

Knock, knock...

Strip-O-Gram dancers provide clean fun and entertainment

By Aaron Meier
THE BATTALION

Some students earn spending money by waiting tables, others work the cash register at the local grocery store, and others take off their clothes. Student strippers who work for Wolf Run Productions (WRP) participate in "Strip-O-Grams," stripping telegrams.

"Augustus," a male stripper and senior industrial distribution major, has been working for WRP for two weeks. He said he found his first stripping experience rather amusing.

"It was a bachelorette party for some skydivers," Lawyer said. "I walked into the room in a skydiving outfit, but when I started to strip for the first time, the ladies' faces made it worth it."

Augustus said although he has danced most of his life, Strip-O-Grams offer him a unique opportunity to explore his dancing abilities.

"When I was a little boy, I would dance around in my underwear," Augustus said. "I've auditioned for Aggie Wranglers, and I am a Hurricane Harry's regular. I also teach dance lessons, so dancing is a very important part of my life."

"Summer," a female stripper and senior English major, has previous stripping experience. Summer used to dance at a local gentlemen's club. She started stripping to take care of some large credit card bills but ended up finding romance, too.

"It was at the gentlemen's club that I met my boyfriend," she said. "He saw me walking by and said, 'She's the one for me.'"

Both Summer and Augustus said they enjoy the work they do for WRP, and also appreciate the rules the company sets for the strippers.

Claire Lawyer and Annie Smith are partners in the company, and they set the rules for the Strip-O-Grams.

The dancers remain covered by bathing suits. Male dancers only undress to their briefs or boxers, and women must wear either a bikini or a one-piece bathing suit.

"Actually, I was sort of disappointed there was no G-string I had to wear," Augustus said.

Smith and Lawyer said they allow monetary tips for the dancers, but they prohibit the touching of dancers.

"We try to keep the performances within the moral bounds of the community," Lawyer said.

Summer and Augustus noticed a disparity between the sexes in relation to tips. Summer said the first and only time she has stripped she earned \$20. However, Augustus has only received \$1 and has done two Strip-O-Grams.

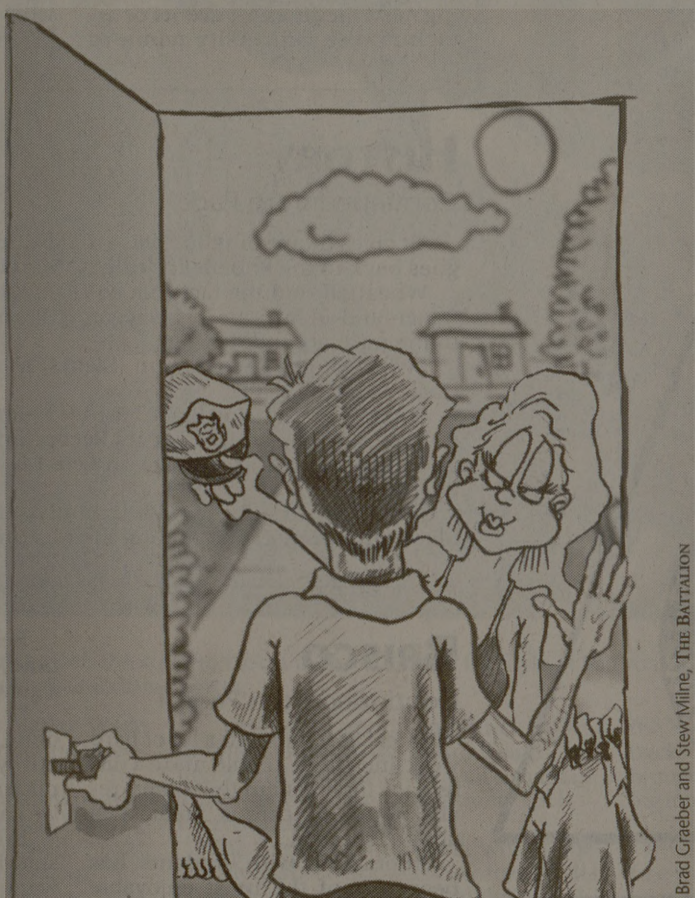
Augustus said his parents support his job choice. He also said his mother wants to show up at one of his performances and take pictures.

