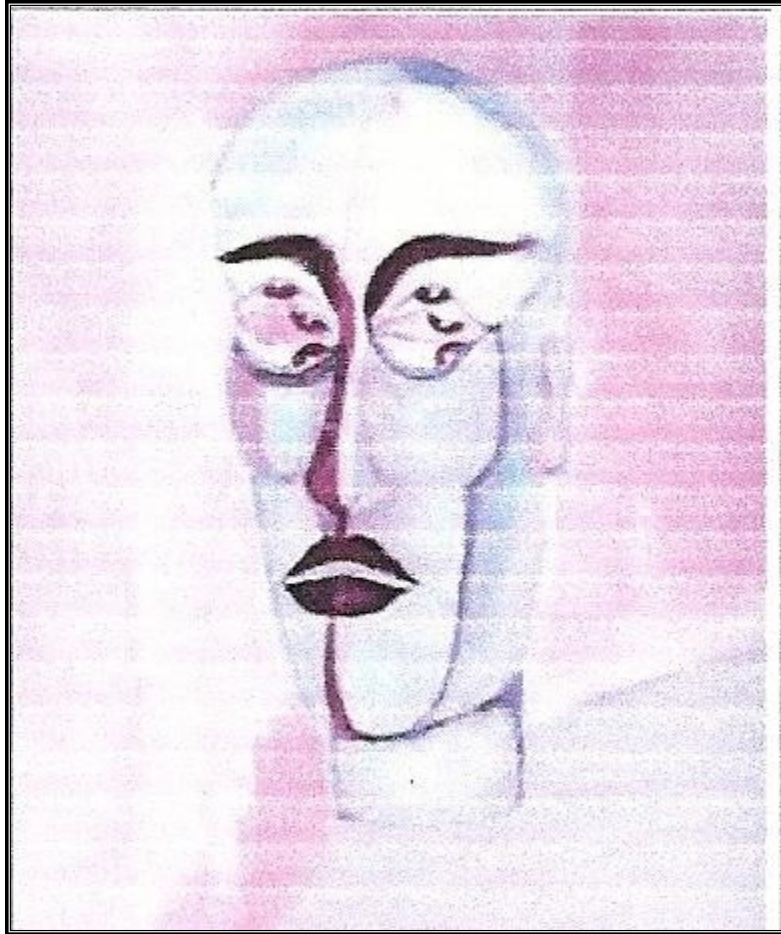


**HOMELESS IN PARADISE**

**June 28-July 4, 2019**

**PENINSULA PULCHRITUDE - Part 26**



**LIKE ONIONS BEING PEELED LAYER BY LAYER, SEX TRADE IS EXPOSED**

**By Wanda Sue Parrott**

*man who acts as pimp  
coerces girl to sell sex  
through false love and fraud  
vowing his true love  
pimp hooks his sex slave on drugs  
keeps her for himself  
selling sex for cash--  
like a gun's held to her head--  
hooks hooker to him*

*(Painting of "The Fractured Self" and triple haiku by Wanda Sue Parrott)*

**CONTINUING** last week's column that starts "Pimping may be passé, but Trafficking is definitely in!", let's explore readers' comments:

*Q. If it's true that sex slaves work on the Monterey Peninsula, why isn't it public knowledge?*

A. Exposure is beginning. Media coverage of human trafficking is, like onions, being peeled open layer by layer.

*Q. What led to this line of query?*

A. Publicity for the 2019 Central Coast Foster & Homeless Education Summit at Monterey Peninsula College on June 12 piqued my curiosity. The "Human Trafficking 101" workshop presenter was listed as Catie Hart, Survivor Leader. I wanted to meet her. Educators and representatives of CASA and other social service organizations were promised to hear about types of human trafficking that occur. Also, what force, fraud and coercion look like, and what to do when human trafficking is suspected.

*Q. Was that the only sex workshop?*

A. Yes. I also attended "Trauma Informed Practices 2—De-escalation Techniques" presented by James Wogan, LCSW, Manager, Student Services, Berkeley Unified School District. It included how participants (mainly teachers) could "walk away with strategies that can be used to remain calm" while de-escalating angry and aggressive teenagers, some of whom, I presumed, might be victims of sexual abuse if not outright trafficking.

