

Pimps and Predators on the Internet
Globalizing Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children

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<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes>

DEFINITIONS

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppdef.htm>

Sexual Exploitation

A practice by which a person achieves sexual gratification, financial gain or advancement through the abuse or exploitation of a person's sexuality by abrogating that person's human right to dignity, equality, autonomy, and physical and mental well-being; i.e. trafficking, prostitution, prostitution tourism, mail-order-bride trade, pornography, stripping, battering, incest, rape and sexual harassment. Sexual exploitation preys on women and children made vulnerable by poverty and economic development policies and practices; refugee and displaced persons; and on women in the migrating process. Sexual exploitation eroticizes women's inequality and is a vehicle for racism and "first world" domination, disproportionately victimizing minority and "third world" women. Sexual exploitation violates the human rights of anyone subjected to it, whether female or male, adult or child, Northern or Southern.

Pimp

One who promotes and/or profits from the sale and/or abuse of another person's body or sexuality for sexual purposes, or the production and/or sale of images made of that person, e.g. trafficker, pornographer, brothel madam, third party manager, talent director, mamasan, mail-order bride agent, prostitution tour agent.

Predator

One who exploits conditions of inequality to buy and/or abuse for personal sexual satisfaction those with less power, e.g. john, punter, buyer, client, customer, trick, pedophile, rapist, sex offender, child molester, pornographer.

Internet

A computer based global communication network enabling rapid transmission of text, images, sound and video, e.g. the net, world wide web, the web, online, email, chat room, newsgroups.

Sex industry

The collection of legal and illegal businesses and single and multi-party operations that profit from the sexual exploitation of women, children, and sometimes, men in trafficking, organized prostitution, and/or pornography; e.g. brothels, massage parlors, bars, strip clubs, mail-order-bride agencies, prostitution tour agencies, "adult entertainment," "adult" bookstores, pornographic Web sites.

INTRODUCTION

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/pprint.htm>

Technology, Globalization and Systems of Sexual Exploitation

When those with power introduce a new technology into a system of oppression and exploitation, it enables the powerful to intensify the harm and expand the exploitation. This characterizes what is happening as predators and pimps, who stalk, buy and exploit women and children, have moved to Internet sites and forums for advertising, documenting and engaging in sexual exploitation.

Sexual abuse and exploitation are indigenous to all patriarchal cultures, institutions and nations, but the recent, rapid economic and political restructuring in many regions of the world has escalated the trafficking of women and children. There are approximately 200 million people around the world who are forced to live as sexual or economic slaves.[1]

The widespread political and economic restructuring, referred to as globalization, involves large shifts in wealth, employment and populations in a complex set of processes that is freeing those with power from local and even national regulation and control. Supranational corporations and international banking institutions that are richer and larger than most countries, and organized crime syndicates that are richer and larger than some countries, are setting the pace and are no longer accountable to any national government. In this milieu, women and children are increasingly becoming commodities to be bought, sold and consumed by tourists, military personnel, organized crime rings, traffickers, pimps, and men seeking sexual entertainment or non-threatening marriage partners. The global sexual exploitation of women and children that is accompanying globalization is a human rights disaster. Pino Arlacchi, who heads United Nations efforts to fight organized crime said, "Slavery is one of the most undesirable consequences of globalization." He added, "We regret this is not considered as a priority by any country at the moment."^[2]

Accompanying and facilitating globalization is a revolution in communications and technology. The computer based telecommunications system known as the Internet can send text, images, audio and video files around the world in milliseconds. Significantly, the cost of access to this global communications network is within the financial reach of most people in wealthier nations. Within the last five years this network with its worldwide audience has been undergoing commercialization. Some of the commodities are women and children. The Internet has accelerated and deepened the marketing of women for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

Forums on the Internet have become meeting grounds for pimps selling women, predators buying women or stalking victims. Web sites and newsgroups have become show rooms and bragging spaces for every type of violence perpetrated against women and children.

Like other powerful constituents of globalization, the Internet is almost without any regulation. Its international reach and new technologies have made local and national laws and standards either obsolete or unenforceable. Nicholas Negroponte, Director of the Media Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and founder of *Wired* magazine said, "As we interconnect ourselves, many of the values of a nation-state will give way to those of both larger and smaller electronic communities."^[3] With Internet technology and

communications pimps and predators can access global markets and unsuspecting victims. Pimps can locate their computer servers in countries with the most libertarian laws and operate outside the reach of regulations in all other countries.

The Internet allows pimps and predators to create their own culture outside community standards or interference. The technology of computer based communication also provides a high degree of privacy and anonymity for men to engage in stalking, viewing and buying of women and children in acts of sexual exploitation.

The Report on Pimps and Predators on the Internet

This report will examine how men are using the Internet to engage in and promote the global sexual exploitation of women and children. As a non-commercial communication medium the Internet is used by predators and amateur pimps to exchange information on where to go to buy women and girls in prostitution, exchange pornographic images and videos, and even broadcast in real time the sexual abuse of children. Predators use the Internet to contact victims and display their abuse of women and children.

Pimps are using the Internet as a commercial venue to advertise and sell several types of sexual exploitation of women and children. Commercial prostitution tours are advertised and arranged. Mail-order-brides are displayed and contact information sold to men seeking wives or sexual partners, followed by "romance tours" to meet women. Advertisements and sites for pornographic images and videos, strip shows and live sex shows saturate the web.

This report also documents police efforts to stop predators from using the Internet to engage in the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. A number of specialized units have been set up to catch predators of children. In several cases there has been unparalleled international cooperation among police units to break-up international child pornography and abuse rings.

The Internet has received so much bad publicity for the amount of illegal and offensive materials that can be obtained that the Internet industry has responded with efforts at self-regulation. Several of these self-regulatory programs, their goals and results are reviewed in this report.

Frustrated by the lack of will or ability of the Internet industry and the police to stop predator's use of the Internet for the purposes of sexual abuse, especially child sexual abuse, vigilante groups have formed to impose their own form of ethics and standards on the Internet. A few of these groups and their activities are described.

The connection between the sex industry and the Internet industry is examined. The symbiotic relationship between the two enables us to see that the commodification and exploitation of women and children is an integral part of globalization.

Finally, the report outlines steps that should be taken by governments and nongovernmental organizations to confront the sexual exploitation of women and children in each community and on the Internet.

Non-Commercial Use of the Internet for Sexual Exploitation PART 1

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppncpt1.htm>

The Internet and Web, as communication tools, enable men to merge the role of predators and pimps. They extend their experiences of buying women and children by writing about it and sharing it with other predators. Texts, images and videos that describe or show the exploitation or abuse of a woman or child can be shared online with the world. No longer isolated, men can reach out to find a community of like-minded predators on the Internet. Through this online community, they can share their experiences and gain validation for their behavior. They can engage in amateur pimping by advising others on how and where to prey on women and children all over the world.

Venues on the Internet for reporting and engaging in the non-commercial sexual exploitation of women and children are newsgroups, web pages, chat rooms and live video teleconferencing.

Predators Report on Their Exploitation of Women and Children

The oldest forum on the Internet for promoting the sexual exploitation of women and children is the newsgroup *alt.sex.services* (renamed *alt.sex.prostitution*). Its "*aim is to create market transparency for sex related services*" (Atta and M., *World Sex Guide*, June 1997). Postings from this newsgroup are archived into a World Wide Web site called *The World Sex Guide*, which provides "*comprehensive, sex-related information about every country in the world.*" The guide includes information and advice from men who have bought women and children on where and how to find and buy prostituted women and children in seventy countries from seven world regions (Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, and South America). For each country, if known, the age of consent is reported. The slogan of *The World Sex Guide* in 1996 was "*Fuckers of the world unite!*" It became "*Where do you want to fuck today?*" in 1997; and in 1998, took on the more pretentious title of "*A research project about prostitution worldwide.*"[4]

The World Sex Guide

Where do you want to fuck today?

The men write about their experiences buying women and children in prostitution, often while they were traveling on business or holiday. Many of the men's prostitution tour reports begin like this:

"I have a good knowledge of brothels in Brazil, due to my frequent journeys during the last 5 years"[5]

"Having some experience with the scene in New Zealand I would like to offer the following advice"[6]

"Another of my 'catching up' reports on present knowledge of hot spots around the globe, this time from Bristol, England"[7]

"This three day trip happened in June 1995. On the flight I read all the information I had printed out from The World Sex Guide-I had a lot of expectations of the City of Angels [Bangkok]"[8]

Details of the men's reports of their buying experiences include: information on where to go to find prostitutes, hotel prices, telephone numbers, taxi fares, cost of alcohol, the sex acts that can be bought, the price for each act, and evaluations of the women's appearances and performances. One man includes a rating scale on the likelihood of getting mugged in that neighborhood. The men go on to describe, often in graphic detail, their experiences of drinking and using women. These are *not* sexual fantasies as can be found in other *alt.sex* newsgroups on the Internet.

In the men's writings, the women are completely objectified and evaluated on everything from skin color to presence of scars and firmness of their flesh. Women's receptiveness and compliance to men buyers is also rated. The men buying women and posting the information see and perceive the events only from their self-interested perspective. Their awareness of racism, colonization, global economic inequalities, and of course, sexism, is limited to how these forces benefit them. A country's economic or political crisis and the accompanying poverty are advantages which produce cheap available women for the men to buy. Often men describe how desperate the women are and how little the men have to pay.

For example, although the United States has had a trade embargo against Cuba for 36 years, and the State Department discourages Americans from traveling to Cuba, *"some find the taboo of prohibition alluring,"* and in 1998, 50,000 Americans visited Cuba.[9] The following are several excerpts by men who recognize that the women in Cuba are not engaging in prostitution by choice, but buy them nonetheless and brag to other men about how inexpensive they were.

Cuba Report *These women are not whores by choice, nor are they doing it just to buy jewelry. Because they are average women caught in circumstances beyond their control it is all that much easier to fall for them--and even harbor the idea of marrying one of them and bringing her back with you. At the same time, a guy with enough hard currency can have the time of his life in what is probably the most romantic city in the world. ... In ten days I met and entertained five women; four were 18 or 19 years old.[10]*

Cuba Bits *Bring little gifts like panty hose and perfume and you'll be treated like a king.[11]*

Prostitution in Cuba *Some of the girls never asked for money. Give them something anyway. Bring SOME OLD CLOTHES. SMALL PRESENTS are quite welcomed.[12]*

Men who have bought women and children in prostitution write-up their experiences for postings on the *alt.sex.prostitution* newsgroup and its archive *The World Sex Guide*. They do not appear to have a commercial interest in the prostitution. They are writing for a peer group of men who buy women and girls in prostitution. They share their experiences and give each other advice and information on where to go to find women and girls and what they might expect in that particular city or establishment.

The men's guides include everything from currency exchange rates to how to run a bar tab. The names, addresses and phone numbers for 150 hotels where men will feel comfortable are listed.[13] All the city sections and their sexual specialties are listed and described, such as

massage parlors, discos, escort services, Japanese clubs, short-time hotels, and blow job bars. There are detailed descriptions on all of them. At these Web sites the men present an etiquette and buyer's guide on how men should behave and solicit in all of these places. The graphic descriptions of men's buying experiences are also a form of pornography on the Internet. The scope and detail of this exchange is completely unprecedented.

Some of the men posting information on the *alt.sex.prostitution* newsgroup are quite straightforward about their misogyny and sadism. Some men claim to "love" prostitutes, but their words reveal their true hatred of women. The descriptions of the women are usually callous, with disregard for the women as human beings. To these men the women are literally sexual objects to be bought for a few minutes at the cheapest prices they can bargain for. While listing the prices for services one man says, "*The price listed is the normal price, not the dying-for-some-crack price. If she's a substance abuser doesn't matter, I guess most are.*" One older woman in Canadian who had lost her teeth was described as "*good for blowjobs.*"[14] In Juarez, Mexico the women were described as "*mostly pretty ugly.*"[15] The prices men pay in many cities throughout the world show that the women must be desperate to engage in these sex acts for so little money and they cannot be making much money-maybe enough for basic survival.

The following are a few examples of the types of postings men make to *alt.sex.prostitution*. Although the postings selected are sexually descriptive, I have not included material that is highly graphic. I have omitted names of establishments because I do not want to further advertise places where women and children can be bought.

The following is an example of the advice men give to one another on how to go about buying a girl or woman in a bar in Bangkok, Thailand. In the following man's posting, he mentions that the women in bars are not identified by names, but by numbers pinned to their skimpy clothes, reducing the woman or girl's identity to a number. The "tough boyfriends" referred to are the pimps and bar owners who collect the money from the women, often giving only a small percent of it to the women.

Thailand Scene "*The Procedure [in Bangkok]: This is for the most part very simple. If you are in a bar and you see a girl that you like, you can either send for her (they wear numbers), go to her when she is not dancing or just try and catch her eye. In a crowded bar this last method often will be unsuccessful. Again many of the girls are very shy and will not look you in the eye or they will not chance coming over because if you turn them down they will lose face in front of their friends. But once you are with them, buy them a cola-\$3-4 - they get part of the proceeds and this will put them in a good mood. Try and get a feeling for their personality. Most of them will speak very little English beyond "Where you from?" "How long you stay in Thailand" "Where you stay?" and of course they are quite good with amounts. A surprising amount though do speak decent English as it is taught in a number of their schools and many have had farang [Western] boyfriends. If you decide that this is the girl that you want to spend some time with - the negotiations begin. Do you want "long time" (all night) or "short time" (usually one cum). Do your best to come to an agreement on price. This can avoid much aggravation later on. Many of the girls won't give a price for fear that you will refuse, so they say "Up to you." Depending on your generosity they will later on be satisfied or pissed off. Unless you're a real cheap bastard the girls will usually be happy with what you give them. O.K. you have agreed to leave together and now you find out there is a "bar fine" - an amount charged by the bar for the girl to leave - usually it ranges from \$12-16, but it keeps going up. Oh well, you've come this far so you pay the bar fine. Now you can either go*

back to your hotel or one of the short-time hotels that will be close by. This decision might depend on how discreet you want to be in bringing a girl back to your hotel. The short-time hotels are pretty cheap I think - \$10 at most - I've only used them twice a long time back. If you go back to your hotel you either have to check her in with the front desk (and in the top hotels charge another \$20 extra) or in some hotels - my preference - just go up to your room. Once there, you will both take showers separately and then get down to business. Only pay as the girl is getting ready to leave. Never pay first. No girl actually has ever asked me for payment up front. This of course leaves them open to farangs cheating them by not paying them or paying less than the agreed upon price. Believe me, I have heard many farangs boast about this. I think it is a lousy thing to do and these girls will spread the word as quickly as possible about what you did and you may find it difficult to get another girl. Also, many of these girls have very tough boyfriends who will come looking for you." [16]

The following is an excerpt from a man's report on his prostitution tour to Boca Chica, Dominican Republic. He describes his use of the World Wide Web search engines to find a destination for his inexpensive holiday of buying women.

Boca Chica Travel Report *"There's good news in the Caribbean ! Most of the rumours about Boca Chica are true !! The following is a detailed report about my trip to Dominican Republic, which I took around Thanksgiving last year [November, 1995]. I decided I wanted to go on vacation, but with that decision, there were two things I had to consider: first, that I didn't have alot of money to spend on such things, two, that availability of sex was VERY important !! On the money side, the Caribbean made sense: It's close, so it doesn't cost alot to get there. With that decision, though, there are alot of islands to choose from !! That's when availability of sex came into the picture. I started with doing a search in Netscape. The two keywords were "SEX+VACATION." The results of that search spanned the globe from Thailand to Dominican Republic, to Amsterdam. After coming across quite a few articles about Dominican Republic, I bought a couple of books about Dominican Republic in general: the people, the country, etc. I went to the travel agent, and got a pretty good deal: \$747.00 (all prices are quoted in \$US) for 5 nights, 6 days in the _____ RESORT including all meals (3 a day) and drinks (!), and included airfare. Upon getting to the airport in Santo Domingo, getting through customs was easy, quick, and painless. As soon as you get through customs you exchange your bucks right there. Then, with a 30 minute taxi ride (which costs about \$11.00), I went to resort. The _____ Resort was fabulous ! Large clean rooms (with AC [air conditioning]), good food, and pretty good service. Boca Chica is a very small beachfront town, whose only income comes from tourism. There's only one "main drag," which runs parallel to the beach for about 3/4 of a mile. It's amazing how many bars, souvenir shops, and girls can be crammed into such a small area ! Since it was my first night, I decided not to spend any money yet: just walk, and take it all in. I got more propositions in that 3/4 of a mile, than anyone could imagine !! And, the women doing the propositioning ! The range was from absolutely stunning, to "okay." I found no unattractive girls whatsoever. This is a very rough estimate, but I would say there were (between the streetwalkers and girls in the bars) about 150 women in that small stretch of street. The only small surprise was that the girls were darker than I expected, but color was also very wide-ranging. The age range was basically 16 (some), to 20's (most), to 30's (some). Another very noticeable thing was how friendly all the girls were. There was none of that "hard ass" attitude, so commonly seen here in the states. Most of the girls speak a little English, but even if you don't know very much Spanish, you (and they) can pretty much get the point across. The prices are pretty good: generally around \$20.00 - \$40.00, depending on the girl & what you want. Once, I had 2 BEAUTIFUL girls (ages about 17 & 19) for a total of \$65.00. Most of the girls use small,*

cinder block built "motels" dotting the street and the "room charge" is about \$10.00. The prices I'm quoting are for "get in, do what you have to do, and get out". That's not to say I was ever hurried by anyone in any way ! One thing I read was to negotiate prices BEFORE doing anything, which I did, so I don't know what would happen, otherwise." [17]

United States military personnel turned Pattaya, Thailand from a small fishing village into a prostitution center. After the initial visit by US soldiers in June 1959, it became a "rest and recreation" center for many soldiers during the Vietnam War, and in the early 1990s it serviced the same function for United Nations peacekeeping troops deployed to Cambodia. Today the beach resort has an estimated 3,000 prostitutes, 800 bars and 30,000 hotel rooms. The following man's description of buying women in Pattaya, Thailand describes several types of bars and specialty services that are offered. The man mentions Thai Kick Boxing as a form of entertainment in the bars. Women are often coerced into performing this form of "entertainment," which causes bruising and injuries to the women.

