

SkyTrain creates 'crime hot spots'

The Vancouver Sun

Section B, B-1

October 27, 2004

Presentation Essay

Janet Fraser

POL 151

TA Mandy Cheema

Synopsis: A study conducted by the Vancouver Police Department shows that 55% of all alleged criminals arrested last year were within 700 metres (about seven blocks) of a SkyTrain station. They continue on to admit, however, that the SkyTrain stations and trains are generally safe, it is just the area surrounding stations that is not.

The study also revealed that many of these criminals did not pay the fare to get onboard. Rather, they abuse the system to get from place to place to commit their crimes. Not only is this true in Vancouver, the mayors of Burnaby and New Westminster, respectively, agree that the SkyTrain is being used by criminals to get from place to place to commit crimes.

R.A. - V the same?

In an attempt to quell the problem the province just gave the SkyTrain police force the full authority granted to any other police officers. This includes the ability to arrest alleged criminals for actions not necessarily committed on or near SkyTrain property, or even in the Vancouver area.

Is the assignment of more police officers with more power an appropriate way to control SkyTrain oriented crime and criminals?

Pros:

- May, honestly, control SkyTrain crime—or at least reduce it in the most problematic of areas.
- Would create an environment that at the very least appears safer.

- May encourage other cities and areas with similar problems to follow suit, as it is seen as progress.

Cons:

- The exact jurisdiction of the SkyTrain officers is not clearly defined.
- Some may view it as an invasion of privacy.
- Involves provincial tax dollars—do people in Prince Rupert care about the SkyTrain?
- It merely moves crime to different areas, rather than stopping it dead in its tracks.

Conclusion: The pros would at the very least equal the cons if people that do not use the system's money were not involved. However in that people in Prince Rupert and Victoria have to pitch in to the pool of tax dollars used to fund the extra officers, it seems quite unfair. Ultimately, it seems like it is evolution rather than revolution, not solving any great problems—just relocating them.

B- Some good points

Nov 18th, 2004

POL 151 Memorandum

Janet Fraser

301006363

TA Mandy Cheema D1.01

To: Mayor of Vancouver Larry Campbell

From: Former Mayor, Current Policy Writer Janet Fraser

Problem: For as long as anyone can remember prostitution has been a serious problem, especially in urban centers such as that of Vancouver. As each day, week, ^{and} month wears [?] onward, the problem only seems to be getting worse despite continued efforts by police and social service authorities to work within the laws of the city, province, and nation to punish those involved with prostitution and the sex trade. ✓

The problem, as it is seen, lies with the johns ^{ing} communicate publicly with prostitutes or patronizing brothels or bawdy houses, which are violations of Sections 212 and 213, respectively, of the Criminal Code of Canada. The johns simply cannot settle for their right hands, so they go shopping for someone to have for a few hours. Additionally, by Canadian law, so long as it is not done in brothels or bawdy houses, the actual act of prostitution is legal, it is just that the actions of johns are not, i.e. making deals with prostitutes publicly on the streets. R.O.S

? Prostitution makes certain areas and districts in Vancouver look absolutely awful (Wells, Finding and Eastside Fix), legal or not with the way that it is conducted does not make Vancouver seem like a place where the world would want the Olympics to be held. Even though prostitution can be found virtually everywhere, from small towns to the R.O.S and awkward sentence structure
awkward sentence formation

largest cities in the world, this is about our city. Figuring out how to eliminate, or at least minimize, a major component of prostitution would be a landmark situation, possibly setting the standard in other communities around the globe. It is a worthy issue to consider and try and resolve if not just for the recognition of having done this.

Background: Prostitution is among the oldest and enduring industries to ever exist. It dates back to pre-history as a means for slightly independent women to rule their own lives, employ the women who came from poverty and lack any other skills, or in some cases feed massive profits to the owner of a bawdy house or similar institution. Due to its enduring success, it can be inferred that it has also been an extremely lucrative business.

evidence sources?

During the colonial period in North America prostitution was able to flourish due to a combination of colonization, the attempt to retain a remotely English culture, and a marked lack of women in the colonies. As a result, sexual bartering, the process of exchanging sex for goods to survive, became popular, as did the notion that prostitution was merely a temporary sin and that those engaged in it could reform themselves (Cristiani, Prostitution), which justified it in many circles.

R.O.S. awkward.

In 1672 bawdy houses began to get banned in some places and shut down in others. Additionally, in 1699 the three major cities, New Amsterdam (now New York), Philadelphia, and Boston, of the New World passed legislation to ban streetwalking at night (Cristiani, Prostitution). This is pretty much where our society is still at. Enforcing the legislation passed in either of the aforementioned years was, and still is generally, left in the hands and to the discretion of the authorities. While this has evolved somewhat in that new strategies, such as community policing (Gibbs van Brunschot, Community



*proper m.c. A citation is as follows:
(Author year: page#)*

year? page#?

