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Motivations of professional strippers

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MOTIVATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL STRIPPERS

by

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To Mom and Dad.

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My sincere thanks to Roger Kernsmith without your help this would not have been

possible.

ABSTRACT

This research studied 470 different strippers across the globe through a content analysis of messages exchanged in a stripper-oriented discussion group. Stripping literature has primarily focused on the external rewards of stripping and has found that the primary motivation for engaging in stripping is the economic gain. This research revealed that there are other motivations to stripping beside just economic. Non-monetary motivations were significantly important to the strippers; and were discussed more than monetary motivations.

Significant unexpected findings included the fact that strippers feel that their job is similar to service type jobs. Multivariate analyses revealed that strippers who discuss non-economic motivations also tended to express economic motivations. Strippers who did hold monetary motivations were very unlikely to participate in any extra sexual favors or go to any illegal extent to make money. This is also contrary to the commonly reported interpretation that strippers are motivated only by economic rewards.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction

Professional stripping literature has focused primarily on the external rewards of stripping (Calhoun, Fisher, and Cannon 1998). Research shows that the primary motivation for engaging in stripping professionally is the economic gain (Skipper and McCaghy, 1970; Carey et al., 1974; Ronai and Ellis, 1989; Reid et al., 1994a). The purpose of this study was to look beyond the money and to find other motivations for why these women do what they do. The answer to this question matters and needs further study because it may help reduce the stigmatization that goes along with this occupation. For the purpose of simplicity, this study was limited to an analysis of female strippers.

According to a U.S. News and World Report article cited by Schlosser (1997), in 1995 Americans spent more than $8 billion on hard-core videos, peep shows, live sex acts, adult cable programming, sexual vices, computer porn, and sex magazines, an amount much larger than Hollywood's domestic box office receipts and larger than all the revenues generated by rock and country music recordings. According to Applebome (1996) stripping is a billion-dollar industry. Americans spend more money at strip clubs than at Broadway, off-Broadway, regional, and nonprofit theaters, the opera, the ballet, and jazz and classical music performances combined (Schlosser). The number of major strip clubs in the United States roughly doubled between 1987 and 1992 (Schlosser). There are about 2,500 strip clubs nationwide, with annual revenues ranging from $500,000 to $5 million at a well-run gentlemen's club (Schlosser).

Although exotic dancing is a large part of society, there is also great deal of controversy in response to the stripping profession. Numerous strippers have to rebut the charges of immorality, objectification, violence, subordination, involvement in drugs, pornography, prostitution, and economic exploitation (Hanna 1998). Strippers say the groups hostile toward stripping disregard their right to free speech and occupational choice, dismiss their ability to think for themselves, and are patronizing and condescending (Hanna). Strippers have damned the hypocrisy of society, which labels them immoral (Boles 1973). Many strippers speak of having limits as to how they will dance and conduct themselves. In some cases strippers ostracize those who fall beneath their standards (Hanna). Strippers have also defended their occupation on the grounds of values, art and entertainment, celebration of the female body, sexuality and self-empowerment (Hanna).

Religious groups target the women in this occupation. Ideological and religious groups such as Pat Roberston's Christian Coalition (with an estimated 1.9 million members), Donalds Wildmon's American Family Association, the Family Research Council, Concerned Women for America, Coral Ridge Ministries, and Washington Together against Pornography, have all issued attacks against exotic dance (Hanna 1998). These religious groups who are supposed to be the guardians of so-called "family values" believe that strippers are "enemies of society" (Hanna). These fundamentalists attempt to suppress all or nearly all information about "sex," especially what they call the "petting zoos," "sexual assault parlors," "rape cubicles," and "glory holes" (Hanna).

A common assumption about stripping is that they do it just for the money, but this study contributes evidence that reveals it is the case for some strippers, but not all.

According to Hanna (1998) the reason most people have an occupation is to earn money. Since stripping is also an occupation, that motivation does exist, but it's no different than wanting to earning a living in any other occupation (Hanna).

Controversy about the exotic dancing profession, like what is described above, is one of the reasons for conducting a study on strippers. This study was able to bring forth all dimensions of the stripper. This research also has made a small contribution to the elimination of the reductionism that is a result of strippers being viewed as one-dimensional. Portraying the stripper by way of a more holistic approach assists in the reduction of stigmatization.

This study examined messages posted by 470 different strippers from across the globe and revealed evidence that there are other motivations to stripping beside just economic.

<div align="center">Web-Based Data Collection</div>

Similar to postmodernism, "cyberspace" is here to stay. Cyberspace is basically a metaphoric way of referring to computer mediated communication across telephone lines or similar conduits. The major path for this communication, the Internet, is an international network of computer systems to which individuals connect with their own computers in order to communicate with or access information from other people (Sabau and Thomas 1997). The improved capability of obtaining a great deal of information from countless numbers of people so easily and quickly has led to the label of the current era as the "information age" (Sabau and Thomas). In this age of ever-advancing technology, Americans are increasingly converting to this computer culture (Granello and

Wheaton 2004). To a greater extent people have access to the Internet, and the Internet is quickly becoming the main means of communication for many Americans (Duffy 2000).

Researchers from many disciplines are starting to see the benefits of collecting data using the Internet, and progressively more journals are publishing research where the data has been collected online (Schleyer and Forrest 2000). Scholars are learning that a journey down this road can be quite productive (Sabau and Thomas 1997). According to Kling (1997), some social scientists have used the Internet for collecting original data, and the Internet has been helpful for those who are especially interested in studying social behavior on computer networks. Furthermore, researchers in recent years have collected and analyzed the full text discussions from LISTSERVs and other electronic forums similar to the forum used in this study.

In recent years, academics in certain disciplines, especially the lab sciences, have found computer networking to be a practical way for distribution of data, coordinating professional discussions, keeping in touch with colleagues, and delivering documents, such as conference programs, preprints, and syllabi (Kling 1997). A number of academics in fields from archaeology, women's studies, and sociology have found that computer networks have likewise been a helpful outlet for scholarly communication (Kling). Academic groups such as the Progressive Sociologists Network (PSN) or the Critical Criminology Division of the American Society of Criminology are groups that integrate discussion lists and use message boards in a way that is similar to the exotic dancing forum from which this study has gathered its data. While a common criticism of data collected from the Internet is that anonymous postings may be "made up" by people

posing as others, the participants in these professional discussion boards would be hard pressed to argue the same about the messages posted in their forums.

<center>Explaining Preconceptions about web-based data collection</center>

It is expected that one would be cautious about any new method. This is particularly true for techniques that appear to offer many benefits while sustaining few costs (Gosling et al., 2004). Internet methods have certainly received their fair share of doubt, ranging from nebulous expressions of distrust in departmental corridors, journal reviews, and published concerns about the value of Internet data (Gosling et al.). Nevertheless, even if some caution is warranted, researchers should not dismiss a new method (Gosling et al.).

One of the preconceptions about Internet data is that samples are not diverse; according to the stereotype, web users are young white upper class males. However, according to the U.S Census Bureau in 2003, more women than men used a computer at home, reversing the gender gap exhibited during the 1980s and 1990s.

Another preconception is that the people online are the social rejects and loners with no outlet for social contact (Gosling et al., 2004). Yet, according to the U.S Census Bureau (2003) the majority of all households have personal computers and Internet access. In 2003, 70 million American households, or 62 percent, had one or more computers, up from 56 percent in 2001. Furthermore, Internet use in the United States is growing at a rate of two million new Internet users each month (Granello and Wheaton 2004).

Another preconception is that findings are adversely affected by the anonymity of the people who may be making postings to the discussion group and people who are

giving false information. Although this can also be a problem, it can also be a problem with traditional methods. People will lie on surveys filled out with a pencil, and they can also lie with what they type on a keyboard. The researcher with a phenomenological understanding of the data can often pick out data that is not legitimate, no matter how it is collected.

In addition, there is stripper jargon, as there is jargon with any subculture, which helps to identify individuals. According to Becker (1963), subcultures that are stigmatized are usually rich in their own language. Furthermore, according to Gosling et al., (2004) their analyses found that data provided by Internet methods are of at least as high quality as those provided by traditional paper-and-pencil methods.

Another preconception is that Internet findings are not consistent with findings from traditional methods. According to Gosling et al., (2004) Internet methods are typically consistent with the effects from studies using traditional methods. According to Brainbridge (1999) it is incorrect to consider "cyberspace" an exotic nonessential territory deserving of only occasional sociological scrutiny, because soon the Internet will become the primary environment where sociologists execute scientific research. The worldwide information network that is developing out of the Internet will offer essentially all of the data used for secondary analysis and it will be the chief laboratory for experimentation (Brainbridge 1999).

Sociology faces the option of either innovating the use of the new computerized media for research or receding into a narrow niche in the university curriculum while other disciplines become the social science of the future (Brainbridge 1999). However, this is not suggesting that Internet data is free from methodological limitations. Like

every method, the Internet has certain shortcomings (Gosling et al., 2004).   Nor is this signifying that Internet methods should replace traditional methods in every occurrence. As an alternative, there is opportunity for them equally, and researchers should choose whichever method suits their particular research goals.

Benefits of Web-Based Data

There are many benefits for using web-based data. First, since this study is researching a stigmatized profession, there is much value in collecting data in this unobtrusive manner. The researcher is in no way invading the strippers' privacy and has no effect on what the strippers say or don't say.

Second, the Internet offers the possibility of an inexpensive ethnography (Kling 1997) relatively quickly with low requirements of resources, only Internet connection and commonly available software. There are no travel expenses or postal mailing expenses, which saves both time and money.

Third, the researcher is able to collect data from strippers all over the world in a randomized sample, which would not be possible with traditional techniques. Since it is made public online, it allows for anyone to access it. Collecting data from strippers from across the globe is a benefit of getting a well-rounded sample without having to do the footwork.

Finally, these people want to be here and there are no influences on this data from researchers. Therefore, since the researcher has no presence or contact with the research subjects then he or she has no effect on them, which in some studies can be a problem. This was made apparent in a study labeled the "Hawthorne effect" (Mayo 1933). This study indicated that individual behaviors may be altered because the subjects know they

are being studied. This was revealed in a research project of the Hawthorne Plant of the Western Electric Company in Cicero, Illinois (Mayo). This study originally sought to study the efficiency of workers. This was done by the experimenters manipulating a range of conditions (pay, light levels, rest breaks, etc.). However, every change resulted in efficiency rising, including eventually a return to the original conditions. This was true of each of the individual workers, in addition to the group mean. It turned out that the variables the experimenters manipulated were not the only dominant causes of productivity. One interpretation, mainly due to Mayo, was that the imperative effect here was the feeling of being studied, which is now commonly referred to as "the Hawthorne effect." In the context of a stigmatized profession like stripping, it is likely that the presence of a researcher may have a significant effect on the data gathered with a more obtrusive method.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

Entering the Occupation

The majority of the research on strippers looks at how women become strippers and the alterations they undergo to enter into this occupation (Calhoun, Fisher, and Cannon, 1998; McCaghy and Skipper, 1969; Carey, Peterson, and Sharp, 1974). Numerous reasons have been cited to as why women enter this occupation; however, the overriding motivation in the literature has been for money.

Skipper and McCaghy (1970) found three different reasons why women gain entrance into this occupation. They found that there is a tendency towards exhibitionistic behavior for gain, which means that these women use their physical attributes for affectional and economic advantage. They also found that there is a necessary opportunity structure that makes stripping an accessible occupational alternative. This includes living in a large metropolitan area where a lot of strip clubs was, being reasonably attractive, learning that they have the qualifications through friends and acquaintances, and a sudden awareness of the easy economic reward derived from entering the occupation.

Carey, Peterson and Sharpe (1974) compared data from samples of strippers with data from a sample of go-go girls (one who would have more dancing ability, and would show less skin than a stripper, but would get paid the same) in order to investigate the similarities between the occupations of a stripper and a go-go girl. The results showed that in general both the go-go girl and the stripper entered the occupation because they were from unhappy, broken, or unstable homes, and they were influenced by an absent or

ineffective father. They found parallels between the backgrounds and in their career contingency decisions.

