.

"He is a dealer in women," said Shari Chandra, an assistant state's attorney. "He sells them." She said Spencer became a millionaire from the escort service, which employed as many as 15 women and advertised on a Web site. "It is amazing to me how you abused these girls," said Judge John Scotillo.

2 men accused of prostituting teen remain jailed

November 09, 2008

COOK COUNTY — Two men accused of forcing a teenage runaway into prostitution and advertising her on craigslist.com remained jailed Saturday.

Rashawn Thurman, 26, of Harvey and Jovante Harvey, 23, of Richton Park are each being held on \$100,000 bail.

They each are charged with two felonies: involuntary servitude of a minor and prostitution-pandering. Thurman also faces a misdemeanor prostitution charge.

Authorities said Thurman and Harvey recruited the 16-year-old about two weeks ago and held her against her will. The online ad included a nude photograph of the teen.

Sheriff's deputies responded to the ad and arranged a meeting at a motel in East Hazel Crest, where the men were arrested in another room, officials said.

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

[Post a Comment](#)

[Next >>](#)

2 will plead to lesser charges in prostitution case involving teen

After facing charges of human trafficking, two northeast Iowa women could avoid jail time after pleading guilty last week to lesser charges of aiding and abetting prostitution.

The state will dismiss human-trafficking charges against Breanne M. Morgan, 19, of Dubuque, and Shelby R. Johnson, 18, of Postville, Iowa. Morgan and Johnson have not yet been sentenced, but the state will recommend a two-year suspended sentence and informal probation. The women originally faced up to 10 years in prison.

The pair are accused of taking a 13-year-old female runaway to Chicago for prostitution over Thanksgiving weekend in 2008. A confidential informant told police of overhearing the women talking about the teen having sex with multiple men while drugged, according to court documents.

Authorities were tipped off to the incident after the teen returned to Dubuque, where she was a victim of an assault, records state.

Man charged with pimping his wife

[Comments](#)

March 18, 2010

BY [RUMMANA HUSSAIN](#) AND [KIM JANSSEN](#) Staff Reporters

Clinton Danner's wife told her dad last year that the "nice guy" she had married had been pimping her for sex.

After hearing that, the father immediately brought her to the family's home in suburban Minneapolis.

» [Click to enlarge image](#)

NAME: Clinton Danner

DATE: March 16, 2010

CHARGE: Felony pandering

Danner, 32, of Rockford, Minn., is accused of [forcing his wife to have sex](#) with strangers at locations across the country, including a downtown Chicago Hotel.

But the young woman, who first became enamored with Danner at church when she was 17, returned to him in a few months. And soon, Danner, 32, was pimping her to strangers across state lines through the Craigslist Web site, authorities said.

Danner, of Rockford, Minn., was arrested Sunday at a downtown Chicago Holiday Inn, where he drove to confront his wife over the lack of money she had been making, Cook County Sheriff's Police said. He was charged with felony pandering. He allegedly flew his wife here for the weekend, but she secretly called the Polaris Project's national sex-trafficking hotline, police said.

He had been pimping his wife out since she became pregnant four years ago, Assistant Cook County State's Attorney Erin Antonietti said Wednesday. Danner allegedly would threaten to take away her child if she didn't sell her body.

Initially, Danner had prostituted his wife in Minnesota but over the last six months, he "branched out," sending her to New York, Georgia, Washington D.C. and Illinois, Antonietti said. Danner often would travel with his wife and their 3-year-old daughter, living out of a van while his spouse exchanged sex for money, Antonietti said. The wife had no credit card or access to a bank account, allowing Danner to control her, Antonietti said.

Judge Donald Panarese ordered Danner held on \$150,000 bail Wednesday, a day before his fourth wedding anniversary.

Danner, who has past burglary, drug and lottery fraud convictions, had a "jail house conversion" and exhibited all the signs that he had "repented" when he met his wife at church when she was 17, the woman's father said.

Danner worked closely with the church's youth pastor and within months, the couple was married, according to the woman's father, who asked not to be identified.

The man last heard from his daughter Sunday when she telephoned to tell him she and her child were fine but Danner was in jail.

"I'm just really disappointed [in Danner]," the father of six said. "We went into shock since last year. I'm not sure we had fully recovered

Bolingbrook men plead not guilty to juvenile pimping charge

Craigslist ad prompted police sting

July 01, 2008

DUPAGE COUNTY — Two Bolingbrook men pleaded not guilty Monday to charges of juvenile pimping.

Downers Grove police investigators set up a sting operation after seeing an ad on Craigslist, a popular Web site, that seemed to be seeking customers for a prostitution front, said Assistant DuPage County State's Atty. Brian Perkins.

Brandon Spain, 20, of the 100 block of Bedford Road, and Ivan Atilano, 22, of the 500 block of Lakewood Farmers Drive, are being held in the County Jail in lieu of \$150,000 bail apiece.

They were arrested June 2 after police discovered they had collected about \$350 from a 16-year-old girl they had taken to a Downers Grove motel to meet with an undercover officer, authorities said.

Perkins said police believe the operation involved more than one girl and several west suburban motels.

If convicted, the men face up to 15 years in prison on the juvenile pimping charge.

Spain also is charged with harboring a runaway, and Atilano also is charged with unlawful use of a weapon.

articles.chicagotribune.com/.../0806300695_1_plead-men-face-juvenile

Bolingbrook man sentenced for juvenile pimping in Downers Grove

November 13, 2008|By THE BLOTTER

DOWNERS GROVE — A Bolingbrook man pleaded guilty Wednesday to juvenile pimping and was sentenced to 6 months in jail.

Brandon Spain, 20, of the 100 block of Bedford Road was arrested after Downers Grove police learned that he had collected about \$350 from a 16-year-old girl he had taken to a motel to meet with an undercover officer posing as a client

Girls' Pimp is Sentenced to 17 Years

Byline: David Heinzmann

Jun. 1--A pimp who recruited two girls from a home for troubled children and forced them to work as prostitutes through an escort service and at truck stops was sentenced to more than 17 years in federal prison Wednesday, authorities said.

David L. Phillips, 38, pleaded guilty to transporting minors across state lines for prostitution in the second case the FBI and federal prosecutors in Chicago have brought to court in their effort to combat pimps who prey on children.

The girls, ages 14 and 16, were forced to have sex with Phillips and another man on the day they met him, according to prosecutors. They were then housed in two **south-suburban trailer parks** and had sex with clients in nearby motels and at truck stops in northwest Indiana, according to prosecutors.

Phillips split his time between the two trailers--in **Lynwood and Sauk Village**--where he kept at least eight prostitutes, and he also had a recent address on the South Side, according to court documents.

U.S. District Judge Joan Lefkow sentenced Phillips to 210 months in prison. He had pleaded guilty in March.

Like Victor Powell, the first pimp of child prostitutes to be prosecuted in Chicago, Phillips had his name tattooed on some of the girls and women who worked for him.

In the plea agreement, Phillips acknowledged having sex with the girls on Oct. 2, 2004, the day he lured them away from a Glenwood group home for troubled children run by Aunt Martha's Youth Services Center.

According to the criminal complaint, a woman who worked at a veterinary clinic next-door to the Aunt Martha's home recruited the girls for Phillips by offering them jobs when she encountered them outside the facility.

The complaint alludes to the woman by name, but neither she nor a man who had sex with the girls on videotape was charged. Assistant U.S. Atty. Bart Huff said the investigation is ongoing.

Phillips videotaped the girls having sex on the day he met them, according to the complaint. FBI Special Agent Mark Wallschlaeger, who investigated the case, said in the complaint that pimps often make videos of victims having sex "to be used as leverage to coerce them into prostitution."

Both girls were sold for sex for a week before they sneaked out of the Lynwood trailer and went to police while the other prostitutes slept.

Phillips' attorney acknowledged that his client might have known the girls were underage but said they told him they were about to turn 18.

"Up until this point, all of the [prostitutes he pimped] were consenting adults," attorney Shannon Lynch said. "If he had known their true ages, I don't think he would have had anything to do with them."

Victims of child prostitution are often girls who have run away from home after suffering psychological or sexual abuse or neglect at the hands of family members, experts say.

Both of Phillips' victims were runaways when they were sent to the group home, Huff said, and "since the arrest, they have continued to have problems."

Both remained in group home settings, he said, but the older girl has run away again, and her whereabouts are unknown.

dheinzmann@tribune.com

Copyright (c) 2006, Chicago Tribune

Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Business

January 25, 2010

By [STEVEN ROSS JOHNSON](#) stjohnson@stmedianetwork.com

LAKE IN THE HILLS -- Three Lake in the Hills residents face felony charges for their alleged involvement in using a 14-year-old girl for prostitution.

Donald Jones, 52, Antwanette R. Atkins, 42, and Kari Knox, 35, all of 3593 Sonoma Circle, were arrested at their home around 10:30 a.m. Thursday after police executed a search warrant. Each has been charged with one felony count apiece of involuntary servitude of a minor and juvenile pimping.

Lake in the Hills Deputy Police Department Chief of Support Services Mary Frake said the charges stemmed from an investigation that began Jan. 8 after police were contacted by the Wichita, Kan., Police Department.

"We don't have any information to suggest that the charges we filed were occurring in Wichita," she said. "Wichita may have different charges, but not similar to the ones filed in Lake in the Hills."

Frake said the three allegedly took part in enticing the teen to engage in commercial sexual activity while staying at the residence.

All three remained in McHenry County Jail as of Friday afternoon. Bail for Jones was set at \$250,000, while Atkins and Knox have a bail of \$200,000 each.

If convicted of the most severe charges, each could face up to 30 years in prison.

Thursday, May 14, 2009

LITH pair accused of pimping teen :: The Courier News :: Local News

LAKE IN THE HILLS — Three Lake in the Hills residents face felony charges for their alleged involvement in using a 14-year-old girl for prostitution.

Donald Jones, 52, Antwanette R. Atkins, 42, and Kari Knox, 35, all of 3593 Sonoma Circle, were arrested at their home around 10:30 a.m. Thursday after police executed a search warrant. Each has been charged with one felony count apiece of involuntary servitude of a minor and juvenile pimping.

via [LITH pair accused of pimping teen :: The Courier News :: Local News](#).

Child porn charges levied against trio accused of pimping 14-year-old

[By Charles Keeshan](#) | [Daily Herald Staff](#)

Three Lake in the Hills residents accused of luring a teenage girl from Kansas and putting her to work as a prostitute are facing new child pornography charges alleging they took photographs of her and posted them online to drum up business.

Antwanette R. Atkins, 42, Donald R. Jones, 52, and Kari D. Knox, 36, each face seven felony counts of child pornography stemming from actions authorities say they took Dec. 31, the same day the 14-year-old girl arrived in Lake in the Hills from Wichita.

Five of the new charges are Class 1 felonies, punishable by four to 15 years in prison, alleging they either manufactured or distributed material of a minor in sexual a situation. The remaining two are Class 3 felonies, punishable by two to five years in prison, alleging possession of child pornography.

McHenry County prosecutors declined to discuss specifics of the new charges Friday, but did allude to the accusations in January during a court hearing at which Jones unsuccessfully sought a bond reduction.

At that hearing, Philip Hiscock, criminal division chief for the McHenry County State's Attorney, said Jones first met the girl through an online social networking site and then drove to Kansas Dec. 30 to get her. After returning the next day to his home in the 3500 block of Sonoma Circle, he took photos of her and posted them on the Internet with an advertisement for escort services, Hiscock said.

That same night, prosecutors allege, Atkins took the girl to have sex with two men who paid the teen money she later gave to Jones.

