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Summer Guide!

Nude beaches, public pools, quickie escapes, sizzling blockbusters, and a complete guide to the season's hottest events — including 40th Summer of Love anniversary celebrations. Our annual guide to the season of fun p21

GUARDIAN IMAGE BY HOUSE OF HERRERA. BIKINI COURTESY OF ZOE BIKINI (ZOEBIKINI.COM)

EDITOR'S NOTES

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San Francisco district attorneys have never been known for fighting political corruption. You don't see politicians or corporate CEOs doing the perp walk around here — and trust me, it's not because there's a lack of criminal activity. Over the past 20 years, I've personally written or edited at least two dozen stories that involved clear evidence of law-breaking by prominent San Francisco citizens, and not one of them has ever been held to account in a court of law. (OK, I'll give Terence Hallinan credit for Fajtagate, at least he tried. But it turned out to be an embarrassment when the highest-ranking cops walked away free and clear. And even Hallinan couldn't — or wouldn't — lay a glove on Willie Brown.)

Kamala Harris, who will be up for reelection next year, clearly has higher political ambitions. When I saw her take the stage with Sen. Barack Obama at the state Democratic convention in San Diego and he introduced her as one of his most prominent supporters, I could almost see the wheels turning: Federal Judge Kamala Harris. White House counsel Kamala Harris. Even Attorney General Kamala Harris. If Obama doesn't win, she's still on a lot of short lists for higher office.

But if she wants to be another Eliot Spitzer, she's got to, well, be Eliot Spitzer. She's got to be willing to take a firm hand on political

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Editorial

Hill. (Trafficking in women is a mega-billion dollar affair that will soon eclipse the narcotics and gun-running markets worldwide.)

Unfortunately, these not-so-alternative-as-they-would-like-you-to-think publications go along with Big Brother's program because it means big advertising bucks for them. By slipping in a photo of Cesar Chavez every now and then and, publishing a column called "Sucka Free City", and more or less claiming to represent the voice of the people, this bait and switch routine goes off without a peep from anyone in the advocacy sector. And boy, if running hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of prostitution ads for sex slaves from Asia gives a newspaper the appearance of being a pimp, well wouldn't you know it, that turns out to be cool nowadays, too.

What's particularly ironic about the current obsession with female sexuality is that since the demise of the Neolithic Age and the goddess-based cultures it spawned, the feminine half of society has had a rough time tapping into its orgasmic potential. While Islamic fundamentalism mandates the excision of the clitoris altogether by age twelve, western religions achieve nearly the same result by programming pre-adoles-

"Colony Collapse Disorder" may not be confined to bees

You may not have heard about the report released in February by the American Psychology Association Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls. And perhaps the reason little has been said in the news is that most media outlets didn't want to implicate themselves in their own crimes.

Ask practically anyone in that business and they'll tell you it pays to saturate their pages (or video streams) with sparsely-clad, anorexic female models who look like they're aching to get laid. A vision of the world espoused by many men, the effect of this advertising esthetic has been to attach the doctrine of "sexual appeal is everything" to the feminine psyche like a micro-chip in a dog's neck. More recently, the marketing gurus within the edgier, progressive media have managed to convince Generation Next that sex-crazed women represent an anti-establishment political line - sort of a "back-at-you" to the whole Christian right wing.

No one seems to realize that these "dumbing-down" tactics - aimed both at American women and the men would now be able to treat them as sex toys - were first brought to us on the wings of disco in the late 1970s. The propaganda is primarily the brainchild of Big Brother and Globalization and not your friendly local pulp weekly that publishes out of a warehouse in Potrero

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cent girls to feel guilty about physical pleasure from the moment it sets in. Myths like the immaculate conception versus life-as-an-unrecoverable-whore dichotomy also reek havoc by subliminally offering girls a choice of role models that's as absurd as it is chillingly intractable on the unconscious mind.

For all that, a lot of what's happening in the media today is not so unconscious. As our story "Girls on the Run" in the January-February issue reported, young women are far more savvy about the alarming shift in the male-female power dynamic than we realize. They see five-foot-ten, ninety pound models, or even stars like Kate Moss posing topless on the side of a Muni bus, and figure correctly that women's status in the world is getting to be a sad joke.

Their parents, meanwhile, feel perplexed and betrayed when they realize their once bubbling toddlers and astronaut-aspiring grade-schoolers have suddenly locked themselves up in the



bathroom with the rouge and a kitchen knife.

"We have ample evidence to conclude that sexualization has negative effects in a variety of domains, including cognitive functioning, physical and mental health, and healthy sexual development," said Associate Professor of Psychology Eileen L. Zurbriggen of the University of California, Santa Cruz, chair of the APA task force.

The report called on parents and school officials to exert some modicum of effort in replacing harmful imagery with

more positive depictions of women (i.e. as lawyers, firefighters, pilots, CEOs, etc.).

With this in mind, I contacted the San Francisco Public Library recently and asked why its branches continue to serve as distribution points for the alt. weeklies free porn. These newspapers also provide some of the most complete hooker listings available in the Bay Area. Prostitution is supposed to be illegal, isn't it?

"If we take one thing, we take everything," according to Marcia Schneider, the public affairs director for SFPL. When asked if literature from the Klu Klux Klan could be left at the branches, Schneider conceded there might be certain exceptions to the hands-off protocol.

Naturally, when it comes to a crime whose victims include men, the wheels of justice spin without hesitation.

Like protocols to limit fossil fuel emissions and stop the destruction of the rain forest, this issue has nothing to do with free speech and censorship, and everything to do with our survival as a species.

Like the bees, the human hive may also one day collapse if we continue to be so careless regarding our young.

Rosemary Regello