Furthermore, they found that many of the strippers entered this occupation in times of financial crisis. Given that only one subject from their combined samples had received a college degree and few had business, trade, or professional training, few career alternatives open to the girls were as financially appealing as stripping. Therefore, many of the strippers were found to be in the occupation for the desire for money as an important factor in their career decision.

Stripping as an Occupation

Boles and Garbin (1974a; 1974b; 1974c) researched stripping as an occupation. They studied the norms that characterized interaction between the stripper and the customer (Boles and Garbin). They viewed stripping as an exchange process. They found what they called "counterfeit intimacy," which refers to the way the customer and the stripper both fake intimacies to mask their mutually exploitive relationship (Boles and Garbin 1974a). They found that there is a set distance that must be maintained between the customers and the strippers, in order for the strippers to display an image which makes the customers think they are actually sexually interested (Boles and Garbin).

Calhoun, Fisher and Cannon (1998) found that there was an "egalitarian motif" in place in the stripping context. This means that the club is trying to make it appear as though the amateur strip contest is a liberating experience for men and women, but the reality is that it's "fun" for men and "alienating" and oppressive for women. Their analysis showed that these women competing in these contests are actually being manipulated by the male owners to gain profit for themselves.

Managing Stigma

Upon entering this profession, many women face stigma. Ronai and Ellis (1989) alleged that dancing pays well but costs dearly with the negative stigma linked with exotic dancing. When revealing one's profession, a person may be looking for instant social recognition from others. Yet when an occupation is deemed prohibited, morally wrong, or inappropriate, social acceptance is not established (Ritzer 1977).

Thompson and Harred (1992) explored how topless dancers manage the stigma related to their job as a dancer. They studied how these dancers socially and symbolically redefine their work in an effort to reduce or neutralize negative attitudes towards themselves and their jobs.

They reported that the strippers were using techniques of neutralization (Sykes and Matza 1957) to help them deal with the stigma that goes along with dancing; (Techniques of neutralization are part of Sykes and Matza's drift theory, which proposes that when people commit crimes they will rationalize their behavior to make it okay to cross a moral boundary).

In the case with exotic dancers, Thompson and Harred (1992) alleged that the strippers convince themselves that they are not causing anyone harm and that they are actually performing helpful functions for society. They find that most dancers cope with the broader social world by merely revealing only appropriate pieces of their identity. Therefore, they avoid being exposed as being associated with the stigmatizing traits linked with exotic dancing (Thompson and Harred).

According to Bruckert (2002), identity takes on particular significance when stigma needs to be managed. Dancers as social actors are aware of existing discourses as

participants in stigmatized occupations, and they must "make sense" of the work in ways that do not threaten their sense of self (Bruckert). She reports two separate and opposing approaches to managing stigmatized identity among strippers. The first is an individualized construction of the self-as-normative, through denial, distancing, and differentiation. The second standardizes the occupation by discursive deconstruction. Although the former approach poses as a problem, they are both legitimate approaches that reflect an authentic understanding and cannot be dismissed as "neutralization" because the behavior is not being defused (Skyes and Matza 1957).

Bruckert (2002) also suggests that strategies of social-identity management can best be conceptualized as happening on a continuum ranging from total to almost no disclosure. Strippers are still compelled to intermingle in social spheres where their occupation is presumed to be a main identity. Stage names are employed to help in social-identity management because of social interminglement (Bruckert). However, some strippers come out and express their sexuality freely.

Strippers will dress and act in a way that expresses their sexuality; the make-up, the clothes, the walk, and even talking with pride are all common. On the other hand, some are so secretive that they cautiously hide their profession from family and friends. They will monitor their body language and frequently work far from home in an attempt to safeguard against possible exposure (Bruckert 2002). In spite of the strategies of identity management employed, stigma remains important (Coleman 1986).

<center>Role Perception</center>

Peretti and O'Connor (1989) investigated a dancer's perceived self in opposition to her ideal self, because of the social stigma and the continual exploitation experienced

in her occupation. They found that a stripper's perceived and ideal self influence her

emotional stability. They speculate that the greater the inconsistency linking a stripper's

perceived and ideal self, the greater the negative effect on the stripper's emotional

stability.

Reid, Epstein, and Benson (1994b) interviewed 41 female dancers and examined

the level to which these strippers consider their classification within this role as salient

and authentic and the extent to which these constructs are linked with perceived and

actual role behavior. Specifically, they looked at the way the stripper perceives herself

compared to her actual behavior in the role. They concluded that the salience of the

identity of the exotic dancer is a considerable predictor of how much time the dancers

perceive they spent in the role, but not the "number of hours spent dancing" or

"expectations for time spent dancing in the future" (Reid, Epstein and Benson 1994).

They suggested that a lot of strippers are attuned to their role, but they may not feel that

their role as a stripper (perceived self) is a precise expression of who they really are (ideal

self).   Put another way, strippers do not deem this profession to be a crucial gauge to

their ideal self, and stripping does not embody their central ideals (Reid, Epstein &

Benson).   Instead, stripping is a way to bring in money and is not seen by the majority of

strippers as central to their identity (Reid, Epstein and Benson).

<div align="center">Motivations beyond Economic Gain</div>

According to the majority of literature, the overriding motivation for stripping has

been for economic gain, although throughout some of the stripping literature, ideas and

notions have been brought up that would indicate that other motivations may exist. This

is where the idea to do this study stemmed from.

Calhoun, Fisher, and Cannon (1998) and Calhoun, Cannon, and Fisher (1998) found that amateur and professional male strippers offer comparable accounts to explain their participation in stripping, which include a potential sexual outlet, attention, adrenaline rush, and personal fulfillment.

Boles and Garbin (1974c) interviewed 51 women, and every subject mentioned money as an incentive to enter stripping. Ten of the 25 stressed the availability of work, 10 mentioned travel opportunities, and 7 said the enjoyment of the work itself. In response to the question "Why did you choose stripping as an occupation?" money was listed by all the respondents. The authors also found that 3 of these 51 strippers had married financially successful men and left the occupation. However, in each case, the girls returned to stripping after a short period of retirement, claiming that they had missed their friends and were lonely without them. These girls seemed to miss the membership in the group and the participation in the night club subculture, and their work had taken on meanings other than economic (Boles and Garbin 1974b).

Skipper and McCaghy (1970) explained the awareness of easy economic gain and that the most important reward preference for every woman was economic gain. Initially the decision to enter the occupation was found to be for the financial gain, usually in contrast with a financial crisis. However, they found that in some cases, a secondary goal existed. This was usually a desire to stay in some form of show business (Skipper and McCaghy).

Scott (1996) conducted research on strippers by way of numerous interviews with strippers. He explored their perceptions of their job, why they chose their occupation, and how they switch in and out of character. Scott discusses their motivations, saying that

the sole attraction to this occupation is the money (Scott). However, this study also raises

the question, "Is income security the stripper's real motivation or is it merely a rational

explanation for doing something brazenly rebellious, if not deliciously perverse (Scott)?"

He argues that "economic survival ought to be sufficient justification for being a stripper,

but, somehow, it just isn't. The women spreading her legs mere inches from a stranger's

nose and smacking her lips about it does not present a very convincing picture of labor of

necessity" (Scott). Instead, Scott proposes ego gratification as an alternative explanation.

Onstage the stripper becomes the center of a small galaxy, a star surrounded by gazers.

He gives an account from a stripper named Sarita that coincides with this idea (Scott):

> Unfortunately, I belong to that group of people that needs adulation. I was born
>
> for it. I was born to be in show business. It isn't just the money. It's the
>
> adulation. You get addicted to it. I've seen girls start out who were really shy
>
> and fearful who planned to do it for some quick cash, for a short period of time,
>
> maybe to pay some bills. I've seen them go in and out there and get hooked on it,
>
> seen their personalities change. I've seen them go snake (change their
>
> personality) the audience applause changes them. They take on a pseudo-
>
> personality. They lose sight of who they are. They become somebody else. They
>
> become prima donnas (Scott p.26).

<div align="center">Power</div>

Scott also suggests that the occupational role of a stripper provides women with a

sense of power. This can be seen in an account by Gio:

> When I'm up onstage, it's a power trip. It's an ego trip and I play it for all it's
>
> worth. I am smart enough to recognize where the power is. The minute I am off

the stage, I revert back to my normal self. When I'm on the stage, I'm living the

fantasy that I can control all these people in the room, that they're all paying

attention to everything that I'm doing up there (Scott p.28).

Scott also gave an account of a stripper named Miss Brazil who stated "Being

onstage is the most powerful feeling I've ever had in my life. It fills me from head to toe.

I feel strong. I could lift mountains. After a show, I'm up. My eyes are brighter. I feel

taller. I feel invincible!"

Additionally, Scott reported that strippers also say that they would prefer

implementation of a more strict g-string law, which varies from state to state because it

shifts the emphasis away from the genital exposure and back to dancing as a performing

art.

Ronai and Ellis (1992) and Rambo-Ronai and Ellis (1989) used information they

gathered, which came primarily from the experiences of the author. Ronai danced in a

strip bar for the purpose of gathering data, then put herself mentally and emotionally back

into her experiences and recorded what she remembered (Rambo-Ronai and Ellis 1989).

Ronai and Ellis look into what the strippers do to negotiate with the customers. It was

reported that there is a certain control that the stripper exerts over the customer during her

performance. When looking at motivations, the author stated:

Making large amounts of money and getting a great deal of attention were

motivations, but they do not get at the heart of the attraction of dancing. I become

something that is other than what my "self" normally is. The environment elicits

behavior and attitudes from me that in nondancing everyday life I would not have

a chance to experience. My idea of who I think I am shatters in the face of what I

become in the bar. Sabrina, the dancer, does not fit Carol, the student, and wife. I am forced to reevaluate myself and consequently everything around me. It shakes me out of the lethargy of daily life and stimulates me for a little while (Ronai and Ellis p. 110).

Summary of the Literature

The major themes in the literature explore how strippers enter the occupation and the alterations they undergo in this line of work. Stripping is an exchange process between the stripper and the customer. The literature also explains how strippers manage the stigma associated with their role as a stripper by dividing the social world and revealing only part of their identity, through denial, distancing, and differentiation. Literature discussing role perception examines how strippers integrate this role into their sense of self. They tend not to feel that their role as a stripper (perceived self) is an accurate expression of whom they really are (ideal self).

The overriding motivation for stripping that was found in the literature is the economic motivation. Motivations outside economic gain has been suggested in research but never studied as a specific research question. This study examines the other reasons why females chose stripping as a profession.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODS AND DATA COLLECTION

The term "exotic dancer" has many synonyms: "stripper," "stripteaser," "table dancer," "go-go dancer," and "adult entertainer"; all of these labels share the same common meaning and will be used interchangeably following Reid, Epstein, and Benson (1994). For the purpose of this research, the term "stripper" will be defined as a woman who takes off all or most of her clothes in a sexually suggestive manner to a paying audience in a performance environment (Skipper and McCaghy 1970). It should be mentioned that this definition is sexist in that it leaves out males who may otherwise meet the criteria. However, for the purpose of this study it is limited to female strippers for purposes of simplicity.

There is also an important distinction between professional and amateur stripping. Amateur strippers are those who go to amateur night at a strip club and do it for other reasons, rather than a full-time job. This research focuses on professional strippers, and for the purpose of the study they are defined as dancers who consider stripping their primary means of income.

Source

The subjects of this research are strippers who make postings to an Internet discussion group on the Stripper Web Exotic Dancer Community (SWEDC) (http://www.stripperweb.com/forum/archive/); the participants include anyone who makes postings to this particular Internet discussion group. The majority of the postings are written by female strippers. This discussion group was chosen in particular because it contains much reflection and thought written by strippers. Compared to the other stripper

related groups, it stood out because it did not have any spam messages posted. It was

difficult to find a message board that was not a pornography website or one that

contained mostly pornography advertising. The discussions in SWEDC seem more

conducive to my study by including messages that have depth in relation to motivations.