Atkins, Jones and Knox first were charged in January with juvenile pimping and involuntary servitude of a minor, charges that could land each of them in prison for a maximum 30 years. All three have pleaded not guilty and asked for jury trials.

Jones also faces aggravated trafficking and kidnapping in Kansas, where he is now in custody awaiting trial on those accusations. Atkins and Knox are in custody at the McHenry County jail, unable to post \$25,000 cash bond.

Dentist-landlord for pimps gets prison

Prostitution ring was run from his apartments in Marina Towers

November 21, 2008|By David Heinzmann, TRIBUNE REPORTER

Chicago dentist Gary Kimmel told a federal judge Thursday that he didn't know at first that he was doing business with pimps who trafficked in women and underage girls.

And by the time he realized that he was laundering money for criminals, he was up to his neck in a financial mess he couldn't get out of it.

But U.S. District Judge Blanche Manning sentenced Kimmel to 3 years in federal prison, saying there was plenty of evidence that he knew for a long time what was going on.

In addition to renting apartments to pimps, Kimmel also bought them flashy luxury cars, using prostitution money to make the payments. And in one instance, he did dental work on a prostitute after her pimp knocked out her teeth. Kimmel's payment for the work was sexual services from another prostitute for an elderly friend of his, prosecutors alleged.

Defense lawyer Joseph Lopez described Kimmel as a naive "teddy bear" of a man.

But Assistant U.S. Atty. Julie Ruder said that over several years of doing business with the pimps, Kimmel regularly saw evidence of violence against the prostitutes. And many of the prostitutes with whom he had contact were clearly minors, she said.

Kimmel apologized, saying: "I'm terribly sorry for what I've done. I've ruined my life, and I've ruined my children's lives."

He got tangled up with the pimps inadvertently by "trying to help somebody," said Kimmel, 59. "These were my tenants."

The investigation started in Hawaii with federal agents pursuing a child prostitution case. They developed evidence that Kimmel was laundering money for three pimps.

All three pimps rented apartments owned by Kimmel in Marina Towers and engaged in prostitution activities there, authorities alleged. Each of the pimps have been convicted of prostitution charges.

Kimmel also lived in the riverfront complex with his wife and three children.

Trying to lower his sentence, defense lawyers described a resume that included two Purple Hearts from Vietnam and a dental degree from Northwestern University. But Manning said his education only heightened his offense.

"A person who's as highly educated as yourself should have had better common sense."

dheinzmann@tribune.com

Dentist pleads guilty in national prostitution case

May 30, 2008|By FROM NEWS SERVICES

A Chicago dentist who supplied luxury cars and Marina City apartments to a nationwide prostitution ring in exchange for at least \$372,000 in cash, checks and money orders that were sometimes mailed in shoe boxes pleaded guilty Thursday to conspiracy to commit money laundering.

In a signed plea agreement with prosecutors, Gary "Doc" Kimmel, 59, admitted to purchasing and insuring in his own name a Chevrolet Corvette, Lexus ES330 and Mercedes Benz ML350 for the ring in an attempt to conceal that the cars were being used by a criminal enterprise.

He also rented out his Marina City apartments, charging one pimp about \$1,000 a month, according to court records, and accepted cash for dental work done on the pimps and prostitutes but never reported the income.

pimps that Kimmel bought cars for or rented apartments to -- Robert "Diamond" Young, Jody Spear and Mark "Big" White -- have all pleaded guilty or been sentenced for their roles in the ring, which operated in Chicago, Denver and Honolulu.

Kimmel's attorney, Joseph Lopez, said the dentist met Young after he responded to a rental ad for one of Kimmel's Marina City apartments. Lopez said Kimmel at first thought Young ran a travel agency. Trying to boost his credit score, Kimmel agreed to buy the cars for Young, the attorney said.

"This is a highly unusual case -- this is a guy who didn't do this for profit but to enhance his credit score after coming out of bankruptcy," he said.

Kimmel's dental license was indefinitely suspended in 2006 and expired later that year, according to the Illinois Department of Professional Regulations. Kimmel wants to practice dentistry again, Lopez said.

To get his license back, Kimmel would have to retake dental exams and convince the state's dental board that he is of "good, moral character," said a department spokeswoman.

Police: Couple tried to lure girls into prostitution

[Comments](#)

April 27, 2010

By **BILL DWYER** wdwyer@pioneerlocal.com

Oak Park police arrested a New York woman April 22 and charged her with child abduction for allegedly attempting to lure an Oak Park girl into prostitution.

Meanwhile, River Forest police have alerted officials at Trinity High School and Dominican and Concordia universities to be alert to possible abduction attempts of their female students.

Tiatana Carter, 20, was charged with child abduction, a felony, and possession of marijuana. Carter and an unidentified man were stopped by police on the 700 block of Lake Street at 4:28 p.m. April 22, after the girl called 911.

Carter was released after posting \$2,000 cash on a \$20,000 bond. She is scheduled to be arraigned at 9:30 a.m. April 30 at Maybrook Courthouse in Maywood.

Leidy said Carter has no convictions on her record, but was arrested on prostitution charges in New York in March. She also has been arrested recently twice in the Chicago area for soliciting on the roadway.

River Forest police say a Dominican University co-ed reported that at 4:35 p.m. April 23, a young black male in long dread locks or braids, pulled up beside her in a newer gold four-door vehicle and asked if she wanted to be in a fashion show. He then asked her to get in the car with him. Instead, she drove off.

Oak Park Deputy Chief Carl Leidy credits a program at OPRF high school, Females Reaching Education Excellence, or FREE, with establishing relationships between the police and high school girls that tipped investigators to the alleged ongoing abduction attempts.

Detective Schonella Stewart has facilitated the FREE program for three years. Two weeks ago, Stewart said, she received a voice mail from one of the members, saying it "was really important" she speak with her.

Stewart went to the high school and the girl told her about Carter and her alleged soliciting activities. The girl told Stewart that Carter, who she knew only by a nickname, showed up near the high school wearing a long wig and dressed in a mini skirt and long high heels. She approached several girls, asking their names and how old they were.

On April 14, police received a call that Carter was near Lake Street and Scoville Avenue, but she was gone when officers arrived. The entire department was alerted to the alleged solicitation, and extra patrols were added around the high school at dismissal time.

Street Crimes teams also patrolled in areas where the suspect was said to have been. On Thursday afternoon, Carter and a man allegedly approached another girl in a business on the 700 block of Lake Street.

"She engaged her in conversation and asked her how old she was," said Stewart. "She tried to convince her to come with her to her house. She said she could work for her."

However, the girl had heard about Carter's alleged activities from other girls in the FREE group, and declined the solicitation.

She walked away from the couple, but they followed and pressed her to come with them, offering to take the girl to some fashion shows. The girl again refused the offer and took down their vehicle's license plate number. She then called 911 with the number and a description of the two suspects.

Police stopped the car nearby.

Internet Based

10 Arrested in Online Prostitution Ring

Dec 21, 2007 3:14 pm US/Central

[Suzanne Le Mignot](#)

CHICAGO (CBS) —

The Cook County Sheriff's office says 10 people have been arrested with being part of an online prostitution ring operating in Illinois and Indiana. Four men are charged with felonies under a new state law for allegedly trafficking women for prostitution on the Internet site Craigslist.org, as CBS 2's Suzanne Le Mignot reports.

"If you're looking for exploitation at its absolute worst, this is it," said Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart.

Dart is talking about postings on Craigslist. He says ads on the site, were used by Chicago area pimps, to prostitute young girls. "They would then go rent the hotel rooms for them. They would drive them there and provide security for them," Dart said.

Dart adds the women handed over half of their money; they would make \$150-\$600 per client. The four men employed at least 11 young women. "One girl was a runaway, that these four grabbed from Iowa," Dart said. "She was bounced around the city of Chicago from one pimp to another."

Dart says the four alleged ringleaders targeted teenage runaways by providing them with food and shelter in exchange for "their paid sexual favors." Four girls were minors, ranging in age from 15-17-years-old.

"We're talking freshman in high school – one of the girls just got out of eighth grade," Dart said.

A photo of scantily clad 18-year-old Jocelyn Shaughnessy, was posted on the "erotic services" portion of Craigslist. It was the tamest of the postings in the investigation. The men allegedly involved in the prostitution ring are members of the rap group, Quiet Money Boyz.

One of their shows has been posted on their myspace.com page. Four of the men are in custody, while one remains at large. Four men face charges for involuntary servitude for operating the ring. Six women are charged with prostitution.

Sheriff's officials say the juveniles were released without charges.

"These people, using the sophistication of the Internet, using Craigslist, in spite of the fact we have sent them numerous letters over and over again, telling them Craigslist is being utilized by pimps to prostitute people, including juveniles, they continue to do this," Dart said.

Dart says this is the third juvenile prostitution ring found on Craigslist this year. In response to this story, a Craigslist spokesperson told CBS 2 by e-mail, illegal activity isn't welcome and prominent notices are on the site warning against illegal activity

4 Charged as Craigslist Pimps

CHICAGO-AREA PROSTITUTION RING INCLUDED HIGH SCHOOL RUNAWAYS

By [Jonas Oransky](#) | Posted Dec 21, 07 4:00 PM CST |

(NEWSER) – Four Chicago-area men were charged today with running a Craigslist prostitution ring that included girls who were high school freshmen and sophomores. The perps are accused of pimping at least 11 women under the popular site's "erotic services" section, the *Chicago Tribune* reports. "If you're looking for exploitation at its absolute worst, this is it," said a county sheriff.

The accused, who face up to 30 years in prison, took in runaways—giving them food and shelter in return for prostitution. The Cook County sheriff's office—which busted two other virtual brothels during a three-month investigation called Operation Quiet Money—accused Craigslist of being remiss in its civic duties, while recognizing that the site had no obligation to screen ads

17-year-old arrested for running prostitution service on Web

Associated Press

Published April 9, 2007, 12:09 AM CDT

BERKELEY, Ill. -- A 17-year-old girl has been charged with running a prostitution service out of her suburban Chicago home using the popular Web site Craigslist.

Kimberly Petersen's arrest followed a routine search of the site's classified message boards, said Hillside Police Detective Carlo Viscioni.

When detectives found the advertisement, they called the phone number and got directions to Petersen's home, which is located along the Berkeley and Hillside village limits.

The ads, which had been removed Sunday, included a phone number, a picture of a lingerie-clad woman and an offer to "enjoy a beautiful blonde" for \$250 an hour.

Undercover detectives who arrived at Peterson's home were quoted a \$300 rate for a 27-year-old woman to perform a sex act, said Hillside Police Chief Joseph Lukaszek.

Petersen was released on bond late last week after being arrested and charged with a misdemeanor, police said. Two others were charged with prostitution and soliciting a prostitute.

Petersen's mother faced a similar charge last April but the charge was later dropped. Petersen, then 16, was also arrested at the time but was not charged. Her mother is now in prison serving a two-year sentence on an unrelated drunken driving conviction.

A telephone number at Petersen's house was unlisted.

Commenting on the ad, Craigslist spokeswoman Susan MacTavish Best said in an e-mail Sunday that all illegal activity is banned by the terms of use, nor is it welcome on the site.

"We have received high marks from law enforcement for our quick and full cooperation with their inquiries," MacTavish Best wrote, adding users flag postings they deem inappropriate.

Sex Ads Seen Adding Revenue to Craigslist

By [BRAD STONE](#)

Published: April 25, 2010

A version of this article appeared in print on April 26, 2010, on page B1 of the New York edition.

[Craigslist](#), one of the most popular Web sites in the United States, is on track to increase its revenue 22 percent this year, largely from its controversial sex advertisements. That financial success is reviving scrutiny from law-enforcement officials who say the ads are still being used for illegal ends.

