

## CAROL's Protest of Club 1722's Pimp n Ho Ball

APAN affiliates Citizens' Anti-Rape Offense League (CAROL) sponsored a teach-in protest of a "Pimp n Ho Ball" held at a Baltimore area nightclub in June, 2006.

The message from the protesters was: "Prostitution is not glamorous, but a great injustice".

For several hours in the cold weather, the protesters handed out pamphlets, held signs, spoke with passersby, and confronted any man dressed as a pimp.

*An excerpt of a letter written by the protesters, asking Club 1722 to reconsider its plan:*

**"As people who care about human rights and social justice, we find this very disturbing. We don't think it was your intention to glorify such an abhorrent aspect of our society -- a lot of people are not aware of the realities of prostitution and pimping.**

**Women and girls enter prostitution for many reasons and their stories are almost always tragic. Oftentimes they are runaways or 'throwaways' and begin at a very early age, such as 13 or 14, often in response to sexual abuse and exploitation they endured as children. They often become dependent on substances in order to dissociate from what they're doing. It is a very psychologically traumatic 'occupation.'**

**Pimps, on the other hand, often prey on these young girls: coercing them into prostitution for profit. Pimps keep most or all of the money that these girls and women bring in. If a prostituted woman does not hand in all of her money she is often beaten or killed, sometimes in front of the other women/girls in order to send them a message. Pimps control prostitutes with terror. Women who try to escape prostitution often risk their very lives. In the case of international trafficking, they often withhold important documents. They make threats and they manipulate these women and children into being completely dependent on them. Many prostituted women suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or 'shell shock'.**

**It is our hope that this information will compel you to put an end to these annual celebrations of what is no less than the most pervasive form of slavery in the world today. Also, please consider this message notification that from the evening of June 10th into the early-morning hours of June 11th, your club will be subject to a peaceful, consciousness-raising demonstration.**

*Club 1722 responded with matching eloquence:*

**JUNE 10TH: IS OUR FIRST IN A LONG WHILE " PIMP AND HO BALL"**

**Check this shit out; an Organization, known as CAROL, is in a uproar of this party, that we are promoting prostitution and ill thoughts about and towards women! Is this not an optional dress theme party? It is an adult fun event; sorta making fun of the PIMPS and HO's of the world with our outlandish attire! Well, since they will be there outside our doors in numbers, it will be \$10.00 per person for any and all dressed in PIMP and HO attire, let's do this full force! EXPRESS your inner slutty self and let these people who obviously have little to no lives or apparently no real causes to support that we could care less how or what they think! Oh yeah and any DRAG QUEENS or Female Impersonators dressed as HO's are in FREE**

*The result:*

Club 1722 was ruffled enough to report the peaceful protesters to the cops, and so a police van parked between the protesters and the club to block their view of the club (and to intimidate them?)

Club 1722 employees also took pictures of the protesters (who were dressed as regular people).

For more information about the reality of prostitution, please visit

<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com>.

You can read more about domestic victims of trafficking here:

<http://www.sharedhope.org/amer.asp>