Sampling/Collection

Table 1: Sampling and Collection

Discussion Board Name	Number of Messages available from each source	Percent of total messages	Number of messages used from each source	Number of threads used to get messages (avg. 45 messages per thread)
Stripping	47,578	52.8%	1,584	35
Newbie Board	14,058	15.6%	468	10
Club Chat	19,527	21.7%	651	15
Hustle Hut	9,006	10%	300	7
Totals	90,169	100%	3003	67

There are four thread boards within the web page that are named Stripping,

Newbie Board, Club Chat, and Hustle Hut. The messages boards contained threads,

which are messages written back and forth between a group of people. The first message

board, Stripping, is where general stripping topics are discussed. The second board, the

Newbie board, contains messages posted by people new to stripping who ask questions of

people who have been in the stripping culture for a longer period of time. The third

board, Club Chat, is a message board where members discuss anything on the topic of

different strip clubs throughout the world. The fourth board, Hustle Hut, is a message

board where members discuss money-making tips.

Each of the four message boards listed in the chart includes links or threads,

which open up to an average of 45 messages per thread. The messages in all four of the

listed message boards were divided by the total number of messages in each message board to calculate the total for all message boards. The calculation produced a weighted percentage that was calculated for each of the messages. That percentage was then multiplied by 3,000 (the total number of messages chosen to be examined) to get the total number of messages needed from the specific site. Since each thread has approximately 45 messages, that number was then divided into the number of messages to figure out how many threads were needed to get approximately 3,000 messages of data. Threads were randomly selected using a random numbers table. The randomly selected threads are from each of the four thread boards: Stripping, Newbie Board, Club Chat and Hustle Hut. A total of 2583 messages were collected.

Data Management

Messages were imported into File Maker Pro 7.0. File Maker allows for all the messages to be put into separate fields for the message content, message author, thread title, and the date and time. Inputting the messages as individual records in File Maker made the data coding considerably less time-consuming and much more efficient.

Coding

The Grounded Theory approach (Glaser and Strauss 1967) was used to analyze the data when creating coding categories. Grounded theory method allows for building a theoretical analysis on what I discovered was relevant in relation to my research question (Charmaz 1983). The inductive nature of this method allows for openness and flexibility in determining coding categories, and thus it allowed for openness to follow the leads gained from a personal view of the data (Charmaz). The primary premise of the grounded theory is to let key issues surface rather than to force them into predetermined

categories (Charmaz). Coding categories were identified from content analysis as they became evident.

Once all the messages were imported into File Maker, each message was reviewed and coding categories were set up for all messages. Using the grounded theory approach, coding categories were decided by reading each message thoroughly and by looking for reoccurring themes. Each message was assigned either a "1" or a "0," indicating if the message contained the characteristic, with "1" meaning yes and "0" meaning no for each coding category.

A complete list of precise definitions of all coding categories appears in Appendix A. All messages were coded until a point of saturation where new categories apply to only a handful of messages. As a result, virtually each declaration of each message is accounted for by a coding category, and the possibility that major concepts have been left uncoded is considerably reduced.

Major coding categories include work ethic, the similarity of stripping to a service- type job, complaints, money, non-monetary motivations, monetary motivations, monetary complaints and non-monetary complaints. Work ethic was coded for messages that contained ideas and discussions of stripping being discussed as a proud occupation or when the strippers would talk about wanting to do a good job. It would also include discussion where the stripper would talk about other things that are not necessarily economically motivated, which would imply that she feels her job is of importance to her.

Other smaller coding categories which were broken down from work ethic included the stripper stating that she is proud of her job, when she would give fun and exciting ideas for shaving intimate areas, give or discuss different ideas for costumes,

discuss songs that are enjoyable to dance to, discuss how they try to achieve a unique look and discuss how they would install their own poles in their houses to practice their moves.

The coding category labeled "stripping being similar to a service-type job" includes the strippers talking about stripping being similar to a business or an everyday job.

The coding category labeled "complaints" represents when a stripper would be complaining in a message. This category was also broken down into smaller coding categories, which included complaints about other strippers, other strippers invading their personal space, unresponsive customers, non-tippers and racial discrimination.

The coding category labeled "money" represents messages that mentioned money, either directly or indirectly. This category was broken down into smaller categories that included money making tips, when money was talked about as not being a motivation to strip, when they talked about making a living with their money, and how money is needed for many stripping expenses.

The coding category labeled "non-monetary motivations" includes discussions of motivations that are not economic. This category was developed from four smaller categories, which include money being discussed as a non-motivation in relation to stripping, power the stripper feels while working, fun which the stripper has in relation to stripping, and work ethic.

The "monetary motivations" category represents messages where there is discussion of motivations that relate to economics. This category was developed from

smaller categories, which include money-making tips, and how the strippers would talk about making money for a living.

The non-monetary complaints category represents messages that include complaints that do not relate to economic gain. This category was developed by combining six smaller categories, including complaints about how the club does not show enough concern for the dancers, how the strippers don't like working at a club with a bitchy atmosphere, other dancers in the club, other dancers invading their personal space in the dressing room, unresponsive customers, and how doing extras is looked at negatively.

Monetary complaints are those that relate to economic gain. This category was developed from combining two other smaller categories, complaints about people who do not tip and complaints about how the girls who do extras are taking away the business from them.

Analysis

The messages collected were examined via content analysis. The categories of characteristics by which the messages were coded were derived from my perception of the data. These particular categories were chosen as they related to the motivations of strippers. However, during the reading of the messages, reoccurring categories that arose that did not have a direct effect on motivations were not disregarded. All coding categories that seemed to be of importance were coded in successive waves of coding.

Scale Creation

From the message data, another data set, author data, was compiled. The author data was created by condensing each message; therefore each case was represented by a

sole author. Therefore, only a single record with data from the multiple messages was left in the dataset for each distinctive author. The total number of authors amounted to 600. Both data sets, the message data and author data, were then exported to SPSS. In SPSS, more coding categories were made. This was done by combining some of the smaller coding categories that were part of a larger concept to create one to represent those that were related.

<div align="center">Descriptive, Factor, and Multivariate Analysis</div>

Once all the coding categories were finalized, descriptive, factor, and multivariate analysis in SPSS was executed where appropriate. The descriptive analysis was used to better understand what was being presented in the data, and it was essential for getting acquainted with the data. It gave a visual display before embarking on any further or more complicated analysis. Factor analysis was performed to develop a set of stripper profiles based on the content of their own discussion. It was used to explore the different profiles of the strippers and was implemented to get a better understanding of the types of strippers. Multivariate analysis was used to discover the more complex relationships within the data. Logistic regression analyses were used because of the dichotomous nature of the coding categories used in the study. It was used to explore the possibilities that one coding category could be related to another, by taking other factors into account.

CHAPTER 4: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Descriptive Statistics

The descriptive statistics for all coding categories are in Table 2. There are two
sets of descriptive statistics. The first is the message data, which examines the SWEDC
data set at the message level and contains 2583 messages total. The second set is the
author data, which examines the SWEDC at the author level and contains 600 authors.

SWEDC Message Descriptive Statistics

Of the 2583 messages, 84 percent were made by strippers, two percent were made
by newbies, one percent was made by DJs, and 12 percent were made by customers.
Information for everyone was made available through online profiles.

Strippers only were analyzed from the data set when examining the descriptive
statistics. Within this data set, messages about the club made up the highest percent of
messages, 35 percent. These messages included all discussions about the strip club. This
finding was expected, since the strip club is their place of work.

Non-monetary motivations consumed 23 percent of the messages and monetary
motivations consumed six percent of the messages. Therefore, both motivations are
present in the data, and non-monetary motivations are present more so than monetary;
therefore, it is fair to say that non-monetary motivations are more important to the
authors than monetary motivations.

SWEDC Author Descriptive Statistics

The author data was compiled from the message data; for every message the
author is listed. To compile the author data, the message data was condensed for each

message; therefore, each case was represented by a sole author. Of the 600 authors, 78 percent were strippers, five percent were newbies, two percent were DJs, and 14 percent were customers.

Within the author level data set, the club contained the highest percentage, 56, coded as a "1". Given that this study is researching strippers, cases were selected only to evaluate the strippers when examining the data. Within this author level data set, examining only strippers, the club still contained the highest percent, 54, coded as a "1". These messages included all discussions about the strip club. This finding was expected, since the strip club is their place of work.

There was a significant difference between how many strippers mentioned non-monetary motivations compared to those who mentioned monetary motivations. (T-test 13.43, p = .000, df = 469). Non-monetary motivations were discussed by 40 percent of the authors, while monetary motivations were discussed by 13 percent. When selecting strippers only from the author data set, the researcher learned that non-monetary motivations were discussed by 47 percent of the strippers and monetary motivations were discussed by 17 percent.   Therefore, it is fair to say that non-monetary motivations are of more importance to the strippers than monetary motivations.

Non-monetary motivations included the coding categories: money is not the motivation, having a feeling of power, having fun while stripping and having work ethic. The coding category which is described as money not being the motivation, contains discussion where the exotic dancer states that money is not the motivation to strip. For example a stripper from the data set stated "I'm not scraping by, I just like to strip" when discussing money as not being a motivator.

The coding category labeled "power" contains messages where the exotic dancer discusses dancing as a power-trip, or when the dancer talks about having control over customers. The message below is a good representation of this:

… but i remember when i started out going nude table dancing boy, i needed something back then, but after a short time i got into control. and the control is what i like i did topless to start dancing for about three months before going all nude.

The coding category labeled "fun" includes messages where the exotic dancer refers to stripping as being fun or enjoyable. The messages below are examples where the message was coded as fun:

May I say that for having three kids, you have beautiful breasts! I am happy to hear that you are so excited! Try to keep that feeling alive if you are hired. Dancing can be so much fun!

Another author stated:

Hi everyone,

i got started dancing when i had to pick up a GF years ago from a strip club. I went inside and it was clean, friendly and lite [sic] up beautiful. I fell in love with the atmosphere. I then asked her questions about dancing. She said the owner was cool and would let me try out, as she called it. The next day i did. Small crowd, lunchtime. I was so comfortable. I was on stage and off. Only one lap dance EVER!!! I am a pole dancer , and floor grinder, legs a flying!!! I fell in love with the POLE!!! (have one in my home) I never was a hired girl there, just wanted to try it, he thought i was going to work there of course. The club ended up getting

busted for prostitution a few years later. My GF was not working at the time. She since then moved on. AND...so have i. I danced at "The Doll House" in Lauderdale years ago...i am 32 now. (I do invest my money!!!! Very important to me.) I think it may be gone..not sure though. I moved to Orlando, "Thee [sic] Doll House here" i dance. I am now moving up and slowing my act to a more different sensual kinda way. Going to brevard to live permanently. I danced tonite with the female and male review. Did 4 stage dances and LOVED it!!!! The pole has my [sic] hooked!! Came home feeling good! I have asked for advice from other dancers at clubs, and always heard it was the best, so i started going my own and scouting out a club that i could "do what i want" I will not do lap dances or VIP rooms. I swing and sway with the pole. I hang upside down and my legs wrap tight until i come slowly to the floor, i then crawl with my back arched and hair all over to the end of the stage! I take money in my hair, between my breasts, (the guys take the very tip of the bill and stick it up to me, they make NO contact) in my shoes...sooo many guys love feet!! And i will lay legs spread while guys lay money across my body!!! I love it. I am not nude, topless. Tiny g-string.

And that is where i plan on going and staying! I am happy. I dance to slow "come make love to my body with your eyes music", ENIGMA is by far my fav. And drums that i can grab with the beat! With Enigma i sing while dancing and looking into the eyes of the men! The music is loud and they see me mouthing the lyrics. Red lipstick is my must. I can go on 4-ever..I have my own style...it works great for me. Sorry for rambling on.

Money was discussed by 43 percent of the strippers. When money was discussed in relation to motivations by strippers, it was then reduced to 13 percent. When money was being discussed by a stripper, it included the strippers talking about making a living with their money, how stripping has major expenses, and how the club cares only about money and not the women.