Policing), have been introduced there are still major shortcomings in this current method of handling the problem.

Now, while the act of prostitution is legal in Canada, and has been since the mid-1800s, many acts pertaining to prostitution are not. By Section 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada communicating with the intention of prostituting oneself out or to solicit prostitution is a crime worth a maximum of six months in jail and/or a fine of \$2,000, however, the convicted receives no formal criminal records for this.

- sources?

Additionally, "bawdy houses" are illegal, made so in 1850 and in Criminal Code of Canada, Section 212. A bawdy house is a place kept, occupied, or used for the purpose of prostitution by at least one person, also commonly referred to as a brothel. Though a bawdy house would also frequently be a home for illegal gaming, alcohol, and other vulgarities, whereas a brothel is merely house of prostitution.

You should have described this earlier on

*source?
in the paper.
(such as the 2nd p on the first page)*

Furthermore, living off of the income of prostitution is illegal and this piece of legislation dates back to the 1800s. However, the enforcement of this law is exceedingly biased towards prosecuting pimps and those in the sex trade with possible or confirmed drug charges and other, unrelated, felony level possible or confirmed charges.

Finally, the purchasing of sex from minors is illegal. While the age of consent in Canada is uniform at 14, but when money is involved the age of consent is 18. While it is not statutory rape to have sex with, say, a 17-year-old for money, it can result in as much as a five year-year jail sentence.

Thus, ~~From here~~ it is imperative to find a solution to the problem of blatant prostitution, which is supported by the population of johns and indirectly by a lack of options for

Use final in formal essay

undereducated people who feel that prostitution is their only means of getting by.

Alternatives to the current means of action are listed below.

Alternatives:

1. Continue policing it as it done currently.

There will be absolutely no changes or improvements made to the methods to attempt to control the situation. The only even quasi-legitimate reason to select this option is if you do not honestly believe that prostitution, as it is, is a real problem to the safety of people involved in it and to the potential tourism (and money!) brought to Vancouver.

2. Create more initiatives to get prostitutes off the streets.

Upsides: While this has been tried before in various capacities and resulted in less than optimum results, there is no saying that it will never work. However, there is a serious lack of capacity and desire to invest on the rehabilitation of prostitutes because of the generally unstable nature of prostitutes.

Despite the lack of government input, some organizations are working towards the goal of cleaning the streets of prostitution. However, many of these groups are organized by churches, cults, and non-profit organizations that are either unable to support the demand, or creating an equal problem in another way (i.e. cults).

Downsides: Not only are chances slim that it will work out, based on what has happened in the past, it would involve substantial financial investment to get a project of this caliber off of the ground and see it through.

The only possibility in the means of funding would involve changing the budget around. While it could likely be done, most people would rather see their tax dollars going to improve their hospitals and parks than clearing acts of blatant prostitution off of

the streets. But it is also important to consider that many prostitutes end up in the position of prostitution because they have psychological and other social problems (French, No Green Light). A backdoor approach to this problem would involve increasing the funding to in-patient psychiatric programs and working with prostitutes there. This does not seem probable, though.

However, this does not address the true laws that are being broken. It is not illegal to prostitute, it is merely illegal to do four things that pertain to prostitution, as laid out in the previous section. All that this would do is reduce the number of prostitutes on the street, allowing them to raise their prices to accommodate an unchanged number of johns.

Additionally, prostitutes may then enter the field not only to replace the ones going in for treatment, new prostitutes could see what has been happening with the older ones, going into hospitals, and wish to pursue the gig temporarily until they could convince someone relevant that they, too, have a mental problem and need to be considered for an institution.

3. Introduce harsher sentences for the johns.

Upsides: The greatest upside of this idea is that it will reduce the number of people on the streets soliciting sex and parents who get away with sneaking out with prostitutes will inadvertently, at least, teach their children that it is wrong to solicit sex and that there are undesirable consequences associated with such behavior.

As it stands, the charge for communicating with the intent to buy sex carries a -\$2,000 fine and/or up to a six month jail sentence. To get rid of johns, the stakes must be more than can be made up in a night of perseverance at a slot machine and written off as a vacation from the wife and family to clear one's mind.

R.I.O.S

no stans!

Evidence? since?

In some communities, such as the adjoining communities of Costa Mesa and Newport Beach, CA, the local newspaper, *the Daily Pilot*, publishes the names of people arrested for DUI and DWI as a means of embarrassment. While there is no concrete evidence that this does anything because many of the DUI and DWI arrestees are from outside a newspaper's given jurisdiction, those that do live in the area are given a hard time by their colleagues. If applicable in the community where prostitution is rampant, a list of people caught soliciting could be published. Papers such as *the Westender* which take a negative stance towards unregulated prostitution as it is danger to a fair number of their readers would probably be willing to participate in something like this.

