# The News-Sentinel

### At massage parlors, image fits

By ELLEN BUGHER Of The News Sentinel

The arrest of five women at three city massage parlors last week may confirm what many people assume happens in such businesses.

The News-Sentinel has examined what happens in massage parlors and asked police about problems they face enforcing prostitution laws.

Undercover Fort Wayne police officers arrested the women on misdemeanor prostitution charges. The arrests were the first-involving massage parlors in a year.

While many people think of massageparlors as fronts for prostitution, the people who run them say they don't deserve the sex-for-sale stereotype.

A News-Sentinel reporter visited four of Fort Wayne's seven licensed massage ■ Reporter's visits detailed. Page 7.A parlors during early October and found

that in each case, the image fit.
One of those visited was among the

three where arrests were made.

At each place the reporter visited, massagists offered sex acts or nude dis-

plays.
The New-Sentinel also found that there are two kinds of massage for sale

in Fort Wayne.

Massage therapists who consider themselves legitimate complain about their profession being stigmatized by shady images of selling sexual favors.

Ironically, they often operate underground and unlicensed to avoid being typecast as prostitutes. The four parlors visited by The News-Sentinel, where sex acts were offered in apparent violation

of city ordinance and state law, are li-

Legitimate massage therapists want the city ordinance, which requires massagists to register with the vice squad, changed.

But police and City Council officials say it is difficult to separate legitimate therapists from their parlor counterparts.

They say adding exceptions to the city massage parlor ordinance will weaken the city's ability to control massage parlors and make arrests even more difficult

Fort Wayne police face problems in making arrests because of restrictions on how far they can go with parlor massagists to uncover violations.

The News-Sentinel found that a customer must to some extent go along with an offer to know what really goes on.

## City policy hinders law enforcement

By ELLEN BUGHER

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Last week undercover police of-ficers arrested five women at three means are steed five women of the prostitution charges. At arraignments Nov. 9, inno-cent pleas were entered for the women. Their cases are pending. Sgt. Dave Coleman, head of the police department's vice squae as aid that officers week tucky to get licited for sex atts even though they remained dressed. Riemen said that the fact that the women solicited officers who were clothed might mean, they were new pulpoyees who haven't caught on'or it may be an indica-

tion that business is poor.

The arrests may confirm the common suspicion about what "really" happens in a massage parlor, but Coleman said that unless officers have proof of a specific act, "I can't really say where it's going on."

cific act, "I can't really say where it's going on."

A News-Sentinel reporter found that masseuses in four Fort Wayne massage parlors were reductant to talk about or offer a sex act unless he was undressed and—to some extent—went slong with the offer.

That's the heargup. To do anything, you've got to get naked," gaid one vice officer.

"We're limited in terms of what we can do as law enforcement offi-cers — that's the problem," Cole-man said. "Most of the establish-ments know that we can't really do

ments know that we can use anything."

And the department is strict about not allowing officers to be nude or engage in sex acts in the line of duty.

Besides the moral question, there is his problem of how it would be a supported by the desired the line of the line of

would look to a jury trying a pros-titution case: Coleman and Riemen said po-lice continue to investigate mas-sage parlors for violations of city ordinances and state statutes.

Riemen said the increased com-munication with Sims' office is one reason there are more prosti-tution arrests coming out of the massage parlors. He said another reason is that the vice and narcotics squads are

the vice and narcotics squads are separate and two or three years ago they were together. He said of-ficers tended to emphasize drug cases because that work attracted more accolades than vice investi-gations.

Despite problems police face in atopping prostitution, Colerana believes they should continue to try, for practical, as well as moral, reasons.

#### More on massage

In Monday's News-Sentinel:

■ Many trained massage therapists operate as if they were illegal — they are unlicensed and don't advertise.

■ Chances are you can get more than just a good talking-to at several nude modeling and adult conversation studios, officers say.

### About the visits -

By TONY HORWITZ and ELLEN BUGHER Of The News-Sentinel

Of the News-Sentinel

a part of The News-Sentinel's investigation of the massage business, reporter
Tony Horwitz viaited four local massage
parlors.
Horwitz was sent to find out what services, beyout those advertised, these establishments offered customers.

Horwitz agreed to undress at all places visited and consented to nude displays by masseuses. At no point did he solicit sexual sets. When such acts were intitated by a massewife, Horwitz extricated him sell trong the situation as quickly as possible.

nimen from the schaulin as query as possions.

All visits were made in the afternoon and paid for with eash provided by The News-Sentine!

News-Sentine! reporter Ellen Bugher con
-tacted by telephone three of the four massage parties visits the saked the owners or managers if sexual services were offered. She contacted all four establishments by telephone after Horwitz's visits for their reactions to what he encountered. Here is what they found:



#### Oriental Health Spa

Oriental Health Spa
Address: 821 Coliseum Blvd, W.
Before the visit: A woman who identified herself as Sun Pak, the manager, sait "Everybody the sait of the path of the path



Lady Scandia

Lady Scandia
Address 1129. S. Calhoun St.
Before the visit: "We just give Swedish massage. There is no sex or anything... I'm not in it for sex. If I was in for that, I'd probably be retired now, "said thene West, owner and manager of Lady Scandia.
When customers want what she called "extra-curtous" activities, "we pust say, "we don't do shalo no sea out that kind of place."