Pattaya Story *"This is an account of Pattaya, a city south of Bangkok. Pattaya has about 50% of its population working as bar girls! Here there are beer bars. The beer bars are exposed, outside bars that seat maybe 25 people and are staffed with perhaps 10 girls. Up and down Pattaya beach, there must be 500 of them total! Some are more major attractions which put on some entertainment like Thai Kick Boxing. The common ground is the bargirls. To put it in perspective, Pattaya is the most favored shore leave for ALL the world's navies! They say that when the 7th fleet is in town, all hell breaks loose. Comparing Pattaya with Bangkok I found a more laid back atmosphere, lower prices, and a less sophisticated lady. While Patpong women tend to make up and dress in a Western style, these gals seem more "local." Perhaps, that made them a little less attractive to me. But the focus of this part is on a bar I ran into in Pattaya! In Bangkok they have what is called "no hands" restaurants where your party is fed by waitresses sitting on your laps. All night long you can use your hands elsewhere, instead of worrying about putting food and drink into your mouth. I discovered an "upstairs" bar which only had 8 barstools. The bar itself was chest high and had semi-circular cut-outs at each barstool. Upon entering, one was approached by a bargirl, the massage started on the neck, and a drink bought. Only then did my eyes become accustomed to the subdued lighting. The "special services" offered were accomplished by the bar girl going around to the inside of the bar, kneeling down under the bar, parting a curtain, pulling down your pants, and applying her mouth to ones swelling member! The "special service" was accomplished for the mere sum of 250 Bhat (\$10)!! WOW now that "service" would be welcome just about anywhere. The incredible scene around one was one of XXX videos on the tube, 6 or so guys leaning on the bar in their own cut-outs, with the wildest expressions on their faces! A sign on the bar top said, "when pants are down around ankle, please to put valuables on top of bar." [18]*

One page on the World Wide Web promotes special shows in Bangkok where men can pay to see women smoking cigarettes with their vaginas. The next Web page provides a description of the razor blade show in which a woman dances and pulls two dozen razor blades connected by a string from her vagina. A color photograph of the act is shown. Another man describes a show in which a woman dances with two pythons and inserts the head of one into her vagina.[20]

Predators Take Turns with One Woman

This rapid publishing electronic medium has enabled men to buy individual women. Men can go out at night, buy a woman, go home, and acting like amateur pimps, post the details on a newsgroup. By morning, anyone in the world with an Internet connection can read about it and often have enough information to find the same woman. For example, in Nevada, USA, where prostitution is legal, a man bought a woman called "Honey." He wrote about his experience and told other men the name of the brothel where "Honey" could be found. Within a couple of weeks other men went and bought "Honey" themselves and posted their experiences to the newsgroup. Within a short period of time men were having a cyberorgy of male bonding by describing what each of them did to her. Men are keeping a special Web site for men to post their experiences of buying this one woman.[21] Additional Web pages have been created for "Monique" and "Katherine," who can be bought at legal brothels in Nevada. To my knowledge this public documentation and exposure of buying an individual women is unknown before Internet communication. The implications for this type of exchange in a fast-publishing, easily accessible medium like the Internet are very serious for the sexual exploitation of women in the future.

Non-Commercial Use of the Internet for Sexual Exploitation PART 2

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppncpt2.htm>

Predators' Bad Experiences: Women's Pain and Suffering

In their writings in the World Sex Guide, men inadvertently reveal their abuse of women. The reader can get a glimpse of the humiliation and physical pain most of the women endure at the hands of men who buy them by reading accounts of men's "bad experiences." To the men who buy women and children a bad experience means they didn't get their money's worth or that the woman didn't keep up her act of enjoying what she had to do. Here is an example from a tourist in Bangkok, the City of Angels:

City of Angels "*The room was large, had a bath tub, king size bed with lots of mirrors. I undressed her and she undressed me. She never smiled or laughed. We both entered the hot bathtub and she washed me carefully and then herself. Then she prepared some bath foam in a bin, puted it [sic] onto an airbed in front of the bathtub, and invited me to lay down. Than she applied the legendary massage without hands: She massaged me with her body: her breast and very much with her pubic bone. But after 10 minutes it was over. She tried to give me a blowjob, but she was that bad that I did not even get an erection. I thought about helping her with thinking at something really nice, but then I thought "what for do I pay?" [sic] After five minutes successless [sic] blowing I asked her to postpone that. We dried each other and went to the bed. She expected to get fucked immediately but I thought if I can stay for up to two hours, than I want a real massage. I laid down on my front and she was astonished that I expect a back massage. She started and it was really painful, because she did not use any lubricant. I asked her for oil. Again she was astonished: "You want an oil massage?" She picked up a little oil bottle from her bag. Then the massage was much better - even though I have had a lot of better massages. She did not even know that muscles are massaged and not bones. After 15 minutes I was much more relaxed and thought about the number of the girl. And she was worth that number. Then I asked for a condom and fucked her for another 30 minutes. Her face looked like she was feeling a lot of pain, even when I*

licked her softly. She blocked my way when I wanted to leave the room and asked for a tip. I gave her 600bath. All together not a good experience." [22]

Predators Enslave Women and Girls

Numerous accounts by human rights groups have revealed that many of the girls and women in prostitution industries around the world are virtual slaves. The men's comments reveal that they know that. One man on the Internet explained to others that the girls in Bangkok "virtually get 'sold' by their families into the industry." Another man said, "Yes, there is slavery in Bangkok. Some girls work against their will." He then goes on to describe where those "kept" girls are most likely to be found. He says, "if this is a problem for you, simply stay away from [those hotels]. Another way of handling this is, of course, to be gentle and gentlemanry [sic] and give the girl a good time whether she is a slave or not." [23]

Slavery is accepted and exploited by these predators. Men seek out establishments where women are enslaved for their sadistic sexual violence. One man said,

"The hotel girls are usually younger than most other 'available' girls in Bangkok, 14-15 years old being rather common. They are in effect 'owned' by the hotel, which means that you can treat them more or less any way you want — and many men do. Hotels like this should be like paradise for those of us who are into S&M [sadomasochism]." [24]

Although the basis of prostitution is economic exploitation for the pimps, brothel and bar owners, the men who buy the women and girls engage in enslaving them for purposes of sexual gratification and domination. The following selection, from a man's report on his prostitution tour in Thailand, reveals in his own words, how the women are constrained and forced to perform sex acts for basic survival.

"You can go to an island. ... You and a buddy or two go to a beach resort and talk to any of the boat owners in the harbor. He agrees to meet you at a specified time the next day. Then you spend the evening storing up on good books, rented scuba gear, frisbees, things like that and go bar hunting. There are bars, and there will be bar girls, and some of them will agree to join you the next day. Come the next day, your party (two or three guys, five or six girls, perhaps) transfers to the ship and is taken to one of the thousands of small paradise islands off the coast of Thailand. It will be deserted, maybe with a hut or a bungalow, but with no people at all. Then you agree with the skipper to come by every day with fresh food, and to pick you up again in a week. It is a great way of getting both a good tan, a good relaxation, and all your sexual fantasies fulfilled. Last time I did this, we quickly established a house rule that no girl was ever allowed to wear any piece of clothing except her sandals. That, plus our other rule that every girl had to in some appropriate way or another earn her food before every meal, turned the stay in a rather pleasant one."

The following is another example of a man's self-report of forcing a prostituted woman to stay with him and submit to sex when she did not want to. He felt entitled to 20 hours of ownership because he paid for that amount of time to the brothel owner. This man is writing about buying a woman in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

"At my last stop I do find a Khmer girl. She's thin with small breasts and a very attractive girlish figure to go with her cute face. I settle on \$15 to have her for the night and until noon the next day. This I make clear with the papasan, but it is apparently not clear with the girl.

Her name is Mao and the two of us take a moto-taxi back to my hotel. I quickly have her undressed, with her attempting to conceal her body within a towel. She turns out to be another okay screw, not especially passionate, and absolutely refuses to let me [perform oral sex.] Her other difficulty is her insistence on watching TV, which I will allow [only as] a tradeoff, if she allows [oral sex]. She has a childish inability to seek compromise, though, instead kicking her feet in a tantrum of sorts, and the TV remains off.

We do manage a shower together to go with the sex, and the next morning we wash each other's hair and she shaves me. As the morning proceeds, though, her restlessness increases turning at times into tantrums, pouting, and even a few tears. Having already got a read on her early on, I don't buy any of this, and later on she just as easily allows me another screw with her.

Finally, at a little after 11 am I decide I've had enough fun and we both dress to go out. We go outside to hale a moto-taxi and from across the street comes what I guess is one of the mamasams."

Even from the man's perspective the woman wants to leave and is resisting, but he feels entitled to temporary ownership for the time he has paid.

Predators Buy Children

Although the average age of prostitutes in many countries is so young that most of it is by definition child sex abuse, the men publish information on newsgroups on where to find very young girls. One man says, that in Bangkok, "*there is child prostitution. I have been offered 9-year-olds, and 14-year-olds are not uncommon.*" His solution: "*If child prostitution turns you off, be careful when you select your girl.*"[25] Another man described which street corners are the best for finding pimps who supply pre-teen girls. He said not to worry if you ask the wrong guy, he will probably just direct you to the right one. One man said:

"Outside _____ is the best chance of finding guys selling very young girls - pre-teens. You strike contact with the guy, he asks you to meet him somewhere close in an hour, and he will then bring one or two school girls for you to look over."[26]

Another man posted this:

"Quietly, my helper [bar attendant or pimp] suggested that perhaps I would be interested in seeing what was available in one of the special bar areas. What he alluded to made my heart race wildly. He said that in there they had some 'young ones.' ... Inside the other room...sat about 12 little girls watching TV. ...On a command from my attendant, they all sat back up on the couches and smiled at me, giving me their full attention. ...the youngest at my guess about 12. It was obvious that these young things had not yet matured into ladies... their giggles and squirming quickly gave them away. No dummies either, the establishment had made no attempts to dress them sexy, but rather clothed them in young girl outfits befitting their age. I couldn't restrain myself! I had to have one of them. I picked out what I took to probably be the oldest one as she was the most attractive to me. My attendant assured me that all of them were suitably trained, by my heart went to this one. Her name was Bii. ...As she led me away to the room, I knew I was in for a wild time."[27]

He continues with a graphic description of what he did to the girl that is so pornographic and abusive I will not reprint it. It includes many references to her "tiny" mouth and vagina and her "grimace of pain" when he had intercourse with her.

Non-Commercial Use of the Internet for Sexual Exploitation PART 3

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppncpt3.htm>

Predators in Strip Clubs

The postings by men who visit strip clubs are posted on newsgroups and web pages. The two largest are the *Ultimate Strip Club List* and the *Grimace Nudie Club Listing*. The postings from the newsgroup *alt.sex.strip-clubs* are archived on a Web site called *Grimace Nudie Club Listing*. The site was created and is updated by Larry Grim (thereby the name Grimace), a retired US Army Master Sergeant, who claims he works as a Novell Network Administrator. The site includes information and reviews on strip-clubs in Canada, USA, South Asia and Oceania, Australia, Europe, Africa and Mexico and Caribbean. As with the *World Sex Guide*, this site is a man's etiquette and user's guide to strip clubs with advice on cover charges and how to act and treat the women.[28]

The following are selections from the *Grimace Nudie Club Listing* which include definitions and examples of the acts the men paid to watch and buy.

Couch Dance "A 'couch dance' is when a dancer plops you down on a couch (or a close attempt at a couch) and "dances" in you [sic] face/lap/whatever. It all depends on the club your [sic] at for the value. At the _____ in Mt. Ephrain, New Jersey, the girl is totally nekkid [sic] and puttin' the shnapper [sic] about 1/2 inch from your face (the whole time trying to get you into a \$250 private session) with not much lap grinding (if any). At [club name, Mays Landing, New Jersey] you get a private room in the back with a big couch and the girl in a bikini; you buy off pieces of clothing. This place will give you a decent dry humping, although it's not cheap." [29]

Shower Dance Shower dancing as done at _____ Club in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The shower is placed around the back of the VIP lounge, so it can't be seen from the main lounge. It is an open set with mirrored walls; also two showerheads placed on different sides of the stall. There are two "comfy chairs" set at angles from the corners of the stall, and in front are a few rows of tall stools for the usual audience to gather on. The shower dance itself is a variation on the stage dances-the girls dance for two songs, although they are totally nude for both songs. They usually start by covering themselves with shaving cream (often trying to spell out names, or other effects-one trick of the more playful dancers is to pile the shaving cream on (usually on the ass), and then give themselves a hard spank (as cute as this is to watch, it has the additional effect of spraying shaving cream everywhere!). They then rinse off, and sometimes on the second dance they will lather up with a sponge and dishwashing liquid (something like Lemon Joy, the gold color has a great visual effect poured on naked flesh). As I noted, the shower is big enough for more than one girl, and sometimes on good nights another girl will jump in to help lather up. They can get quite playful at these times too. One shower usually is worth the extra cost of admission (its normally counted as a \$25 dance)." [30]

Grim provides statistics on the usage of his Web site. When an Internet user contacts a Web site his/her access is recorded. The Web site owner can count the number of visits to the Web site and compile the number of visits his web site has received. He can also compile the locations or domains of the visitors. On a graph Grim plots the number of visits per day for the Grimace Nudie Club site from 20 June 1995 to 22 January 1996. During this six month period his Internet strip-club site was visited an average of 20,000 times per day. During this time period, the peak was in mid-July 1995 when almost 70,000 contacts were made in one day.[32]

The *Grimace Nudie Club Listing* also includes reviews of women in strip clubs or bars and the acts they perform. The Internet provides a communication medium that can be quickly updated and allows men access to specific information from all over the world. The ease of access and detailed information familiarizes and normalizes strip clubs and stripping for readers, thereby promoting the sexual exploitation of women.

Men are encouraged to become amateur pimps by filling out a form provided at the *Grimace Nudie Club Listing* giving descriptions and reviews of strip clubs they have visited.

Predators with Cameras

Men who buy women and children in prostitution frequently photograph them. Afterwards, the women never know where the photographs have gone, who has access to them, and whether the photographs will be used to blackmail or silence them in the future. For example, a Thai woman found a picture of herself, taken by a man who bought her, on a Web site that advertised prostitution tours.[33] In the United States, a man who buys women in Tennessee is documenting his buying experiences and amateur photography on a Web site called *StreetWalkerPics.com*.[34] The following are the captions he included beside pornographic pictures he had taken of two women.

StreetWalkerPics.com

Spice This is Spice. I picked her up on a rather warm night for January 21 1999 in Memphis. In the usual spot on Summer near Lester. We drove around and talked for a minute before she agreed to do a shoot. I paid her more than I should have for this shoot but since I was in a weird mood and had her fuck a flower she bought at a gas station I didn't feel too bad about it. I took 82 pics of her.[35]

Sharon Meet Sharron of Knoxville Tn. A 33 year old with a fetish for pain. She likes to get burned with cigarettes and beaten by her girlfriend during sex. You can see some of her 'love scars' (as she calls them) in her pics. She liked doing the photo shoot and wants to set one up to do with her and her female lover-who is also a hooker. I picked her up on the street beside the hotel in which they live.[36]

Predators with Hidden Cameras

Men are using tiny video cameras, hidden everywhere from in a bag dropped near a woman's feet to the crevices in a dressing room, a bathroom, a shower stall, or even a toilet. The purpose is to look up women's skirts in public, or peep at women conducting the very private activities of taking a shower or attending to their personal hygiene. The phenomenon is called

"up-skirts." Men, commonly called "peeping Toms," are using tiny high tech video recorders to tape and view women's private activities or clothing. Many are also sharing and selling their images and videos on the Internet. More and more "up-skirt" and "peeping tom" pornography Web sites have been appearing on the Internet; by June 1998, at least 40 such sites existed.[37] Some of the video recorders are connected to live transmissions to the Internet, so peeping-tom-type-predators can check anytime of the day or night to see if the recorder is capturing an invasion of a girl or woman's privacy.

The men's pleasure or satisfaction in viewing women in such private activities is a sense of power over the women by viewing something the women would not want to be seen, especially by total strangers. There is an added thrill for these predators because the women do not know they are being seen and recorded. Some men are motivated by fetishes, or have become desensitized by other types of pornography and are seeking new forms of power, violation and stimulation.

The following is the description from one hidden camera site on the Web.

"This is a specialist site dedicated to secretly filmed pics of women changing, on the toilet, in bedrooms, showers, through windows and in the open air. These are genuine pictures snapped through peepholes, air vents, wardrobe doors or from cameras concealed in bags. They are totally unaware that they have been caught on film.

NEW! 1998!

The best Voyeur site on the net just got better! Incredible LIVE feed from secret cameras in TOILET, CHANGE ROOM.

RESTROOMS: Close ups from behind of woman squatting before peeing/ Woman peeing, all details visible. Side view from underneath partition of woman squatting on 'turkish' toilet/ Revealing close up of woman wiping herself after peeing.

UPSKIRTS: Young woman sitting on steps revealing all / Secret picture taken under college dining table / Between legs mini skirt shots taken directly upwards from ground level.