*Q. Why wasn't it on the news?*

A. The summit was for educators from San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, rather than a public event. According to Denise A. Lang, Foster Youth Services Coordinator for Monterey County Office of Education, who started the summits back in 2015 with 66 participants, this year's event drew a total of 269 attendees and this member of the press, for a total of 270 attendees. So, you read it here first!

*Q. What grade would you give the summit?*

A. A+! I predict 2019 is the summit's sunset shush year as it becomes a leading role model for similar programs benefitting homeless/foster/abused and exploited students across America.

### **Meet The Other Miss America**

Catie Hart reminds me of the typical image of "the All-American Girl next door" from my youth in the 1950s: bright eyes, blondish-brown ponytail, pink cheeks and a cheerleader-smile that belies the facts she's now 39 and dedicated to helping other young women survive the kind of sexual-enslavement that nearly entrapped her for life.

As workshop leader, Catie represented the Safe & Sound Program of Rising International, the Santa Cruz-based 501(c)(3) non-profit started in 2002 by Carmel Jud, E.D. that helps victims of trafficking, mostly women and girls, become self-sustaining survivors. More about Rising International will be featured next week.

Catie said: "I was raised in Boulder, Colorado. When I was 19, I moved to San Francisco, where I planned to work with AmeriCorps."

Instead, Catie met an amazing man "who pretended to be my boyfriend." She succumbed to his charming lies and false promises by actually falling in love and becoming intimately involved.

"His plan all along was to coerce me into the sex trade," Catie said. It worked.

For seven years she was a sex worker in the Bay Area and throughout California.

"A pimp does not require travel," Catie said. "I was pimped in one building for five years."

She defined a pimp, aka trafficker, as:

One who uses Force, Fraud and/or Coercion in order to exploit another person.

The term “trafficker” is more likely to be used to describe today’s pimps because “travel or movement” are generally implied.

For instance, males who are smuggled across the border illegally are sold for labor; women are sold for sex.

Both genders suffer similar victimhood: they are promised a glorious life, yet wind up homeless, in poverty, often addicted and/or enslaved.

If children are involved, public school districts try to identify them as victims or offspring of victims. They often wind up in foster care, and our area is full of them!

### **Victims In Public Schools**

As of 2017, there were 12,422 homeless students in the Tri-County area (San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties) according to a Point-in-Time Data Study released by the California Dept. of Education, County Office of Education. How many are sexploited is unknown.

Recognizing past and/or present exploitation/abuse is an ongoing emerging field of investigation.

Catie Hart, “survivor”, broke free at age 26 and became an intern with the San Francisco Police Department’s Special Victims Unit; she also went on to University of California at Berkeley, where she earned her B.A. in Sociology.

According to Catie, “The gender binary is changing. Men and boys are also survivors.”

She advises potential victims, “Be aware that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.”

Contact Catie Hart at [catie@catiehart.com](mailto:catie@catiehart.com).

### **Why Students Come To School**

My other workshop’s presenter, social worker James Wogan, shared this quote by Nicholas A. Ferroni: “*Students who are loved at home, come to school to learn, and students who aren’t, come to school to be loved.*” Wogan also said, “Some children tune out or go deep within. Some learn to not pay attention during abuse to remove themselves. Some students struggle to pay attention in class because they tune out.”

As to predicting the future, Wogan says, “If you want to know what a child will be like when she’s 18, take a look at her when she’s 17-1/2.”

Every adult survivor—or victim—of pimping/trafficking, whether homeless or sheltered, was once a child, and Wogan said: “All children deserve to feel safe, secure, happy, special and loved.”

Contact James Wogan at [www.jameswogan.com](http://www.jameswogan.com) , 925-250-5500, [jameswogan@yahoo.com](mailto:jameswogan@yahoo.com).

Next week’s column will introduce a forthcoming women’s rape and crisis conference for which you must register early in order to get a seat!

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This column appears in Cedar Street Times, Pacific Grove, California’s weekly hometown newspaper at [www.cedarstreettimes.com](http://www.cedarstreettimes.com). Contact Wanda Sue Parrott 831-899-5887 [amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com](mailto:amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com)  
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