

## More Than Just Cream and Sugar — Johns

### Hustling For Donuts and Dollars

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and it is a vicious cycle stemming from man's weakness—the inability to control his [member].”

#### Inside the Dunkin' Donuts

McCoy says that 'johns' still pick up hustlers at Dunkin' Donuts nightly.

“They meet up after work at about 4 or 5pm at Dunkin' Donuts and then decide where to go for dinner,” McCoy says. “At that time, there is also an influx of boys—like a parade or modeling show—that come through. The

situation. He says that the problem is not just in his store, but in the shopping plaza that houses the store and the surrounding neighborhood.

Moghaddam says that he cannot curtail illegal activities that do not occur on his premises. “We cannot interfere with what people do in their private lives,” Moghaddam says. “As long as they don't cause a problem or perform illegal activities in our store, there is nothing we can do. As long as people are paying customers, we

says.

Most of those taken into custody are charged with trespassing and loitering for the purposes of prostitution. Law enforcement officials defend the policy by saying there are posted trespassing signs in the windows, and some of those arrested have been previously warned that they could be arrested for loitering.

Penny praises Moghaddam for removing the outside tables and signing an affidavit saying that police officers can remove any person from their property for trespassing at any time. He says that while the situation has improved because of the combined police and community involvement, it is still difficult to eradicate the situation due to the nature of the prostitution that is occurring.

“It is very difficult to enforce police action against the male prostitutes because they conduct business in a more personal way,” Penny says. “These hustlers and johns get to know each other and get into very personal conversations for a long period of time before any activity occurs. With normal street prostitution, they simply get into cars with people they don't know and it is easy to catch them. Here, they are all much more involved.”

Russell Cormican of the law firm of Kent & Cormican disputes the police enforcement activity, “We have a case where one kid came out of the shop with a donut and coffee, that the owner sold him, and as he stepped outside, cops jumped out of a van and took him into custody. It is not trespassing if you are there as an invited customer.”

Neighbors like McCoy say that police effort does little to deter the activity.

“Police say they are doing all they can, but they don't realize that locking these kids up doesn't end it,” says McCoy. “What happens is a kid will call a john from jail after being arrested, the john bails them out for about \$25 dollars, they will pick the kid up and the kid will have sex with him in return. The kid then has to then turn two tricks to get ahead, but he can still keep working. So the police actually end up helping out.”

#### Former Hustler Says, “We Are Not Going Anywhere”

“Patrick”, 19, is a former hustler who now works as an inventory specialist at a small company. He stopped hustling in November, but still maintains friendships with many of the hustlers who congregate at Dunkin' Donuts.

Patrick started hustling after being introduced to it by a former boyfriend in October of 2000. Patrick earned \$50 from the hustle and says he “felt like hell” after the experience, swearing never to do it again.

The tall, lanky young man says that he

was introduced to the Dunkin' Donuts hustling scene in February of 2001 after becoming involved in a relationship with another hustler who picked up johns there.

“I needed a job, so my boyfriend got me involved in a threesome with him,” he says. “That was my introduction back into it. I needed the money to pay off some doctor bills, and to buy weed and clothes. I did have a bad feeling and felt really dirty after it, but the money became addictive.”

Patrick says he started hustling at Dunkin' Donuts because it was a comfortable place to meet rather than just walking on the street. He says the Fort Lauderdale hustling scene has three major locations.

The “bottom feeders,” as he calls them, walk along the railroad tracks in the shadow of Sears Town. These hustlers usually are highly addicted to drugs and will often trick for as little as \$10 to \$20—just enough to get a quick hit.

The middle tier works out of the Dunkin' Donuts and in its surrounding area.

The highest level, the hustlers that Patrick says are “model material,” walk the streets at night in the area off of Sunrise Boulevard behind the Galleria Mall. Patrick also points out that many of the johns,

*“How am I any different from some straight traveling salesman that meets a hooker at a hotel bar? It is just gay discrimination...”*

including those who have picked him up at Dunkin' Donuts, live in the apartment buildings behind the Galleria Mall.

“Lenny”, another hustler who meets johns at Dunkin' Donuts, says that maintaining his physical appearance is essential to ensure that he makes enough money in a night.

“You have to have a big dick and be in great shape,” he says. “They don't like it if you smoke or have facial hair. You have to shave your body hair and look as young and boyish as possible. If you don't, they will turn you down or offer you less money.”

While sitting with Lenny in the Dunkin' Donuts, one of the johns approached him and expressed disapproval of his unshaven appearance that night. Lenny later went

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Neighbors and Police allege that this Dunkin Donuts is used as a place where kids meet johns to turn tricks

johns make plans with the hustlers to meet them back at the Dunkin Donut's after dinner. They then meet back at the franchise between 9 and 11pm before moving on to trick elsewhere.”

The johns and the hustlers often socialize within their respective groups and even align themselves in separate sections of the franchise.

The johns, mostly older men in their mid-forties to seventies, sit in the middle front section of the restaurant by the counter. Meanwhile, the hustlers often sit in booths along the wall.

As part of this investigation, several trips were made to Dunkin' Donuts. Young men were repeatedly seen walking in and sitting down without purchasing anything as the johns walked over and propositioned them.

The staff at Dunkin' Donuts is familiar with the hustlers and the johns, often addressing them by name and knowing of their whereabouts and when they will return when questioned.

Mehrad Moghaddam, the owner of the Dunkin' Donuts location, says that they have had problems with trespassing and are constantly working with police to handle the

cannot remove them. We can guess what they do, but if we don't see it firsthand in the store, we cannot remove them.”

Moghaddam says that he has counteracted the problem by removing outside tables from his store that encouraged loitering. He also says the store manager comes to the premises every three to four hours during any given night to warn people who have not made purchases to leave.

“We take pride in our store and do not appreciate the reputation,” says Moghaddam. “We have called the police constantly over the last 10 years and they always come to remove trespassers, but there are limits as to what we can do.”

While Moghaddam admits to knowing about the situation, he says that he cannot tell who is involved in prostitution activities. “They just look like regular customers who come by to enjoy a good cup of coffee to us,” he says.

Sergeant Todd Penny of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department has participated in routine enforcement of trespassing violations at the Dunkin' Donuts. “We do have a strong enforcement effort going on there against loitering and illegal purposes,” Penny

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