BEDROOMS: Single women robing and disrobing in hotel rooms / Women undressing, to fully naked / Naked woman getting out of bed / Couples filmed having sex in Motel rooms

CHANGING ROOMS: Woman trying on underwear / College girls in the locker room / Swimming pool-ladies communal changing room

SHOWERS: Full frontal shots of women in shower / Woman bending over the bath from behind / Upward shot of woman taken in shower from low level

CHEERLEADERS: High kicking girl revealing more than she thinks / Another high kick, panties slipped right to the side / College girls panties, fully displayed and stretched"[38]

Because this is a new phenomenon made possible by the new technology of tiny cameras, most states or jurisdictions do not have laws against it. When predators are caught the police are forced to use old laws that were drafted for other purposes. As this new form of crime

becomes more widespread, more laws are being drafted to make it a crime and ensure that perpetrators are punished.

New Zealand: David Overend, 36, admitted to nine charges of using a miniature video camera to film up the skirts of women. A pin-hole camera was concealed in his shoe, with a wire running up his pant leg enabled him to view and video tape thousands of women and girls at public events. He traded the images and videos around the world over the Internet. In his emails he claimed to have filmed up the skirts of 2,000 to 4,000 girls and women since 1995.

United States: Daniel Laws, Pennsylvania, was arrested when he was caught taking a video camera from a duffel bag and secretly placing it on the floor between the legs of a women shopping in a department store. He was the first person arrested under a new law that made it a crime to secretly watch or photograph anyone nude or partially nude when the person could reasonably expect privacy.

United States: In Virginia, police are arresting men under a 1994 law for "unlawful filming, videotaping or photographing of another when there is a reasonable expectation of privacy." Charles C'Debaca, 45, was caught videotaping a woman at a fair through a hole he cut into his camera bag, which was dangled down around his ankle. When police searched his home they found hundreds of hours of videotapes. He was convicted, but is appealing the decision claiming the law applies to private places, and the Fairfax County Fair, where he was caught, was a public place.

Non-Commercial Use of the Internet for Sexual Exploitation PART 4

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppncpt4.htm>

Predators Make and Trade Child Pornography

The mainstream acceptance or tolerance of pornography and the expansion of the prostitution industry over the past several decades have also increased the demand and supply of child pornography. Although descriptions and depictions of the sexual abuse of children have existed for centuries, the number and availability of images, especially photographs and videos that require the actual sexual abuse of a child, have increased exponentially. The Internet has enabled globalization of the production and distribution of all types of pornography, including child pornography. Most predators trading in child pornography quickly moved from small-scale activities to large-scale transmission and cataloging of child pornography.

Most laws banning depictions of children engaged in or being used in sexual acts were written before computer technology. Because the language of the laws in the United States says "visual depictions," child pornographers and those possessing child pornography have used the language as a loophole to escape punishment, saying that computer files are not legally the same as "visual depictions," or photographs. In late 1997, a US. Federal Court of Appeals upheld the pornography conviction of a Los Angeles man who claimed that computer image files were not included under federal child pornography laws. He had been found guilty of pornography charges prior to 1996 when the definition in the law was expanded to include data stored on computer disk or by electronic means. He tried to claim that computer GIF files

containing pornographic images were not "visual depictions." Previously, in 1986, the court rejected a claim that unprocessed, undeveloped film did not constitute a "visual depiction."^[42]

Pedophilia sites are popular on the World Wide Web, some average 170,000 visits per month. These sites are usually havens for men who sexually abuse children. They can access these sites and read articles that defend pedophilia as a "sexual preference," and engage in discussions with each other that enable them to defend and rationalize their behavior.

Communications in chat rooms on the Internet leave no record, so these sites have become the haven for predators trading child pornography. According to Graham Rees, co-director of the University of Queensland Prentice Centre in Australia, "*IRC is probably the most common medium on the Internet for the exchange of paedophilia information.*"^[44]

In 1997, the US non-profit organization, PedoWatch, reported that 1,500 people each day joined the preteen erotica trading channels on Inter-Relay Chat (IRC). One investigative reporter accessed chat rooms going by the names of "*preteen sex pics*," "*gayboy sex*," and "*preteen boy sex*." She found nine chat rooms with about 250 users dealing in child pornography. All the users had pornographic images of boys, 13 years and under, engaged in sex acts to exchange.^[45]

Undernet.org, the second largest IRC network, does not monitor any of the conversations or exchanges that go through its 44 servers in 11 countries. In 1997, when asked about that, a spokesperson responded, "*While it may be technically possible, it's not humanly possible. There are around 30 IRC operators online at any given time to try and run a network with 15,000 or more users.*"^[46]

Investigations by police that led to the break-up of a child pornography ring, known as the Wonderland Club, found that predators in Germany downloaded more child pornography than any other country in the world. In second place were predators in Australia.^[47]

Many of the arrests of predators possessing and trading child pornography on the Internet show that these are not small-scale activities, but concerted efforts to record and exploit the sexual abuse of children.

Switzerland: A 31-year-old computer assistant at Basel University created a Web site on the university's computer system to house 1000 pornographic images, a number of them showed children. Police found additional pornography on this home computer. Possession of child pornography is not an arrestable offense in Switzerland, but transmitting the material can lead to a prison sentence up to three years and a fine of up to US\$28,000.^[48]

Canada: James Bruce Ritchie, 51, of Brockville, Canada pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography after police raided his house and found 1,350 pornographic images, some depicting incest and bestiality, and 671 fictional stories of children engaging in sexual acts, some of which he had written himself.^[49] He was sentenced to 15 months in jail, one of the toughest sentences handed down since a 1993 Criminal Code amendment targeted child pornography.^[50]

France: More than 50 people were detained, five of whom were placed under formal investigation, in a police crackdown on a pedophilia ring that used the Internet to transmit child pornography.[51]

Australia: Colin Mowday, a Victoria-based RAAF officer, was fined A\$4,000 for possessing child pornography and given two four-month suspended jail sentences after a police search of his home turned up more than 300 computer disks, 500 computer printouts, 20 videos and three magazines of child pornography. The images included children as young as five being sexually abused by adult men.[52]

Spain: Twelve people were arrested, and 3,000 Internet images, 2,000 slides and hundreds of videos and computer diskettes seized in a police raid in Ciutat Vella, in the northeastern region of Catalonia. As many as 40 local children may have been used in making the pornography. The ring distributed the material in France, Mexico, the United States and other European countries. The investigation started after police arrested a couple who sold their 10-year-old son as a prostitute on weekends for US\$200.[53]

United States: Russell Latrell Boyd, 28, was indicted on charges of possession, receipt, reproduction and distribution of child pornography involving the sexual exploitation of children. 5,000 images were found on his home computer.[54]

England: Timothy Spring, 20, a student at the University of Central Lancashire, pleaded guilty to charges of publishing obscene computer files on the Internet and making indecent photographs of a child from computer files. He set up his Web site through an account in the US in an attempt to get around the British anti-porn laws.[55]

New Zealand: Paul Edward George Benning, a 24-year-old Dunedin student was the first person in New Zealand to be convicted of making pornography available for gain via the Internet. Police found 200 pornographic images on Benning's computer. He operated on the Internet under the pseudonym Mr. Hell on an inter-relay chat channel called "*100 per cent Pre-teen Sex Pics.*"[56]

The Australian National Crime Authority Report states, "*As a consequence of recent advances in technology, such as the Internet and computer bulletin boards, networking between paedophiles has become easier, more anonymous, more accessible, less risky and probably more prevalent.*" The report also noted the link between child sexual abuse and child pornography: "*The correlation between the possession of child pornography and child-sexual abuse provides a strong impetus for law enforcement to comprehensively investigate all child pornography offenders.*"[57]

The same report states that police have identified 5,000 pedophiles in loose networks across Australia who sexually abuse children and traffic in child pornography. The report named 100 child-sex abusers and linked them to local and international pedophile organizations, including the Spartacus Club, the Marlin Coasters and The Orchid Club. The report noted that 30,000 girls and 11,000 boys are sexually abused in Australia each year. Many small networks, made-up of two or three pedophiles are known to operate across Australia. The Report found substantial evidence that child sex abusers networked through the Internet, exchanged child pornography, and, in a few cases, used the Internet to locate potential victims.[58]

The Australian National Crime Authority Report called for a national intelligence project to investigate pedophile infiltration of the Internet, increase funding for Internet investigations, and police training on computer technology.[59]

In Great Britain, from mid-1997 to mid-1998, the Paedophile and Pornography Unit, consisting of ten members based at the Digbeth police station of the West Midlands Police, identified 24 pedophiles trading in child pornography on the Internet. Over half of the offenders were charged, convicted and received sentences ranging from probation to two years imprisonment. The others were cautioned. In the first 6 months of 1998, they made 19 separate seizures of child pornography, mostly photographs and videos.[60]

Many sexual predators collect pornography and when possible, take pictures of themselves in the act of sexually abusing women and children. *"It is now common practice for those who habitually sexually abuse children to film themselves in the act."* The videos of the abuse *"presumably bring even more immediate memories and arousal"* than photographs.[61]

Romania: Predators travel to Romania to stalk the 100,000 abandoned or orphaned children, 2,500 of whom live on the streets of Bucharest. Poor and desperate, some children are exploited for very little money, or even a pack of cigarettes. George Roman, from Save the Children in Romania, searches for pedophiles and assists the police when possible. He has found pornographic pictures of boys he recognizes from Romania on the Internet.[62]

United States: In a chilling case that shows the extent of child sex abusers' obsession and dedication to gaining access to children, a man in the United States in prison, already serving a 23-year sentence for molesting girls, was found to be trading child pornography over the Internet. He was using a computer inside the prison to compile a large database of information on thousands of children living in Minnesota, USA. The list included the addresses and physical descriptions of 2,000 children. The information was sent outside the prison by email.[63] From inside the minimum-security prison at Lino Lakes, Minnesota, George Chamberlain, 57, was the manager of Insight, Inc., a non-profit computer programming firm. By using an Internet connection, he obtained 287 pornographic pictures of children from contacts in Mexico, India and the United States. He had access to sophisticated computer equipment, such as writeable CD-ROMs, on which he stored his illegal material under the password, *"They cannot commit me."* George Chamberlain was sentenced to an additional seven years and three months in a federal prison for possessing and conspiring to trade child pornography over the Internet. He will not be allowed access to computers or the Internet while in prison.[64]

Predators who form rings to exchange child pornography sometimes transmit and view live broadcasts of the sexual abuse of children. These rings use several modes of communication and transmission over the Internet and use the latest high tech equipment. They usually set membership requirements that require the new member to implicate himself as a child sex abuser, pornographer or collector of child pornography. Using the new technology of live videoconferencing, sex predators from around the world can witness the live sexual abuse of a child and record the broadcast for future use.

The following are descriptions of child pornography and prostitution rings that have been uncovered and broken up by police. The efforts often required more international cooperation among law enforcement officials and agencies than had ever been attempted or completed before. Prior to mid-1997, there were three international police operations, Operation

Longarm and Innocent Images from the United States and Operation Starburst from Great Britain, that investigated child pornography rings using the Internet.[65]

Orchid Club

In 1996, a 10 year old girl told her mother that she had been sexually abused by her friend's father while spending the night at her friend's house. Upon investigation, the police found sophisticated computer equipment for live broadcasting to the Internet. The man had sexually abused the girl and turned it into "live pornography." After a further investigation, the police found more files containing pornography. The police had discovered The Orchid Club, which engaged in live Internet transmission of sexual abuse of children, ranging in age from five to ten years. In one night's activity, a 5-year old somewhere in the Mid-western United States was molested while at least 11 men watched and asked for specific types of abuse to be perpetrated.[66] In this case, initially in 1996, sixteen men were indicted for their involvement in the Internet based conspiracy to produce pornographic images and videotapes. Some of the images, made using digital cameras connected directly to computers, were sent over the Internet to Orchid Club members in nine states and four countries. Members exchanged child pornography and recounted their sexual abuse of children using a password-restricted, electronic chat room. Members were initiated into the Orchid Club by relating their personal sexual abuse of a child. This is the first police found real-time online transmission of pictures of children being sexually molested and abused.[67] At least eight children were molested in connection with the club.

Three USA members of the Orchid Club were sentenced to long prison terms.[68] Eventually, twenty men from twelve states were charged in the United States. The ring extended to Finland, Canada, and Australia. Nineteen of the defendants were given sentences ranging from 12 months to 30 years.[69] Some of the members were untraceable because they used anonymous remailers, a system in which all transactions pass through a third-party computer that disguises the identity of the user.

The investigation identified three British men belonging to the Orchid Club. US Customs notified Sussex police in England, and their investigation led to a raid on a man's home and the eventual discovery of the Wonderland Club.[70]

Wonderland Club

In early September 1998 the world's most sophisticated child pornography ring, to date, was brought down by one of the most far-reaching international police operations ever put together. The Wonderland Club, as it was called, had approximately 180 members in the United States, Australia, Norway, Italy, Portugal, Finland, France, Austria, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, and Great Britain.

Membership in the Wonderland Club was by invitation only. Candidates had to be nominated and approved. The criterion for membership was being in possession of at least 10,000 child pornographic images, with each image different from any in the possession of the other members. In a United States, based computer, a database of 100,000 pornographic images of children was found. The ring was composed of "*very serious players*," some of whom were producing videos of children being sexually abused.[71] Initially, 40,000 images were seized in the UK alone.

The Wonderland Club members used very sophisticated computer equipment and security systems. The network encrypted files with a code developed by the former KGB in the Soviet Union.[72]

The police operation, code named Cathedral, was coordinated in London by a newly formed unit called the National Crime Squad. Interpol, US Customs and UK National Criminal Intelligence Service assisted in the organization of the simultaneous arrests. On the first day over 100 suspected predators in 12 countries were arrested. Police in Germany arrested 10 predators in raids in seven states. The raids indicated that 200 people were involved in making child pornographic videos for the Internet.[73] In the initial sweep, there were 11 arrests in UK, 32 in the United States, 8 in Norway, 3 in Italy, and 5 in France. More arrests were made in the days that followed the initial crackdown.

The Netherlands Club

In July 1998, a European vigilante anti-pedophile group exposed an international child pornography ring. The ring was found to be operating in the Netherlands, Germany, the United States, Israel and Russia. Around 9,000 images were found in the Zandvoort, Netherlands apartment of formerly convicted pedophile, Gerrie Ulrich, who was murdered in Italy, possibly by his business partner, and partner in the child pornography ring. The cruelty to the children in the pornography stunned many officials familiar with the sexual exploitation of children. Some of the pornography was made with babies that appeared to be no more than 12 to 15 months old. A child psychiatrist said that the children must have been sedated because they showed no reaction to the torture to which they were subjected. One film, titled "*Oh Daddy*," shows balding middle-aged men raping 5-and 8-year old girls. One girl reportedly was so lifeless she may have been dead.

Officials claimed that almost none of the pornography found in this case was produced in the Netherlands. They think it was produced in Central and Eastern Europe, and posted on the Web in the United States.[75]

The Dutch government's permissive attitude toward the sexual exploitation of women resulted in an inadequate response early in this case. The investigation in the Netherlands was hampered because of lack of trained and ready police for this type of crime. Several years previously the police vice squads had been disbanded. Legalization of the prostitution industry in the Netherlands had done away with the need for a vice squad. About two weeks after the ring was exposed, a top employee in the Justice Ministry in the Netherlands, which was leading the investigation, was fired for downloading pornography with his office computer for personal use.[76] The report released to the media did not name the man, and minimized his activity by saying he had only distributed the material to a small circle of acquaintances.[77]

German Crackdown on Child Pornography on Usenet Groups

In December 1995 the German government threatened action against the Internet service provider CompuServe because of Usenet groups carrying child pornography. CompuServe responded by withdrawing over 200 Usenet groups worldwide. Usenet is a global electronic bulletin board with over 10,000 special interest bulletin boards or newsgroups.[78] The nature of Usenet groups and the Internet does not allow distribution by country, so CompuServe could not selectively exempt Germany from distribution, so they chose to halt distribution of

those Usenet groups all together. Almost all of the groups were within the category *alt.sex*. There was conflicting information on how the 200 groups were chosen to be withdrawn.

The actions drew a quick, sharp response from the libertarian Internet audience, especially in the United States, who made claims of censorship and started a panic that one country was going to be able to dictate the content of the Internet to the rest of the world. The same groups and individuals expressed no concern about the sexual abuse of children, or the use of the Internet to transmit those images. I was one of the few who wrote about the human rights violations propagated and promoted by these newsgroups.[79] Several months later CompuServe restored all but five of the Usenet groups.[80]

Non-Commercial Use of the Internet for Sexual Exploitation PART 5
<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppncpt5.htm>

Predators Find Children on the Internet

The number of children online has grown as rapidly as the whole Internet. At the end of 1997 there were an estimated 10 million children online, up from 6 million at the beginning of 1997, and up from 1.1 million in 1995.[81] Predators are using the Internet to contact some of those children and abuse them. They find children in chat rooms and Web sites for children. They contact them and emotionally abuse them online by engaging in age-inappropriate sexually explicit talk or sending pornographic images to them. Some predators also set up physical meetings with children for the purpose of sexually exploiting and abusing them.

Chat rooms are online sites where people can correspond interactively. The transmission is instantaneous, so there is no lag between a person sending the message and the person on a computer at the other end receiving the message. The contacts are usually anonymous, with participants using nicknames. Chatters can take on any identity they choose. Sexual predators take full advantage of this. An additional attraction for those seeking to engage in illegal activities is that there is no record made of the message in chat rooms, as is the case for bulletin boards or newsgroups. Also, once two people meet in a chat room, they can quickly open up another private chat room, so that their conversation is private.

Among the millions of children online, their favorite sites to visit are chat rooms, where they talk for hours. The most widely used online service for families is America Online. On an average afternoon, after school in 1997, there were 400 public chat rooms open, each with more than 20 participants. A significant number were dedicated to sexually suggestive topics.[82]

The initial and most important factor in a predator's sexual abuse of a child is gaining access to that child. The Internet has provided a wide-open venue for that. Robert Davis, President of Lycos, one of the Internet's most popular search engines, said that parents should be frightened of what and who their children encounter when using the Internet. He said he never lets his 9-year-old son onto the Web unless he is sitting beside him.[83]

The problem of predators contacting children first came to widespread attention in May 1993 when 10-year-old George Stanley Burdynski, Jr. of Prince George County, Maryland disappeared. The investigation led to two suspects who had sexually exploited numerous boys

over a period of 25 years. They were found to have used their computers to transmit child pornography and contact boys who were later sexually exploited.[84]

The following are other cases of predators who have been caught using the Internet to make contact with victims.