Summer said her parents do not know about her stripping and she hopes to keep it a secret.

Augustus said some of his friends discovered his secret at his last performance. He performed at a Texas A&M student's 21st birthday. He said when he walked into the party dressed as a police officer, his friends were puzzled and confused, but when the music started and his uniform came off, they were shocked.

"At first, they couldn't believe it — they turned their heads away immediately," Augustus said. "Afterwards, though, they told me they could see me doing it."

The physical condition of a stripper is not only important



Brad Graeber and Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

to the audience but also to the stripper. Augustus said before he started working for WRP he lifted weights about three times a week. Now he works out five times a week, limits the amount of alcohol he consumes and pays more attention to his diet.

Summer, however, takes a different approach to maintaining her long slender body.

"I am on a strict diet of potato chips," she said. "It's all genetics. I have my parents to thank."

Although both dancers enjoy the work, neither sees it as a long-term career. Summer will graduate in May and hopes

to publish a book of poetry. She is also considering becoming a grammar school teacher or an English professor.

"Could you imagine me as a teacher?" Summer said. "But being a professor would be so cool."

Augustus said he hopes to keep his 3.25 grade-point ratio and get a job paying \$40,000 a year. He also said he will tell his children about his college adventure, but will make sure they understand the difference between the dancing he does and other types of dancing.

"We are selling fun and entertainment here, not sex," Smith said.

Romancing the Web

Students find love over the Internet

By Melissa Price
THE BATTALION

A 33-year-old Mikayla snuggles into the lap of her soon-to-be dad, Derek Leonard, and lovingly wraps her arms around him, it is hard to believe that Leonard met Mikayla's mother, Jodi Heinrich, less than six months ago — over the Internet.

Leonard, a senior computer science major, said he was not looking for love when he logged on to Connections, an Internet service that allows users to chat worldwide.

Leonard said he and his fiancée Heinrich, a 27-year-old mother of two, just happened to be on an Internet chat line at the same time and started talking. He said they chatted on-line for a month until she finally convinced him to call her on the telephone. Their first phone call, which lasted five-and-a-half hours, was the first of many long conversations.

"I never thought it would happen to me, especially with her living so far away," Leonard said. "But soon, I was finding myself logging on just to find her."

Heinrich, who is from Montana, said she could tell from the first time they talked that there was something special about Leonard.

"I just fell in love with his sexy Texan accent," she said.

Leonard said the couple joked about her coming to visit him in Texas before they had talked on the telephone. Within two weeks of their first talk, Leonard had booked Heinrich on a flight to Dallas.

Since they had no time to send pictures before the meeting, neither one had any idea what the other looked like until Heinrich got off the plane.

Leonard said although he was nervous, he was excited, too.

"When I saw her come off the plane, she was carrying a bunch of roses," Leonard said. "She looked me right in the eye, scanned the entire crowd, and then looked back at me again. Then I knew it was her."

After five visits from Montana to Texas, Heinrich decided she was ready for a change and moved to College Station in December 1996.

Less than four months after meeting each other on-line, the couple got engaged. They plan to marry on Aug. 3, 1998,

their two-year anniversary. Although such a whirlwind romance originating over the Internet may seem a little strange, Internet users said it is not uncommon.

Terry Day, a 46-year-old computer consultant from San Antonio who has been chatting on-line for about 10 years, said many people find it easier to communicate through the Internet than to go out and meet people.

"I think most people chat because they have difficulty with interpersonal relationships," Day said. "That difficulty is minimized with chatting."

Leonard said chatting on the Internet is a fun way to meet people who are thousands of miles away while staying in the privacy of one's own home.

"You get to know a person's mind first before you see what they look like," Leonard said.

Paul Kemp, a 26-year-old student from New England, said many Internet relationships do not work out because people can disguise themselves over the Internet.