Another coding category of importance is "work ethic." Work ethic is discussed by 34 percent of the exotic dancers. When work ethic was being discussed by a stripper, the dancers talked about wanting to do a good job and being proud of their occupation. The message below is an example where the message was coded for having contained work ethic:

I understand to a point what she is saying. Of course, I haven't read any of her posts, so this is just MHO. Just to note, I dance because I like to be on stage. I also sing to be onstage. (I'm a stage freak LOL) I also own my own business, which I am not gonna spam here, but pm me if anyone wants to know more about it. I like the stage thing best of all. That's prolly why I'm no good at hustling dances. I take my music and costumes serious, and always attract the few people in the crowd that really appreciate good dancing over walking from one side of the stage to the other and simply taking off my clothes. That's what everyone does up here. I am wanting to get more into photos. I have talked with a hot rod guy who builds cars that have graced the covers of hot rod mags, and he wants me to pose with an ole 30 something mercury (woohoo) because I have the "retro-bettie" look. But I know all about some of the dancers who do it for drugs, beer and sex. I will say here at lest, most of the girls are smarter than that. I know

many that are in college. I think that's why sometimes it peeves me to be lumped into one catagory with all the girls. We are all very different people.

Work ethic also included discussions of shaving their intimate areas in fun ways, costumes they wear, trying to achieve a unique look, their favorite songs to dance to, and installing their own poles in their house for practice. When the strippers discussed these issues they showed it was of considerable importance to them. They would go into detail and get very involved in conversation when discussing these topics. For example, when discussing shaving, the strippers would go into great detail and get excited about it. The messages below are examples of this:

> I freakin love this site! I am completely bald everywhere down there except for my landing strip. Ive [sic] had triangles, V shapes, hearts, etc but the landing strip has been something Ive ALWAYS gone back to since I was like 12 LOL. I do however want to do the lawn mower idea that was posted in here. I think that is totally cute. A star is another thing I wanna do but right now I cant experment - cant let that hair grow out with me going to work everyday LOL - ewwwww. I use a razor for the bottom 1/2 and a tweezer for the upper 1/2.

Another author stated:

> hi all! this is an interesting thread. i am absolutely bald. i always loved it this way. also i experience that the guys love it too. I do dance completely nude. i love the idea of this shaping competition! this sounds like some fun :).

Another author stated:

I actually change up the shape for holidays or seasons. Right now, I have a heart. The only problem is that when I switch up, I often have to take a few days off to let some grow, without it looking scary.

The strippers would also go into great detail about which costumes they would wear, what they feel good or proud in, or what they have more fun wearing. The messages below are examples of this:

Some times I try to stick to a distinct style, like classy, but it never lasts long. I feel silly in gowns because I am short. I usually wear short dresses and costumes. I love a good fire girl or school girl outfit. My newest outfit is a constuction worker one. They aren't always the top sellers, but I wear what I know I will have fun in. I also personalize things a lot. I just add on little accents that I get from the hobby lobby. I've tried to come up with my own costumes, but haven't had that much luck...any idea's [sic] out there?

Another author stated:

I make a lot of my outfits myself. I like to follow the trends in major magazines like Maxim, Playboy, Vogue, Elle, but I love stuff from Flirt and a few other companies. I'll buy regular clothing from an inexpensive store such as The Limited or maybe do a men's buttondown w/ a tie.... Stage shows I generally go with whatever I'm wearing on the floor at the moment so that the customers can find me when I get down. I use my dress-up outfits for the V.I.P. rooms.

When the strippers would talk about achieving a unique look, they would go into even greater detail about their costumes or music, or they would show emotion and

explain exciting feelings they get when they achieve their own distinct style. The message below is an example of this:

I wear all different outfits.. However I established my own style by only wearing White and nothing else.. and always thigh high white boots (different styles). I mostly dance to Madonna - which varys [sic] a great bit throughout her years. So if a Madonna song comes on, no matter wear [sic] my regulars are- they know to come to the stage! .. But if anyone comes in looking for me they know to look for the white or the boots.. its [sic] just my thing. I have been at my club for a while so the other girls have started to steer clear of my style and music. It makes me feel good. The white glows so I stand out. Like I am the "Angel" of the club! :-) Good luck.. let us all know what you decide to do.

When discussing their favorite songs they go into detail about why they like a particular song, they explain how they dance to certain songs because it makes them feel good, and they talk about finding songs that match their personality. For example, a stripper talking about what music she likes wrote "electrifying and upbeat and exciting to match my personality."

These messages show that these women care a lot about their job and would put effort into all aspects of it. When they talked about installing their own poles in their houses, it was because they wanted to practice their pole moves at home. They would give each other advice on how to install them or where to buy them. The message below is an example of this:

i have a lil mynx pole myself. it works great! although, i have a painted finish, so it does not have as much grip. brass provides the best grip. my club has brass

poles, and i can tell the difference. for example i was having difficulty hanging on upside down with my legs at home, but it's a cinch at the club. so, in a way it may be better getting used to hanging on so tight. since tricks are easier at the club, they'll look nearly flawless. platinum stages' poles are mounted on a small stage, which isn't a good idea in my opinion. Mainly b/c it's too small, so you can't practice going from the pole into floor moves. Also, it decreases the usable length of the pole, which may be an issue if you don't have vaulted ceilings. the lil mynx works very well, although it'll cost almost $300. i've read about installing your own with supplies from home depot. but, it's so much easier just buying one ready to go.the only other thing to remember is that the lil mynx must have carpet at the base for grip. i have hardwood floors, so what i did was use a rubber-backed bathroom rug over the hardwood. this works well. good luck pole shopping!

Factor Analyses

From the 470 strippers in the SWEDC author dataset created for this study by collapsing messages from the same author in to a single record, a principle components analysis (or exploratory factor analysis) was performed to develop a set of stripper profiles based on the content of their own discussion (Kern 2000). Table 3 provides the results of this analysis.

All coding variables reflecting characteristics of the individual strippers were entered in the analysis. Those that did not group with other variables (loaded highly alone on a single factor) were removed one by one from the analysis. Variables whose highest loading remained very low (under .40 on a varimax transformed matrix) were also removed from the analysis. The resulting matrix identified three factors with Eigen

values above 1.0, which cumulatively explain about 49 percent of the variance in the 11

variables included in the analysis. Table 3(A) summarizes the highest loadings for each

variable. The full factor matrix (Table 3(B)) presents the variables grouped by the factor

on which they most highly load along with their loading for that factor.

In general, all of the factors produced from the analysis were consistent with the

qualitative characteristics of the data observed throughout the coding stages of analysis.

The first factor, labeled "the complainers and the gossipers," explains the greatest

percentage of variance, 25.11 percent, among all three factors produced by the analysis.

This factor included high loadings of variables that represented characteristics discussed

by strippers involved in complaining and gossiping. These included complaints about

other strippers, other strippers invading personal space, and discussion about clubs with

"bitchy" atmospheres. Together these characteristics are clearly strongly conceptually

tied to one another in their emphasis on complaints.

At first glance, discussing a club's "bitchy" atmosphere may not seem to not be a

direct complaint, although discussions were usually in the context of a complaint.

Furthermore, the label "gossiper" was used to describe authors who talked about gossip

and rumored conversation in clubs.

"Economic concerns" is the second factor. This factor explains 13.53 percent of

the total variance. This factor groups together coding categories representing elements of

concern related to economics. It included high loadings on, making money for a living,

amounts of money, girls who do "extras" take away business from them, and wanting

customers to have fun.

At first glance, this latter category may not appear to conceptually fit with the other variables loading highly on this factor, but based on a qualitative understanding of the SWEDC messages, it is fair to say that they are well related. While on the surface, one might assume that wanting the customers to have fun is not important to economics, on deeper analysis it becomes obvious since these strippers would profit more from the customers having a good time and freely spending money.

"Non-economic concerns" was the third factor. This factor groups together coding categories representing elements that contain non-monetary motivations and concerns. This factor explains 10.76 percent of the total variance. It included high loadings of variables that represented non-economic concerns. These included needing confidence to be a good stripper, discussions of favorite songs, discussions of installing poles in their own homes, and stating to one another to "have fun" while stripping. Together these characteristics are clearly strongly conceptually tied to one another.

In summary, this analysis appears to be consistent with the highlights of the descriptive statistics discussed in the first section of the analysis chapter. The importance of strippers having both economic and non-economic interests in relation to their job is once again emphasized.

<div align="center">Multivariate Analyses</div>

To explore the more complex relationships between coding categories, multivariate analyses were conducted. Logistic regression analyses were used because of the dichotomous nature of the coding categories used in this study.

The dependent variables for these analyses are the monetary motivations and the non-monetary motivation scales. They are important because this research study is looking to better understand other motivations for why these women choose to strip.

All possible variables were included in logistic regression analyses so that a potential significant relationship was not missed. Regressions that were necessary or relevant to the study were taken into consideration. Regressions that directly relate and are of significant importance are mentioned below. Refer to Table 4 for the results of this analysis.

Within the author data set analyzing only strippers, it was found that strippers who express monetary motivations are 6.4 times more likely to feel that stripping is similar to a service-type job. This reveals that strippers who are motivated by money also feel that their job is similar to any other job. This is consistent with the unexpectedly low frequency with which the authors declared feelings of stigmatization by their occupation. This can be compared to ordinary people who are in the service industry; they too have monetary motivations. Most people who have jobs have at least some motivation to make money; it is not something that is necessarily related to stripping as an occupation.

It was also found that strippers who have monetary motivations are 3.7 times more likely to feel that extras are negative. Therefore, it is fair to say that these strippers who are motivated by money do not tend to perform extra sexual favors to make more money. This also demonstrates that these strippers who are in this job for the money are not going to any illegal extents or crossing any sexual boundaries, suggesting that even those who are economically motivated tend to create strong boundaries between acceptable and unacceptable activities.

Furthermore, it was found that strippers who discuss non-monetary motivations were 2.5 times more likely to discuss non-monetary complaints, which would be expected because they are both related to non-monetary concerns.

Furthermore consistent with the bivariate statistics, discussing monetary motivations and non-monetary motivations by the same author is significantly related (Chi-Square 16.99 Sig.00, Pearsons r = .190, Sig.00). This relationship remains significant in the multivariate analysis. It was found that strippers who have monetary motivations are also two times more likely to have non-monetary motivations. This is a surprising finding, because it reveals that both economic and non-economic motivations may be salient for the same person. This is an important finding because it shows the motivations expressed by some strippers are complex and multilayered, contrary to the one dimensional characterization of the strippers in the literature described in Chapter 2.

Strippers with non-monetary motivations were found to be 2.5 times more likely to discuss monetary complaints and 1.9 times more likely to discuss monetary motivations. This is surprising, but it also goes hand in hand with the finding that suggests strippers who have monetary motivations are two times more likely to have non-monetary complaints. Yet again, it shows that strippers can hold both motivational factors; they are consistently motivated by economic and non-economic factors.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

This study sought to explore the motivations of strippers in choosing their relatively controversial occupation. The data revealed that motivations other than economic rewards do indeed exist. Non-monetary motivations include an array of different motivations for stripping. These motivations are pride, a strong work ethic, enjoyment, and the sense of power felt while stripping.

The descriptive factor and multivariate analysis all provided evidence that both economic and non-economic motivations do exist; in fact, non-monetary motivations seemed to have greater prominence in the messages posted by these strippers. They have positive feelings about having a strong work ethic in relation to their stripping job.

The factor analysis was consistent with the other analyses. It found that both economic and non-economic motivations do exist and stripper/author profiles were informative about their motivations. The factor analysis revealed three significant characteristics in the personalities of the message board users. The first factor revealed strippers who were complainers and gossipers, the second revealed strippers who had economic concerns and the third factor revealed strippers who had non-economic concerns.

The multivariate analysis took these findings another step further, by revealing that strippers who have the monetary motivations were usually the same strippers that felt stripping is similar to a service-type job. This reveals that those who are motivated by money also feel that their job is similar to most other jobs. They compare themselves to ordinary people with the same economic motivations in the service industry.