The ads, many of which blatantly advertise prostitution, are expected to bring \$36 million this year, according to a new projection of Craigslist's income. That is three times the revenue in last year's projection.

Law-enforcement officials have been fighting a mostly losing battle to get Craigslist to rein in the sex ads. At the same time, officials of organizations that oppose human trafficking say the site remains the biggest online hub for selling women against their will.

Last week, in the latest example, the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) arrested 14 members of the [Gambino crime family](#) on charges of, among other things, selling the sexual services of girls ages 15 to 19 on Craigslist.

The company that provided the revenue projection, the Advanced Interactive Media Group, has been preparing such analyses since 2003. Followers of Craigslist consider AIM's work to be the most comprehensive estimates of the fiercely private company's finances. The estimate was calculated based on the number of sex ads counted on Craigslist over the month of February and the fees for posting such ads — \$10 initially and \$5 for repeat postings.

James Buckmaster, Craigslist's chief executive, said in an e-mail message that the site would not confirm the figures because it is private and does not discuss its finances. Of the sex ads, he wrote, "Of the thousands of U.S. venues that carry adult service ads, including venues operated by some of the largest and best known companies in the U.S., Craigslist has done the best and most responsible job of combating child exploitation and human trafficking."

Mr. Buckmaster was referring to alternative newspapers, phone directories and sex Web sites that carry ads for prostitution, although authorities say that Craigslist is the largest place for such ads.

Craigslist, based in San Francisco, had seemed to put the conflict over its sex ads to rest. Attorneys general in 40 states, including New Jersey, Illinois and Connecticut, investigated the company for facilitating criminal activity, after a wave of publicity about prostitution and violent crimes linked to the site.

Although Craigslist has continually argued that it is legally protected by the Communications Decency Act against liability for what its users post — an analysis that judges and legal experts generally agree with — it promised last May to begin manually monitoring these posts for illegal activity.

But it also decided to stop committing to donate the profits from sex ads to charity, saying it would make no further comment on how that money would be used.

In a private letter sent to Craigslist's lawyer on Thursday, [Richard Blumenthal](#), attorney general of Connecticut, complained about the continued presence of prostitution ads on the site and asked what additional steps Craigslist was taking to keep such solicitations off the site.

He also asked the company to reveal precisely how much money those ads generate, and criticized the company's announcement last May that it would no longer commit to donate those profits to charity.

"I believe Craigslist acted irresponsibly when it unilaterally decided to keep the profits from these posts," Mr. Blumenthal wrote in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times.

In the e-mail message, Mr. Buckmaster said, "Misuse of Craigslist for criminal purposes is utterly unacceptable, and Craigslist will continue to work with its partners in law enforcement and at nongovernmental organizations until it is eliminated."

He declined to say whether the company was continuing to donate revenue from sex ads to charity, but he said the company was continuing to develop its charitable initiatives.

The company has two charitable organizations; one, the nine-year-old Craigslist Foundation, which received \$648,000 in contributions in 2008, according to public documents, does not make any donations. It "connects people and organizations to the resources they need to strengthen communities," according to its Web site.

There is also a newer organization, the Craigslist Charitable Trust, which was capitalized in 2008 with \$2.7 million by Mr. Buckmaster and [Craig Newmark](#), the company's founder, according to public documents. But little else is known about it, and Mr. Buckmaster declined to comment further on the organization or say whether that was the money from the sex ads.

Meanwhile, staff members for Illinois's attorney general, [Lisa Madigan](#), have counted more than 200,000 sex ads since late 2008 posted to Craigslist in Chicago alone — which they estimate have generated \$1.7 million for the company. Officials in Illinois and Connecticut, as well as South Carolina, are leading the effort to get the site to improve its monitoring of sex ads.

Cara Smith, Ms. Madigan's deputy chief of staff, said Craigslist's manual review of the ads had had a minimal impact. "Certainly the manual monitoring has tempered the photos posted along with the ads, but I think there's no question that the site continues to facilitate prostitution," she said.

The AIM Group, which sells research on the advertising market to newspapers and Web sites, conducts its annual Craigslist study by tabulating all the posts to Craigslist in 39 major United States cities over a 30-day period, and then extrapolating to reach a final revenue figure.

This year, the study showed Craigslist on track to bring in \$122 million in 2010, a 22 percent increase over its projected revenue last year. Though the site is largely free, it does charge people to post job listings in 19 major United States cities, and real estate listings in New York City, in addition to sex listings in all 438 markets in the United States. Revenue in those other categories remained largely unchanged since last year, according to AIM.

The increase in revenue from sex ads to \$36.3 million for the year, according to AIM, was largely caused by Craigslist's decision last May to double the rate for these ads in all of its American markets to \$10.

The windfall from sex ads has touched a raw nerve with groups that oppose human trafficking, who are typically heated in their discussion of the company.

"Craigslist has not given any indication that they are outraged and disturbed that their site is the primary way children are bought in the country," said Rachel Lloyd, executive director of Girls Educational and Mentoring Services, which provides assistance to sexually exploited and trafficked women. "All they have done is made cosmetic changes."

Craigslist's reliance on the Communications Decency Act has also angered law-enforcement officials, who complain that the law could not have been drafted with this particular example in mind. But the company has repeatedly won rulings in cases brought against it, including one in 2008 over discriminatory housing ads. A federal appeals court said Craigslist was an online service provider, not a publisher, and so was protected by federal law.

Questions about where that revenue is going are sure to arise from this latest financial analysis of Craigslist. In an accompanying report, the AIM Group estimated Craigslist's expenses at under \$50 million, though it acknowledged that this particular calculation involved "educated guesses." The analysis took into account estimates of salaries, server and bandwidth costs, and the lawyer fees associated with Craigslist's continuing legal battle with a minority shareholder, [eBay](#).

Even if the numbers are slightly off, that leaves a lot of room for big profits. Mr. Buckmaster and Mr. Newmark own a majority of the company's shares and by all accounts do not live flashy lifestyles.

Aurora couple accused of running prostitution ring through Craigslist

February 10, 2008|By Monique Garcia, Tribune reporter

An Aurora couple have been accused of arranging for others to pay for sexual trysts with a 17-year-old Wisconsin runaway through the popular marketplace Web site Craigslist.org.

Jermel D. Pope, 22, and Mary M. Jefferson, 30, both of the 2000 block of Fox Pointe Drive, were charged Saturday with pandering and may face additional charges. The runaway, Trisha L. Jobe of Bagley, Wis., has been charged as an adult with prostitution. All three are scheduled to appear in court Sunday.

Police launched an investigation Thursday after receiving an anonymous tip they said linked Pope to alleged prostitution-related activities. Undercover investigators from the Aurora Police Department's Special Operations Group contacted him and arranged a meeting for the next night that was to involve three girls at an Oswego hotel, a release stated.

When officers arrived, Pope and Jefferson provided only Jobe for the sexual acts. After money was exchanged, all three were arrested without incident. Police said Jefferson booked the room under the instruction of Pope, her boyfriend.

It is unclear how the couple initially made contact with the teen, but police said they allegedly drove to Wisconsin several weeks ago to help her run away. They then arranged for her and other women to act as prostitutes, police alleged.

Saturday's charges are just the latest in a series of alleged prostitution rings Chicago-area police have uncovered on Craigslist.

Sheriff's police bust prostitution ring in northwest suburbs

March 12, 2010 5:17 PM | [13 Comments](#) | [UPDATED STORY](#)

Using a [Schaumburg](#) hotel as a base of operations, Cook County sheriff's police say they busted a prostitution ring in the northwest suburbs that flew in women from across the country.

Eight woman and a man were arrested and a "detailed ledger book of clients" was seized, according to the sheriff's office.

The investigation was launched after residents complained "about illegal activities being carried out via online services," the office said. "Undercover officers responded to some ads posted on Craigslist and Backpage, but later began using their own online ads to arrest those looking for sex."

The office said police worked out of a hotel in [Schaumburg](#) that they are not naming because of its cooperation.

"As the officers checked in, they noticed women checking in at the same time (and) suspected they might have flown into the area for illegal purposes. Just a few hours later, those very women were arrested in the sting operation. They had checked in four doors away from the officers."

Those arrested had posted ads with pictures of themselves or others, advertising "both sexual and non-sexual acts," the office said.

"Some ads included price ranges from \$150 to \$400 an hour for services," the office said.

"Some worked for escort agencies, others for pimps, while others were operating on their own."

One of the women arrested kept records of clients with names, prices charged and contact information, the office said, adding that police were using it "to continue their investigation."

Jessica Dusablon, 21, of California, was charged with violating the massage act and had her ledger book confiscated by police.

Arrested on prostitution charges were: Bryon Blanco, 41, of [Chicago](#), dressed as a woman; Alma Lopez, 23, of [Chicago](#); Joyce Gipson, 19, of Lansing; Wendy Romack, 37, of Wisconsin; Brittany Brewer, 23, of Minnesota; Shawneequa Boyd, 24, of California; Kristian Branch, 28, of [Elgin](#); Shannon Castor, 24, of Las Vegas.

The men who responded to the ads were cited for violation of Cook County's public morals nuisance ordinance.

-- *Staff report*

Rockford and Springfield

McHenry man on trial in pimping of 13-year-old girl

[By Charles Keeshan](#) | Daily Herald Staff
[Contact writer](#)

A 13-year-old girl was nothing more to Josue Gomez than "an easy product to sell," a prosecutor said Tuesday as the McHenry man's trial on a charge of juvenile pimping got underway.

Gomez, 18, is accused of arranging for the girl to meet with men for sex on several occasions in September, then keeping at least \$40 of her earnings for himself.

"This is a case about the defendant getting money the easiest way he could," Assistant McHenry County State's Attorney Ryan Blackney said in Tuesday's opening statements.

Gomez denies the allegations and his attorney told jurors that his accuser, now 14, has not been consistent with her claims.

"Nothing that (the girl) says has been corroborated other than the identity of a residence and a man she had sex with there," defense lawyer Margi Worth said. "The evidence and testimony will demonstrate that she has a bunch of different versions of these events."

The girl - the trial's first witness - testified she had sex with one man she was taken to by Gomez, but managed to avoid it on three other occasions by crying and telling the would-be johns her age.

She testified she went along with Gomez, the older brother of a longtime friend, because she was afraid of him and scared he would tell her mother what was happening.

"I didn't want any drama," she said.

Although Gomez now denies the allegations, Blackney said that when the defendant was questioned by police last year he admitted going with the girl to meet men. He then described himself as acting only as "the muscle" for another man pimping her, Blackney said.

The trial is expected to last until Wednesday or Thursday. If convicted, Gomez would face between four and 15 years in prison.

REX.com – Rockford's News Leader

Man found guilty of juvenile pimping

Posted: Jan 06, 2010 7:49 PM CST



MCHENRY COUNTY (WREX) - A McHenry County man goes to prison for making a 13 year old girl have sex, then taking the money she made.

A jury found Josue Gomez guilty of juvenile pimping.

He would arrange for the girl to engage in sexual activities with adult men, and then take the money given to the girl.

The victim said she avoided having sex three times by crying and telling the men her age. One of those men called the Department of Children and Family Services.

Gomez faces 4 to 15 years in prison.

Rockford

New Slavery

By: Kimbriell KellyThe Korean woman hemmed and hawed about whether to apply.

She knew there was a job opening in Rockford, a city of 150,000 about 80 miles northwest of Chicago, but her tourist visa barred her from getting a job. Still, back in Korea, her family of modest means struggled with health problems.

The least she could do was check it out, her friend suggested. On Feb. 26, she did.

The next day, she was hauled off to jail following a raid on an alleged prostitution ring.

