At massage parlors, image fits

By ELLEN BURGER
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 massage parlors 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 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, the sex acts or nude displays.

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 licensed by the city.

Legitimate massage therapists want the city ordinance, which requires mas sagists 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 massage therapists 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

About the visits

By TEDDIE HORIZTLY
The News-Journal

A massage parlor owner who was fined for providing a 'bare-escorts' service was arrested Thursday in Bethany Beach.

The owner, identified as Teddye Armitage, 39, was charged with two counts of prostitution.

Armitage was arrested at a massage parlor located on the corner of 3rd Street and Market Street in Bethany Beach.

The owner, who could not be reached for comment, was taken into custody without incident.

Armitage has been charged with two counts of prostitution, each carrying a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

The investigation is ongoing, and more charges are possible.

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Nothing surprises massage manager

By BRUCE ENSSER

The News-Journal

When you deal with money and people, anything is possible, and that's why I'm a massage manager.

David Pettit, who operates the massage business in downtown Wilmington, said that his job can be unpredictable.

"We have to be prepared for anything," Pettit said.

"We've had customers who show up with a gun, or who bring their dog to the shop." He added, "I even had a customer who wanted to pay with a bitcoin." Pettit chuckled at the memory.

"But at the end of the day, it's all about providing a quality service." He said.

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Lady Scandia Spa

Address: 3019 5th St, Wilmington, DE 19805

The Lady Scandia Spa has been in business since 1995 and is known for its "relaxing and rejuvenating" atmosphere.

"We offer a variety of services, from massages to facials," said owner Lisa Johnson.

"Our goal is to help our clients feel their best, both physically and mentally." She added.

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The Honeysuckle Shel Club

Address: 401 N. 5th St, Wilmington, DE 19801

The Honeysuckle Shel Club is a popular spot for both men and women.

"We have a diverse clientele, from young professionals to retirees," said general manager Sarah Smith.

"Our focus is on providing a comfortable and welcoming environment for all." She added.

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Ultimate One Inc.

Address: 3019 5th St, Wilmington, DE 19805

Ultimate One Inc. is a massage parlor located on the corner of 3rd Street and Market Street.

"We offer a variety of services, from deep tissue massages to reflexology," said owner John Smith.

"Our goal is to provide a relaxed and rejuvenating experience for our clients." He added.