The multivariate analysis revealed that these strippers who possess monetary motivations are the ones who are more likely to feel negatively towards performing extra sex acts. This is an important finding because it demonstrates that strippers in the industry solely to make money are not going to any illegal extents nor are they crossing any sexual boundaries when doing their job. This shows that money is not the only or most important concern when they are making job-related decisions.

A finding of great significance in the multivariate analysis was the discovery that some of the same strippers who have monetary motivations also had non-monetary motivations. This is important because it shows that some strippers can be motivated by both factors, which is the case with a lot of people in their professions. They do their job because they enjoy it and it pays well.

Overall, a notable aspect of this study is the existence of non-monetary motivations. This is apparent in all of the analyses conducted in this study. This study provided evidence to support that strippers are more complex than the narrow stereotypes displayed in much of the currently available literature. This study reveals that exotic dancers are no different from the general population; they are multidimensional. A component of non-monetary motivation that stands out from the analyses as remarkable is the continued importance of work ethic. It was demonstrated from a quantitative prospective in the descriptive statistics and backed up in the factor and multivariate analyses. Furthermore, a strong work ethic also stood out in a qualitative context. Many of the women on the message board displayed much emotion and passion within the discussions that involved this concept.

From analyzing these messages it can be understood that these strippers care deeply about their jobs, from the level of importance they attach to these discussions. From a qualitative understanding, excitement and passion was displayed and apparent in these messages. Therefore from one's own power of deduction, it can be assumed that there is much more appeal to exotic dancing than just the monetary benefit.

The exotic dancing profession in this study is shown to be quite similar to other service-type jobs. Strippers talk about dancing as if it were like any other job. From a qualitative prospective, it seemed as if they cared about their work and wanted to do a good job. Therefore it can be deduced that stripping could be similar to what's commonly called emotional labor (Hochschild 1983).

<center>Emotional Labor</center>

According to Hanna (1998), the reason for most people to engage in an occupation is to earn money. Given that stripping is also an occupation in which economic motivation does exist, it's no different than wanting to earn a living in any other occupation (Hanna). Strippers in this study show that stripping is similar to other jobs in the service industry.

The concept of emotional labor can be utilized to better understand service industry type jobs. Emotional labor is work that is considered to be done by people in the service industry. It requires one to induce or suppress feeling in order to sustain the outward countenance that produces the proper state of mind in others, and the worker can become estranged or alienated from an aspect of self, either the body or the margins of the soul that is used to do the work (Hochschild 1983). Roughly one-third of American workers today have jobs that subject them to substantial demands of emotional labor

(Hochschild). Moreover, roughly one-half of women's work makes emotional demands on their psyche (Hochschild).

The study of emotional labor has expanded significantly in North America in current years, as the expansion of the service sector has cultivated an increasing interest in this industry. The concept has been useful in discussions of a range of service jobs, including waitresses, airline staff, call center workers, debt collectors, and health care workers.

The concept of emotional labor has resonance in the work of strip club dancers (Bruckert 2002). The emotional labor concept is important to keep in mind when trying to better understand why people choose certain careers. The majority of people in society have jobs that entail some handling of other people's feelings as well as their own (Hochschild). According to Hochschild, emotional labor can be observed in the secretary who declares her company as "friendly and dependable," the waitress or waiter who constructs an "atmosphere of pleasant dining," the tour guide or hotel receptionist who makes one feel welcome, the social worker whose look of considerate concern makes the client feel cared for, the salesman who produces the impression of a "hot commodity," the bill collector who insinuates fear, the funeral parlor director who makes the bereaved feel appreciated, the minister who generates a sense of protective outreach but even-handed tenderness, and the stripper who gives the "appearance of intimacy who may flirt, banter, and joke with males sitting around the stage" (Boles and Garbin. 1974a) All of these people must display some aspects of emotional labor.

CHAPTER 6: LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative design, limitations can be found with both. Qualitative research is fundamentally interpretive, meaning the researcher interprets the data and reflects on findings, which can lead to bias (Creswell 2003). To determine coding categories, the Grounded Theory approach (Glaser and Strauss 1967) was used to analyze the data. Grounded theory method allows for building a theoretical analysis on what the researcher discovers relevant in relation to the research question (Charmaz 1983). Therefore, the inductive nature can lead to researcher bias when determining coding categories. Since the inductive nature of this method allows for openness and flexibility in determining categories, the researcher is free to follow the leads gained from a personal view of the data (Charmaz).

There is a disadvantage when using data collected from the Internet with regard to the representativeness of the data. The self-selective type of involvement in a discussion group will most likely result in a dataset that is not representative of the world population as an entirety.

Using web-based data from a message board constrains the researcher to examining only what is published there and may not make inferences about abstract elements, such as sarcasm. Because of the unobtrusive nature of the research design, the study was only able to scratch the surface of the exotic dancing industry. For example, when reading the messages about the fun aspects of stripping, it was not possible to inquire of the dancers exactly why they define their profession as fun, in order to get to the root of their emotional attachment to the industry.

Future research needs to take a more in-depth look into the fun aspects of stripping. This study is an important tool to bring to light research that shows that non-economic motivations in the profession exist. Now that this is known, a study including in-depth interviews focusing on the reasons for these other motivations would be the next appropriate step. Looking more in depth into the stripper's personality or past may help find why these women feel this profession is fun and motivating, and assist in revealing exactly what causes them to feel this way. Knowing exactly what these strippers find fun about this occupation may give a better understanding of the stripper and possibly unfold more of the multidimensional aspects of the stripper.

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TABLES

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics

Tables 2(A): Message Data

	Mean (all cases)	Mean (strippers only)
Author is a stripper	.84	1.00
Author is a newbie	.02	.00
Author is a DJ	.01	.00
Author is a customer	.12	.00
Any discussion of money	.23	.25
Discussion of hiding identity	.06	.06
Discussion of implants	.02	.02
Discussion of confidence	.04	.05
Discussion of power	.02	.02
Discussion of the club	.34	.35
Discussion of fun	.04	.05
Having work ethic	.17	.18
Discussion of extras	.04	.04
Similar to service job	.09	.09
Complaints	.13	.15
Money making tips	.03	.03
Amount of money	.02	.03
Money not the motivation	.01	.01
Hide identity from family	.00	.00
Hide identity from boyfriend	.00	.00
Hide identity from customer	.01	.01
Does not hide identity from family	.00	.00
Does not hide identity from boyfriend	.01	.01
Does not hide identity from customer	.01	.01
Newbie states they are proud	.01	.00
Implants discussed positively	.00	.00
Implants discussed negatively	.01	.00
Implants bring confidence	.00	.00
Complaints about other women	.03	.04
Extras viewed as negative	.02	.03
Extras viewed as positive	.00	.00
Money is being made to make a living	.00	.00
Stripping has many expenses	.01	.01
Need confidence to be a stripper	.01	.01
Likes having control over customer	.00	.00
Clubs are only concerned with money	.00	.00
Club has no concern for the strippers	.00	.00
Clubs with a bitchy atmosphere	.01	.01
Stating it's exciting/fun	.01	.01

Tables 2(A): Message Data (Continued)

Stating "have fun" to one another	.01	.01
Customers having fun	.01	.01
States pride	.00	.00
Discussion of shaving	.02	.02
Discussion of costumes	.03	.04
Discussion of favorite songs	.02	.02
Discussion of installing poles	.00	.01
Discussion of having or achieving unique look	.00	.01
Women who perform "extras" take away business	.01	.01
State they will never do an extra	.01	.01
States that stripping is a business	.01	.01
Other strippers invading personal space	.00	.00
Complaints of unresponsive customers	.00	.01
Complaints about non-tippers	.01	.01
Discussion of racial discrimination	.05	.05
Complaints about racial discrimination	.02	.02
Complaints about racist club owners	.02	.02
Complaints about customers who are racist	.01	.01
Husband/boyfriend says stripper doesn't hide identity	.00	.00
Not letting others break strippers confidence	.01	.01
Feels Stigma	.02	.03
Does not feel stigma	.01	.01
Non-monetary motivations	.21	.23
Monetary motivations	.05	.06
Non-monetary complaints	.04	.05
Monetary complaints	.02	.02
Mentions having a boyfriend	.01	.01
Discussion of Stigma	.03	.03

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics (Continued)

Table 2 (B): Author Data

	Mean (all cases)	Mean (strippers only)
Author is a stripper	.78	1.00
Author is a newbie	.05	.00
Author is a DJ	.02	.00
Author is a customer	.14	.00
Any discussion of money	.43	.46
Discussion of hiding identity	.17	.18
Discussion of implants	.07	.07
Discussion of confidence	.14	.17
Discussion of power	.09	.11
Discussion of club	.56	.54
Discussion of fun	.13	.16
Having work ethic	.34	.39
Discussion of extras	.10	.11
Similar to service job	.21	.23
Complaints	.26	.32
Money making tips	.09	.11
Amount of money	.07	.08
Money not the motivation	.02	.02
Hide identity from family	.00	.00
Hide identity from boyfriend	.00	.00
Hide identity from customer	.04	.04
Does not hide identity from family	.01	.01
Does not hide identity from boyfriend	.04	.04
Does not hide identity from customer	.04	.04
Newbie states they are proud	.02	.00
Implants discussed positively	.01	.01
Implants discussed negatively	.02	.01
Implants bring confidence	.01	.01
Complaints about other women	.09	.11
Extras viewed are negative	.07	.09
Extras viewed as positive	.00	.00
Money is being made to make a living	.01	.01
Stripping has many expenses	.04	.05
Need confidence to be a stripper	.04	.06
Likes having control over customer	.01	.01
Clubs are only concerned with money	.01	.01
Club has no concern for the strippers	.01	.01
Clubs with a bitchy atmosphere	.04	.05
Stating it's exciting/fun	.05	.05

Table 2 (B): Author Data (continued)

Stating "have fun" to one another	.02	.03
Customers having fun	.02	.02
States pride	.01	.01
Discussion of shaving	.06	.08
Discussion of costumes	.09	.11
Discussion of favorite songs	.06	.07
Discussion of installing poles	.01	.02
Discussion of unique look	.02	.02
Women who perform "extras" take away business	.02	.03
States will never do an extra	.03	.03
States that stripping is a business	.02	.03
Other strippers invading personal space	.01	.02
Complaints or unresponsive customers	.02	.02
Complaints about non-tippers	.04	.06
Racial discrimination	.11	.11
Complaints about racial discrimination	.04	.04
Complaints about racist club owners	.04	.05
Complaints about customers who are racist	.02	.03
Husband/boyfriend says stripper doesn't hide identity	.01	.00
Not letting others break strippers confidence	.05	.06
Feels stigma	.07	.09
Does not feel stigma	.02	.03
Non-monetary motivations	.40	.47
Monetary motivations	.13	.17
Non-monetary complaints	.12	.14
Monetary complaints	.06	.08
Mentions having a boyfriend	.04	.04
Discussion of Stigma	.09	.10

Tables 3: Factor Analyses

Table 3(A): Factor Analyses, Stripper Profile Principle Component Analysis

Factor 1 (Complainers and Gossipers)	L
Discussion about clubs with bitchy atmosphere	.807
Complaints about others invading personal space	.732
Complaints about other strippers	.710
% of Variance Explained	25.11

Factor 2 (Economically Concerned)	L
Making money for a living	.664
Wanting customers to have fun	.675
Women who perform "extras" take away business	.630
Discussions about amount of money	.628
% of Variance Explained	13.53

Factor 3 (Non-Economically Concerned)	L
Need confidence to be a good stripper	.661
Discussion of favorite songs	.544
Discussion of installing poles	.675
Stating "have fun" to one another	.510
% of Variance Explained	10.76

Table 3(B): SWEDC Profile Full Factor Matrix

Variables	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3
Making money for a living	.013	.664	-.220
Need confidence to strip	-.116	.173	.661
Discussion about clubs with bitchy atmosphere	.807	.078	.094
Wanting customers to have fun	.013	.675	.251
Discussion of favorite songs	.141	-.093	.544
Discussion of installing poles	.217	.028	.675
Women who perform "extras" take away business	.316	.630	-.044
Complaints about others invading personal space	.732	-.027	.172
Stating "have fun" to one another	.298	.113	.510
Complaints about other strippers	.710	.255	.145
Discussions about amounts of money	.050	.628	.195
Initial Eigen Value	2.76	1.49	1.18
% Variance Explained	25.11	13.53	10.76
Cumulative % Variance Explained	25.11	38.64	49.40

Table 4: Logistic Regression: Unit of Analysis Author Level Data, Strippers Only, Dependent Variables: Similar to Service Type Job, Feeling Stigma, Not feeling Stigma, Monetary Complaints, Non-Monetary Complaints, Having a Boyfriend, Stating that Extras are Negative, and Monetary Motivations

Variables	Monetary Motivations		Non Monetary Motivations	
	B	Sig.	B	Sig.
Similar to Service Type Job	6.405**	.000	1.333	.261
Feeling Stigma	1.658	.293	1.761	.181
Not Feeling Stigma	.386	.302	2.024	.287
Monetary Complaints	2.118	.083	2.508*	.040
Non Monetary Complaints	.880	.810	2.528*	.039
Having a Boyfriend	.815	.763	.545	.271
Stating that Extras are Negative	3.708*	.039	.721	.571
Non Monetary Motivations	1.965*	.023	---	---
Monetary Motivations	---	---	1.943*	.024
Constant	.056	.000	.618	.000

* Significant at p<.05   **Significant at p<.01

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Coding Category Descriptions

Author is a stripper – author discusses exotic dancing experiences, or states that they are a stripper (exotic dancer, dancing at club).