What happened, advocates say, was that the business she had walked into turned out to be a Korean spa that ran a back-door brothel, and she was made an unwilling participant. That made her a victim of "human trafficking," which federal law defines as sexual or labor exploitation "through force, fraud or coercion."

Lured with false promises of jobs and a better living, many also fall prey to traffickers in the Chicago metropolitan area, authorities say. Most are women and girls, and many cases involve immigrants whose passports and other legal documents are taken away from them. And they are all forced to live in servitude until they escape, pay off a debt or are found.

"A lot of the cases that we see with human trafficking involve foreign nationals being brought in ... for prostitution purposes," said Peter Fahey, group supervisor of the human trafficking unit of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Others say that, while cases of sexual exploitation tend to grab the most attention, that isn't necessarily the most common form of trafficking. And, to be "trafficked," victims do not have to be transported anywhere, as it's often misinterpreted.

"Trafficking is actually a misnomer because it has nothing to do with movement. It is slavery. It is the combination of work and the lack of will, the lack of freedom to be able to leave," said Elissa Steglich, managing attorney for the Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center, a division of Heartland Alliance, the only Illinois agency that receives federal grants to combat human trafficking.

And trafficking is known to take on many forms of coercion---from chains, death threats and physical enclosures to locked doors and never-ending debts.

But it's difficult to get a handle on the scope of the problem, experts say. In many cases, the victims don't come forward. Some are too scared to talk, having come from countries with corrupt governments they don't trust.

But there are some clues. Heartland, which is working on a study to estimate the prevalence of trafficking in Chicago, has about 20 cases on its plate right now, Steglich said. Officials at Immigration and Customs Enforcement say they get nearly 50 trafficking tips each year.

Worldwide, the practice of human trafficking, often referred to as modern-day slavery, is estimated to affect 27 million people, according to Kevin Bales, a professor at Roehampton University in London and author of "Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy." That's twice the number of people taken out of Africa during the transatlantic slave trade, a figure estimated to be roughly 12 million.

Last year, the U.S. State Department estimated that, of the 600,000 to 800,000 people trafficked globally each year, 14,500 to 17,500 end up in the United States. And it generated roughly \$9.5 billion in profits worldwide in 2003, making it one of the top three revenue sources for organized crime, according to the department's 2004 Trafficking In Persons Report.

When cases do surface, it's often difficult to get victims to cooperate, and investigators face a hard time making a case strong enough for prosecutors to pursue, said Terry M. Kinney, an assistant U.S. attorney who secured Illinois' first and only known conviction of a trafficker. That 2000 conviction preceded the passage of a federal trafficking law later that year.

But no such law is currently on the state books, preventing some crimes from being pursued. Advocates are finding their hopes in an anti-trafficking bill winding its way through the Illinois General Assembly. Gov. Rod Blagojevich has also announced the creation of the Illinois Rescue and Restore Coalition, which kicks off in June, to combat trafficking by increasing the awareness of the crime in the state and connecting victims with services.

Miriam Torrado, director of Heartland's Violence Recovery Services, said the state's new efforts will hold traffickers accountable for their crimes. "It really sends a message out to those perpetrators that it's not to be tolerated," she said.

Michael F. Iasparro, an assistant U.S. attorney, said 13 people have been indicted for money laundering and racketeering involving a chain of alleged brothels in Rockford. Human trafficking charges could be added if the evidence supports that, he added. (Photo by Jason Reblando)

The Chicago Reporter pieced together the Korean woman's story based on court documents and a series of interviews with prosecutors, law enforcement agents and Heartland staff. What emerged was a story about a woman who stumbled into a web of underground prostitution that had operated with impunity for years in Rockford.

Court documents show that women, mostly immigrants from China and Korea, lived in the spas, several of which were located in storefronts. In the case of the Korean woman, Steglich said, she was prevented from leaving the spa, though it is unclear how she was held captive.

"When you go for your first day on the job, you're not thinking, 'Can I leave?'" Steglich said. "The expectation is, 'Oh, can you leave at the first instant?' But she was approaching it as any other job where you assume that it's going to be a job. And I think we all make those same assumptions and we don't ask the questions that aren't usual."

On Feb. 27, the Korean woman's second day held captive, authorities raided the spa---one of seven in Rockford purported to be running underground brothels. Four women were arrested on prostitution and pandering charges. Another seven were turned over to immigration officials pending deportation.

The raid was the culmination of a 15-month investigation by the FBI, Rockford police, Homeland Security Department, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Postal Service and the Internal Revenue Service.

According to court documents, a confidential source tipped authorities that the seven spas were all used as fronts for prostitution. When a customer arrived, they paid what was called "front money"---\$40 for a half hour and \$60 for an hour---for a body shower, during which their pockets were checked for identification, to make sure they weren't police. During the shower, a price was negotiated for additional services, typically sexual. It averaged \$60 for manual stimulation, \$80 for oral stimulation and \$120 to \$140 for sexual intercourse.

Each spa had up to four prostitutes, serving a combined total of up to 40 customers a day and earning \$90,000 to \$100,000 a month. The owners and managers allegedly split the profits 50-50 with the women, who were managed by former prostitutes, called "mamasan."

When the spas were inspected by Rockford police, the women usually escaped through the back door or hid in "safe rooms," built into the interior of the spas to hide the women, cash and condoms.

In April 2004, an undercover FBI agent approached Kenneth Lee, 39, who co-operated at least one Rockford spa, as a person interested in opening a spa. During the recorded conversations, Lee told the agent that he knew where to get prostitutes "fresh off the boat" from Korea or China through San Francisco or Los Angeles.

Lee invested \$152,000 building two spas in Rockford and spent \$18,000 a month to advertise in phone books and newspapers. Lee spent roughly \$9,000 a month to advertise in the Chicago Sun-Times alone, he told the agent.

On March 31, Lee pleaded not guilty to money laundering and racketeering charges at the federal court in Rockford.

Court documents also show that Rockford police and the FBI conducted surveillance at the spas and observed that the visitors were all men from different states. Employees, aside from the managers and owners, never left.

From April 2004 until February 2005, Rockford police pulled trash from the various shops and found birth control pill packages and condoms stuffed in soda cans.

Following the February raid, the Korean woman was interviewed by a Heartland staff member, who was brought in to determine whether trafficking was at play. After three weeks in jail, she was released to a housing facility Heartland had arranged for her.

The Reporter was unable to reach any of the 13 defendants in the case for comments.

It will be another 18 months before Alex Mishulovich walks out of a federal prison in northeastern Kentucky. The nine-year sentence began after Mishulovich coerced five women from Latvia and Belarus to dance in strip clubs in the Chicago area.

His 2000 conviction was Illinois' first known case against a trafficker.

The case led to the creation of a task force to combat trafficking. For a short while, it brought together officials from the Chicago Police Department, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service---now reorganized under the Department of Homeland Security---the U.S. Attorney's Office and human-rights advocates.

Three years later, authorities themselves can't confirm whether the task force still exists or how it operates. Officials from the Chicago Police Department, FBI, Heartland, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement say they work together on trafficking cases, but that they don't regularly meet on the issue. "We had had it organized, and it may have even been called a task force," Steglich said. "But, at this point, there's not a formal coalition that's formed."

To keep the issue near the forefront, some say it takes special agents or prosecutors with a passion--such as Kinney, who put Mishulovich behind bars before human trafficking itself was a state or federal crime.

It wasn't until October 2000 that Congress created the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, which not only defined the crime, but also recognized that people like the Korean woman were victims, not criminals. Under the law, those convicted of trafficking could be sentenced to 20 years in prison. If the case involved kidnapping, aggravated sexual abuse, or, if the victim died, traffickers can serve life sentences. Between fiscal years 2001 and 2003, 21 trafficking charges were filed nationwide, leading to convictions of 28 individuals.

Before the law was created, traffickers were prosecuted under other offenses, such as visa fraud, prostitution, smuggling, criminal sexual assault, kidnapping and assault. Even today, that's how the cases are often handled, usually because of logistical difficulties.

To pursue the Mishulovich case, Kinney recalls having to contact his colleagues in Washington, D.C., just to get through to contacts with the Latvian police department. "We knew early on it was going to be an expensive, long, difficult, international investigation," Kinney said. "All my evidence was overseas. A lot of my witnesses were overseas."

Some are concerned that prosecutors are too selective about which cases to pursue. "There seems to be a reluctance to prosecute where you have just a single victim, where it's not a case that's going to get a lot of press, or where the coercion is mostly debt-based, or psychological coercion-based," Steglich said.

Randall Samborn, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago, declined to detail how attorneys choose their cases. "Every case that is presented to us or referred by a law enforcement agency, we look at on its own merits," Samborn said. "We don't discuss publicly what our reasons are for either prosecuting or not prosecuting either a specific case or cases in general."

Kinney, a U.S. prosecutor for 16 years now working for the U.S. Department of Justice in Moscow, said there are many instances when officials want to pursue a case but can't because the victims can't be found or are unwilling to cooperate. "The reason there's not more convictions on human trafficking cases in the U.S. is that we can't find the cases," Kinney said. "Believe me when I tell you, as a prosecutor, there was incredible prestige in finding the trafficking cases."

Kinney recalls one instance when Sergui Tcharouchine, a co-conspirator of Mishulovich, took the five dancers to the grocery store. The women were not allowed to leave his side unsupervised. Tcharouchine shoplifted a pack of cigarettes and was arrested. Instead of going to police, the women fled, fearing their own arrests, and went back to the home of their trafficker's partner, Kinney said.

Fahey, of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said winning victims' cooperation is crucial. "In all these cases, whether it be a lead or something we work, you do need the victim/witnesses to make a successful prosecution," he said. "They know the inner workings. They can identify

members. They also are ones that can testify if need be against members in the organization."

Rather than pursuing trafficking charges, prosecutors often choose to bring other charges that carry similar penalties and have better chances for conviction---such as visa fraud, extortion and rape. "A prosecutor has an incentive to go that route, go the more certain route, rather than working under the trafficking provisions," Kinney said.

In the Rockford case, 13 defendants were indicted for conspiracy to launder money and use of interstate facilities to aid racketeering---such as using credit card machines to aid prostitution. The crimes carry a maximum of 20 and five years in prison, respectively. At this point, the indictments don't include human trafficking. Heartland contends that trafficking took place, but Michael F. Iasparro, the assistant U.S. attorney handling the case, is more cautious. "If the evidence supports bringing those types of charges, certainly that is something the U.S. Attorney's Office will look at," he said. But "the evidence has to be there."

In general, trafficking cases are not the federal government's highest priority. According to the FBI priorities, set every few years by the president, trafficking is a violation of "civil rights"---the category that ranks fifth on the list of 10 priorities, below combating public corruption.

Still, the FBI joined forces with the Justice Department in 2003 for a project called Operation Innocence Lost to specifically target sexual exploitation and trafficking among youth by targeting 13 U.S. cities, including Chicago. In 2004, the Justice Department funneled \$7 million in grants to assist that operation.

Some say that, since they often work on tips, local authorities are more likely to come in contact with traffickers first. But giving them more authority will be no panacea. Absent a state law, state's attorneys don't have the legal means to prosecute people for trafficking, Iasparro said.

"More often than not, the resources simply aren't there on the state level to devote to a long-term investigation like this," Iasparro said. "It falls to the federal government who has those resources---time, money---to devote to make a case like this and be able to effectively target the larger scope, and not simply go after, for example, the working girl."

When the Chicago Police Department does encounter a potential case of human trafficking, it is in the area of prostitution, said Ronald Brannan, commander of the vice control section at the department. Those tips are then passed along to the FBI. But it doesn't happen often, he added.