United States Brooker Maltais, 22, an airman from Offutt Air Force Base, US pleaded guilty to committing indecent acts and having sex with a 14-year-old girl after they met by exchanging email messages via computer.[85]

United States Four California men (Larry Ponziani, James Stelzenmuller, Patrick Vogt and David Dahlberg) were charged with having sexual encounters with a teen-age boy they met on the Internet. They pleaded guilty to charges such as oral copulation with a minor and sending pornography to a minor with the intent to seduce.[86]

United States A Chelmsford, Massachusetts' man, John D. Rex, pleaded guilty to raping two boys, ages 12 and 14. He met them through a computer bulletin board. He is now serving a 20 –25 year sentence.[87]

United States In December 1996, Cheryl Kean's 13-year-old daughter disappeared, presumably picked-up by the 22 year-old-man she communicated with online. Ms. Kean has not seen her daughter since. She says, "*The Internet has got to be the pedophile's dream come true. They stalk children without concern of being seen.*"

The preceding cases occurred in the United States, but such cases are known to have occurred in other countries. According to Chris Beddoe of End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking, there have been cases of sex predators using the Internet to meet children in Australia, also.[89]

Predators searching for child victims visit chat rooms dedicated to topics of interest to teens. The perpetrator initiates a conversation, many times not revealing his own age, or pretending to be another child of similar age. The perpetrator initiates a process of seduction by engaging the teenager in discussion with increasingly personal content and shared confidences, thereby gaining her or his trust. Predators who prey on children are often very charming and easily win children's trust. Often the perpetrator will return to that chat room day after day to continue gathering more information about the girl or boy. The predator will lower the child's inhibitions by talking about sex, often under the guise of teaching the teen about sex. The perpetrator will send pornography to the child, including child pornography to convince the child that other children are sexually active. He may ask the girl or boy to send pictures of herself or himself. At this point, the perpetrator is sexually exploiting the teen emotionally. Eventually, the perpetrator sets-up a face to face meeting and moves on to physical sexual exploitation and abuse.

The actual number of sex predators online, the number children they have contacted, the number of physical meetings that have taken place, or the number of cases of sexual exploitation is impossible to know and even very difficult to estimate.

Interstate Travel by Predators

In 1996 and 1997 the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in the United States was involved in 60 cases in which men used the Internet to contact children and entice the children to meet them.[90]

Reginald Franklin, 29, from Nevada was arrested on federal charges of travel with the intent to engage in sexual acts with a juvenile in Texas. The 14-year-old boy met him in an Internet chat room. Franklin came to the boy's school and signed to take him out of school.[91]

A 12-year-old boy, missing for several weeks from his California home, was found across the country in the Virginia home of a man he met in a chat room. The boy had been sexually abused. He had been persuaded over the Internet to take a bus to meet the man.[92]

A 22-year-old man from New Hampshire, US contacted numerous teenage girls through chat rooms on the Internet in an effort to get them to meet him. In one case he convinced a 13-year-old girl to go with him. He called her school, pretending to be her father, and told school authorities she was sick and would not be in school that day. He evaded police for three weeks as he drove the two of them across several states in New England. Kier Fiore was arraigned in US District Court in Concord on felony charges that he crossed state lines to avoid prosecution and engage in two misdemeanor charges of taking the girl out of school illegally. Three months prior to this incident he had contacted two girls from Massachusetts, ages 13 and 14, in a chat room in an attempt to get them to meet him in a mall and go to a hotel room. He said he would bring alcohol and pay them to engage in sexual acts with him. The girls became frightened when he called them and told them he was coming to get them. They refused to go and told their parents. Fiore was angry and verbally abusive to the girls' parents on the phone. Later that day he sent one of the girls an email message, "*You pissed the wrong person off, playing your little game Jew Girl!!!! Watch you [sic] back!*"[93]

International Travel by Predators

Some predators are willing to travel long distances to carry out the abuse they initiate over the Internet. Many will travel across oceans and cross borders to meet children.

In the fall of 1996 children from Sri Lanka, as young as 5-years of age, were being offered for sale to pedophiles over the Internet. More than 600 new entries per day were appearing on a Web site for child sex abusers. Sri Lanka has become a haven for men seeking to sexually abuse children, especially boys. An estimated 10,000 to 12,000 children are currently being sexually exploited in Sri Lanka. The government has tried to discourage child prostitution tourism by raising the age of consent from 12 to 16 and increasing the prison sentences for those convicted of sex offenses, but one year after the law was passed, there had been no arrests.[94]

Santosh Ramcharan from The Hague, Netherlands traveled to Washington, D.C, USA to meet a 14-year-old girl. When her parents reported her missing she was found the next day in a hotel with Ramcharan. They made initial contact over the Internet.[95]

A wealthy man from Oregon, USA persuaded a 12-year-old boy from British Columbia, Canada to take money, jewelry and his father's passport and run away from home and meet him across the border in Seattle. The boy's father caught him going out the door. Donald Roberts, 59, attempted to lure the boy from a computer on his sailboat moored in the

Columbia River. He was charged with attempted kidnapping and solicitation to commit sodomy.[96]

Stings -- US Police Undercover Operations Against Predators

Predators use various forums on the Internet to communicate with each other and exchange illegal material or gain physical access to children for the purposes of abusing and exploiting them. Although predators have had a lead in technological expertise and equipment, by the mid-1990s some law enforcement agencies were starting to catch-up.

In 1995 the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) launched a crackdown called Innocent Images. The operation was created after a 10-year-old boy was lured from his home and killed in Maryland in 1993. His murder was traced to his communications to someone over the Internet. In September 1995, US federal agents raided 120 homes and offices, arresting dozens of people in a large operation against online pornography. The men had used the Internet Service Provider America Online to distribute child pornography and arrange meetings with children for the purpose of sexually abusing them.[97] In 1997 the United States Congress dedicated US\$10 million dollars to fund 60 new positions, including 25 FBI agents to investigate and prosecute men on the Internet who seek to contact children for later meetings and abuse.[98] To continue their work, in 1998, the program received an addition US\$10 million.[99] As of March 1998, efforts by the FBI Task Force and the US Customs Services have resulted in 184 arrests and 240 convictions.[100]

In a joint investigation and sting, known as the "Tholian Web," agents of the US Customs Service and the New York State Attorney General Dennis C. Vacco's office spent eighteen months tracking and gathering evidence on child pornography traffickers in the United States, Germany, Switzerland and Great Britain. By the end of 1997 the operation had resulted in 120 prosecution referrals and 32 convictions across the United States.[101]

From 1996 to 1998 the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, in Arlington, Virginia, USA was involved in 60 "traveler cases," the term used to refer to adults who contact child victims through the Internet, then arrange meetings in which the children are sexually abused.[102]

In the US FBI agents are also going online undercover to catch those seeking children for sexual exploitation. The FBI's national undercover operation focuses on perpetrators who are willing to travel for the purpose of sexually exploiting a child, and those who produce and distribute child pornography.[103]

Switzerland In one of the largest child pornography cases, US federal investigators, posing as owners of an "adult" book and video store, made contact over the Internet with Swiss citizens, John Grabenstetter, 52, and his wife. The couple was arrested after they traveled to the United States with the intent of selling 250 child pornography CD-ROMS containing some 9,000 images for US\$10,000. Most of the pictures were of young children being sexually abused by adults. The couple's 2-year-old daughter was among those photographed. The couple was charged with 10 counts of possession and sale of child pornography.[104]

Canada Michael Andrew Gibbon, 29, was arrested by Canadian police after he offered a Web site operator sexually explicit pictures of children that would be available after an upcoming babysitting job. In his home police found 3 videocassette recorders, computer equipment,

more than 400 videotapes, 15 CD-ROMS, 41 floppy disks, photographic equipment, and 53 rolls of undeveloped film. After further investigation he was charged with nine counts of sexually touching three female toddlers, sexually assaulting two of them, and creating and possessing pornography for distribution. The Web site Gibbon had visited was a sting operation set up by the US Department of Justice.[105]

United States Police put an advertisement on the Internet, claiming to be a divorced woman with three daughters, 7, 10, and 12. Mark Douglas Poehlman answered the advertisement saying he wanted to have sex with the girls. He arranged to meet the woman at a motel. Undercover agents arrested him. He was convicted of using the Internet to arrange a sexual encounter with children, and sentenced to 10 years in prison.[106]

The most popular forums for predators to find children are chat rooms, where participants communicate by typing comments to each other. Exchanges in chat rooms are anonymous and no record is made of the communication, making police detection and action almost impossible. In an effort to stop predators before they make contact with children, police in the United States have set up sting operations, in which they pose as fellow predators or as children in order to catch predators. Police agents sign on to chat rooms dedicated to topics of interest to teenagers. The number of predators lurking and prowling in chat rooms for teens is stunning. One FBI agent pretending to be a teenage girl signed on to a chat room as the 23rd participant. All of the other 22 "teenagers" turned out to be adults seeking inappropriate contact with a teenage girl.[107]

Georgia Michael Eugene Pharis, 38, father of five children and coach of Little League teams for boys and girls, was apprehended by police after driving hundreds of miles to meet "Wendy," a 13-year-old girl he had contacted through the Internet. He had sent her child pornography featuring young children. After Internet conversation he contacted her by telephone and pressed her for information on where she lived, when her parents would be home, who would be staying with her and when she would be alone. He said he wanted to come to see her to take pictures and have sex with her. He gave graphic descriptions of the acts. "Wendy" was really a police officer. He was charged with transporting, possessing and distributing child pornography. Previously, he spent 18 months in prison for child molestation.[108]

Maryland A computer consultant from Rockville, Maryland arranged to meet a 12-year-old girl in a public library when he was caught. Investigation revealed that he posed as a 16-year-old boy on the Internet and contacted more than 100 girls, between the ages of 10–15. He was convicted in US Federal Court of two counts of crossing state lines to engage in sex with a minor.[109]

Massachusetts to Florida Stuart Romm, a former administrative law judge from Brockton, Massachusetts was extradited to Florida to face charges of transmitting child pornography and soliciting sex over the Internet from a young boy, who was actually a Florida sheriff.[110]

Over the past few years, Detective James McLaughlin has specialized in stings aimed at predators using chat rooms to contact teenagers. He poses as a teen himself and waits for predators to contact him and initiate their abuse. He said that the first time he entered a chat room pretending to be a 13-year-old girl, he got so many responses that his computer froze.

The following is a court record of an encounter between a predator, calling himself "Dano," and a police officer posing as "Jake," a 15-year-old boy.

At 5 p.m. Sept. 29, a police officer in New Hampshire, posing as "Jake," entered an Internet chat room known for transmitting child pornography. An online user by the name of Dano requested to chat with him in a private chat room. The police officer introduced himself as "Jake," and said he was 15 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall and 132 pounds. Dano responded by saying he was 32 years old, "6 feet, 2 inches, 190 pounds, with reddish/blonde hair and green eyes." He described himself as "smooth" and said he had a camera and a picture of himself.

"I am from Nebraska," he wrote.

The correspondence almost immediately turned sexual in nature, with "Jake" asking what age of guys Dano liked.

Dano: so have u messed around with many older guys?

Jake: not yet

Dano: I like younger guys, oh, I would say 14-21

Dano then asked "Jake" if he would like to see an X-rated picture of himself.

That began a process in which Dano transmitted several pornographic pictures that appeared to be children under the age of 18 engaged in sex acts. Daniel R. Sigmund, 32, of Bellevue, was later charged with possession and distribution of child pornography. Evidence in his apartment revealed he went online as "Dano." His online conversation included references to a previous sexual relationship with a 16-year-old, but police have not been able to find or identify the boy.[112]

Catching sexual predators on the Internet can be difficult. One officer said, "*It takes about 30 seconds to find a hard-core conversation or full-color image and six months to build a case.*" To be arrested, child sex abusers must transmit obscene images of children that are provable to be underage, or solicit sexual acts from children.

Even when arrests are made judges and juries do not always see the harm done by predators to children. In Canada, a journalist, Thomas Brockelbank, aged 32, admitted having a "sexual liaison" with a 13-year-old girl he met in an Internet chat room. He met the girl four times. In one email message he encouraged the girl to bring her younger sister, so they could have "group sex." Although convicted, the judge ordered him to serve only two years probation.[114]

Avoiding Accountability and Deflecting Blame

When child rapists and predators are found using the Internet a common response of Internet industry and government officials is to blame someone else, or say that nothing can be done to stop it. Government officials blame foreign based Internet servers for displaying the child pornography out of reach of their laws, saying they are powerless to shut down computer servers in other countries. Internet providers avoid responsibility by saying that there are so many web sites, bulletin boards, email lists and chat rooms that they cannot be held

accountable for monitoring them or removing material. Laws are said to be meaningless because they are different in every country and sometimes, even within countries. Representatives of the Internet industry always aim to protect the image of the Internet and resist regulation or accountability. To do this, they often try to minimize the extent of the problem. For example, after the discovery of the child pornography ring in the Netherlands, the Chairman of the Dutch Association of Internet Providers, Fred Eisner, commented, "*This is giving the impression that the Internet is loaded with child pornography. That really isn't the case. You have to consciously hunt it down.*"[116]

Another strategy to avoid accountability is to always claim that technology is changing so rapidly that regulations will be constantly outdated. The Internet industry, which wants no or minimum regulation of its activities, dismisses calls for legislation or regulation, claiming that it will all be worthless anyway. Janet Henderson, spokesperson for BT in the UK, says:

"It is impossible to police the Web or ask Internet Servers to act as judge and jury over their clients. Not only are difficult decisions having to be made, but it's a question of civil rights-no one wants BT to become Big Brother." She also added, "*Technology is changing so fast that any law passed will be redundant before the ink's dry.*"[117]

In an irresponsible talk at the 1997 London conference, *Policing the Internet*, Nel Van Kijk, from the Netherlands, who was Chair of the Committee of Women's Rights of the European Parliament, dismissed claims of child pornography on the Internet and spoke only about the importance of freedom of expression. Concerning pornography in general, she quoted from a document she found on the Internet written by the National Coalition Against Censorship's Working Group on Women,

"This message in Cyberspace made my heart jump for joy. I continue with my cybersisters: 'We believe we shouldn't allow government to tell women or men how we should think or write about our lives, including our sex lives. We think those kinds of laws are no good for anyone, and we know they are bad for women.' It is clear and sincere language, I like that and overall I agree with it."[118]

Ms. Van Dijk said that censorship on the Internet was technically impossible, which made her happy, and promised that many dire consequences would result if any limits were imposed.[119] At this conference police officials from Germany and the UK gave presentations on violent pornography and child pornography on the Internet. Ms. Van Dijk also completely dismissed their findings and evidence. She stated,

"I want to elaborate on this issue of child pornography a bit more. One of my collaborators, who has been on the Internet for seven years now, tried to get hold of child porn on the net just to find out what it is all about. He made a small collection of what he found, after a long search. He showed me the pictures he had captured and I got a bit confused. Most of them were fashion photos of young boys and girls, beach photos of dressed children just like we find in women's magazines. The worst I saw was an amateur photography of two young three or four year old nude boys coming from the showers, while a dressed old man was looking at them."[120]

Ms. Van Dijk's ignorance of the reality of child pornography on the Internet might be forgiven, if it wasn't for her attitude towards the child pornography that she did acknowledge existed. She cited a study by David Fenton, who investigated the newsgroup

alt.sex.paedophilia, and reported, according to Ms. Van Dijk that most of the pictures on the newsgroup were not renewed regularly, and anyway, those that were there were "at least twenty years old." Also, since it was not easy to identify who posted the photos, nothing could be done.[121]

After minimizing the extent and harm of child pornography on the Internet, she went further and asked for less action against child pornography on the Internet, and suggested that children will have to pay the price for her freedom of expression. "...we should try to handle child pornography and other despicable acts with a bit more calm. ...So we will have to face the situation that freedom of speech on the Internet might run a bit out of hand."[122]

For more information on the Internet industry's lack of accountability see the section in this report on self-regulation.

Commercial Use of the Internet for Sexual Exploitation PART 1

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppcpt1.htm>

Growth of the Commercial Sex Industry on the Internet

By the mid-1990s, one of the hottest places for commercial development was the Internet. In early September 1995 there were 101,908 commercial domains on the Web, up 26,055 sites from the end of July, and up 72,706 sites from the end of 1994. The sex industry was leading the way.

At the beginning of 1995, there were just 200 businesses on the World Wide Web selling "erotica services" and products, from condoms to pornographic videos.[123] I did a search on Yahoo, a popular search engine, in August 1995 and August 1996. In August 1995, the category "Yahoo: Business and Economy: Companies: Sex" had 391 listings for phone sex numbers, adult CD-ROMS, X-rated films, adult computer software, live videoconferencing, prostitution tours, escort services and mail-order-bride agencies. In August 1996 there were 1,676 listings-a four fold increase in one year.[124] In late 1997, according to Naughty Linx, an online index, there were 28,000 "sex sites" on the Web with about half of them trying to make money selling pornography, videos, or live sex shows.[125]

The mainstream pornographic magazine, *Playboy*, was quick to jump on the Web. It made its debut in 1994. *Playboy*'s Web site content differed from the print magazine. The content of the Web site was designed to appeal to a younger, wealthier audience, the majority of which (75 percent) did not subscribe to the print *Playboy* magazine.[126] In 1996, *Playboy* magazine's site was the 11th most visited site on the Web.[127] Since its debut on the Web, *Playboy* has been one of the most popular Web publications. In 1997, the Web site generated US\$2 million in advertising revenue. Many of the advertisers are exclusive to the Web site and do not buy advertising in the print publication. In mid-1998, *Playboy*'s CyberClub had 26,000 subscribers paying US\$60 per year. When the pornographic magazine, *Penthouse*, went online in April 1996, its web site recorded the highest number of visits for a publication site on the Web.[130]

By mid-1995, strip clubs set up advertising Web sites. Strip clubs from New Jersey, New York and Delaware, USA, had their own home pages where they advertised their shows. They

featured pornographic photographs of strippers, their "cyberstars" of the week. One Web site for a club in Delaware included pornographic images of women engaged in the types of legal prostitution offered at that club, including couch dancing, table dancing, shower shows and dominatrix acts.[131] (See the section on strip clubs in this report for men's descriptions of these acts.)