Beyond an attempt to embarrass johns out of committing public acts of solicitation, I do not believe that it is asking too much to raise the fine to a very minimum of \$5,000 and the jail sentence to be at least one year for first time offenders, and more for second, third, and ^{not in an essay} etc time offenders.

Downsides: This may not affect the number of prostitutes on the street, and in fact result in a situation similar to the one in the United States at the moment. In the US, prostitutes and brothels charge exorbitant prices for legal protection because they are unable to otherwise afford the potential backlash of a pissed off john if he/she gets busted. sources?

4. Legalize, regulate and tax it heavily.

Upsides: This is the most lucrative option for the government, as with tax and regulation comes money. While laying out the tax and regulation structure it may not bring in any money due to the fact its being spent on figuring out how it is all supposed to work, but once established would be extremely lucrative, without a shadow of a doubt. awkward sentence structure.

Downsides: Prostitution will still publicly exist, it will now just be a money-making strategy for the government. This would likely only occur if the government were absolutely, positively morally bankrupt. But, as many prostitutes would say, you have to do what you have to do in order to survive. — *a source or a direct quote for this?*

Could morals be given up in lieu of money? Yes. However, it would likely reduce tourism greatly, and what people will be attracted by this situation are likely the sorts that we do not exactly care to have on our streets. *Sentence fragment* Vancouver is not Reno North. Prostitution is legal in the State of Nevada, and Nevada has developed an extensive reputation of *vague* being family un-friendly because of it. I do not believe that Vancouver is ready for this.

Recommendation: The fourth option is ultimately the most financially lucrative for the city, at least if tourism is not considered the major industry that it has developed into in Vancouver the surrounding areas. Additionally, it does not solve the problem of prostitution being done publicly and in ways that make the people that live in a certain neighborhood, the people that should be the most important, uncomfortable. Similarly, the first option simply will not work as it solves absolutely no problems, despite the fact that it is the cheapest. This leaves us with the second and third options.

The second option, as was detailed in the downsides, does nothing to the johns, it merely cuts the supply of available prostitutes. However, that may not even work as more people feel a desire to take on prostitution because eventually they would be considered for a warm bed in an institution somewhere around the province. This leaves us, quite clearly, with the third option.

Option number three clearly calls for greater punishments for johns. It is not unfair to subject first time offenders to a hefty fine or jail time because unless they have

no slang!
 been living in a cave, on Mars, with fingers in their ears, and blinders on, they would
 have no excuse not to know the current laws and regulations when it comes to
 prostitution. Put simply, lay in the bed that you make. - no slang
 sentence fragment

Even if a john is ignorant of the laws regarding an act, the government is not responsible. When a person makes the conscious choice to solicit sex they, whether they know it or not, expose themselves to a multitude of dangers. These dangers including contracting AIDS (Elliot, Criminal Law & HIV/AIDS), being robbed, and, ultimately, facing prosecution under the law. These dangers are not unlike the ones associated with bungee jumping. When you bungee jump, whether you know about it or not, physics could defy you and result in severe bodily harm and even death. unclear!

The third option best suits the problem at hand and thus should be the one implemented. It cleans up the streets by both punishing and discouraging one of the illegal acts associated with prostitution. While I feel it could work in Vancouver quite excellently, other cities where prostitution poses a problem may follow suit, as this initiative will not cost taxpayers that much more to implement. We can be trendsetters here, let us set the standard. ?

Implementation: My recommendation could be implemented as soon as Vancouver could agree to implement it because it is merely a change in civic regulation in the regards of prostitution as it adds rather than subtracts from current legislation. It will not cost a significant amount to implement nor it does not involve the creation of a new institution. Simply, this recommendation waits as long as you want it to.

Janet,

C-
 You raised some good points. However, in a formal essay, you cannot use slang. There were also many grammatical errors, problems with syntax, sentence formation and structure, and you did very little in terms of using sources in the paper.

Works Cited

Criminal Code of Canada, Sections 212:1, 212:4, 213. Queen's Printer. Ottawa.

Cristiani, Katharine. Prostitution: The American Occupation of Womanhood. November 17th, 2004 <http://www.pimpz.org/prostitution/index.html>.

Elliot, Richard. Criminal Law & HIV/AIDS: Final Report. Montreal: Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and Canadian AIDS Society, 1996.

✓ French, Michelle. "No green light for red light district." *Herizons*. Spring 2004: 12.

Gibbs Van Brunschot, Erin. "Community policing and "John schools." *The Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology* May 2003: 215

Wells, Paul. "Finding and Eastside Fix." Maclean's 26 Jan 2004: 48