Torrado, of Heartland, worries that much of the trafficking in Chicago happens outside of prostitution, causing some victims to be overlooked. "I know that the focus out there and the targeted population is those in the sex industry and prostitution," Torrado said. "You're going to see what you're looking for and you could be missing a laborer in a factory that's right down the corner."

One of the key components of Blagojevich's new anti-trafficking program will focus on making sure that those who are most likely to come in contact with victims will take notice.

"We're going to train first responders," said Grace Hou, assistant secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, which is leading the campaign. Hou is a member of the Reporter's advisory board.

Torrado believes the campaign will create a "snowball effect" that will bring more victims to the surface. Heartland is teaching warning signs to members of various agencies, including the Illinois State Police, Department of Children and Family Services, and organizations that deal with domestic violence and other violent crimes. The training will "give them the immediate tools to respond and stop the situation of trafficking when they see it," Steglich said.

Hou said the initiative came about after she read an article on trafficking in *The New York Times Magazine*, which named Chicago as one of the crime's hubs. "The thing that really unnerved me was how young some of the individuals who were trafficked were---some as young as 2 years old," she said. "There's some responsibility on behalf of the state to do something in response to what we know is something that's going on that's absolutely horrible."

Proposed state legislation, expected to be approved this summer, would allow traffickers to be prosecuted at the state level and award restitution to victims for unpaid wages. "I was surprised and shocked to learn that there was this much happening---14,500, 17,500 [people trafficked nationwide]. Illinois could be 5 percent of that, based on our population," said state Sen. John Cullerton, a North Side Democrat who is the bill's co-sponsor.

For now, the Korean woman is staying at a safe shelter arranged by Heartland.

Legally, she is still unable to work, though she may be eligible for a special visa through a rarely used federal law established in 2000. T-Visa, as it is called, allows trafficking victims to remain and work in the country and obtain permanent residency status after three years. Those who agree to cooperate with authorities in prosecuting their traffickers are eligible for the visa.

Between March 2002 and August 2004, 415 trafficking victims received the visa, according to the Homeland Security Department.

The number could be the tip of the iceberg, Torrado said. "Think about that in domestic violence cases. You can look at the numbers that are reported and you know there are a greater number out there that never get reported," she said.

Iasparro also believes that the Rockford case is indicative of what's happening elsewhere. "Rockford is certainly not an isolated community in terms of this type of crime," Iasparro said. "It's going on all over the place."

Contributing: Liliana Ibara and Robert VerBruggen. Miriam Cintrón and Bianca Sepulveda helped research this article.

Springfield



0	93891	0	44749	381
---	-------	---	-------	-----

[Local Girl Linked to Prostitution Ring](#) Aug 4

Nine people are indicted in the ring. by Dave Adams

Wednesday Apr 28 2010 | Chicago, IL Edition

Nine people have been indicted on charges alleging involvement in underage prostitution in Lane and Deschutes Counties. Investigators say a phone chat line and the Bend Craigslist site were used to solicit girls. Desean Milton, 28 of Springfield is scheduled for arraignment August 21st. Megan Schoon, 18 of Bend also faces Deschutes County charges in connection with the prostitution ring. She is pleading not guilty to several felony charges including Encouraging Child Sex Abuse and Prostitution. Investigators accuse Milton and others of recruiting and transporting four teens for the crimes between November 2007 and April 2009. Milton faces a sentence of between ten years to life in prison if convicted.

International Sex Trafficking

Posted: Saturday, 23 January 2010 9:26AM

Prostitution bust at Algonquin massage parlor

ALGONQUIN (STMW) -- Two women claiming to be Chinese nationals were taken into police custody Thursday night after police executed a search warrant at northwest suburban Algonquin massage parlor.

Illinois State Police Master Sergeant Timothy Sebastian said one of the woman had no identification, but told police she was 40 and from China. Police charged the other, identified by her passport as 45-year-old Jinfu Jin with Class 4 felony prostitution. The severity of the charge is because the parlor, Massage Co. at 4093 West Algonquin Rd. in Algonquin, is less than 1,000 feet from Rogy's Learning Place school.

Police are investigating if the women were here of their own will. Both were held overnight at the McHenry County Jail, Jin pending bond call, the other per an identity check.

Patrons of nearby businesses said the parlor had been open about a year and was one of the first places to open in the strip mall, which stands in front of the Manchester Lakes subdivision. The mall also houses an ice cream parlor, a cooking school and a martial arts studio close to the parlor.

Thursday night, shopping center patrons said they noticed from the get-go that the Massage Co. clientele was predominantly male, some of whom would have flowers delivered to the parlor. When women tried to make appointments, they were told there were no available openings. They also said it appeared at least two women lived in Massage Co., as they seemed to always be at the parlor. The patrons also claimed the two women had been seen hanging their laundry out behind the building in summer, and an older woman, who was not present at the time of the warrant search, claimed to run the place.

Eleven officers were involved in Thursday's operation, including members of the Algonquin Police Department, the North Central Narcotics Task Force and the Illinois State Police. Sebastian said the investigation came about after calls from mall businesses, their customers and nearby residents who made their suspicions known to Algonquin police, who sought help from the task force to which the department contributes an officer's services.

Sebastian said it appeared the women were living in the Massage Co. facility, which had a video surveillance system, a well-kept bedroom, a kitchen with cooking equipment and a well-stocked refrigerator, along with tidy massage rooms, a small sauna and a shower room.

One Massage Co. customer, whom police did not charge, claimed he found the parlor from a Google search and was a first-time visitor. He said he paid his \$70, disrobed, then was asked to do something he found unusual.

"I thought it was a little weird when they wanted me to take a shower first. Then they took me a room with a table to hose me off," he said.

While the customer was receiving his massage shortly before 7 p.m., police executed the warrant.

That came about after an undercover officer entered the establishment earlier that evening. During the course of receiving a massage, which lasted more than a half hour, police said Jin offered the officer sexual contact. Police said they staked out the establishment on several occasions prior to Thursday.

Police said they found nothing else out of the ordinary on the premise, but did find items that would indicate the parlor's service went beyond just massage, primarily condoms and sexual lubricants.

Sun-Times Media Wire Chicago Sun-Times 2010. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

The Girls Next Door

By PETER LANDESMAN

Published: January 25, 2004

The house at 1212 1/2 West Front Street in Plainfield, N.J., is a conventional midcentury home with slate-gray siding, white trim and Victorian lines. When I stood in front of it on a breezy day in October, I could hear the cries of children from the playground of an elementary school around the corner. American flags fluttered from porches and windows. The neighborhood is a leafy, middle-class Anytown. The house is set back off the street, near two convenience stores and a gift shop. On the door of Superior Supermarket was pasted a sign issued by the Plainfield police: "Safe neighborhoods save lives." The store's manager, who refused to tell me his name, said he never noticed anything unusual about the house, and never heard anything. But David Miranda, the young man behind the counter of Westside Convenience, told me he saw girls from the house roughly once a week. "They came in to buy candy and soda, then went back to the house," he said. The same girls rarely came twice, and they were all very young, Miranda said. They never asked for anything beyond what they were purchasing; they certainly never asked for help. Cars drove up to the house all day; nice cars, all kinds of cars. Dozens of men came and went. "But no one here knew what was really going on," Miranda said. And no one ever asked.

On a tip, the Plainfield police raided the house in February 2002, expecting to find illegal aliens working an underground brothel. What the police found were four girls between the ages of 14 and 17. They were all Mexican nationals without documentation. But they weren't prostitutes; they were sex slaves. The distinction is important: these girls weren't working for profit or a paycheck. They were captives to the traffickers and keepers who controlled their every move. "I consider myself hardened," Mark J. Kelly, now a special agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security), told me recently. "I spent time in the Marine Corps. But seeing some of the stuff I saw, then heard about, from those girls was a difficult, eye-opening experience."

The police found a squalid, land-based equivalent of a 19th-century slave ship, with rancid, doorless bathrooms; bare, putrid mattresses; and a stash of penicillin, "morning after" pills and misoprostol, an antiulcer medication that can induce abortion. The girls were pale, exhausted and malnourished.

It turned out that 1212 1/2 West Front Street was one of what law-enforcement officials say are dozens of active stash houses and apartments in the New York metropolitan area -- mirroring hundreds more in other major cities like Los Angeles, Atlanta and Chicago -- where under-age girls and young women from dozens of countries are trafficked and held captive. Most of them -- whether they started out in Eastern Europe or Latin America -- are taken to the United States through Mexico. Some of them have been baited by promises of legitimate jobs and a better life in America; many have been abducted; others have been bought from or abandoned by their impoverished families.

Because of the porousness of the U.S.-Mexico border and the criminal networks that traverse it, the towns and cities along that border have become the main staging area in an illicit and barbaric industry, whose "products" are women and girls. On both sides of the border, they are rented out for sex for as little as 15 minutes at a time, dozens of times a day. Sometimes they are sold outright to other traffickers and sex rings, victims and experts say. These sex slaves earn no money, there is nothing voluntary about what they do and if they try to escape they are often beaten and sometimes killed.

Last September, in a speech before the United Nations General Assembly, President Bush named sex trafficking as "a special evil," a multibillion-dollar "underground of brutality and lonely fear," a global scourge alongside the AIDS epidemic. Influenced by a coalition of religious organizations, the Bush administration has pushed international action on the global sex trade. The president declared at the U.N. that "those who create these victims and profit from their suffering must be severely punished" and that "those who patronize this

industry debase themselves and deepen the misery of others. And governments that tolerate this trade are tolerating a form of slavery."

Mandarin-speaking cop busts brothel in Chinatown

[Comments](#)
April 10, 2010

BY [FRANK MAIN](#) Staff Reporter

A Chinese-speaking Chicago cop posed for more than two years as a crooked officer in a sting that busted a Chinatown prostitution ring and exposed a scheme to obtain thousands of Illinois driver's licenses illegally, prosecutors said Friday.

Brothel operator Sheng Quan Dong bribed the officer to keep police away from his business, prosecutors said. Dong is accused of making \$18,000 in payoffs over two years.

Dong, 37, faces felony bribery and money laundering charges, as well as felony prostitution charges. Also facing prostitution charges are four other people, including Dong's wife; two alleged prostitutes; a customer; and a doorman for the brothel, prosecutors said.

"Criminal enterprises, like this one, present an enhanced threat to public safety when they combine their illegal businesses with identity fraud and bribery," Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez said.

Police said they've seized more than \$30,000 from Dong and are investigating another \$100,000 he's suspected of sending overseas.

The Mandarin-speaking undercover cop found Dong in 2006 through an ad in a Chinese-language newspaper. Dong started offering the bribes after the cop arrested him on prostitution charges, prosecutors said.

To show his loyalty to Dong, the undercover officer intervened when other cops conducted a fake raid on Dong's brothel, prosecutors said. No one was arrested.

By the fall of 2007, Dong was comfortable enough with the cop to meet him at a Dunkin' Donuts to discuss trouble he was having with some Chinese mafia members from New York, prosecutors said.

In a secretly recorded conversation, Dong said the mafia members kicked over furniture in his brothel because they were too drunk to have sex, prosecutors said.

Dong said he was worried the men might try to shut down his brothel, prosecutors said. They were in Chicago to obtain driver's licenses, Dong allegedly told the cop before handing him \$1,500 in an envelope.

The prostitution sting led investigators to an identity-fraud scheme in which 19 people were charged in federal court in 2009, Alvarez said.

Using fake passports, more than 15,000 Illinois driver's licenses and state identification cards were obtained, prosecutors say. Customers — often undocumented immigrants from Asia — were charged thousands of dollars for

forged documents, including a phony Chinese social security card and passport, prosecutors said. They also allegedly received alphanumeric codes to pass the written driver's test without having to read the questions in English.