The visit: Lady Scandia is housed in a wooden building that appears to double as a private home. Inside, on a wall by the entrance, a sign lists a vari-ety of massage alongside photographs of two women identified as Terry and Kathy, Horwitz re-ported.

A Horwitz entered, Kathy appeared in A Horwitz representation. A Horwitz entered, Kathy appeared in A Horwitz entered, Kathy appeared in A High-length bathrobe and asked if he wanted a mussage. He chose a \$40 "Oriental massage" which included a half-hour oil rub and a half-hour "bubble bath massage." Kathy led Horwitz into a large room and told him to undress. She returned a minute leter in a skimpier bathrobe and began rubbing his back and legs with oil. She asked him to roll over but did not offer to massage his genitals.

After about 20 minutes, she led him into another room with shower equipment. Horwitz reclined on a table that he said felt like a giant sponge, and Kathy began spraying him with water and rubbing his back with soap. After about 10 minutes, she said, "Could I interest you in a nude massage?" Horwitz asked for an explanation. "Ten dollars for a topless or \$20 for all the way. You can touch me as long as you don't get nasty," shandded.

Horwitz told her he only had \$5. She said she could "do a topless forthigt," adding "it's been a

acts. Atter the visit: Owner Renee West said that if sexual services are offered, it is without her consent or knowledge. She said she cannot regulate what goes on behind the closed doors of massage rooms.



#### Ultimate One Inc.

Ultimate One Inc.
Address: 3615 N. Clinton St.
Before the visit: Dave Pettit, manager of Ultimate One, said, "Twe got the only place in town that meets all the requirements" of the city ordinance that prohibits, among other things, touching fegenitals in massage parlors. He invited a reporter to come to the parlor for an interview.
The visit: Howizi visited Ultimate One twice and in both histances, was offered "extras," including intercourse.
On his first visit, Horwizi zwas greeted in the lobby by three young women eating pizza. An older woman explained the variety of massages available — ranging from a \$25 tolor nut to a \$50 dapatiese or Oriental massage — and said he had his choice of the three women.

— ranging from a \$25 lotion rub to a \$50 Japahiese or Oriental massage— and said he had his choice of the three women.

Horwitz paid \$30 for a hot tub massage, including a lotion massage and a visit to the hot tub with one of the girls.

A tall blond-haired woman identified as Vaneasa told Horwitz to undress and meet her in the hot tub. When Vanessa responserd, she had changed into a bikini and asked Horwitz to "scoot over" in the tub. Horwitz said she sat very close to him, with their legs touching, and talked about the massage business. She tomplained about the licensing procedure, but said "it protects both of us. You know the place is a legitimate parlor and that you're not going to got all aid or catch any disease." They got out of the tub, and she began drying Horwitz and explaining the "tip" system. She explained that "the boss" keeps most of the massage price, but that she could collect tips for "extriss—you know, topless and bottomless."

Before going to the massage room, she ex-

you know, topless and bottomless."

Before going to the massage room, she expressed concern about his age and said she couldn't massage him if he didn't have identification. She apologized, explaining that one of the other women had been fined \$300 for massaging an underage customer. Horwitz, who did not have identification on him, collected his money and left, saying he would return later with his driver's license.

On his second visit the same day, Horwitz naid

cense.

On his second visit the same day, Horwitz paid \$25 for a lotion massage from a woman identified as Ann. He was again led to one of the massage rooms and told to undress. Ann closed the door after they had entered but did not lock it. Before beginning the massage, Ann explained that Horwitz could tip her "for toles so totally nude." She said she could go tonless for \$5, and Horwitz agreed.

She collected the money before taking off her shirt.

"Why don't we begin with a hug?" she said, embracing Horwitz before he could answer. Later, as the massage began, she pressed her breasta against his back several times.

Five minutes into what Horwitz described as "a very anniteurish rub." Ann said, "In case you were work and the said of the said o ing.

Horwitz asked if "the special ending" ever in-

ones who tell us to do it."

After the visit: Pettit was told what Horwitz encountered during his two visits to Ultimate One. "Nothing surprises me," he said. "People make offers all the time." Pettit said that unless it were proved, he wouldn't believe what the reporter described. If it were proved, it would tell "me I've got somebody working for me that I don't want. ... I'm not here for those purposes (to sell sexual services to customers)."