A 1996 survey found that 20 percent of the users of the World Wide Web said they regularly visited pornographic sites.[132] In 1997, Bruce Ryon, Vice President and Technical Analyst for *PC Meter*, claimed that more than 25 percent of households that own computers visit sex industry sites each month.[133] By 1998, another survey indicated that 30 percent of American households with Internet access visited online sex industry sites at least once per month.[134]

Any item produced by the sex industry-magazines, videos, CD ROMS-is always much more expensive than similar non-pornographic materials. The high prices and profit margins of pornographic materials keeps the revenue and profit high for the sex industry. In 1996 Americans spent more than US\$9 billion on pornographic videos, peep shows, live sex shows, pornographic cable programs, pornographic magazines and computer pornography. That amount is more than many other entertainment businesses, such as film, music, and theater (See Table 1). To put that amount in some context, according to War on Want, US\$9 billion is enough to provide debt relief for the world's 20 worst affected countries.[135] These revenue figures don't include the millions of dollars made illegally through the sale of women in brothels, massage parlors, or on the street, or the sale of illegal materials, such as child pornography.

Table 1
1996 US Entertainment Industry Revenues
[136]

New books	\$26.10 billion
Magazine publishing	\$11.18 billion
Sex industry	\$9.00 billion
Recorded music	\$8.15 billion
Film industry	\$5.90 billion
Theatre, ballet, opera	\$1.69 billion
Computer gaming	\$1.10 billion

The highest revenue for legal materials produced by the sex industry was for the sale and rental of pornographic videos at US\$5 billion dollars, followed by strip clubs at US\$2 billion. Sex industry sites on the Internet earned US\$925 million in 1996 (See Table 2). Estimates of the amount of money being made on the Internet by the sex industry vary widely between sources. The only thing analysts agree on is that a lot of money is being made and the rate of growth is exponential. According to David Schwartz, a phone sex business operator who switched to the online sex business, "*The Internet is where the big money is right now.*"[137]

Table 2 1996 US Sex Industry Revenues[138]	
Adult CD-ROMs	\$75 million
Cable (pay-per-view)	\$325 million
Phone sex	\$750 million
Online sex sites	\$925 million
Strip clubs	\$2 billion
Adult video sales, rentals	\$5 billion

In 1996 the online sex industry site revenue could be subdivided into subscription fees at US\$490 million, advertising at US\$268 million and merchandise at US\$167 million (See Table 3).

Table 3 1996 US Online Sex Site Revenues[139]	
Merchandise	\$167 million
Advertising	\$268 million
Subscription fees	\$490 million

By late 1997 there were an estimated 72,000 pornographic Web sites on the Internet.[140] At that time, Leo Preiser, the Director of the Center for Technology at National University, estimated that 60 percent of the electronic commerce on the Web was pornography.[141]

At the end of 1997 the online sex industry was estimated to be making US\$1 billion a year, just in the United States.[142] In findings from a 1997 survey, *Inter@ctive Week* magazine reported that 10,000 sex industry sites were bringing in approximately US\$1 billion per year.[143] A mid-size site that was accessed 50,000 times per day made approximately US\$20,000 each month.[144] Established sex industry sites could expect to make 50 to 80 percent profits.[145] A Sacramento firm that handles online credit card transactions said that in 1997, the largest sex industry sites had revenues of US\$1 million per month; while the smaller sites took in approximately US\$10,000 per month.[146]

Forrester Research, an Internet analyst firm, estimated that the Internet sex industry would make close to US\$1 billion in 1998. "We know of at least three sites doing more than US\$100 million a year. And there are hundreds of sites out there." [147]

Organized Prostitution Tours

The Internet is serving as a new advertisement site for prostitution tours to Asia, Central America, Europe and Russia. Advertisements on the web reach a much larger potential audience than any other form of advertising.

One of the most popular destinations for prostitution tours is the Philippines. American men, more than any other nationality, are the buyers of women and children on prostitution tours to the Philippines.[148] US men going on prostitution tours are typically aged 35-55 and come from different backgrounds including judges, attorneys, school board members, a father treating his son on his 18th birthday, and clergymen.[149] Approximately 13,000 Australians a year visit Angeles City, a center for prostitution surrounding the former Clark US Air Force base in the Philippines. According to observers from non-governmental organizations in the Philippines, the prostitution tourists rarely distinguish between women and underage girls when buying them for prostitution, resulting in the sexual abuse of girl-children as well as adult women.

The following are the details from a few of the prostitution tour agents who advertise on the Internet.

Alan J. Munn and Pimps 'R' Us

In 1995 Alan J. Munn in New York City, USA, made an early appearance on the web with advertisements for prostitution tours to the Dominican Republic and Nevada. Calling himself PIMPS 'R' US, he offered four days and three nights to the Dominican Republic in a "wonderful setting" which includes "many female prostitutes." A tour guide on the trip provided "practical information about how to find and deal with prostitutes and how to arrange group orgies." On one night, courtesy of the tour, "oral sex (fellatio) is provided by an attractive female whore chosen by the tour guide." Participants are also given PIMPS 'R' US baseball caps.[151]

PIMPS 'R' US also arranged group tours to legal brothels in Nevada. Alan J. Munn provided information on "prevailing prices, what influences how much whores charge, and reputations of the various whorehouses." The package price included "round trip transportation from the hotel to one whorehouse daily for a total of four different whorehouses chosen by the tour guide"[152]

Fiesta! A Tropical Paradise Vacation

Fiesta tours offered a "tropical paradise vacation in Costa Rica." Prostitution tourists can choose from five programs, each represented by a picture of a woman. The shortest tour was the Amber that included six nights and five days for US\$1375; the longest tour was the Emerald that includes 20 nights and 19 days for US\$1975. Both fees included the cost of double occupancy rooms and in-country flights, booked for two. Prospective buyers were told that "Your companion [a euphemism for the woman he has bought] will meet you at your

hotel..." If the tourist chose a longer tour, his "companion" was changed half way through the trip, so the man got to buy two women in the longer prostitution tours. [153]

The Diamond Market, Pakistan

Even pimps from Pakistan have moved to the Web. In early 1998, a Pakistani group exposed a pimp who was advertising on the Web. The Web site claimed a new brothel had opened in Iqbal Town, Lahore, Pakistan and the address was listed. If the viewer wanted more information, or wanted to arrange a tour to Hira Mundi, he could contact Mr. Malik by email.[154]

Welcome to the Hira Mundi – The Diamond Market; "When you visit a kotha, the resident owner offers you betel leaves...and beckons you to sit down on the rich carpets...and the women fulfill your every desire. You can come in to watch the dancing...and spend the nights there. Truly, the BEST in entertainment." CLICK HERE FOR PAKISTAN DATING SERVICE!!!

Mail-Order-Brides

The trade in mail-order-brides is a form of trafficking in women. Bride trafficking enables men from wealthier countries to seek and acquire women from impoverished countries or those in economic crisis. Many of the international "introduction services," as they sometimes call themselves, specialize in women from certain regions of the world: Latin America (Columbia, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama), India (North and South India), the Philippines; countries of the former Soviet Union, and even Africa.

Azerbaijan Women *On each page there are thumbnail photos of 10 Women, and basic information about them. If you would like to view a larger image of a particular woman on our Data Base, and more detailed information about them, simply click on the woman's thumbnail photo. For some women there are even more photos available that you may view...Enjoy!!![155]*

Girls of Honduras *Over 140 Honduras Girls Photos/Bio Datas online with more being entered every week.[156]*

Asian Introduction Service *Asian girls / women from Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines, including Japanese, Vietnamese, and Chinese, want to know American / Western men. See our photo biographies![157]*

Cherry Blossoms *The Original International Introduction Service. Twenty-two years in business with over 10,000 marriages. Now featuring Photos & Descriptions of 1,000[158]*

Mail-order-bride catalogues on the Internet advertise that they will assist a man in finding a "loving and devoted" woman whose "views of relationships have not been ruined by unreasonable expectations." The women advertised on the Internet are "known to be pleasers and not competitors. They are feminine, NOT feminist." The bride traffickers rely heavily on ethnic and racial stereotypes of the women, while condemning American and European women. One mail-order-bride trafficker explained why American women are no longer desirable to American men and Filipina women preferable:

"It is less common to find an American woman who is interested in having a permanent marriage and family including a Husband. One easy way to see this is to look at ANY publication containing "personals" ads. The women want someone who looks a certain way, and who has certain "social skills" such as dancing or clever conversation, someone who is interesting and exciting and seductive. Now go to my Web page (www.filipina.com) and look at what the girls say they want. It's all pretty simple, really. Over and over they state that they are happy to settle down FOREVER with a MAN who is willing to try to hold down a steady job and be a loving and understanding husband and father. This will get you exactly NOWHERE with an American girl !!!!!"[159]

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the formation of new independent states have created political turmoil, economic crisis, poverty and high unemployment. Women have been the hardest hit through the loss of institutional stability. In Russia, 6.5 million women are without jobs, and employed women's salaries were only 43 percent of men's salaries. Violence against women is a severe problem. An estimated 14,000 women are killed each year by their husbands or relatives.[160] A law against family violence has yet to be passed and there are only two shelters for battered women in Russia. These circumstances make women desperate for opportunities. The traffickers, pimps, and mail-order-bride agencies take advantage of this vulnerable population to recruit them into many types of trafficking.

One of the commonly promoted characteristics of women from Eastern Europe is that they *"traditionally expect to marry gentlemen that are 10 to 20 years older."*[161] An agent offering women from Russia also explained the disadvantages of American women and advantages of Russian women:

There is a surplus of beautiful women in their 20's and 30's who cannot find a decent man. An attractive 25-year-old woman with a good education in the US is out of reach for most men over 35. In Russia women greatly outnumber the available men. Many women in the US are spoiled by having it too good all their lives and have very confused values. Experience show [sic] us that Russian women come to relationships with much different expectations.[162]

Each year, due to poverty and lack of employment, 19,000 women leave the Philippines. Many of these women are seeking work overseas and send money home to support families.[163] It is unknown how many Filipina women leave as mail-order-brides. The mail-order-bride agents exploit the women's poverty and dreams of a better life. All of the agents write that the women are eager to leave their home country. One bride trafficker complains because the Philippines government has passed a law banning the operation of sex tour and mail order brides agents in the Philippines. He says, *"The Philippines government is ... definitely working against the interests of their own people. These girls want and need to leave that country"* (emphasis his). The same agent also complains that the US government will not allow his youngest brides on offer, who are under age 16, into the country. *"The service itself is not restricted by the American government, although they are real picky about getting your bride into the states—they won't give a visa to a bride under age sixteen."*[164]

One man is writing a book on "pen pal brides," as he calls them, and publishing it chapter by chapter on the Internet. He explains why there is a need for pen pal brides, which is a chapter on feminist bashing. He explains what men can expect from personal stories from men who have acquired women this way. He tells men what to beware of, such as women who have

children or send false photographs. He describes all the details, including costs, on how to get a "foreign" woman.[165]

The new Internet technology enables Web pages to be quickly and easily updated; some services claim they are updating their selection of women bi-weekly. The Internet reaches a global audience faster and less expensively than any other media. One mail-order-bride agent explained why he preferred operating on the Internet,

"So when the World-Wide Web came along, I saw that it was a perfect venue for this kind of business. The paper catalogs were so expensive that the quality was usually very poor; but on the Web you can publish high-resolution full-color photos which can be browsed by everyone in the WORLD"[166]

Asian Bride Magazine had a site on the Web by mid-1995. At that time this agent was still publishing magazines. The Web site advertisement claimed that each issue featured 250 Filipinas. The Internet version had pictures of women with their names, ages, height, weight, and bust, waist and hip measurements. The counter told me I was Internet visitor number 64,411 to that Web page.[167] *The Filipina Connection* claims that, "We publish 100 new ladies each quarter."[168] Soon after this, the number of women with each agency and on each web site sharply increased.

At least one mail-order-bride trafficker offers under-age girls from the Philippines to Western men. *World Class Service*, advertises "*Mail Order Brides from the Philippines. The mission of World Class Service is to introduce girls from the Philippines who would like to correspond with, meet, and marry Western men.*" In his catalog of potential brides there are 19 girls aged 17 or younger. Next to the question, "*How do I order and how much is it gonna cost me?*" Visa and Mastercard charge cards are prominently displayed. Men are also told that "We also accept payment through the First Virtual InterNet Payment System," one of the first online payment systems.[169]

ID # V001-Hazel; Age: 13; Height: 5'3" (160 cm); Weight 95 lb. (43 kg); Children: none; Looking for a mate in age range 20-35. 'I am now a freshman student at Saint Pius School. ... I like outdoors having fun. I like to read magazine which is nice to me, especially to religious books. I sometime love to see a movie but not so.... I really want to have a penpal who is loving, caring, honest, and family-oriented person. I am a marriage minded woman.'[170]

ID # Y011-Eddy Mae; Age 14; Height: 5;2" (157 cm); Weight 98 lb. (45 kg); Children: none; Looking for a mate in age range 18 to 25; 'Currently, I'm a second year student of San Lorenzo Ruiz Academy of Polomolok; ... My hobbies are writing, painting, and reading books. I love reading Valentine Romance and any love story pocket books. I like watching TV Patrol and Million Dollar Movies.'[171]

ID # 1F12-Edrilyn; Age: 15, Height: 5'0" (152 cm); Weight 95 lb. (43 kg); Children: none; Looking for a mate in age range 20 to 30. 'I am working in my neighbor's house as a servant. At the same time I am studying at public school – as a sophomore student...I like playing (as I am a sportsminded), dancing, reading, writing. I am fond of reading magazines, especially Movie Star and Teen Star. I love to watch TV shows such as Bay Watch and Power Rangers, which is interesting too. I am self-supporting.'[172]

Mail-Order-Brides from Africa

In the Spring of 1998, I found two agencies operating out of the United States there were offering mail-order-brides from Africa.

Ebony Gems of Nubia

This is a correspondence & penpal service for men seeking attractive young black women from Africa and other parts of the world for love, romance and marriage.

EBONY GEMS OF NUBIA
P.O. Box 659
Hyannisport, MA 02647
USA[173]

The African Queens agency was offering women from Lesotho and Johannesburg, South Africa, and said they were marketing the women to the "Afro-Western Professional" man.

Hello! We very pleased to have you here at the home of some of the most beautiful women in the world . . .

AFRICAN QUEENS

There are hundreds of Personals Services on and off of the World Wide Web offering ladies from Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, Philippines, China and about every corner of the earth. We are proud to be THE ONLY company in existance [sic] today that offers

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN EXCLUSIVELY!

Why have we done this? Simple. Again, there are so many companies offering caucasian and asian women on the web that we were astounded to find that NO ONE offered beautiful BLACK FORIEGN WOMEN to eligible WESTERN MEN! We not only have black women but caucasian as well from South Africa BUT we are trying to maintain a STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE "Afro- Western" PROFESSIONAL.

African Queens - c/o KwikMail Worldwide Delivery - 8304 Whetstone Road - Evansville, Indiana 47711 USA

In March 1999, the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) reported that the number of mail-order-bride agencies in the United States was growing rapidly. The US Congress mandated the report because of fears that women were being exploited and tricked into fraudulent marriages. In 1998, there were over 200 mail-order-bride agencies operating in the United States. The report claimed that approximately 4,000 to 6,000 women, mostly from the Philippines or the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union, were brought to the US each year through mail-order-bride agents. Although, this number is only three to four percent of all female immigration to the United States, this small number is starting to appear in domestic violence statistics-almost one percent of the domestic violence cases now being brought to the attention of the INS involve women from the mail-order-bride industry. An investigation into the mail-order-bride trade from the Philippines to Australia, conducted by the Australian Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, uncovered what they term "serial sponsorship," in which a man brings a woman back to Australia, and when that relationship fails, often due to his violence, he abandons her and returns to the Philippines to acquire another woman. They have identified men who have sponsored up to seven women.

The following is an advertisement for *A Foreign Affair*, an agency that offers mail-order-brides and "romance tours" to meet women in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Most Exciting And Rewarding Adventure You Will Ever Have!

You May Click On Any Featured Woman On These Tour Pages To View Her Bio Page! A Romance Tour hosted by A Foreign Affair is possibly the most exciting adventure you will ever experience in your lifetime. Not only will you enjoy two relaxing weeks in one of the worlds [sic] most beautiful and romantic cities, you will arrive with the objective of meeting and courting some of the most beautiful and sincere women in the world whose desires are the same as yours. That being, to meet a special person to love and spend the rest of their lives with.

Tours Departing 8 Times Per Year! Next Departure Date: April 18, 1998 [173]

Since 1990 the Philippines government has banned the operation of sex tour and mail-order-bride agencies in the Philippines. One mail-order-bride pimp complained about this, but said his solution was to move his computer to the United States and use his own Filipina wife to make contact and recruit women and adolescent girls in the Philippines. Even though the Philippines has enacted this law, the trafficking of women and girls from this country continues to rise.