Prosecutors today would not discuss the connection between Dong's alleged prostitution business and the identity fraud scheme.

Prosecutors said Dong hired women to fly to Chicago from New York and Texas. The women typically were Korean, Malaysian, Vietnamese or Chinese nationals. They allegedly charged their customers \$120 for sex, and kicked back \$40 to Dong.

Prosecutors said they don't think the women were working against their will, a common problem in prostitution rings involving illegal immigrants.

Business was so brisk that Dong bought his bordello supplies in bulk, such as boxes containing 1,200 condoms, prosecutors said. Still, Dong allegedly groused to the undercover cop that he squandered much of his prostitution income on gambling and drinking — as well as on paying his own prostitutes to service him.



Chicago's Response to CSEC

Alvarez tells senators of child prostitutes' ordeals

Cook County state's attorney says office treats them as victims, not criminals

By Katherine Skiba, Tribune reporter

7:29 PM CST, February 24, 2010

WASHINGTON

— Some young Chicagoans are practicing "survival sex" and selling their bodies for food, clothing or a safe place to sleep, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez told a U.S. Senate hearing Wednesday.

Alvarez, addressing a subcommittee looking into human trafficking, told of a girl who didn't want her pimp to face charges because he bought her a Subway sandwich whenever she wanted one. Another girl had sex for cash to buy food and clothing, unable to rely on her mother, a drug addict.

The state's attorney said her office rarely charges juveniles arrested for prostitution-related offenses, treating them instead as victims who need "support, services and a safe future."

The hearing was called by Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law. He estimated that 100,000-plus U.S. children become sex-trafficking victims every year.

For nearly two hours, the subcommittee heard graphic, sometimes gruesome testimony about kids trading sex in the streets — or up and down interstate highways — and becoming addicted to drugs while veering between feelings of love for and fear of their pimps.

One ex-teen prostitute told of being left for dead, her face broken into pieces, after turning a trick at age 16 in New Jersey.

Alvarez said criminal enterprises "have made a fortune" exploiting women and girls in Cook County. One survey of Chicago-area women in the sex trade found that 73 percent got in the business before age 18, she said.

Alvarez described a criminal case in 2008 in LaSalle County, Ill., in which gang members distributed heroin and crack cocaine — illicit substances prepared in Chicago — using 17- and 18-year-old girls who smuggled the drugs in their bodies. Gang leaders were videotaped having sex with the girls, she said.

What astonished some lawmakers was the scant number of beds in shelters to give victims safety and social services. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., put the number at 70 nationwide, though another witness said it was fewer than 50.

According to Alvarez, a residential, long-term care facility known as Annie's House hopes to open by this summer in Oak Park for girls as young as 13 and women up to 25.

Alvarez said in an interview that 42 juvenile cases have been referred to the state's attorney's office for prostitution offenses since 2005 and all but seven were diverted from the courts.

Prosecutors went ahead in one recent case because the parents begged them, fearing their daughter would be dead if she stayed in the streets, she said.

Boys also face the "trauma of commercial sexual exploitation," said Ambassador-at-large Luis CdeBaca, who directs the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

He said boys may be "prostituted at public meetings places such as parks, bus terminals, rail stations, markets, hotels or beaches" and are less likely to be identified by authorities.

Durbin heralded the state of New York for a "safe harbor" law that gives such young victims "services, not sentences." Alvarez said her office was drafting a similar measure to present to the Illinois legislature for consideration.

kskiba@tribune.com

Copyright © 2010, [Chicago Tribune](#)

Skepticism over Craigslist dropping 'erotic' ads

by Don Babwin

Craigslist, decried as an Internet brothel and under intense scrutiny after a Boston man was charged with killing a masseuse from the online classifieds site, was met with skepticism Wednesday as it unveiled plans to drop its "erotic services" category.

Even law enforcement officials who trumpeted the move as a victory against online prostitution acknowledged uncertainty about whether it will put a dent in the practice and wariness of Craigslist's plan to offer a fee-based "adult services" category where postings would be monitored before appearing online.

Craigslist has not prescreened ads in the past, choosing instead to remove them only after receiving complaints.

"I'm not going to take their word for it, we want to see action," said Dan Gallagher, an attorney representing Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, who sued Craigslist in March, accusing it of being the nation's biggest source of prostitution.

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo had even harsher words, saying the decision came only after his office informed Craigslist a criminal probe had implicated the site.

"Rather than work with this office to prevent further abuses, in the middle of the night, Craigslist took unilateral action, which we suspect will prove to be half-baked," he said in a statement.

Craigslist did little to quell concerns, refusing to comment beyond a prepared statement by its CEO and leaving unanswered a host of questions about how the site could possibly screen all the ads and whether it would simply drive solicitation underground.

"It doesn't guarantee that such activity will not pop up elsewhere, and it doesn't guarantee that it won't pop up elsewhere using highly coded words," said Steve Jones, a communications professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"By now someone has probably registered the domain name 'Craigslisteroticservices.com,'" Jones said.

Craigslist officials and attorneys general from Illinois, Connecticut and Missouri met last week to seek an end to the ads. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan said the group told Craigslist their own checks had revealed the service was not monitoring the site as it had promised last year.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal had brokered an agreement with the site in November to crack down on prostitution ads after being contacted about several complaints about photographs depicting nudity.

"We told them they had a week to respond," Madigan said Wednesday. "Essentially what we said to them is, 'Either, if you are not willing to police this section effectively, it has to come down.'" The erotic services ads will expire in seven days, the Web site and Madigan's office said.

Although authorities had expressed concern about the ads in the past, the Web site came under closer scrutiny last month after a Boston-area man was accused of fatally shooting a woman who placed an ad on Craigslist.

Police believe 22-year-old Philip Markoff may have been involved in other crimes against women who also posted ads on Craigslist. Some reports have suggested he was robbing victims to pay gambling debts.

Law enforcement promised to keep a close eye on Craigslist as it implemented the changes. Madigan said there was a risk that the reforms could just drive prostitution to other platforms, but she insisted authorities will monitor those sites, too.

One major question stemmed from Craigslist's vow only to monitor the new "adult services" category and not other areas people may try to place solicitation ads, such as under the personals ads.

Gallagher also wondered why Craigslist agreed to monitor the site after making previous statements that doing so would be too expensive.

Craigslist said new postings in the "adult services" category will cost \$10, but once such a posting is approved, customers will be eligible for reposting at \$5.

"Closing the erotic services section — a blatant Internet brothel — should lead to other blocking and screening measures, and set a model for other sites, if Craigslist keeps its word," Connecticut's Blumenthal said in a statement.

Dart, the Cook County sheriff, said the action by Craigslist "is what happens frequently when all of a sudden people are looking at a court date." The announcement came on the same day prosecutors and a Craigslist attorney appeared in federal court.

Jim Buckmaster, Craigslist's CEO, said the agreement should satisfy all parties. He said it preserves a place "for legal businesses to advertise" while incorporating feedback from attorneys general, free speech advocates, law enforcement, Internet law experts and millions of Americans who use the site.

Dart said his lawsuit will stay on file until he sees changes online.

"If we see what we'd ask for ... we will dismiss our lawsuit," Dart said.

Craigslist agreed to take action despite its contention that it has been unfairly singled out by what Buckmaster called "sensationalistic journalism."

"The record is clear that use of Craigslist classifieds is associated with far lower rates of violent crime than print classifieds, let alone rates of violent crime pertaining to American society as a whole," he said.

Associated Press Writers Tammy Webber and Deanna Bellandi contributed to this report from Chicago.

Cook County sheriff sues Craigslist over sex ads

by Don Babwin

Cook County's sheriff filed a federal lawsuit against Craigslist on Thursday, saying the popular online classifieds site promotes and facilitates prostitution on a massive scale.

Sheriff Tom Dart wants Craigslist to eliminate its "erotic services" section, suggesting that many of the section's ads are blatant solicitations for prostitution.

"Missing children, runaways, abused women and women trafficked in from foreign countries are routinely forced to have sex with strangers because they're being pimped on Craigslist," Dart said.

In a news release, Dart cited ads such as "Teens for cash ... \$100 quickie" and "Are you looking to make some good money in this tough economy? Minimum pay is \$25 per hour ... performing duties specified in Naughty Nannies handbook."

San Francisco-based Craigslist did not immediately return e-mail and telephone message seeking comment. Telephone and e-mail messages also were left for the company's public relations firm.

Craigslist allows users to post classified ads and other items and, like many other sites, generally doesn't check the postings or remove them unless it receives complaints. Federal law offers broad immunity to service providers for content posted by users, as long as they respond to specific complaints.

"Erotic services" ads posted on Craigslist have resulted in several prostitution arrests nationwide.

Federal prosecutors charged a New York man in November with being a violent pimp who forced young girls and women into prostitution, alleging he advertised the services of women between the ages of 15 and 20. And in January, two Wisconsin women were charged with misdemeanor prostitution after allegedly offering sex for money in Craigslist ads.

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Prostitution: Cook County sheriff's office lends hand to women to stop prostitution

2 counselors are former prostitutes who try to end hookers' cycle of crime

April 17, 2009|By Angela Rozas, Tribune reporter

The woman leans back in the chair, her head flopping from side to side, her bloodshot eyes rolling back. High on heroin and cocaine, she struggles to keep her eyes open. With a serrated voice, she tells the social workers she is ready to leave the street.

"I'm just so tired and scared," says the Chicago woman, 26. "I know the next car I jump in may be the last."

Just an hour earlier, she was arrested on a Chicago street for prostitution for the 13th time in five years. But instead of going straight to a police lockup on this rainy Thursday night, she sits in a windowless room at the Cook County Sheriff's Office in Maywood as three women lay out her choices: stay on the street and risk her life or get help, right here, right now.

"You don't have to go out there again. We're going to find you some place to stay tonight," whispers Brenda Myers-Powell, leaning toward her in the cramped room.

Myers-Powell works as one of two peer coordinators for Sheriff Tom Dart's prostitution intervention team. The coordinators offer shelter, counseling for drug addiction or abuse, child care, financial assistance and jobs for prostitutes after their arrests. And they do it with an understanding ear; both coordinators are former prostitutes.

"Our goal is very simple: to try to reach a woman at her most vulnerable point and show her the way out," said Dorenda Dixon, who supervises the coordinators.

The intervention program is the brainchild of the county's Department of Women's Justice Services, which for a decade has worked with women inmates in the County Jail.

The department has discovered, more than 40 percent of the women in the jail have worked as prostitutes at some point in their lives. Prostitution was not a choice but a consequence of all the other failures in their lives, the staff says.

Instead of locking up prostitutes for the same crimes again and again, the department is trying to help women deal with the underlying problems that led them to sell their bodies in the first place. But the program is strictly voluntary, and the women will still face charges, even if they enroll.

More than a year in planning, the intervention program is still in its infancy and off to a modest start. In its first test as part of a prostitution roundup in November, only one of eight arrested women agreed to join the program. That woman is still in it, attending weekly meetings with staff, getting child-care help and re-enrolling in college.

Chicago prostitution: Arrests increase

Chicago police make 4.5 percent more arrests than in January, February last year

March 20, 2009|By Tracy Swartz

Prostitution-related arrests were up 4.5 percent in the first two months of the year, Chicago police said.

In January and February, police made 584 arrests, up from 559 during the same time period last year, Sgt. Antoinette Ursitti said.

When mapped, there are 263 locations for prostitution-related arrests in Chicago for this January and February.

Prostitution in the Chicago area got a lot of attention this month when Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart sued Craigslist because he said the site's "erotic services" section knowingly aids prostitution.