"I think the Internet is a fast-food or cheap way of meeting someone, but I think one is very lucky if such a relationship is lasting," Kemp said. "It's important to see how they act, talk, look and behave in real life. By computers, these things are disguised or not apparent."

Even though some people have found romantic relationships over the Internet, Day said people should try to meet friends or pen pals first. If they start out looking for a relationship, they usually find trouble, he said.

Heinrich said even though she has found love on-line, people need to be extremely cautious and careful when they talk to and meet people over the Internet. Many people who log on are scared of rejection or are insecure about themselves, and it is easy to create a fantasy world online, she said.

"It's too easy to talk to someone anonymously," Kemp said. "It's more challenging to do it in real life. Always remember that."

Leonard said although many people are skeptical of their relationship, he is thankful he has met such a wonderful person with whom he will share the rest of his life.

"Some people claim we can't possibly know each other at all," Leonard said. "But we know differently."

Now Appearing, at

4.0 & GO

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Question: What is the only letter not in the spelling of any of the 50 states? (First 5 to call with answer get free review!)

Answer appears Thursday

Thursday's answer: Fred and Wilma Flinstone were the first couple to appear together in bed on prime-time television.

846-TUTOR (8886)
http://www.4.0andGo.com

We're Here!

PROFITABLE NUMBER! 845-0569 THE BATTALION Classified Advertising

AT Tutoring

260-2660
725B University Drive

FOR THE WEEK OF FEB 2-6

		MON Feb 3	TUES Feb 4	WED Feb 5	THUR Feb 6
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING					
CHEM 102	3-5 PM	CH 15A	CH 15B	CH 16, 17	PRAC TEST
CHEM 101	5-7 PM	CH 1, 2	CH 3	CH 4	PRAC TEST
PHYS 218	7-9 PM	CH 1-3	CH 4	CH 5	PRAC TEST
CHEM 102	9-11 PM	CH 15A	CH 15B	CH 16, 17	PRAC TEST
CHEM 107	11 PM-1 AM	CH 1-3	CH 4	CH 5	PRAC TEST
PHYS 208	7-9 PM OR 11 PM-1 AM	CH 24	CH 25	PRAC TEST A	PRAC TEST B
MATH 151	9-11 PM	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	PRAC TEST

		MON Feb 3	TUES Feb 4	WED Feb 5	THUR Feb 6
BUSINESS					
ACCT 229	7-9 PM	CH 4	CH 5	CH 6	EXAM REV
ACCT 229	9-11 PM			BILLY PART 1	BILLY PART 2
FINC 341	9-12 PM SUN MON	PART 1	PART 2	9-11 PM TUE	PART 3

TICKETS GO ON SALE SUNDAY 4-5 PM

WHAT'S IT LIKE AT THE PLASMA CENTER?

To the staff of the Plasma Center,

I would like to start by saying thank you to each and every employee for making the past three years enjoyable in a professional, efficient and courteous environment. As a donor since 1993, I have been more than satisfied with every aspect of your operation, which allows myself and others to contribute what we can to community service, all the while being serviced by diligent, but relaxed, workers. Everyone at the Plasma Center, from those behind the front counter to the phlebotomists to the supervisors, have made great efforts to insure that each donor feels hygienically safe, as well as keeping the atmosphere light.

Like most, I started coming to the Plasma Center for monetary reasons, but I soon developed acquaintances that appealed to me almost as much as the original need for money, enabling me to look forward to each donation, not only for my wallet's sake but also to see my friends. Like I commented to someone recently, talking to people at the Plasma Center was like getting mail from a far-off friend that you don't get to do much with, but who you can talk to as often as you write. For those acquaintances and for your continual services. I would like to thank all of those I've come to know and appreciate over the past three years - Emily, and Tracy, Heath, and Marty, Ada and Josie, etc.. more I can't remember or those who have gone on to better things.

So, as I graduate from this great University, I bid you all a fond farewell and strong commendations on such a successful blend of quality medical practice and friendly service. Thank you all and have a great summer. Thanks, C.F.

WEST GATE BIOLOGICALS THE PLASMA CENTER
700 E. University Dr.
268-6050
4223 Wellborn Rd.
846-8855