Author is a person who wants to become a stripper – author will ask questions about how to become a stripper (newbie, new to stripping).

Author is a DJ in the club – author states they are a DJ, or explains experiences that would fit the role of a DJ (Announcing).

Author is a customer – author states they are a customer, or explains experiences that would fit the role of a customer (Experiencing lap dances).

Money – money is being discussed in message.

    Money making tips – when strippers discuss money making strategies, or when they give each other tips on how to make more money. Also includes when strippers that are asking for money making tips (hustling).

    Amount of money – when there is discussion about how much money the strippers have made or how much they make.

Money is not a motivation – when there is discussion about strippers who strip for reasons besides economic gain. Includes discussions how money is not the main motivation.

Money for a living – when there is discussion about the strippers making a living with their money.

Money needed for stripping expenses – when there is discussion on the many expenses of stripping, or when they talk about having to buy things for their job.

Breast implants – Breast implants are referred to or discussed in message (breasts, boobs, fake boobs).

Implants are viewed positively – when implants are discussed in a positive manner or when they are being discussed as being an advantage.

Implants are viewed negatively – when implants are discussed in a negative manner or when they are being discussed as a disadvantage.

Implants bring confidence – when implants are being discussed as bringing confidence to the stripper.

Confidence – message is discussing how strippers feel about themselves as a person (Self-confidence, being comfortable or uncomfortable, nervous).

Need confidence – when there is discussion about how a stripper needs confidence to be a stripper, or the stripper needs confidence to be a good stripper.

Don't break confidence – when there is discussion between strippers where they talk about not letting other people or other strippers break their confidence, or how to avoid other people or strippers from breaking their confidence.

Feeling of power – when stripping is being discussed as a power-trip, or when the stripper talks about having control over her customers (Authority, influence).

Like having control over customers – when the strippers state that they like having that feeling of controlling the customers.

Hiding identity – when there is any discussion of concealing, or not having to conceal identity from others who are not in the trade. Or whether or not they hide their true identity from anyone including customers (Open about identity, concealing identity).

Hide identity from family – when there is discussion that the stripper is hiding her exotic dancing identity from her family.

Hide identity from boyfriend – when there is discussion that the stripper is hiding her exotic dancing identity from her boyfriend, husband or significant other.

Hide identity from customers – when there is discussion that the stripper is hiding her exotic dancing identity from customers.

Does not hide identity from family – when there is discussion that the stripper is not hiding her exotic dancing identity from her family.

Does not hide identity from boyfriend – when there is discussion that the stripper is not hiding her exotic dancing identity from her boyfriend, husband or significant other.

Does not hide identity from customers – when there is discussion that the stripper is not hiding her exotic dancing identity from her customers.

Husband or boyfriend of stripper does not hide identity – when there is discussion by the husband or boyfriend that would indicate that their stripper girlfriend or wife does not hide their identity from them.

Club – the strip club, or dance club is either mentioned or talked about directly or indirectly (strip club, dance club).

Club wanting money – when there is discussion about the club owner wanting to make money.

Club not concerned with girls – when there is discussion how the club owner does not care about the dancers, and that his/her main concern is whether or not the club itself is doing well.

Clubs with bitchy atmosphere – when there is discussion about clubs that have an uncomfortable or bitchy atmosphere among the strippers and staff.

Fun – when the stripper refers to stripping as been fun or enjoyable in any way. (good time, exciting).

Fun as excitement – when the discussion is about the dancers saying they think dancing is exciting or fun to do.

Have fun – when the dancers tell each other to have fun in reference to stripping. For example, when a Newbie is going to be doing her first shift and a dancer says "have fun".

Customers having fun – when there is discussion about what is more fun for customers, in regards to clubs, dances and strippers.

Work ethic – when stripping is being discussed as a proud occupation or when they talk about wanting to do a good job. It may also include discussion where the stripper talks about other things that are not necessarily economically motivated which would imply that she finds stripping important to her.

States pride – when a stripper will plainly state that they are proud of their job.

Newbie is proud is become/be stripper – when the newbie asks questions which would imply that she is proud that she became a stripper or that she is proud to become a stripper. Or when she asks a question or talks about other things that are not necessarily economically motivated which would imply that she finds stripping important to her.

Shaving – when the strippers discuss or suggest different ways to shave their intimate areas.

Costumes – when the strippers discuss or suggest different costumes.

Dancing songs – when the strippers discuss or suggest different songs that they enjoy dancing to.

Installing poles – when the strippers discuss how to install poles in their homes to practice on.

Unique look – when the strippers talk about trying to achieve a unique look, or when they give advice to others on how to achieve a unique look.

Extras - when there is discussion regarding strippers who do more that what the rules allow. For example the stripper would give a hand job or blow job for more money (high mileage, selling sexual favors, dirty dancing, get dirty).

Extras are viewed as positive – when there is discussion about extras being viewed as positive, or discussion about how the strippers would do extras.

Extras are viewed as negative – when there is discussion about extras being viewed as negative, or discussion about how the strippers would never do extras.

Women who perform "extras" take away business – when there is discussion/complaints about women who do extras and take away business from women who are not engaging in such behavior.

Women that never do extras – when a stripper states that she will never do an extra, or when she states that she never has done an extra.

<u>Similar to service job</u> – when there is discussion about stripping being business-like or when stripping is talked about in the context of being similar to any other everyday job.

<u>Stripping is a business</u> – when a stripper states that exotic dancing is a business.

<u>Complaints</u> – when a stripper is discussing a complaint, or when a stripper talks about another stripper complaining about them (rants).

<u>Complaints about other strippers</u> – when there are complaints about other women, or when the message discusses strippers complaining about other strippers (cattiness).

<u>Complaints about other strippers invading their personal space</u> – when strippers complain about other strippers who invade their personal space in the strip club, for example; their chair in the dressing room.

<u>Complaints about unresponsive customers</u> – when there are complaints about customers not responding to strippers when they give them lap dances. Or when the customer getting the dance doesn't seem to be enjoying it or shows no sign of having a good time.

<u>Complaints about non-tippers</u> – when there are complaints about people who do not tip.

Racial discrimination – when there is discussion about discrimination against strippers who are of a minority race.

Complaints about racial discrimination – when there are complaints about racial discrimination within the exotic dancing industry.

Complaints about club owners who are racist – when there are complaints about the owners of the club being racist against non-white strippers.

Complaints about customers who are racist – when there is complaints about the customers being racist against non-white strippers.

Feels stigma – when there is discussion in the message about how the stripper feels the effects of stigma in relation to her job as a dancer. For example, when they talk about being judged, peoples negative attitudes held by others toward their job, and/or embarrassment.

Does not feel stigma – when there is discussion about how the stripper does not feel the effects of stigma in relation to her job as a dancer. For example, she does not feel like she is judged, does not feel any negative attitudes towards to job from others, and feels no embarrassment.

Stigma - when there is discussion about how the stripper feels the effects of stigma in relation to her job as a dancer or how she does not feel the effects of stigma. For example, when there is talk about being judged, not being judged, negative or positive and positive attitudes toward their job, and or embarrassment or no embarrassment (Combined coding categories – Does feel stigma, does not feel stigma).

Non-monetary motivations – when there is discussion of motivations other than economic motivations (Combined coding categories – money not the motivation, power, fun, work ethic).

Monetary motivations – when there is discussion of motivations which relate to economic motivations (Combined coding categories – money making tips, amount of money, money is being made to make a living).

Non-monetary complaints – when there are complaints which do not relate to economic gain (Combined coding categories – club has no concern for the strippers, complaints about clubs with a bitchy atmosphere, complaints about other women, complaints about other women invading their personal space, complaints about unresponsive customers, extras are viewed as negative).

Monetary complaints – when there are complaints which relate to economic gain (Combined coding categories – complaints about non-tippers, women who perform "extras" take away business).

<u>The stripper has a boyfriend</u> – when reference is made to the stripper having a boyfriend (Combined categories – hide identity from boyfriend, does not hide identity from boyfriend).

APPENDIX B: SWEDC Frequently Asked Questions File

Site FAQ

What is a StripperWeb? What can it do for me? Where did it come from?

If you're asking what is StripperWeb or what it can do for you, you have missed our tour.

Luckily, we have tour buses leaving continuously. The next one can be found at

http://www.stripperweb.com/?page=tour. As for where we came from and why we

started, please keep reading. In mid 2001, there were two stripper communities. One was

of a reasonable size, but had no moderation or anyone to take care of the site. It quickly

site became a nest for SPAM (ads) and flame wars (insulting arguments). The other

stripper community was smaller, but had collected a great group of members. At that time

Pryce was a college student and made money on the side programming and designing

websites. He had been told about the communities by a friend who worked in a hostess

club. He soon got to know two popular members at the smaller site - Charlotte and

Bridgette. By July of 2001 though, all 3 had left. Charlotte was told she was no longer

welcome and Bridgette was one of a few regular members that reported having a bad

encounter with the owners of the site. Pryce and several other posters slowly left because

of the ensuing drama and tension. One day while chatting with Charlotte, Pryce

mentioned creating a better site - one that was positive, full of quality advice, and one

that gave exotic dancers new tools to help them do their job better & make more money.

She told him that Bridgette had a similar idea and that they should contact each other.

After trading some ideas and collaborating, they created a retro-look for "Stripper

Control" - a site to help dancers gain control of their lives and destiny.

Bridgette and Pryce continued to work together to get the site built. After a few months though - due to busy schedules and long distances - meeting and collaborating became difficult. The two agreed to continue developing their own sites and "StripperWeb" was born. The forums were first opened in January, 2002. After one month, we had collected a great group of about 50 members - mostly those displaced from the other sites. A year later (January 2003) our numbers had grown to over 600 members. We now have over 10,000 members. We are very proud to say that several of those original members are now leaders and elders of our site in their own right! This site has gone through several software changes and feature additions. All of our great members have stuck it out with us and have helped to create this community so many call home. Pryce and his wife (GirlFriday) still administer and develop the site. Over time, select members have been nominated and voted in as moderators by others. Their efforts and knowledge are what help make this site different from most. You can see all of our moderators by clicking here. Thank you to everyone who helps make this site what it is.

Why should I join this site for free?