Dart spokesman Steve Patterson said a majority of the prostitution-related arrests by sheriff's police occur in hotels and not on the streets.

The sheriff's office offers women charged with prostitution rehabilitation services under a new program intended to help curb prostitution, Patterson said, adding that the office employs three former prostitutes to help with the intervention.

"That is ultimately the key: breaking the cycle," Patterson said. "It's not to be busting girls walking the street corners and naively thinking it's going to go away."

In a two-year study released last year, University of Chicago economics professor Steven Levitt and Columbia University sociology professor Sudhir Venkatesh

determined almost half of the prostitution arrests conducted by Chicago police occur in less than one-third of 1 percent of the city blocks.

The study estimates 4,400 prostitutes are on city streets on an average week, and they earn \$25 to \$30 an hour.

And the study found a prostitute is usually arrested only once every 450 tricks.

Friday, April 9, 2010

Police beat: Crime is down citywide. But that's only part of the story

08/05/2009 10:00 PM

Comparing the first six months of 2008 with the first six months of 2009 shows that the incidence of serious crime — what the police department categorizes as “index crime” — fell 8.6 percent.

Every category of index crime except burglary was down — and burglaries only increased 0.4 percent this year.

The 1st District, which covers much of the Loop, South Loop and Grant Park, saw an overall decrease in violent and property crime of 8.1 percent.

Violent crime in the district, however, rose 12.3 percent, led by an increase in robberies of approximately one-third. And burglary shot up 59 percent. There were two murders in the 1st District between January and June of this year; there were none during the same time period in 2008.

Officers assigned to the 12th District cover the West Loop, Pilsen, Taylor Street area, Near West Side, Tri-Taylor and East Garfield Park. Taken together, property and violent crimes are down nearly 19 percent. The decline is driven by a 22.2 percent decrease in property crimes — there was no change up or down on the violent side, in aggregate.

Aggravated assaults and aggravated batteries in the 12th District are down 21.3 and 16.2 percent, respectively, the first six months of this year over the first six in 2008.

Criminal sexual assaults, however, are up 17.6 percent; robberies increased by more

than one-quarter.

And murders leaped 75 percent, from four last year to seven this year.

—Compiled by Megan Mollmann, Medill News Service, and
Micah Maidenberg

Need for Treatment for Victims

Child prostitution: Children rescued from sex trade struggle to find care in U.S.

November 29, 2009|By Joe Markman, Tribune Newspapers

WASHINGTON — When the FBI announced a nationwide crackdown on child prostitution last month as part of a long-term initiative to combat domestic sex trafficking, it noted that 52 children had been rescued from "sexual slavery."

"It is repugnant that children in these times could be subjected to the great pain, suffering and indignity of being forced into sexual slavery for someone else's profit," Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer said at the time.

But a month later, none of those children is receiving the kind of help that experts say they require to overcome the trauma of their experiences, and some are still languishing in local juvenile detention centers, according to a Tribune Newspapers check of the children's situation.

Experts say the only way to ensure a good chance of recovery for these children is placement in a residential treatment program for such victims, of which there are only three in the United States: in New York, California and Georgia.

"When America's child prostitutes are identified by the FBI or police, they are incarcerated for whatever reason possible, whether it be an unrelated crime or 'material witness hold,'" said Lois Lee, founder of one of the three centers, Children of the Night in Los Angeles.

"Then they are dumped back in the dysfunctional home, ill-equipped group home or foster care, and (often) disappear back into the underground of prostitution with no voice."

Experts say victims struggle to find care once they escape an industry that could involve as many as 300,000 U.S. children.

Ian McCaleb, a spokesman for the Justice Department, said the department "uses a victim-centered approach that provides victims with the services they need in order to recover and to fully participate in the criminal justice process."

A report prepared for the Health and Human Services Department in 2007 found four residential treatment centers with a total of 45 beds for child prostitutes in the U.S. Interviews with the centers show bed numbers remain low two years later.

New York-based Girls Educational and Mentoring Services has 12 beds. One of the four mentioned in the 2007 report, The Standing Against Global Exploitation Safe House in San Francisco no longer has beds for trafficking victims, though it offers non-residential care for victims and helps place them with foster families.

Melba Robinson, a program manager at Georgia's Center to End Adolescent Sexual Exploitation, said the center's Angela's House, which usually takes in girls on probation, is expanding from six beds to eight.

Still, with victims numbering in the thousands, advocates say there just aren't enough treatment options to go around.

jmarkman@tribune.com

Other Relevant Articles

ACORN workers caught on tape allegedly advising on prostitution

- **STORY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Video shows pair ask ACORN employees for advice on setting up prostitution ring
- Workers suggest to stop saying "prostitution," use "performing artist" on tax forms
- Conservative activists James O'Keefe, Hannah Giles pose as pimp and prostitute
- ACORN spokesman calls portrayal defamatory, says ruse attempted in other offices

(CNN) -- Two employees at the Baltimore, Maryland, branch of the liberal community organizing group ACORN were caught on tape allegedly offering advice to a pair posing as a pimp and prostitute on setting up a prostitution ring and evading the IRS.

The video footage -- which has been edited and goes to black in some areas -- was recorded and posted online Thursday by James O'Keefe, a conservative activist. He was joined on the video by another conservative, Hannah Giles, who posed as the prostitute in the filmmakers' undercover sting.

The video shows the pair approaching two women working at the ACORN Baltimore office and asking them for advice on how to set up a prostitution ring involving more than a dozen underage girls from El Salvador.

One of the ACORN workers suggests that Giles refer to herself as a "performing artist" on tax forms and declare some of the girls as dependents to receive child tax credits.

"Stop saying prostitution," the woman, identified by the filmmaker as an [ACORN](#) tax expert, tells Giles. The other woman tells them, "You want to keep them clean ... make sure they go to school."  [Watch tape of alleged advice on prostitution »](#)

Both women appear enthusiastic to help.

Calls to ACORN's [Baltimore](#) offices were not immediately returned Thursday.

Stuart Katzenberg, lead organizer for ACORN's Maryland chapter, told the Baltimore Sun that both ACORN employees were fired because they "did not meet ACORN's standards of professionalism."

Sonja Merchant-Jones, chair of Baltimore City ACORN, told CNN affiliate WMAR-TV that the fired workers were seasonal, part-time employees and that no senior ACORN staff members were in the building at the time the film was made.

Scott Levenson, a spokesman at ACORN's national offices said, "The portrayal is false and defamatory and an attempt at 'gotcha journalism.'

"This film crew tried to pull this sham at other offices and failed. ACORN wants to see the full video before commenting further," Levenson said.

The conservative filmmakers unsuccessfully attempted similar ruses at the group's offices in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Los Angeles, California, and New York, Levenson said.

Law enforcement officials in the Baltimore area wouldn't confirm whether they are investigating the alleged incident at the local ACORN office. However, authorities said that under Maryland law, such undercover video may not be admissible in court as evidence.

CNN attempted to reach O'Keefe and Giles; O'Keefe was not available for comment and Giles canceled an interview scheduled for Thursday.

ACORN -- an acronym for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now -- made headlines last year when Republican groups seized on allegations of voter registration fraud by the group in Florida and several other states, claiming its workers were trying to push the election in Barack Obama's favor.

On Wednesday, arrest warrants were issued for 11 Florida voter registration workers suspected of submitting false information on hundreds of voter registration cards, according to court documents. The Florida investigation was triggered by ACORN officials who noticed irregularities in forms they were receiving.

ADVERTISEMENT

Founded in 1970, ACORN calls itself "the nation's largest grassroots community organization of low- and moderate-income people." The group says it has more than 400,000 member families organized into more than 1,200 neighborhood chapters in 110 cities.

Besides voter registration, the group focuses on issues such as predatory lending, the minimum wage and funding for public schools, according to its Web site. It also provides free tax-return preparation for low-income people and screening for state and federal benefit programs.

E-mail to a friend 

 [Mixx](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Digg](#) [del.icio.us](#) [reddit](#) [MySpace](#) [StumbleUpon](#) | [Mixx it](#) | [Share](#)

CNN's Bill Tucker, Chris Murphey and Steve Turnham contributed to this report

JOHN L. SMITH: Pimp's conviction shows how prostitution exploits children

JOHN L. SMITH
[MORE COLUMNS](#)

Dec. 13, 2009
Copyright © Las Vegas Review-Journal

Unaccustomed to taking criticism from a strong woman, Quinton Williams exploded in rage as he listened to Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Brown's rebuttal argument at the close of his trial March 6.

Williams yelled in protest, and at one point demanded to testify in his own defense in U.S. District Judge Kent Dawson's courtroom. But this was one dilemma Williams couldn't rap or slap away.

Williams, a 47-year-old **Chicago** pimp known on the street as "Goldie," was convicted that day of interstate transportation of minor females for prostitution, money laundering, the sex trafficking of children and interstate travel in aid of racketeering. With his prior convictions in Illinois, Williams was on his way to trading high times for hard time.

On Thursday, Williams was sentenced to 17 1/2 years in federal prison.

Does that seem like a harsh sentence handed down in a community that celebrates the sex trade and so thinly veils the marketing of its behemoth prostitution racket?

Some might argue that. But not me.

The Goldie Williams case has come to symbolize the protracted battle for the lives of sexually exploited children and teenagers, girls who carry the label prostitute but in reality are sex slaves. They are coerced and cajoled by snakes like Williams into the street life. Once they are under the control of a pimp, especially a traveler, they find their lives are no longer their own.

If it happens in Bangkok, it's the subject of a PBS documentary. But when it happens in Vegas, for many years it has stayed in Vegas. It's a black eye that gets covered up by the lipstick and rouge of our massive marketing machine.

Here's how long it took to drag this scumbag to justice. The charges against him evolved through a circuitous journey Williams made in December 2001 from Chicago to Las Vegas. He took with him a 15-year-old girl and an adult woman. After making stops in Portage, Ind., Houston and Phoenix, exploiting the child along the way, Williams ended up in a room at the Budget Suites on Tropicana Avenue. He dispatched the girl and the adult to Mandalay Bay to continue supporting him in the manner to which he'd become accustomed, but the plan was interrupted by Metro vice detectives.

Most of the time, such arrests result in a tail-chasing circle of justice that keeps vice cops busy but neither rescues the young girls nor sufficiently punishes their pimps. This time was different. This time, IRS Criminal Investigation agents and the U.S. attorney's office got involved. The result was a new way of nailing vermin like Williams.

The case against the pimp resulted in a 2003 conviction and a 10-year sentence, but a successful appeal won him a new trial. That new trial ended with an even longer sentence.

It's wishful thinking to believe one big sentence will change others' behavior -- in Las Vegas, there's a heavy demand for young prostitutes -- but seeing Metro work together with the heavy hitters at IRS Criminal gives me hope that pimps who exploit children will at last start paying a real price for their despicable crimes.

May Goldie and others like him break rocks in Hell.

The next time you hear some half-baked intellectual or daffy libertarian say prostitution is victimless and should be legalized in Las Vegas, try to remember that the argument really isn't about sex or what consenting adults do in private. It's not about a bunch of women being in charge of their own bodies, making reasoned decisions and working as independent contractors.

Prostitution's dark heart is its exploitation of young women and children. Through coercion, conditioning, or plain brute force, they wind up in a life they never would have chosen. They are victims, not criminals.

And where, you ask, is the center of this minor sex trafficking and exploitation in America?

Clark County, Nevada.

Enjoy your Sunday.

John L. Smith's column appears Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. E-mail him at Smith@reviewjournal.com or call 702-383-0295. He also blogs at lvrj.com/blogs/smith.