Connection Among Types of Sexual Exploitation [176]

Sex tourism, mail-order-brides and prostitution are variations on the theme of sexual exploitation. I will take a series of advertisements from a US based pimp and describe what is offered on his web site and show the connections among the forms of sexual exploitation.

A picture of a Filipina tops the first page of *Travel Philippines*. She invites the men to "*Come explore the Philippines with me!*" The advertisement describes the Philippines as an "*exotic and interesting place to visit.*" Information is given on tickets, lodging, food and water, money changing, nightlife and the tour schedule. Prostitution is briefly mentioned as being "*everywhere,*" and a price range for prostitutes is listed. Men are told, "*You can partake or not, it's up to you. Most do partake.*" Marriage is also briefly mentioned: "*As most of you know, the Philippines is the happy hunting ground for men seeking a wife. There are all kinds of women of every description. It's hard to go to the Philippines and not get caught up in the idea of marriage. The whole lifestyle seems to revolve around love, marriage and kids.*" [177]

On the next linked page the man is asked "*would you like to have a beautiful female companion as a **private** tour guide?"*" (emphasis his) or "*would you like to have introductions to 'decent' marriage minded ladies?"*" If he chooses the **private** tour guide he is directed to the *X-Rated Escorted Tours*. At the top of this page a picture of the same Filipina from the introductory page appears, this time with her breasts exposed. The woman invites the men to "*Come explore the Philippines and Me!*" Much of the same travel information is repeated, but here the man finds out how much it costs to have an "escort" during his trip. The fee is paid to the travel agent-pimp, **not** the woman. The agent-pimp suggests that the tourist-buyer tip the woman, although it is not required. [178]

If the man chooses the marriage option he is directed to the linked page on *Over Seas Ladies*. There he is asked if he is tired of watching TV and having women make him jump through hoops. He is told that the women for sale here "*respond to every gesture and kindness, no matter how small.*" He is reassured that these women are not concerned about his age, appearance, or wealth. Here the man is presented with thirteen pages of pictures of women from which he can choose. The pimp sells the addresses of the women to the man. For an extra fee the buyer can have a lifetime membership which entitles him to the addresses of all the women, those currently available and those in the future. (If the man is seeking a permanent relationship, why he might want or need a lifetime membership is not explained.) The whole sexual exploitation racket comes full circle with the next linked page on *Escorted Wife Seeking Tours*. The man is told "*You will meet a lot of beautiful women there. Your penpals that you have been writing to will be happy to see you. The new women you meet will be generally 'good' girls, but there are plenty of bar girls there too and you will surely encounter some.*" [179] Bar girls, X-rated tours with "private tour guides," mail-order-brides-all are forms of sexual exploitation organized by the same agency for the profit of pimps, hotels and bars.

Commercial Use of the Internet for Sexual Exploitation PART 2

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppcpt2.htm>

Live Videoconferencing -- Online Prostitution

The most advanced technology on the Internet allows the live transmission of video captured images. The prostitution industry quickly moved to use this new technology to transmit live strip and sex shows. The communication can be interactive, so buyers are able to direct the women's actions. Shows can be watched by groups of men, or for more money, the buyer can have a private session. This technology has merged pornography and prostitution and enabled men to buy women in prostitution over the Internet in the privacy of their homes or offices.

One of most popular aspects of using the Internet to send and receive pornography and now technologized prostitution, is the privacy the man is able to maintain during the whole transaction. The only limitation to this new form of prostitution is the need for high-speed transmission computer equipment. The pimps on the web site provided the necessary software free of charge. As faster computers and more high-speed transmission lines are available to men around the world, this type of technologized prostitution will continue to grow.

The first live videoconferencing site selling strip shows that I saw on the Web was Virtual Dreams in October 1995, running off the CTSNET server in San Diego, California.

"Virtual Dreams uses cutting-edge technology to bring you the most beautiful girls in the world. Using our software and your computer, you can interact real time and one-on-one with the girl of your dreams. Ask her anything you wish--she is waiting to please you!" [180]

By November 1995, "live nude video teleconferencing" was being touted on *alt.sex.prostitution*. Derek Hamilton said,

"Here's something that will make your modem sizzle! I was sitting at home...my Penthouse subscription had run out, when I stumbled across "Video Fantasy" on the net. This is one of

the most interesting "adults only" services I've ever seen. With Windows, my 486 and their software, I called a pretty girl's studio with my modem and watched her undress. All of this was live and in color on my computer monitor. What will they think of next. Sitting at home being entertained by a beautiful girl. Talk about "safe sex"! I love it! Check out their website at <http://www.videofantasy.com>. This is lot's of fun."[181]

The pimps on the Internet conduct their own market research on who is buying the women they offer. According to the Internet Entertainment Group (IEG), the largest pimp on the Web, the buyers for live strip shows are 90 percent male, 70 percent living in the United States, and 70 percent are between ages 18 and 40.[182] The viewers are young men in college, and businessmen and professionals who log on from work.[183] Naughty Linx reports there is a 22 percent decline every Summer, when college students cannot use university Internet connections to log on to sex industry sites.[184]

Pimps on the Internet

The movement of the sex industry to the Internet has increased the demand for new and more extreme images of the sexual exploitation of women and children. Older images identified by color quality of the image or clothing and hairstyle are viewed with disdain. Buyers demand new images with the scenes of sexual exploitation and abuse that are in fashion among predators. The result is increased abuse and exploitation of women and children.

Act One Entertainment, USA, owned by William J. Heath, 37, of Royal Oak, Michigan, is known to have operated between September 1994 and November 1997. The operation, known to have pimped more than 300 women, sold strippers and prostitutes to men. He hired underage girls, filmed them stripping and being sexually abused by him and others. He then sold the images on the Internet. In November 1997, the owner, William J. Heath, was charged with criminal racketeering and production of child pornography. Two other men associated with Act One Entertainment were arrested. Johnnie Juretick, 31, was charged with producing sexually abusive material of children; and Jeffrey Scott Maxwell, 22, was charged with performing sex acts on underage girls. The girls were told they would receive royalties based on the number of people who bought their photographs. [185]

Canada A mother was outraged when she saw pornographic pictures of her daughter on the Internet. Stephen Bauer, 24, was arrested on charges involving three children, aged 14-16, for making and distributing child pornography, being a person in authority permitting sexual activity, sexual exploitation, living on the avails of prostitution, and exercising control and communication with a person under age 18 for prostitution.[186] Most of the girls exploited by Bauer were runaways, or from "*broken homes*." The girls were dressed in school uniforms, stripped, and used by men, while hidden cameras filmed them. Digital images and videos were transmitted live to an Internet site, which specialized in schoolgirls and skirt fetishes. The site was in operation for about 1 year and had about 1,000 subscribers, who paid \$15 to \$80 (Canadian dollars) for access to the site.[187] Detective Mike Sullivan of the Illinois Naperville Police Department, USA, discovered the site. Other images on the Web site included images of girls as young as five being sexually abused. [188]

Most of the big pimps on the Internet migrated to the Web from phone-sex operations.[189] They claim the move was natural. Men talking to and buying women over the Internet was just a step up in the distanced interactivity of audio prostitution created by phone sex lines. Pimps in the phone sex business say they also had an advantage in understanding how to

create and market long distance prostitution. They point out that the buyers on the end of the phone or computer supply the most important component-what they are paying money for-the ejaculation.[190] The phone sex pimps also had the money and resources to draw on when they moved to the Internet.[191]

A few of the pimps on the Web who started out selling women in audio prostitution are:

Seth Warshavsky, founder of Internet Entertainment Group, the largest live sex show producer on the web, started a phone sex business in 1990, when he was 17 years old;

Ian Eisenberg, who runs the Web site Babes4U with Steffani Martin, and is still in the phone sex business, is the son of Joel Eisenberg, a pioneer of the phone sex business in the 1980s;

Ted Liebowitz, Web site operator from Manhattan, runs a phone sex business;

Steve Becker, who now works for Penthouse, ran a number of phone sex lines in New York.

The following are profiles of a few of the owners and operators of sex industry sites on the Web and their businesses.

Seth Warshavsky

Seth Warshavsky is the biggest pimp on the Internet. Founder and President of the Internet Entertainment Group (IEG), 25-year-old Warshavsky has been making money from the prostitution industry since he was a boy. While in grade school he ran a computer bulletin board; at age 17 he dropped out of school, moved out of his parents' house and opened up a phone sex business with a friend using US\$7,000 borrowed on credit cards.[192] His first phone sex number was called 1-800-GetSome.[193] In the beginning, if a buyer called the 800 number, an answering service would get the buyer's credit card information, then page Warshavsky. He would have a woman call the buyer back. Soon after he started he was getting 50 to 60 buyers per day at US\$39.95 per call. His phone sex business continued to grow so by 1995 he had an annual income of US\$60 million.

He was able to draw on this money to go into the pornography and live videoconferencing business on the Web. In late 1997, IEG employed three programmers and eight graphic designers.[194] One of the designers described his work as a "dream job" because any new technology was available for the asking.[195]

His sites include stripping, live sex shows, and pay-per-view hard-core pornography.

ClubLove is the Video Theatre for downloadable QuickTime videos and pay-per-view movies. It was visited more than 7 million times per day in early 1998.[196] At that time the "club" had approximately 600,000 members who paid the US\$19.95 subscription fee.[197]

The Dressing Room offers buyers background information on the web site performers and enables them to send the strippers email.

The Gallery offers pornography.

The Yellow Pages lists phone sex numbers for audio prostitution

The Sexual Relief Map is a directory of strip clubs, adult bookstores and escort services in the United States.

The Arcade is the live-video section, and Warshavsky's premier section. The live peep show costs US\$40 for 15 minutes in mid-1997.[199]

Warshavsky's IEG brought in US\$7 million in revenues in 1996, which increased to US\$20 million in 1997. In 1998, he claimed he would bring in US\$40 million. He will not say how much of that is profit, but says, "*We did turn profitable in the middle of [1997]*"[200]

Warshavsky is also making huge profits by selling live videos to hundreds of other sex industry sites on the Web. The strip shows for heterosexual viewers on sites such as PenthouseLive, Vivid Video, Buttsville and AlleyKatz, and for gay men viewers on sites such as VividMan and SteelCity, are supplied by Warshavsky's ClubLove. Over 300 sex industry sites pay IEG for live videos. The sites keep 35 percent of the revenue, while IEG gets 65 percent. Warshavsky's IEG does business with 1,400 sex industry sites on the Web, comprising about 5 percent of the Web's total number of sex industry sites. IEG has advertising banners on over 1,100 sex industry Web sites. IEG pays the Web site owner two and a half cents each time someone clicks on the advertisement, which links the viewer to an IEG site. Counting all the sites, at the end of 1997, Warshavsky had 400,000 subscribers to 29 Web sites.[201]

In early September 1998, Warshavsky's IEG launched a free web site that provides financial stock quotes and charts accompanied by soft and hard core pornographic images. He hopes to create a popular Web site by combining two hotly sought after items –pornography and financial information. He plans to attract men between ages 25 and 49.[202]

Lapis Labs, Tucson, Arizona, USA

In early 1998, Lapis Labs operated 25 pornographic Web sites, such as XXXCellar, NastyLinks and FreeGayPorn. The sites have 150,000 images, 1,000 downloadable QuickTime videos and 700 RealVideo live videos, and receive between 15,000 to 30,000 buyers each day.[203] The co-founder and software developer for Lapis Labs would not allow his name to be used in interviews. The founders of Lapis Labs claimed they wanted to make money while avoiding "*corporate America*." They originally thought they would make children's educational CD-ROMS, but couldn't afford the start-up costs, so switched to pornography. The co-founder likes to focus "*on being a technology company rather than a sex company*."<[204] The private corporation was launched with an investment of US\$10,000. In early 1998 it had six employees.

The US\$10 per month membership fee provides the buyer with access to 80,000 "*full-sized, full color JPEG images*," and 5 to 25 minute clips from 1,000 movies.[205] The nameless co-founder will not reveal how many subscribers the company has, but the demand is such that the company is always upgrading their servers and equipment. Lapis Labs buys its pornography from "content brokers" and directly from photographers and videographers. Although the men running the company like to hide behind anonymity, they are not shy about the material on their Web sites. "*If it's legal, we have it. There's some material that I personally find repulsive, but not everyone has the same tastes.*"[206] Also, for a group of men who claim they were initially interested in children's education, they take a liberal view on children's access to pornography.

"Children will have easy access to adult material so long as adults have easy access to adult material. For example, somebody's dad or older brother is always going to have a porn collection to 'borrow' and show to friends, or dirty novels, or whatever. People like sexual content, they're going to have it around, and kids are going to get a hold of it."[207]

Lapis Labs sites have sophisticated search engines that enable the buyer to search film clips by gender, sexual act, number of people in scene, and a description of the people, such as race or hair color-two popular attributes on which stereotypes are based. In early 1998, they were preparing to move into full-length pay-per-view video on demand over the Internet.[208]

KNB Enterprises

KNB Enterprises, owned by Jeff and Kathy, who declined to give their last names in interviews, run WebVirgins, a sex industry Web site that was making US\$500,000 per year in 1997.[209] They claimed to get a new buyer every 2 to 3 seconds, 24 hours a day.[210]

Danni's Hard Drive

Danni Ashe, a former stripper, founded Danni's Hard Drive in Los Angeles in 1995. According to Ashe, her site was initially accessed 70,000 times per day, and grew to 5 million accesses per day by 1998. Ashe claims her gross revenue has grown by more than 2,000 percent, and required her to increase her staff from a part-time assistant to 15 full-time employees.[211] Her Web site has 15,000 images of 250 models, and features images and videos of Ashe herself. In mid-1998, she had 22,000 subscribers who paid US\$14.95 per month for access to her Web site. In 1997 she brought in US\$2.7 million, and expected to make US\$3.5 million in 1998. Her Web site is so popular it has 450 streaming video channels and six live video feeds.[212] She banks on what she considers male nature, "...let's face it: every man in the world masturbates and they're just looking for new source material."^[213]

Women in the Commercial Internet Sex Industry

The growth and expansion of the pornography and prostitution industries on the Internet have also increased the demand for new material, resulting in increased sexual exploitation of women. Fierce competition among pornography web sites has pushed pimps to advertise and present more and more extreme material, such as penetration with large objects, bestiality and bondage. Of course, making these images requires more violence against women.

In the live sex shows of the Internet, the buyers relay requests to the woman through an 800 number, while watching her on their computer over the Internet. The women act out pornographic scenarios in 8-by-8 foot cubicles setup in a warehouse in Pioneer Square in Seattle.[214] Stage sets are a health club, bedroom, shower, and dungeon.[215] Each set has a microphone and speakers so the strippers and the buyers can communicate. The buyers can then direct the woman in the set, and make demands for her performance. The men often ask the women to give special signals to indicate that the performance is live, and that they are in direct contact with the women. In most set-ups, multiple men can be logged on and viewing one stripper at once. The men compete with one another for the woman's attention. One woman reported:

"It's really disconcerting. Suddenly, the phone will pop on and a man will say hello, and when another one pops on it's like two kids tugging on your arm. A lot of them are very clear about what they want to see and what they want you to say."[216]

The women in the live prostitution shows on the Internet are usually in the same constrained economic circumstances with limited opportunities as women who strip in clubs. In April 1998, twenty women were stripping for the Internet Entertainment Group (IEG).[217] In these virtual peep shows, "star performers" are available on weekends, but most of the week local women staff the strip-sets for US\$20/hour.[218]

"Natalia" While Warshavsky, owner of IEG, lives in a half million-dollar condo and drives a new Jaguar, "Natalia" is paid US\$20/hour to strip and perform sex shows for buyers over the Internet.[219] While "Natalia" claims that stripping makes her feel good about herself, "Natalia" is not her real name and she doesn't want anyone to know she earns money this way. She says she strips for IEG because her other job does not pay enough to support her and her family. She conceals the stripping from most of her friends and family. She describes the depersonalization that other women in the pornography and prostitution industries undergo. She takes on another personality in order to act out the scenarios required. *"Out there, I'm a completely different person than I am in here. This is my shadow side."* [220]

As in other parts of the pornography and prostitution industries, women assist in the exploitation of other women. At IEG, the "Director of Talent" is Mara Mehren. A former operator in the phone sex business, who moved up in the business with Ian Eisenberg; now, at 35, she video-captures the sex shows in Warshavsky's IEG warehouse. She controls camera angles and monitors who is logged on and for how long. She is the high-tech version of the brothel madam making sure the men get their moneys worth. [221]

An advantage of stripping on Internet live shows may be that the women don't have to physically deal with men, as they do in strip bars and clubs.[222] Many women report the lack of physical contact with men is an advantage to stripping for online prostitution industry sites. A few former "porn stars" have set up their own Web sites.

Madeleine Altmann, 33, of New York owns, runs and strips on Babes4U Web site. Her operation represents a US\$100,000 investment for computers, video equipment and high transmission telephone lines that can handle streaming video. She videos herself dancing and stripping, then transmits it to buyers on the Internet. She says, *"I would never be a stripper or a prostitute. I don't want to be near the clients or see them."*[223] Although Altmann herself doesn't want to have any contact with the men, she has other women who work for her engage in sexually explicit computer "chat" with the buyers.[224]

Other Forms of Violence Against Women on the Internet

Other forms of explicit and extreme violence against women and children can be found on the Internet.

During an Internet search on rape, an activist found a Web site with a message from a man asking for someone to rape his wife because she didn't like having sex with him. Visitors to this Web site left messages with their email addresses indicating that they were willing to rape the woman. Thanks to investigation and complaints to the Internet Service Provider, this Web site was taken down.[225] Another woman found a Web site that promoted the *"pre-planned*

violent rape of lesbians" as a way of "converting" them to heterosexuality. She lodged a complaint with the webmaster.[226]

In Spring 1998, I found a web site called The Rape Zone. The home page featured a picture of a woman screaming as a man forced her against a wall with one hand around her throat and the other restraining her arm. The page title was underlined with a red bar that dripped blood. The site claimed to have over 1,000 images of rape and many video feeds. All of the images were of women tied-up, being beaten and penetrated with large objects. There were a number of images in which the women appeared to be bleeding. Memberships were being sold and viewers could purchase full-length videos.