Becoming a member gives you access to many more features and content site-wide. Having a free or paid membership will allow you to do much more than you can as a guest. Click here for full details on the difference between guests, members, and Platinum Members. To register you will need to specify a username and password, and a valid email address. Do not worry, we protect all email-addresses none are publicly displayed and you can also disallow other members from contacting you. After you create your account, you will get an email that confirms your signup. Make sure that the email

account you enter is valid and working (i.e. not full). Once you verify your account (just a click in that email we send you), you will get another email that will help you find your way around the site.

What are referrals?

You get credit for every new user you invite to the forum that signs up with us. If that user ever becomes a Platinum member, we will give you a free month of Platinum access. You can gain referrals several ways. The most direct is by promoting your unique referral link. The link you should use is:

http://www.stripperweb.com/forum/index.php?referrerid=30388 Each time someone follows this link here and registers as a new member, your referral count will go up. Another way to send out your referral link is to notify friends about interesting threads. At the top of any thread is a section named "Thread Tools". There is a link in the menu that says "Email this Page". Any friend that visits our site from one of those emails and joins will automatically give you credit as their referrer. The last way to get credit for referring someone is to simply tell them your username and have them enter it in the "Referrer" box while they signup. The number of referrals you have can be viewed in your profile. You can also compare how you're doing with our top 10 referrers by visiting: http://www.stripperweb.com/forum/referrals.php Please be courteous when promoting our community. Do not SPAM other sites or signup users without their permission.

What are "My Settings"?

"My Settings" gives you access to your personal user control panel. From here you can edit almost any setting available to you. You can also customize your profile by adding pictures and quotes to your account. Your view options can be customized too - things like how the site looks, your timezone, the editor you use, etc. You can use this section to check and send Private Messages to other members, edit your subscriptions to favorite threads, configure reminders, see your ignore and buddy lists, and upgrade your account.

How can I change the information in my profile?

It is your responsibility to keep the information in your profile up-to-date. You should especially ensure that your email address is kept current. You can alter any of the fields in your profile, except your username. Once you have registered your username, it becomes yours for life. In extreme circumstances, you may request that the administrator change your username, but he or she will require a very good reason to do so.

What is the signature for?

After you have registered, you may set your signature. This is a piece of text that you would like to be inserted at the end of all your posts, a little like having headed note paper. If the administrator has enabled signatures, then you will have the option to include your signature on any posts you make. If you have specified a signature, then the forum will automatically append your signature to any messages you post. You can disable signatures on a per-post basis by un-ticking the 'Show Signature' checkbox when you compose your message. You may turn the signature on and off on posts you have

already made by editing the post and altering the state of the 'Show Signature' option. You can set your signature by editing your profile.

How do I get a picture under my username?

These small images are called Avatars. They are displayed below your username on all posts that you make. There are two kinds of avatars: those provided by the administrator and those that you upload yourself. If the administrator has provided a set of avatars, and avatars are enabled, you may select an avatar that best describes your personality. The administrator may also have enabled custom avatars, which allows you to upload an avatar image from your computer.

What are the buddy and ignore lists?

The buddy list is used to keep track of the friends you have made on this forum. By going to your "My Settings" or my.StripperWeb.com, you'll be able to see which of your friends are currently online, and be able to send them a private message. Adding people to your buddy list also allow you to send private messages to multiple forum members at the same time. You may add any member of the forums to your buddy list by clicking this button in a member's posts. Ignore lists are used for those people who's messages you wish not to read. By adding someone to your ignore list, those messages posted by these individuals will be hidden when you read a thread.

What's the difference between guests, members, and Platinum Members?

Users of our site can be 1 of 3 types:

Guests - these are anonymous Internet users who are either not logged-in or do not have an account with us. Of all the users, guests have the most restricted access. To keep the quality of the content at our site higher and to keep users responsible for the material they present, we require that any additions to the site be made by a registered user.

Free Members - these users have taken the time to signup for account. These members are allowed to submit and access much more material than guests. Free accounts are limited when compared to Platinum memberships because we cannot afford to develop the site for free, though we do allow free members access to what we can. Free membership should be used as a way to sample what we offer or by those who cannot yet afford to help support our service.

Platinum Members - these users help keep this site alive by directly supporting it. To thank them for their support we allow them access to all of the material at our site and give them use of our advanced features.

Does this site use cookies?

The use of cookies on this site is optional, but may enhance your experience of the site. Cookies are used to enable functions such as showing whether or not a thread or forum you are viewing has new posts since your last visit, or to automatically log you back in when you return to the site after being away for a while. When you register, you will be given the option to 'Automatically login when you return to the site'. This will store your username and password in a cookie, stored on your computer. If you are using a shared computer, such as in a library, school or Internet cafe, or if you have reason to not trust any other users that might use this computer, we do not recommend that you enable this.

This forum also gives you the option to use a cookie to track your current session, ensuring that you remain logged-on while browsing the site. If you choose not to store this information in a cookie, the session data will be sent through each link you click. Choosing not to use a cookie may cause problems if your computer's connection to the Internet uses a proxy-server and you share links with other users behind the same proxy. If in doubt, we recommend that you select 'yes' to enable the cookie.

How do I clear my cookies? / I can't log out!

You may clear all your cookies by clicking here. If you return to the main index page via the link provided and you are still logged in, try removing your cookies by visiting "My Cookies", checking all of the cookies on your system, then pressing the "Delete My Cookies" button. Now refresh the forum front page. Make sure you do a full refresh. Depending on your browser and operating system you will have to use different buttons with refresh. Windows with Internet Explorer - use CTRL+Refresh or CTRL+F5. Netscape - use Shift+Refresh. Mac - use Option+Refresh. Your cookies should now be removed. You may want to restart the computer and revisit the forums to be sure.
 If you are still logged in, you will have to clear your cookies manually. Click here for full instructions on removing your cookies. Then try a restart and full reload/refresh as described above.

I lost my password, what can I do?

If you forget your password, you can click on the 'Forgotten Your Password' link on any page that requires you to fill in your password. This will bring up a page where you

should enter your registered email address, and an email will be sent to that address instantly, with instructions for resetting your password.

Forum FAQ

Can I search the forum?

You can search for posts based on username, word(s) in the post or just in the subject, by date, and only in particular forums. To access the search feature, click on the "search" link at the top of most pages. You can search any forum that you have permission to search - you will not be allowed to search through private forums unless the administrator has given you the necessary security rights to do so.

Can I send email to other members?

Yes! To send an email to another member, you can either locate the member you want to contact on the member list, or click the e-mail button on any post made by that member. This will usually open a page that contains a form where you can enter your message. When you have finished typing your message, press the [send email] button and your message will be sent instantly. Note that for privacy reasons, the email address of the recipient is not revealed to you during this process. Note that if you can not find an email button or link for a member, it either means that the administrator has disabled email functions for this forum, or that the member in question has specified that they do not wish to receive email from other members of the forum. Another useful email function is the ability to send a friend a link to a thread you think they may find interesting. Whenever you view a thread, you will find a link somewhere on the page which will allow you to send a brief message to anyone you like. Your referrerid is added to the link

you send, so if your friend registers on this forum as a result of viewing the link you sent to them, your referrals total will automatically be credited! Registered members may also be able to send messages to other members of this forum using the private messaging system. For more information about private messaging, click here.

What is Private Messaging?

If the administrator has enabled the Private Messaging system, registered members may send each other private messages. Sending Private Messages Private messages work a little like email, but are limited to registered members of this forum. You may be able to include vB Code, smilies and images in private messages that you send. You may send a private message to a member of this forum by clicking the 'Send A Private Message' link in the private messaging section of your user control panel, or by clicking the private message button in a member's posts. When you send a message, you have the option to save a copy of the message in your Sent Items folder. Private Message Folders By default, you will have two folders in your private message area. These are the Inbox and the Sent Items folders. The Inbox folder contains any new messages you receive, and allows you to view all the messages you have received, along with the name of the person who sent the message to you, and the date and time the message was sent. The Sent Items folder contains a copy of any messages that you have sent, where you have specified that you wish to keep a copy of the message for future reference. You may create additional folders for your messages by clicking the 'Edit Folders' link. Each folder has a set of message controls which allow you to select messages, then either move them to one of your custom folders, or delete them completely. You may also have a button which

allows you to forward multiple messages from a folder to another member of the forum.
You will need to periodically delete old messages, as the administrator has probably set a
limit to the number of private messages you can have in your folders. If you exceed the
number of messages specified by the administrator, you will not be able to send or
receive new messages until you delete some old messages. Whenever you read a
message, you will have the option to reply to the message, or forward that message to
another member of the forum. You may also have the ability to forward that message to
multiple members of your buddy list. Message Tracking When you send a new private
message, you may have the option to request a read-receipt for that message. This will
allow you to check whether or not a message has been read by its recipient by viewing
the Private Message Tracking page. This page is divided into two sections: unread
messages and read messages. The unread messages section shows all messages that you
have sent with a read-receipt request, that have not yet been read by their recipient. The
time of the last activity of the message recipient is also shown. Messages in this section
can be cancelled if you decide that their contents are no longer relevant, or for any other
reason. Cancelled messages can also be restored to active status if the administrator has
enabled this feature. The read messages section shows all messages you have sent with a
receipt request that have been read and acknowledged by their recipient. The time that the
message was read is also shown. You may choose to end the tracking on any message
you choose by selecting the message and clicking the [end tracking] button. When you
receive a message with a read-receipt request, you may have the option to read the
message while denying the read-receipt request. To do this, simply click the 'deny receipt'
link rather than the title of the message, if it appears.

How do I use the Member List?

The member list contains a complete list of all the registered members of this forum. You can view the member list ordered alphabetically by username, by the date that the member joined the forum, or by the number of posts the members have made. The member list also has a search function, which allows you to quickly locate members according to categories you specify, such as searching for all members who have joined in the past week etc.

How do I use the calendar?

The calendar functions in a way similar to the forums in that there can be multiple calendars. One calendar could hold just events that you are able to see, while another may list birthdays. There are two types of events on the calendar: normal events and recurring events. Normal Events span the time frame from when the event starts until the event ends. Recurring Events repeat over a set period of time based on certain criteria. Examples would be an event that occurs on the first Monday of every month and an event that occurs every Monday and Wednesday. The administrator may have enabled registered members to post events, but usually this is not the case. You can most likely post your own private events that are only viewable to you. Birthdays may be shown on the calendar if the administrator has enabled this feature. Your birthday will automatically be shown on the calendar if you have entered the date of your birthday in your profile. Note: if you do not enter the year of your birth when you edit your profile, your age will not be shown on the calendar. If you enter your birthday, your name will also appear on the main forum page when it is your birthday.

What are announcements?

Announcements are special messages posted by the administrator or moderators. They are designed to be a simple one-way communication with the users. If you wish to discuss announcements, you will have to create a new thread in the forum, since you cannot reply to announcements.

What are the various thread display options?

When viewing a thread, you will be able to view the thread from a choice of four modes. 1) Linear Mode (Oldest First) - In this mode, posts are displayed chronologically from oldest to newest. Posts are shown in a flat mode so that many posts can be viewed simultaneously. 2) Linear Mode (Newest First) - This is the same as the above mode, except that posts are ordered in an opposite way (newest first). 3) Threaded Mode - In this mode, a tree is shown along with every post. This tree allows you to see the relationship each post has to others, in terms of who responded to whom. Only one post is shown at a time. 4) Hybrid Mode - This mode is a mixture of the linear and threaded modes. The post tree is displayed like in the threaded mode, but multiple posts are displayed simultaneously like in the linear modes.

Where can I find the RSS feed?

The administrator may have enabled RSS syndication, this allows you to view newly created threads in guest viewable forums without visiting the board. The feeds are currently provided in two formats, RSS and RSS v2. The differences are as follows:

- RSS 0.91 - This feed is based on a standard written by netscape and provides a

   link and the title of the thread.

   http://www.stripperweb.com/forum/external.php?type=rss

- RSS 2.0 - This feed contains title, author, date and the contents of the first post of

   the thread.

   http://www.stripperweb.com/forum/external.php?type=rss2

The forums to which this applies can also be limited to specific guest viewable forums by

adding another paramater to the URL containing the forumids as follows:

http://www.stripperweb.com/forum/external.php?type=rss2&forumids=123

If you would like the content to be generated for multiple forums you can seperate the

forumids by commas.