Foster runaways risk prostitution

DCFS taking steps to prevent sexual victimization of state wards in group homes

October 29, 2008 | By Ofelia Casillas, TRIBUNE REPORTER

The foster child who brought down a suburban prostitution ring this summer has pale skin, pink cheeks, laughs often while visiting her biological family and wears a gold butterfly charm on black string around her neck.

Her life, however, has been anything but carefree. On July 8, the 13-year-old girl and two other teens ran away from a suburban Chicago group home for foster children and made their way to a Lombard hotel to meet up with a 25-year-old pimp. The teens were

advertised on the Internet as prostitutes, and prices were quoted to potential johns, according to state records.

The next morning, state records say, the cell phone of Robert Hampton, the alleged pimp, rang. He turned to the 13-year-old: It was her turn.

This case is one of the recent handful that show how some group facilities designed to protect the state's most vulnerable and troubled foster children can become breeding grounds for the recruitment of child prostitutes, child welfare experts say. "Victimization of abused and neglected children has been with us since the beginning of child welfare," said Kendall Marlowe, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services spokesman.

While this problem has plagued the child welfare system since its inception, officials said they are taking substantial steps this year to address it.

DCFS has begun revising procedures to make prosecuting the adults in these cases easier and to provide better care for the victims. In recent years, the agency has slowly started to train caseworkers on how to identify, prevent and handle these cases. Workers are being told to look for signs of trouble such as girls who are accompanied by a dominating male, girls who feel isolated from family and friends, and girls who are threatened or harmed when trying to leave a boyfriend.

By the end of this fiscal year, officials hope to have trained all 4,300 workers -- making Illinois the first state child welfare system in the country to do so, officials said.

At risk of exploitation

Because many girls in foster care can feel starved for a sense of family, experts say it is not uncommon for pimps to target group homes and groom girls for prostitution by giving them attention and gifts. They often even let the girls think they are dating, and use one foster child to recruit others.

One official said group homes are magnets for pimps.

Some men say using prostitutes is an addiction

200 take part in study about motivation

May 06, 2008|By David Heinzmann, Tribune reporter

As anti-prostitution groups try to thwart sex trade by going after customers, they said they have faced a big problem: researchers have only the crudest grasp of why men buy sex.

Even scholarly understanding of prostitution demand has been colored by a boys-will-be-boys attitude toward sex, activists said.

To get a better understanding, a group of researchers -- most of them young women -- invited more than 100 Chicago-area men who frequently use prostitutes to talk about their attitudes and experiences.

They were overwhelmed by the response. More than 200 men answered the ads the researchers placed in local sex-service classifieds and were willing to sit down with strangers to discuss at length their illegal sexual practices.

While the survey, which is not peer-reviewed, is likely to draw criticism from some academics, the project offers a window into the attitudes of men who buy sex in Chicago.

The results, to be made public Wednesday, show men are often deeply conflicted about their behavior, said Rachel Durchslag, director of the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, which conducted the survey in Chicago with the Evanston-based Justice Project Against Sexual Harm.

Though most of the men interviewed said they believe there is nothing wrong with prostitution, a large majority, 83 percent, view buying sex as a form of addiction, according to the study.

Most men said they believed women entered prostitution freely, but they acknowledge that the sex trade is devastating to the women involved. A large percentage of the men, 57 percent, suspect the women they pay were abused as children, and nearly a third said they viewed women's relationships with pimps as harmful.

About 40 percent of men said they are usually intoxicated when they buy sex.

According to one man who was quoted anonymously in the report, "For a small second after I buy sex, I feel happy, and then it's over. It's so fleeting. There's frustration beforehand, and depression afterward [because] it's so quick. Those feelings are always there. They're associated with buying sex."

Nonetheless, most men said they viewed their interaction with prostitutes as a business contract in which payment entitles them to treat the women any way they like. Women surrender the right to say no to anything once they accept a customer's money, many said.

"Prostitutes are a product, like cereal," said one man. "You go to the grocery, pick the brand you want and pay for it. It's business."

May 06, 2008|By David Heinzmann, Tribune reporter
(Page 2 of 2)

The survey was designed by anti-prostitution activist Melissa Farley, who is controversial because academics have accused her of tilting previous research to support a political agenda. The Chicago study is part of an international project that

includes surveys in Scotland, India and Cambodia. Critics of the Scotland survey called Farley's methods unscientific.

Durchslag is aware of the criticism of Farley but said she feels confident in the relevance of the Chicago survey. Although Farley created the survey questions, she was not involved in reporting the results, Durchslag said.

"We have always said this was an exploratory study, and I feel very confident with the way the questions were asked."

Durchslag said she was stunned by the large response from men, and their willingness to talk to strangers about such a taboo subject. The men who answered questions represented a variety of backgrounds. A majority were college-educated, and more than half were either married or in a committed relationship, according to the study.

Her team of researchers anticipated feeling angry at their subjects, which happened frequently as some of the men talked freely about their attitudes toward women as sex objects, she said. In one case, a man gave answers that basically acknowledged he had committed rape, she said.

But there were also many interviews in which they felt empathy for the men and their confusion about their own sexuality.

"A lot of us felt really sad for a lot of these men," she said. "It's more complicated. We were all surprised by the number of men who said, 'I've never had a chance to talk about this.'"

Still, the goal of the research is to push for harsher criminal punishment for men who buy sex from prostitutes, she said. Nearly 90 percent of the men said that they would stop if they felt there was a likely chance they would be caught and prosecuted.

Men expressing conflicted feelings and frustration "is the good news," said Farley, who is based in San Francisco. "That they are conflicted. They do have deeply mixed feelings when someone takes the time to really inquire."

Who's paying for prostitutes?

by Leila Noelliste

Roughly 40 percent of the interviewees were Black, 36 percent were white, 14 percent were Latino, and the remaining were Asian or multicultural. The average age was 39. Most of the men, 83 percent, said that buying sex was an addiction, and about half said that they did it to obtain sex acts their partners would not perform.

Anal sex and oral sex were the most commonly cited. "I want to pay someone to do something a normal person wouldn't do. To piss on someone or pay someone to do something degrading who is not my girlfriend," one participant said. The average age for the first purchase of sex was 21 years old, with some men starting as young as 10. Only 22 percent reported feeling guilty or shameful when they purchased sex, and 43 percent said that a prostitute should do whatever a man asks, if he pays her.

"She gave up her rights when she accepted my money," one participant said. Although they felt relatively guiltless about participating in prostitution, many men acknowledged that it was detrimental. Eighty percent said that

prostitution had a negative impact on communities, and 42 percent said that it psychologically and physically damaged the women involved.

Ninetyfour percent said that they would not want their daughters to become prostitutes. "Getting beat up, robbed. Vaginal, stomach, back problems. Being stretched. It wears them out," one participant said. "From prostitution comes drug involvement, pimps, and violent crime like battery and assault," said another. The West Side, followed by the South Side, were the most popular locations to buy sex.

Thirty-four percent said they used the Internet to find women, 57 percent walked the streets, and 84 percent used indoor venues like bars, strip clubs and private parties. Close to 90 percent of interviewees said that some form of public exposure, like jail time, would deter them from buying sex. Sixty percent said that men under 18 should not follow in their footsteps. "Learn to trust and love a woman first.

"If you start out thinking of a woman as a sexual tool, you always will think of her as a sexual tool," one participant said.

Copyright 2008 Chicago Defender. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Charges followed a domestic violence call at woman's apartment

November 19, 2008|By Wendy E. Normandy, Special to the Tribune

CHICAGO RIDGE — A Chicago Ridge man and woman were charged with pimping and prostitution after the woman placed numerous ads on craigslist.com stating she would have sex for cash, police said.

Amber Compton, 27, and Dajuan L. Brown, 32, were arrested Nov. 10 after a domestic violence complaint at Compton's apartment, police said. Brown, who also lived there, was charged with **two counts of pimping and domestic battery**, police said.

Compton was charged with keeping a place of prostitution and one count of prostitution, police said.

North Side spa owner charged with prostitution

Posted: Sunday, 07 March 2010 2:12PM

CHICAGO (STMW) -- A Northbrook woman was charged Saturday with prostitution after allegedly offering to perform a sex act on an undercover police officer at a Pulaski Park neighborhood massage parlor.

Kristy Chin, 37, of Northbrook, was charged prostitution, keeping a place of prostitution and performing a massage without a license -- all misdemeanors, according to Cook County Sheriff's office spokesman Steve Patterson.

Chin was arrested Saturday after she allegedly offered to perform a sex act on an undercover officer at the Therapy Spa at 3334 W. Peterson Ave., Sheriff's police said.

Chin did not make the alleged offer on the officer's first visit, but only made the illegal offer when he became a returning client, according to a release from the Cook County Sheriff's police.

Chin is believed to be the owner of the clinic and Sheriff's investigators will work with the City of Chicago to determine if her business is properly licensed at that location.

Sheriff's police were tipped to the suspicious activities inside the spa by civilian complaints.

Chin is scheduled to appear in court April 30 in Skokie.

Sun-Times Media Wire Chicago Sun-Times 2010. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed

Tanning salon surrenders license after prostitution charges

August 15, 2008

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS — An Arlington Heights tanning salon has surrendered its business license after the salon's manager and five other people were arrested last month on prostitution-related charges, village officials said Thursday.

Singapore Salon, 308 E. Golf Rd., in the International Plaza shopping center has been closed since July 10 when an undercover police officer was offered sex for money after getting a massage, police said.

The salon's manager, Kil Sun Fara, 60, of Palatine, was charged with keeping a place of prostitution, police said. Village Manager Bill Dixon said he had suspended the salon's business license, which was forfeited before a revocation hearing Wednesday.

13 suspects arrested in prostitution sting, police say

September 10, 2008

WILLOWBROOK — An alleged prostitution ring in a DuPage-area hotel led to 13 arrests last Thursday, Willowbrook police said.

Willowbrook officers, in conjunction with Westmont police and the DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group, conducted the sting and arrested 10 men on charges of soliciting a prostitute and three women on charges of prostitution.

All were released after posting bond.

articles.chicagotribune.com/..../0809090673_1_prostitution-willowbrook-sting -

Aurora prostitution sting nabs 10

January 28, 2009 | By THE BLOTTER

SOUTHWEST SUBURBS — Three southwest suburban men were among 10 people arrested last weekend at an Aurora hotel during an undercover operation targeting prostitution activities advertised on the Internet, police said.

John M. Mora, 44, of the 4300 block of Glenolow Drive, Plainfield, and Bryan L. Wreza, 44, of the 6800 block of Edgewood Road, Palos Heights, were charged with solicitation of a sexual act, Aurora police said.

Meanwhile, Kevin M. Liszka, 25, of the first block of Bent Tree Court, Bolingbrook, who had allegedly driven a woman charged with prostitution to the hotel, was charged with not having a driver's license.

Prostitution Sting Snares Seven

By Steven Tanner on January 5, 2010 11:50 AM |

Five women, one man and one transgendered individual were [arrested last week for sexual solicitation](#) (Tribune) by Aurora detectives at a hotel on the west side. The detectives aimed their sting operation at suspected prostitution services advertised online, most notably the "erotic services" section of Craigslist.

Continue reading [Prostitution Sting Snares Seven](#).

[Prostitution Sting In Bend](#) May 18

Seven locals arrested along with alleged "pimps"

-by Donald Shurtleff Wednesday Apr 28 2010 | Chicago, IL Edition

A Bend Police Department prostitution sting has resulted in the arrest of seven Central Oregon residents and two others from Portland and Eugene. Police officers posed as possible "customers" as they contacted female prostitutes that were advertising on various websites. The prostitutes agreed to meet them at a pre-specified location and perform sexual services for money. In addition to the females, officers contacted two men who were allegedly acting as "pimps" or escorts.