Caution: Extreme Images of violence and Rape!!

What this site is: A photographed documentary of a rape encounter.

A visual and mental journey through [sic] the mindcrime of a rapist.

Video Series

Brutally Raped – Sadist's Delight

Brutally Raped – Tina is having a real hard time! This guy has no mercy!

Brutally Raped – Lovely Maria gets gangbanged by 3 black sadists

Brutally Raped – This time sweet little Manoa is the victim

THE SEX INDUSTRY AND THE INTERNET INDUSTRY

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppsi.htm>

The Internet industry exists today because of the prostitution industry. The pimps and buyers on the Internet are funding the development and expansion of the commercial Internet. In fact the pimps and buyers are also contributing heavily to the whole computer industry.

A male exhibitor at the Adultdex, a trade show for the online prostitution industry, who chose to remain anonymous, made this comment:

"The whole Internet is being driven by the adult industry. If all this [referring to products at an online prostitution industry trade show] were made illegal tomorrow, the Internet would go back to being a bunch of scientists discussing geek stuff in e-mail."[227]

The sex industry is among the top five groups buying state of the art computer equipment.[228] The high tech industries don't like to admit or talk about how they are being supported by the pornography and prostitution industries. A high level technician for the film industry, another buyer of state-of-art computer technology, admits that many companies that brag about their capacities to create computer special effects for the film industry also do a good business with the pornographers and online pimps. It comes down to money, "*if someone comes to us with a cheque for US\$250,000.....*"[229]

One of the largest Internet companies in the world, Digex, has Microsoft as its largest customer; its second largest customer is from the sex industry.[230] The Internet industry will not admit to the pervasiveness of pornography on the Internet because it profits enormously from the pornography industry. Web page owners, owners of search engines, and Internet Service Providers make a lot of money selling advertising for the sex industry.

The sex industry has been setting the pace on many new enhancements to doing business on the Web. Entrepreneurs eyeing the Web as a site of future investment were told by mainstream computer industry advisors to use sex industry sites as their guide.

"If you haven't visited a pornography Web shop in a while, you should. It will show you the future of online commerce...Web pornographers are the most innovative entrepreneurs on the Internet." [231]

Pimps on the Internet are on the cutting edge of online payment schemes with credit cards. At the beginning of 1995, only a few sites were accepting credit card payments by email. In early 1996, Internet Entertainment Group (IEG), a leader of the Internet sex industry introduced "ecommerce software," which provided buyers with fast, secure, online credit card transactions.[232] Privacy is one of the main attractions that Internet pornography and prostitution sites have for many buyers. They can browse and buy whenever they want and usually in total privacy. Men also want assurances that their credit card numbers are secure. The sex industry has excelled in introducing secure payment schemes over the Web. The sex industry also needs to have payment transactions occur quickly, because sex industry sites depend on men's impulse buying once they access the sites. So the easier and faster it is for buyers to supply credit details, the easier and faster it is for the sex industry to collect money. One Internet pimp has started a new company, Interfund Financial Services to facilitate "impulse friendly" buying, and offer more privacy than credit card purchases. Buyers will be able to charge the time online to their phone bill or have their bank account debited directly.[233]

The Internet industry publicly avoids acknowledging or denies the influence of the pornographers and pimps on the Internet industry because the two have become dependent on one another and are now collaborators. All the large Internet service providers (ISPs) are dependent on the sex industry for their profits.[234] The Electronic Frontier Foundation admits they regularly give legal advice to operators of pornographic sites on the legality of their operations.[235]

Sex Industry and Internet Search Engines

Soon after the sex industry went online, the promotional value of search engines was realized. On December 19, 1994, The Shrimp Club, an organization of men who live or travel in Southeast Asia, set up a Web site to give men an information network for events, parties and products that featured Asian women. As part of their promotional strategy they sent advertisements to newsgroups, such as *alt.sex.fetish.oriontals*, and made sure that their Web site was archived in web search engines. This aggressive marketing through search engines got them 15,000 accesses to their Web site in the first week.[236] It was a strategy to be adopted by all sex industry businesses on the Internet.

Search engines are the indexing system for the World Wide Web. Search engines, such as WebCrawler, HotBot, Excite, InfoSeek, and Lycos, search tens of thousands of Web sites per

day, picking up keywords placed in the html code, and from the content of the text. Users of the search engines depend on the comprehensiveness and accuracy of search engines, which varies widely from engine to engine, to find material anywhere on the Web when they enter keywords.

Analyses of the keywords entered into Web search engines reveals what subjects are being sought for on the Web. In 1995, a study of the searches on one Web search engine found that 47 percent of the 11,000 most-repeated searches were for pornography. The study also found that one in ten businesses using the Web at that time sold pornography.[237]

The sex industry manipulates, exploits, and pays the search engines a lot of money to make sure that the general public finds their sites. Although owners of search engines like to distance themselves from the sex industry and responsibility for the availability of pornography, Robert Davis, the President of Lycos, the popular search engine, criticized their hypocrisy. At the Internet Summit in December 1997, he said that owners of search engines accept advertising from the sex industry on their Web sites. Lycos, does not.[238]

Pornography Web site owners exploit any public event to draw Web traffic to their site. Whenever a topic is popular, the pornographers put a keyword on their Web sites that someone is likely to be using to search for information. They then prime the search engines, using special promotional software, to get their sites listed in the first few that come up when someone does a search.

One of the most well known examples of this was the use of the keywords "Princess Diana" to draw traffic to pornography web sites after Princess Diana died in a car crash in August 1997. Anyone entering "Princess Diana" into a search engine was given not only a list of sites that had information about her life and death, but also a list of pornography Web sites, often listed before the legitimate sites. I used one of the popular search engines to look-up "Princess Diana." The first site listed was:

"PRINCESS DIANA NUDE EATING PUSSY!!! CHECK OUT THIS LINK FOR SOME HOT SEX! cocksucker the sex girls a sensual applegate. Celebrities the babe the nude mpegs and porno. Story, teen porn."

When I followed this link I found violent, degrading pornography. The pornographers put sensational, exploitative and violent images out for this occasion. On the first page there were four images: 1) a breast torture picture with the woman's breasts bound and many clothespins attached to the breast; 2) several pictures of women with ejaculate on their faces; 3) a picture of a woman with her entire hand inserted in another woman's vagina; and 4) a transsexual-man with penis and breast implants.

Other pornographers were exploiting Diana's name, but were not promising photos. This pornographer put her name on his page so that when someone searched for "Princess Diana," his web site would be included in the results.

"BEST OF ADULT WEBSITES - (No Princess Diana here), Free adult images, live streaming adult video, sexy streaming chat. Daily free large pictures, 5 minutes free video. A selection of books without Princess Diana A Tribute to Diana"

Egregious examples like this bring bad publicity to the Internet industry, so one search engine, AltaVista, owned by Digital, tried to intervene by removing the pornographic sites from their index. The pornographers quickly renamed their sites and aggressively pushed their Web sites into the search engine, resulting in a battle between pornographers and the AltaVista. Digital said they were monitoring their index "*on a half-hour basis*," to try to keep the pornography sites out of listings for Princess Diana.[239]

In March 1998, a new Internet product designed to simplify URLs and searching on the Web was launched by centraal of Palo Alto, California, but somehow the sex industry intervened. Using centraal's new system Web users could type topics into the address line without using the long, complex URLs. Walt Disney, one of centraal's customers, was featured in the launch of the new product that was supposed to be so simple a child could use it. Unfortunately, something went wrong; when a user typed in a Disney character, such as "Bambi," she landed on a pornography site with whips and chains. Keith Teare, president of the company, said he had no idea how the requests were misdirected.[240]

CNET -- SNAP

The case of CNET's online service Snap demonstrates the reliance of search engines on the sex industry to stay in business.

In December 1997, coinciding with the Focus on Children Internet Summit in Washington, D.C., CNET announced Snap Online service, a Web directory safe for children (<http://www.snap.com>). The Snap search engine was advertised as having no pornographic Web sites in its directory. In the press release, CNET said, "*Snap Online does not accept any pornographic advertising, nor does it contain pornographic listings in its directory of more than 100,000 hand-selected Web sites.*" CNET chairman Halsey

Minor touted Snap saying, "*Parents now have a valuable resource at their fingertips to help safeguard their children from inappropriate materials.*" Nine months later, in August 1998, CNET announced that Snap would be including pornographic Web sites in its directory, and admitted that pornographic sites could be found through Snap for sometime. Anyone searching for pornography on Snap would automatically be rolled over to the search engines Infoseek and Inktomi, which index pornography.[241]

Snap's executive producer, Katharine English, defended the decision by saying, "*Our statistics show that 40 percent of our users are looking for this kind of material. This is a user-driven decision.*" The decision was rationalized by pointing out that since all other search engines indexed sex industry sites, they had to as well. Katharine English said, "*If you search for bestiality, you'll find it there. It's not like we're standing out. ... We're trying to take a neutral position on pornography. It's out there, it's available.*"

The decision was based on money, of course. The service lost US\$3.68 million in the first quarter of 1998, on revenues of US\$2.52 million. In July 1998 CNET moved into a joint venture with NBC, and Snap's money loosing venture had to go. Pornographic advertising banners on search engines are the "cash cow," or certain moneymakers, for the Web search engines and indexes. The owner of a Web site, search engine, or Web directory, is paid each time a viewer clicks on an advertisement on that page. Advertisers pay in the range of 12 cents to US\$1 per click. Eventually, that adds up to a lot of money.[242]

SELF-REGULATION OF THE INTERNET

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppsr.htm>

With increasing public outrage at the amount of pornography and prostitution on the Internet, the Internet industry has moved to protect itself from governmental regulation by promising self-regulation. Several tiplines are funded by the Internet industry. They present the public with the reassurances that illegal material will be removed from the Internet. Several of the tiplines that are joint efforts with governments seem to be more diligent in their efforts to eliminate illegal material. But a closer look shows that sometimes the Internet industry supported tiplines provide more lip service than action.

Internet Meldpunt Kinderporno

Internet Meldpunt Kinderporno or Internet Hotline Against Child Pornography is based in the Netherlands (<http://www.meldpunt.org>; meldpunt@meldpunt.org). The hotline, which opened in June 1996, was the first of its kind in Europe. Founded by the Dutch Foundation of Internet Providers (NLIP), the Dutch Internet Users, the National Criminal Intelligence Service (CRI), and the National Bureau Against Racial Discrimination and run by volunteers, the hotline is a practice in self-regulation of the Internet. The members of the hotline do not take an active role in searching the Internet for child pornography. The hotline serves as a place for Internet users to report illegal material when they come across it.

The Netherlands is known for its libertarian views and laws concerning pornography and prostitution, and these attitudes are reflected in the soft approach and procedures of *Internet Meldpunt Kinderporno*. When the hotline receives a report of child pornography on the Internet, they contact the authors or sender and request that the illegal material be removed. Only if the predator or pimp doesn't reply or refuses to remove the material does the hotline notify the police.^[243] The self-regulation model is also limited to public areas of the Internet where the hotline staff can investigate reports. The hotline does not investigate private areas of the Internet, such as email, or highly dynamic areas, such as chat rooms.

In their first publication, *Internet Meldpunt Kinderporno* acknowledged that their effort was not based on moralist judgements, but was done to prevent future censorship. From the beginning, the goal was self-protection of the Internet industry, not the protection of children.

"Some people may regard the hotline as a moralist movement against indecency on Internet. That we are not. ...Instead of being a censor, the hotline must be regarded as an initiative against censorship. By having an active preventive policy, the hotline tries to minimize repressive actions against entire newsgroups or areas of Internet. There is an ongoing trend of repression against Internet, providers are being persecuted and forced to block off large parts of the Net. The hotline tries to be a positive and constructive answer that may prevent an overreaction from governments and providers. It directly targets the poster of illegal child pornography instead of whole areas of information and communication."^[244]

Initially, the hotline took action only on material that was from Dutch territory. Eventually they felt compelled to take some action against foreign distributors of child pornography.^[245] *Internet Meldpunt Kinderporno* issued their first annual report in 1997. In their first year they received 256 reports.

Statistics of Year One (June 1996-June 1997)

Internet Meldpunt Kinderporno (Internet Hotline Against Child Pornography) [246]

Locations of Child Pornography	Number	Resolution
Web Sites	17	Eleven were determined not to violate the criminal code; 6 cases removed, 2 cases reported to police
Netherlands Newsgroups	32	Invalid email addresses prevented warnings; 14 cases reported to police, 2 arrests, 1 case being investigated
Reports from abroad	7	Material originated mostly from Japan, seriousness of material warranted 7 reports to police
Internet Relay Chat (IRC)	16	IRC user's identity and material do not remain on the Internet, so no investigation possible
Email	82	Seventy-two reports referred to 2 mass mailings: "Child fun" (child pornographic videos) did not originate in the Netherlands, US FBI traced the sender and arrested the person; Pakistani boys were offered in a mass mailing that originated in the Netherlands. Police were able to trace sender who "received a great deal of trouble." In a third case, the sender was traced by police and arrested.
Bulletin Board Services (BBS)	4	One case checked, material not illegal
Other	98	These reports did not include enough information to trace the posting or web site.
Total	256	

The *Internet Meldpunt Kinderporno* concluded that the amount of child pornography on the Internet originating in the Netherlands was "*not substantial*." The Hotline claimed it was 100 percent effective.[247]

Predators and pimps on the Internet like the Dutch approach because it gives them an opportunity to disappear if they get caught before police action will be taken. The following quote is from a pedophile who wrote to the PedoWatch Web site to complain about their harsh policy of immediately turning over information about predators to law enforcement officials, "*I feel the Dutch way is quite a good way. The poster gets warned once. If he doesn't remove his shit, then he'll gets warned again. Still not removing? Ok, let's call in the police. This works.*"[248] Wouldn't every criminal like a warning first?

Internet Watch Foundation

In 1996, Internet Service Providers in Great Britain launched the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), another self-regulatory approach. The Internet Watch Foundation aims to "*enhance the enormous potential of the Internet to inform, educate, entertain and conduct business*." They recognize that illegal and offensive material on the Internet will harm their financial self-

interest in the growth of the Internet. They launched the Internet Watch Foundation to hinder "*the use of the Internet to transmit illegal material, particularly child pornography,*" and encourage "*the classification of legal material on the net in order to enable users to customize the nature of their experience of the Net to their own requirements.*"[249] Their goal is to tame and organize the Internet for maximum public acceptability and Internet Service Provider profits.

The Internet Watch Foundation's first annual report was released in March 1998. In the first year the IWF received 781 complaints about 4,300 items on the Internet, resulting in the removal of 2,000 images from UK servers. Ninety-five percent of those images were of child sexual abuse (child pornography). IWF monitors 40 Usenet newsgroups out of the total 27,000 newsgroups on the Internet. The report said that only 6 percent of the child pornography originated from British Internet sites, while 63 percent came from the United States and 19 percent came from Japan. Two hundred reports of child pornography on web sites outside the UK were referred to the relevant country's authorities.[250]

In their second annual report, in February 1999, they reported that in 1998 they received 2,407 reports of illegal or offensive material. They judged 447 of these cases to be potentially illegal material. Of that number, 124 were cases on which they had previously taken action. The number of items referred to in all reported cases was 14,580. Action was taken on 10,548 items; 541 were reported to the Metropolitan Police because the items originated in the UK; 9,176 items were referred to the child pornography unit of the National Criminal Intelligence Service because they were located on servers outside the UK; and 9,498 items were referred to the Internet Service Providers. Of 464 referrals for potentially illegal materials, 430 were child pornography, 22 were adult pornography, and one was a financial scam. Of the 6,214 items on which they took action, 5,665 were found on Usenet newsgroups, 527 on web sites, 4 in chat rooms, 4 in email messages, and 14 were from offline sources. Only approximately 12 percent of the potentially illegal material originated in the UK. Almost one half of the material originated in the United States, 11 percent from Japan, and 14 percent from Europe.[251]

The Internet Watch Foundation is working to create a rating system and a filter for Internet sites to protect children from viewing pornography. This rating system is not aimed at ending sexual exploitation or slowing the online sex industry, of course. It is only attempting to organize the content of the Internet so parents can prevent children from viewing pornography, but still make pornography and sex shows readily available to buyers.

CyberTipline

The CyberTipline is the Internet industry's self-regulation attempt in the United States. It was formed at the end of 1997 when the Internet industry came under pressure from the US government and general public to do something about children's increasing risk of exposure to pornography on the Internet. Vice-President Al Gore warned, "*If there is not an effective industry-led solution, you might as well prepare yourself for a massive, nationwide backlash that will stunt the growth of this exciting resource.*"[253] Internet service providers (ISPs) who provide service to 95 percent of home Internet users joined in an agreement to enforce existing laws against child pornography. They agreed to remove child pornography from their own bulletin boards and services. The CyberTipline first operated as a telephone hotline, then later a web site, where people can report incidents of child sexual exploitation, including child pornography. Partial funding for the hotline came from the US Congress. The CyberTipline is

run by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children with an annual budget of US\$600,000 (1-800-843-5678; <http://www.missingkids.com/cybertip>). The hotline allows Internet users to report incidences of child sexual exploitation on the Internet, such as online contact of children by predators, possession, manufacture or distribution of child pornography, child prostitution and child-sex tourism.[254]

The CyberTipline includes a standardized reporting form that forwards information to the FBI, the US Customs Service, the US Postal Inspection Service and local law enforcement officials.[255] The program is run in cooperation with the FBI. The hotline got 150 responses the first day.[256]

Zero Tolerance Policy Promised

At the end of 1997 an Online Summit was held in Washington, D.C. A number of Internet service providers made a commitment to a "zero tolerance" policy for child pornography. The Internet Alliance, the leading trade association for the Internet industry, and the Commercial Internet Exchange Association, and the Association of Online Professionals, the organizations for ISPs, made the following pledge in December 1997:

"When child pornography is appropriately brought to our attention, and we have control over it, we will remove it. Subject to constitutional and statutory privacy safeguards, we will cooperate fully with law enforcement officials investigating child pornography on the Internet. We will not allow this valuable new medium to be exploited by child pornographers and child predators." [257]

The agreement involved Internet service providers representing 95 percent of the home Internet use market.[258]

INDEPENDENT TIPLINES AND VIGILANTES

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppity.htm>

Through the mid-1990s citizens of Western Europe and the United States observed that the problems of child pornography and predators on the Internet were escalating rapidly and police officials were lagging far behind in their ability to detect and prosecute these criminals, mostly due to lack of resources and training. Alarmed and frustrated by predator's unlimited use of the Internet to transmit images of the sexual abuse of children and make contact with future victims, concerned citizens formed groups to monitor the Internet, inform police of suspected crimes, create tiplines for reporting criminal activity, and in some cases, operate clandestinely to stop predator's use of the Internet.