Reading and Posting Messages

Are there any special codes/tags I can use to markup my posts?

For the most part, your posts will contain plain text, but on occasions, you may want to

emphasize certain words or phrases by making them (for example) bold or italic.

Depending on the rules of the forum, you may use HTML code to produce these effects.

However, more often than not, the administrator will have disabled HTML code, and

opted instead to use vB Code: a special set of tags which you can use to produce the most

popular text-effects. vB code has the advantage that it is very simple to use, and is

immune to malicious javascripts and page layout disruption. You may also find that the

administrator has enabled smilies, which allow you to use small icons to convey emotion,

and the [img] code, which allows you to add pictures to your message.

What is email notification?

If you post a new thread, or reply to an existing thread, you can choose to be notified by email when someone else replies to that thread. You can also choose to receive email notifications of new posts in a thread without posting in that thread, by clicking the 'Subscribe to this thread' link displayed in the thread page. If you choose to stop receiving email notifications from a thread, you can turn off the option by either editing your post, or by unsubscribing from the thread here. Only registered users may receive email notification, and they can set whether they want to receive email notification by default by editing their options. Email notification is also referred to as 'Thread Subscription'.

What are smilies?

Smilies are small graphical icons which you can insert into your messages to convey an emotion or feeling, such as a joke or embarrassment. For example, if you entered a sarcastic comment, rather than type 'that was a joke', you could simply insert the 'wink' smilie. If you have used email or Internet chat systems, you will probably be familiar with the concept of smilies already. Certain combinations of text characters are converted into smilies. For example,:) is converted into a smiling face. To understand smilie codes, tilt your head to the left and look at the text: you will see that :) represents two eyes and a smiling mouth. On occasions, you may want to prevent the text in your message being converted into smilies. You will see a checkbox which you can select when you make a new post, which will allow you to 'Disable Smilies'.

Code Buttons and Clickable Smilies

These controls allow you to quickly and easily enter vBcode into your posts and messages. To use them, simply click the appropriate buttons or select items from the lists to enter vBcode. There are two modes available: normal and enhanced mode. When using normal mode, pressing a button will pop-up a dialog for you to fill with text. It will then enter the text with the appropriate vB Code tags at the end of your message. When using enhanced mode, pressing a button will insert the appropriate STARTING tag for the code, leaving you to enter text into the message area. When you have finished the text and want to close the tag, simply press the Close Current Tag button (alt+c). You may also nest tags in enhanced mode, and then use the Close All Tags button (alt+x) to close all open markup. Please note that the 'close tag' buttons only close tags that have been entered using the code buttons. To use the clickable smilies, simply click the smiley that you want to insert into your message, or click the Show All Smilies link (if available) to access the full list of smilies.

How do I create and vote in polls?

You may notice that some threads on this forum also include a section where you can vote on an issue or question. These threads are called 'polls' and this is how to create them: Creating a new poll When you post a new thread, you may have the option to also create a poll. This function allows you to ask a question and specify a number of possible responses. Other members will then be able to vote for the response they wish, and the results of the voting will be displayed in the thread. An example poll might be:

What is your favorite color? 1)red 2)blue 3)green 4)sky-blue pink with yellow spots

To create a poll when you post a new thread, simply click the 'Yes! post a poll' checkbox at the bottom of the page, and set the number of possible responses you want to include. When you click the submit button, you will be taken to the poll creation page, where you can specify the question and the list of responses you want to include. You may also want to specify a time limit for the poll, so that (for example) it only stays open for voting for a week. Voting in and viewing a poll. To vote in a poll, simply select which option you want to vote for, and click the [Vote!] button. You may view the current results for a poll before you vote by clicking the 'View Results' link. Voting in a poll is entirely optional. You may vote for any of the available options, or cast no vote at all. Generally, once you have voted in a poll, you will not be able to change your vote later, so place your vote carefully!

What Are Attachments?

The administrator may allow you to use the attachment feature of this forum, which gives you the ability to attach files of certain types to your posts. This could be an image, a text document, a zip file etc. There will be a limit to the file size of any attachments you make, as the forums should not be used as an extension of your hard disk! To attach a file to a new post, simply click the [Browse] button at the bottom of the post composition page, and locate the file that you want to attach from your local hard drive. Only certain types of files may be attached: these are the valid file extensions for files to be attached to this forum: bmp doc gif jpe jpeg jpg pdf png psd txt. After posting, the attachment will show up in the body of your message. To view the contents of the attachment (if it is not already displayed) simply click the filename link that appears next to the attachment icon.

What are message icons?

The administrator may have enabled message icons for new threads, posts and private messages. Message icons allow you to specify a small icon to accompany your posting, which is used to convey the emotion or content of a post at a glance. If you do not see a list of message icons when you are composing your message or post, the administrator has disabled the option.

Can I edit my own posts?

If you have registered, you will be able to edit and delete your posts. Note that the administrator can disable this ability as he desires. Your ability to edit your posts may also be time-limited, depending on how the administrator has set up the forum. To edit or delete your posts, click the edit button by the post you want to edit. If your post was the first in the thread, then deleting the post may result in the removal of the entire thread. After you have made your modifications, a note may appear, which notifies other users that you have edited your post. Administrators and moderators may also edit your messages but this note may not appear when they do so.

Why have some of the words in my post been blanked

Certain words may have been censored by the administrator. If your posts contain any censored words, they will be blanked-out like this: ****. The same words are censored for all users, and censoring is done by a computer simply searching and replacing words. It is in no way 'intelligent'.

Moderators

Why moderators?

As lives become more complicated and time consuming - more and more people are turning to the Internet to get their social, personal, and professional fixes. The Internet is becoming a virtual town square. Many consider web communities to be fake or pretend. They don't realize that people are people, even online. All communities, whether online or offline, require leadership. Someone must be in charge to keep things running smoothly. A community needs visible and accessible leaders. Online commuities change very quickly and easily overwhelm newcomers and burnout regulars. Leaders give support and stability to these members. Additionally, without leaders a site can become over ran by problem posters. Imagine your city without laws or social order. Because StripperWeb is growing at an incredible rate, our need for effective leaders has also grown. Leaders help keep the entire thing running.

What is a moderator?

Moderators oversee forums and keep things generally running smoothly. To do this they have the ability to edit and delete posts, move threads, and perform other manipulations. Moderators care about the community and have a desire to make it better. They donate their time and talents to better the environment - building themselves into its culture and history! Depending on the area a moderator is responsible for, they may play one or more of the following roles: Role Model - members (especially newbies) look to official leaders for guidance and notice their behavior. Hosts - keep conversations running smoothly by making sure messages are in the right place. Cops - remove disruptive

members and/or inappropriate messages. Support Providers - answer questions, help members solve problems, etc. Greeters - welcome newcomers, point them in the right direction so they can learn the ropes.

Who makes a good moderator? Want to be a moderator?

Please consider these questions: Do you enjoy the site? Do you visit the it regularly? Do you want to help make this the best site of its kind? Will you treat all members fairly and with respect - even if they are rude? Would you use your moderator powers in a consistent manner to improve the community? Can you contribute a few hours every week towards these goals? If "yes" is your answer to all of the above questions, contact pryce@stripperweb.com. If you are chosen as a moderator and have any questions, feel free to post them in the moderator's board and to PM or email Pryce or GirlFriday.

What are the benefits of being a moderator?

All of our moderators receive: FREE Premium Membership to the site - including an email address at any of the sites in the network (Web-based or POP3). Access to special moderator boards, where you can talk with other moderators, and staff members. The opportunity to develop deeper and extended relationships with members. Experience in building online personal skills, developing leadership abilities, and using the Internet. Satisfaction from helping others and furthering a cause you believe in. Insider information. Title of moderator and recognition in your profile and posts. Acknowledgment on the community leaders page and the board/s you moderate! At this

time we do not have paid positions, but if we ever do - we will fill them with our most experienced volunteers.

<div align="center">Gallery FAQ</div>

What's the gallery for?

Our original gallery was opened on January 11th, 2003 after several of our members started a thread called "Everyone's Pictures" and started sharing pics of themselves as a way to get to know each other better. We collected the images from that thread and launched our gallery. It has grown quite a bit since that time, offers more features, and has several uses now. Our gallery currently offers all members a personal album for storing their pictures - for fun or business - public or private. You have a lot of control over your personal album. We also have other categories for uploading stripping related, fun, and other interesting pictures. Check out all of the areas. Pictures can be rated (you can disable this on your albums if you so desire), replied to (again - you can disable this on your album too), and included in your posts on the forum.

So what can you do with your pics?

Have pics sitting around on your computer or a digital camera/scanner that you never use? Well put 'em to use here! :) Our members have uploaded everything from pictures of their cats to their bedroom, from sexy photos to pictures of themselves baking. The gallery is split into 3 sections. One for personal member albums. Thats where you can add pictures of yourself, your stuff, etc.. The next section is for stripping related photos - strip clubs, feature dancers, other exotic dancers, parties, and events. Feel free to add images to this section if you have any that fit. Our last section is for other pictures. That

really includes anything, funny things, lame things, whatever things. All legal content is allowed except for depictions of actual sexual intercourse - whether vaginal, anal, oral, or manual, straight or gay. It is actual SEX that we cannot display. For the record, we will comply with and assist law enforcement authorities if you upload material depicting underage individuals or any other illegal content.

How do I add my pictures?

Uploading your images to our website is fairly easy. You must first be a member of the site. If you do not yet have a free account, please visit

http://www.stripperweb.com/forum/register.php

If you already have an account, simply login and click the gallery link at the top of every page. Once at the gallery, click the "Upload" link in the white gallery navigation area. When you are on the upload page, you will first see a section that states how much space you have remaining. Below that you will see some boxes that have a "Browse" button next to them. By clicking the browse button (#1) you will open a "Choose file" window. Use this window to locate the file you want to add. The dropdown at the top of this window and the buttons on the left of it (#2) can be used to help you navigate your computer. When you have found the file (#3), select it and click the "Open" button. You have now told our site what file you want to add. You can use each of the boxes to upload a total of 5 pictures at one time. If you want to add more, when you are done, return to the upload page again and you will have 5 fresh boxes. If you are only uploading a single file, you can fill out the title and description area for that file. If you are uploading multiple images, wait to fill these areas out on the next page. The next step is very

important! You must select a album for your pictures to go into. In the list, you will see your member albums (if you have any) and the public albums. Most members upload to the "Ladies of..." or "Men of..." albums. You can also optionally enter keyworks for the photos to help others search for them and you can choose to receive updates about your uploads and whether or not to add them to your favorite pictures. Then click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. All of this sounds much more complex than it really is - give it a go. After a try or two you'll be a pro!

Can I edit/delete my pictures?

Of course you can! After you upload an image you can access "Image Tools" for that file. Simply, view the picture you want to edit or delete it. You'll notice at the top right of the file a link that says "Image Tools". After you click that link, you will get a menu of options. The first option is "Edit Image" and the last is "Delete This Image". Clicking the edit link will bring to you a page where you can delete the image, rotate and flip it, or change any of the other attributes like title, description, keywords, and album. Selecting the delete option and pressing the "Perform Action" button will delete the image.

What is "My Stuff", "What's New", and "What's Popular"?

Our gallery has several features to make viewing our pictures fun and easy. In the gallery white navigation area, you will notice "My Stuff", "What's New", and "What's Popular". Your stuff gives you quick access to your favorite images, images you have subscribed to, and your albums. What's new has links to the 15 newest images and the 15 newest

posts in reply to pictures. What's popular makes it easy to find the top viewed, rated, and replied to images.

What viewing features are there?

When you are in any gallery, you have the option of view the images in it in a slide show. You can also subscribe to the album and get notices when that album is updated. When you are viewing an image you have several more options. You can add the image to your favorites. You can create an e-Card with the image (sort of like a post/birthday card) at our site and send it to a friend. You can also notify a friend about an image at our site (Tell-a-friend). Lastly, you can signup for update notices for the image.