#### The Honeysuckle Health Club

The Honeysuckle Health Club
Address: 3402 Wayne Trace
The Honeysucklews not contacted before the
visit about what kind of services were available. A
reporter did tlephone to inquire about a masseuse
job the club advertised in The News-Sentinel and
Journal-Gazette.
The reporter asked a woman who answered the
telephone: 'Do you have to fool around with the
customer or anything like that?'' The woman answered, 'It's up to you. 'The reporter asked, 'It'
you do, do you get tips?'' The woman responded,
'yes.'
The visit: Horwitz entered what he said
looked like the living room of a private home. A
man sat at one end watching television and told
Horwitz to take a seat until "the girls" returned.
Two women clad in tight jeans entered the
ran, and one asked Horwitz in the wanted a mabs
listed on a sign on the wall. Listed services ranged
from a \$25' "Swedish" massage to a \$40' "English"
massage. Horwitz chose the least expensive one, a
straight lotion rub, and was told he could pick the
woman he preferred. He selected a woman who
called lierself Amber and was led to a small, closed
roum.
Amber collected the fee and told Horwitz she'd

straight lotton rub, and was told he could pick the woman he preferred. He elected a woman who called lerself Amber and was led to a small, closed roum, but collected the fee and told Horwitz she'd be back in a few minutes. She did not tell him to the house of the beautiful that the season was a state of the counter of the season was to take off his clothes, but gestured at a pep on the wall and the massage table that occupied three-quarters of the small room. She asked whether he wanted to shower, and Horwitz declined.

Horwitz undressed and ast on the table until Amber returned with some lotion. She asked him to lie on his stomach and began rubbing his back, buttocks and legs while they talked about Fort Wayne and the massage business.

After about 10 minutes, Amber asked Horwitz to roll over and began rubbing his chest and legs. Then she asked him, "Do you want me to massage. Then she asked him, "Do you want me to massage. Then she asked him, "Do you want me to massage the horwitz asked of if it would cost anything extra, and she meant, but he didn't answer, just laughed. Horwitz asked if it would cost anything extra, and she said no. "OK, then," Horwitz saked her to stop. She did without complaint. As elsewhere, the massage was over as soon as Horwitz turned down a sexual act. She saked him he wanted to she mention they or offer of ominutes. At no point did she was unprised that an employee offered a genital massage.

When asked for her last name and other information, Jill said, "I was told by my storney that I could use any alias I wanted as long as I didn't defraud or commit a felony."

### **Nothing** surprises massage manager

By ELLEN BUGHER

By ELLEAN BOUTEM.

The hen you deal with money and people, onything is possible, said the manager of the Ultimate One master business at 3515 N. Clinton St., was asked if sex acts are part of the services his eight to 12 "girls" provide in the five massage rooms.

They're not, he said, but if something like that huspens sometimes, it wouldn't shock him.

"girls" provide in the twe massage coords.

They're not, he said, but if something like that happens sometimes, it wouldn't shock him. "Nothing would surprise me," said Petitit — a Fort Wayne-native and. an unsuccessful may roal candidate in the 1981 local Republican primary. He puffed on a cigar and leaned back in a chair in the office that doubles as his apartment. "If someone offers you enough money, you either will or you offer you can only the people. You're dealing with money. When you deal with money and people anything is possible. I'm sure there have been offers made that would stagger your imagination."

But "as far as I know, it's (the sale of see



But "as far as I know, it's (the sale of sex acts) not happening here," he said. "There's not a girl working for me that I hire for sexual purposes."

poses."

Pettit's comments came several weeks before police arrested two women at Ultimate One on Nov. 8 on misdemeanor charges of prostitu-

Pettit's comments came several weeks before police arrested two women at Ultimate One on Nov. 8 on misdemeanor charges of prostitution.

Pettit and other massage parlor owners or managers acknowledged that many customers expect more than a massage. They think you are going to get laid in a massage parlor. Pettit said. But, he said, "we're not here to offer sexual services. We're here for men and women to relax and be pampered."

Pettit daid not want the "girst" identified—said when customers expect more than a massage valve of the pettit did not want the "girst" identified—said when customers expect more than a massage vivou find a nice way to say. We don't do that kind of thing here."

If he did find that a woman was having sex with customers, she would have to leave, Pettit said, because "she would get busted or I would."

The women wouldn't want to risk herpes or other sexually transmitted disease, Pettit said, Also, most of them have husbands or steady boyfriends who wouldn't approve of them having sex with customers.

Ultimate One offers basic, half-hour massage for the control of the sexual pettin said. Also, most of them have husbands or steady of the most expensive is \$50. Also available is a body shampoo in which the customer's body is shampoo din the control. The most expensive is \$50. Also available is a body shampoo in which the customer's body is shampoo din the fire more expensive massages is the time spent with the customer.

As far as reports of offered "extras" for more money, Pettit said. "It's like when you go in to the summer of the waters.

As far as reports of offered "extras" for more money, Pettit said. He owned the Executive Health Club until two years go but only manages Ultimate One. He prefers not to reveal the names of the owners.

the owners.

Pettit said 150 to 200 customers come to Ultimate One each week. Ninety-five percent are men, he said.

Pettit said one reason he consented to an interview was to voice support for the city ordinance regulating massage patiors.

"You've got some places that say they're massage parlors and they're a front for prostitution," he said. "Some places deserve it (the stigma) and some don't. That's for the police to decide, that's not for me."

#### Summary of ordinance

Activities prohibited by city ordinance regulating massage parlors include:

Massaging a person of the opposite

■ Touching "a sexual or genital part of any other person."

■ Exposing one's own sexual or genital parts.

■ Exposing the sexual or genital parts of another person.

■ Carrying on any massage service in a room "with a door capable of being