In an open letter to the Justice Community in 1997, individuals who founded PedoWatch, an independent tipline, claimed that national law enforcement agencies had been non-responsive to reports of sexual exploitation on the Internet.

"...Some national agencies are paying a lot of lip service to Internet child pornography investigation, but fail somewhat in application. For example, US Customs moved their child pornography web site without leaving a simple forwarding address. Similarly, the email address on their site, the one they said to use to report evidence of crimes against children,

was defunct for more than a month (our mail was returned a day or two later). We and several others informed them but saw no effort to correct it. To our knowledge, some time sensitive evidence of a company marketing child porn videos was lost as a result of this down email address and Customs' failure to follow up on a telephone report in a timely manner.

...We have also had letters from people who have contacted their local FBI field offices with incriminating evidence, only to be brushed off." [259]

All of the independent tiplines focus only on crimes against children. Sexual abuse of women, pornographic images, and sites promoting violence and hatred toward women are ignored. This decision seems to stem from two rationales. 1) If there are only laws (or laws being enforced) against crimes against children, then collecting information on other abuse and violence would be inefficient or an ineffective use of time and energy. 2) Philosophically the groups made strong distinctions between what is done to children and women. They assumed that all women who were no longer minors were consenting adults, therefore no crime was being committed. Some groups took a stronger stand and action than others.

PedoWatch

PedoWatch is a non-profit organization in the United States composed of unpaid volunteers who are committed to reducing the sexual victimization of children by predators on the Internet, especially preteens. They believe there is a strong link between the distribution of child pornography, the social tolerance of this material, and the sexual abuse of children. They take an active and tough approach to sexual exploitation of children on the Internet. Upon locating or being notified of sites on the Internet where

Ethical Hackers Against Pedophilia

Ethical Hackers Against Pedophilia (EHAP) is a 17 member secret organization of skilled computer technicians that surfs around the Internet looking for sex offenders who abuse children (www.hackers.com/ehap). A California man known only as "RSnake" founded the group in 1996.[260] Their secretary, known only as "Oracle," said that the main reason many child molesters and traders of child pornography were able to operate on the Internet was due to anonymity. Ethical Hackers Against Pedophilia decided to use their hacking talents to find, identify, and expose the predators. They find the identity and physical location of predators that post child pornography to newsgroups and trace the sources of video streaming sites that are transmitting the live sexual abuse of children. They specialize in investigating "secure" sites that use special security systems to hide their activities. They are selective in their targets, going after only those who are producing child pornography. *"That's who we hunt."*[261] Ethical Hackers then passes the information along to law enforcement agencies, including the US FBI. The Ethical Hackers keep their methods confidential, refusing to say whether or not they stay within the law while gathering information on predators. *"Law enforcement are restricted in ways we're not – but I'm not saying that we break the law."*[262] The group claims police have used their information. Police sources say they appreciate the information and *"respond aggressively when information is brought to our attention,"* but don't support any law breaking that may occur to get the information, of course.[263]

In September 1998, William H. Prugh, Pennsylvania, USA was charged with 15 counts of possessing and disseminating child pornography. He posted and downloaded child pornography from the newsgroup *alt.pictures.erotica.pre-teen* using the name

RAMM@intothewall, which he thought was untraceable. Ethical Hackers Against Pedophilia traced his identity and assisted the police in collecting evidence for his arrest.[264]

Se7en -- Genuine Hacker Terror

Christian Valor, known as Se7en, spent 17 years in the hacker underground and didn't believe the reports about increasing child pornography on the Internet. Then two crucial experiences connected and Se7en declared war on those who trade child pornography on the Internet. He acknowledged his own victimization and someone sent him child pornography. He was able to use empathy to understand and feel the harm from sex predators, which is grossly lacking in most people in the Internet and sex industries. "*I myself was abused when I was a kid. Luckily, I wasn't a victim of child pornography, but I know what these kids are going through.*"[265] After receiving the JPEG image, he entered the underground of IRC chat rooms with names like "#littlegirlsex" and "#100%preteensexfuckpics." He found ftp (file transfer protocol) directories filled with image files like "6yoanal.jpg" and "8&dad.jpg," and newsgroups like "alt.binaries.pictures.erotica.pre-teen."[266]

Upon finding out the kind of horrible child pornography that exists, Valor promised a "*genuine hacker terror*" against child pornographers. On 8 June 1997 Valor posted a message on the mailing list for DefCon, the annual hacker's convention. By mid-June he claimed that he had "*taken down*" a "*major player*," who was an employee of Southwestern Bell. He collected evidence and sent it to the President of Southwestern Bell, who replied a few days later that the man was "*no longer on the payroll.*"[267]

Valor also seemed convinced that the police were not likely to intervene, and pointed out that the child pornographers could hardly complain to the police if he wiped out their hard drive by remote access.

Such declarations and action produced much anxious, hand wringing about "rights," and condemnation of "*malicious, destructive hacking*"- concerns and sentiments that are never expressed for the devastation of children's lives caused by sexual predators.

When solutions to illegal activities on the Internet are discussed, Internet industry people like to make excuses and say that nothing can be done to stop that particular criminal activity. During the discussion of Se7en's war on child pornographers, one poster's comment reveals what may be closer to the real situation: "*The government can't enforce laws on the Internet. We all know that. We can enforce laws on the Internet. We all know that, too.*"[268]

Valor reminded the Internet community of what everyone likes to ignore, "...*somewhere in the chain, someone is putting these images on paper before they get uploaded. Your freedom ends when you start hurting other people.*"[269]

Internet Combat Group

The Internet Combat Group is a hacker vigilante group in England dedicated to knocking predators of children off the Internet. The group, which started in 1997, is the first vigilante group in the United Kingdom to combine technical skills and hatred of predators who prey on children. In mid-1998, they had 15 members. StRyKe, a member of the group, says he got started when he found a link to a child pornography site in Amsterdam. He reported the site to the Internet Service Provider who controlled the server, but nothing was done. StRyKe said,

"...they didn't care. Those people never do anything." StRyKe acknowledges that what they are doing is illegal, but moral, *"I do think of myself as moral. ...I don't attack anyone who doesn't deserve it. We are talking about people who deliberately harm minors."*[271] StRyKe works in two ways. First, he tries to trace and identify predators, then turns the information over to police. He claims Scotland Yard will accept information on predators with no questions asked on how he got the information. Second, he uses flaws in computer operating systems (such as Windows 95) to gain access to the predator's computer, then using a virus, called Codebreaker, developed by an Australian friend, he wipes out material on the predator's hard drive. StRyKe says, *"I'll do anything if I think it will ultimately help to protect children."*[272]

Predictably, the Internet Watch Foundation, the Internet industry supported tipline, condemns the Internet Combat Group's methods.

"We have a general brief against illegal activity on the Net and that includes hacking. There are legal ways of dealing with the problem, even if these methods can seem laborious and slow. Hackers may be able to do more damage but they are not as well connected to the police, which is ultimately what matters."[273]

Morkhoven

Morkhoven, a Belgian anti-pornography vigilante group does not operate on the Internet, but in July 1998 was instrumental in exposing an international Internet child pornography ring. Morkhoven was founded in 1988 to oppose child abuse and police brutality. Currently, they have a membership of 20 to 25 people from Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. They are known to use illegal tactics, such as burglary to seize evidence, and have been accused of trying to extort money from perpetrators. One of the leaders, Marcel Vervloesem was convicted of extortion of money from traders in child pornography. [274]

In July 1998, when Morkhoven illegally seized 1,000s of computer disks containing child pornography from one flat in Zandvoort, Netherlands, they went to the media, not the police. Members of Morkhoven found the disks while searching the flat of Gerrie Ulrich, a convicted German pedophile, who was murdered by a gang in Italy. Originally, they were looking for information leading to the whereabouts of a German boy who disappeared in 1993, when he was 12 years old, and thought to be under the control of Lothar Glandorf, a German man under investigation for producing child pornography. They had been seen together in Amsterdam. The Amsterdam police were later accused of negligence when they failed to investigate. Claims were later made that the boy died while under torture in the making of a pornographic film. In 1997 Glandorf was sentenced to six years imprisonment for trafficking in human beings and indecency involving minors, but the charges were unrelated to the missing boy. [275]

Jan Boeykens, another leader of Morkhoven, said they have no confidence in the police to act in cases of child sexual exploitation. They claim members of the justice system, police and politicians are involved, and therefore, are reluctant to work within the system. Boeykens says the police had information about another child pornography ring in Tamise, a small town in Belgium, since 1991, but only acted on the information recently, when more than 300 videocassettes with child pornography were found in the home of a child molester.[276]

After Morkhoven went to the media, instead of the police, with the evidence of the international child pornography ring, the police arrested Marcel Vervloesem for refusing to turn over the evidence. The police also initiated an investigation of the Morkhoven organization. Eventually, the evidence was turned over to police and no charges were filed against members of Morkhoven.[277]

GLOBALIZING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppd.htm>

Looking at the astronomical growth and profits of the sex industry, it is easy to overlook the human cost. One can get lost in cyberspace or confuse glamorous numbers and digital images with real women and children. The profits of the sex industry are based on sexual exploitation, which starts with harm to real people.[278] Sexual exploitation violates human dignity and bodily integrity and is a violation of human rights. The basic premise of international human rights is that people have a right to live with dignity. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that:

"All men are born free and equal in dignity and rights" (Article 1)

"No one shall be held in slavery or servitude" (Article 4)

"No one shall be subjected to torture, or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment" (Article 5).

All of these principles of basic human rights are violated by sexual exploitation.

Forms of sexual exploitation depend on a demand market, in which pimps and predators choose to buy and sell women's and children's bodies and sexuality for sexual gratification, profit or advancement. It is a practice that reduces women of the world to a second class status. Sexual exploitation inflicts grave harm on women's minds and bodies, and aggravates the harm of existing inequalities. If a woman's life is constrained by lack of education and employment opportunities by racism, by illegal immigration or migration, by economic or political crisis, by childhood sexual, physical or emotional violence, or by poverty, then sexual exploitation aggravates and intensifies the inequalities, disadvantages and harm. Prostitution and trafficking are not victimless crimes, or just another form of work, as pimps and apologists for the sex industry would have us believe. Even when women voluntarily enter into these situations, in hope of making money or finding a better life, the dynamics of the brutal, often illegal sex industry, quickly leave the women with few other options and powerless to leave.

We are living in a time of globalization in which revolutionary communications technology brings us almost instantaneous connections to people throughout the world. These new technologies of the Internet have leapt over national borders and left lawmakers and police scrambling to catch-up. Internet users usually adopt and defend a position of unbridled libertarianism. Any kind of regulation or restriction is met with near hysteria and predictions of a totalitarian society. Even the most conservative restrictions on the transmission of child pornography are greeted with cries of censorship. In the December, 1996 issue of *Wired*, new

state legislation in US that criminalized the transmission of indecent materials to minors was called censorship.

The attitude of Internet libertarianism coupled with US free speech absolutism is setting the standards for Internet communication. This political position of the Internet industry and its users, lack of regulation of the Internet, and lack of laws or enforcement of laws against sexual abuse and exploitation are contributing to the globalization and trafficking of women and children. Expressions of concern or condemnation of forms of sexual exploitation of women and children on the Internet are minimized by claims that pornographers have always been the first to take advantage of new technology - first photography, then movies, then VCRs, now, the Internet. Those concerned about the use of the Internet for sexual exploitation are chastened with history lectures on new technology and pornography.

While the history about pimps and predators being the first to adopt new technology is correct, so is it the case that when those with power introduce a new technology into a system of oppression, it serves to expand the exploitation. The promotion and engagement of trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children on the Internet expands men's treatment and access to women as sexual commodities.

To counter these powerful alliances who are profiting from the sale and abuse of women and children is a small, but dedicated, international feminist movement for women's rights. These women from around the world are demanding a redefinition of men's use of women. They have made the crimes of battering and rape visible. Now, women are working to make the crimes of sexual exploitation visible. No longer is prostitution labeled as immoral behavior, or pornography called indecent pictures. Women human rights activists are naming the harm to women as violence and sexual exploitation, which violate women's human dignity, human rights and chance for equal opportunities in society. In November 1996, at the international meeting, "Violence, Abuse and Women's Citizenship" in Brighton, England, the conference organizers took an uncompromising stand against sexual exploitation by naming all forms of sexual exploitation, including prostitution, as violence against women

"The steering group is uncompromisingly anti-prostitution. We do not recognise the false distinctions between forced and so-called free prostitution. There is no platform for a pro-prostitution position at this conference. We deliberately chose to have keynote speakers who reflected our own position on pornography and prostitution. We make no apologies for this choice; we have no regrets about it. We consider all of the issues discussed at this conference to be violence against women. It is unfortunately rare these days, for feminists to have access to a conference which is clear and uncompromising in its opposition to prostitution. We are glad that we have been able to give that space to women here who are working against the international sex industry. We hope it has given them strength in continuing their fight." [279]

We are at a critical point for women's human rights. We can go with the predator's view that the Internet is just a new technology being used to transmit men's entertainment. We can also choose to accept the pimp's redefinition of pornography and prostitution as forms of sex work. Or we can begin to make real change to advance women's dignity and equality, by defining forms of sexual exploitation as human rights violations and crimes against women, which we will not allow in our communities or on the Internet.

**RESOLUTION -- MISUSE OF THE INTERNET FOR THE PURPOSE OF
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/ppr.htm>

A Resolution drafted by Donna M. Hughes

**Submitted by the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women to the
United Nations Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery
Geneva, Switzerland**

May 1998

Acknowledging that the Internet can be a valuable medium of communication, and noting that Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights identifies the right of freedom of expression as a fundamental human right, and that all recommendations must be implemented to protect this right,

Recognizing that the Internet is the most unregulated communications network in the world with new technologies that present difficult challenges to national and international regulation and enforcement,

Alarmed that multiple forms of sexual exploitation, such as prostitution, sex tours, bride trafficking, pornography, live sex shows, and rape videos for sexual entertainment are promoted; that the Internet is now the preferred site for mail order bride promotions; and that the Internet offers multiple forums in which the trafficking, prostitution, and other forms of sexual exploitation of women and children are promoted and carried out,

Noting that the scope, volume, and content of the material on the Internet promoting or enacting the trafficking, prostitution and sexual exploitation of women and children is unprecedented,

Aware that the content of some material on the Internet, such as men's sex tour diaries, incriminate men in acts of the rape and enslavement of women and girls for the purposes of sexual gratification and domination,

Emphasizing that many of the practices of trafficking and prostitution on the Internet are characterized by domination, control, and violence so extreme as to constitute slavery, serious violations of human rights, and forms of sex discrimination,

Convinced that prostitution and the traffic in persons are incompatible with human dignity and well being and that all practices of the exploitation of the prostitution of others and trafficking in persons are incompatible with human rights,

Acknowledging that the women and children subjected to sexual exploitation on the Internet are often from countries suffering from poverty, and armed conflict; and the men using the Internet for the purposes of sexually exploiting women and children are often from developed countries,

Noting that the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others are highly profitable, and illegal, and those activities that are increasingly carried out by organized crime syndicates,

Convinced that heightened awareness of the harm of sexual exploitation to women and children together with the political will to combat this harm, will significantly reduce the extent of trafficking, prostitution and sexual exploitation on the Internet,

- 1) **Recommends** that governments, as a matter of priority, review, amend, and enforce existing laws, or enact new laws, to prevent the misuse of the Internet for trafficking, prostitution, and the sexual exploitation of women and children,
- 2) **Recommends** that governments and nongovernmental organizations undertake further investigation of the misuse of the Internet for the purpose of promoting and/or carrying out trafficking, prostitution, and the sexual exploitation of women and children,
- 3) **Urges** governments to act more forcefully to eliminate the traffic in persons, the exploitation of the prostitution of others, and sexual exploitation on the Internet,
- 4) **Recommends** that governments and nongovernmental organizations develop and implement educational programs on the harm of trafficking, prostitution, and sexual exploitation of women and children's mental and physical well being,
- 5) **Urges** governments, in cooperation with interested nongovernmental organizations, to develop educational programs and policies and laws addressing the use of the Internet by prostitution customers for the purpose of engaging in sexual exploitation;
- 6) **Recommends** that governments investigate and use as evidence of crimes and acts of discrimination advertising, correspondence, and other communications over the Internet to promote sex trafficking, prostitution, sex tourism, bride trafficking and rape,
- 7) **Calls** for new levels of cooperation among governments and national and regional law enforcement bodies in order to combat the escalating trafficking and prostitution of women and children, the globalization of this industry, and the misuse of the Internet to promote and carry out acts of sex trafficking, sex tourism, sexual violence, and sexual exploitation.

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