- I haven't got any video yet.

- Wait, turn it off, turn it off.

- We're rolling.

- We're good. Okay.

- As we continue once again with our pussycats right now.

- We thought you'd gone across the street.

- You bring our beers down?

- Yeah.

- All right.

- Where'd ya go? ♪ He left home on a winter day ♪ ♪ 1969 ♪ ♪ And he hoped to find all the love he had lost ♪ ♪ In that earlier time ♪ ♪ Well his sister grew up ♪ ♪ And she married a man ♪ ♪ He gave her a son ♪ ♪ Ah yes a lovely son ♪ ♪ You dressed him up warmly ♪ ♪ They sent him to school ♪ ♪ It taught him how to fight ♪ ♪ To be nobody's fool ♪ ♪ Oh, what a lonely boy ♪ ♪ Oh, what a lonely boy ♪ ♪ Oh, what a lonely boy. ♪ ♪ Oh, what a lonely boy. ♪ ♪ Oh, what a lonely boy. ♪ ♪ Oh, what a lonely boy. ♪ Wanna continue one more time right now.

- Ladies and gentlemen welcome right now the very lovely and exciting Sunny.

- Who had a pose like this? Oh yes. Joan Crawford. She's sitting there in a white negligee and her cigarette. Do I need the drink? Of course I do.

- Camera at all.

- This is a Pussy Cat club, isn't it? I am a Pussy Cat. Ain't I?

- Who are you? Who am I? My name is Gail Ward Boomzy Boom. The one and the only Boomzy Boom. I was writing a comic series in my hometown and I needed a name as a joke and a friend of mine called me a boom boom. So I added the Z and it stuck with me.

- You were writing a comic strip?

- Yeah.

- Is that what you said?

- Yes. It was like a, a soap opera comic strip about all the nightlife

people in the hometown.

- Sounds good.

- And it started as a joke and it stayed that way, but I got stuck with the name.

- Where do you come from?

- I come from a small farm in Decatur, Indiana.

- And what are you doing now?

- For the last eight years, I've been a stripper, exotic dancer.

- How did you get into it?

- I was broke and I couldn't find another job. I'd been fired from my previous position in a health club, Legitimate health club. All right. American Health Spas. And I had a friend who was a go-go girl who I met when I was in college, and I ran into her on the street and she said, well, come in and we'll get you a job. So I started as a go-go girl for $125 a week. And I've been in it for eight years now.

- What's the difference between a go-go girl and a stripper?

- The money. Basically, it's the money. You spend less time and less effort on stage per night, and you get paid about three times the amount that the go-go girl makes, But you have to work up over a long period of time. I mean, it's not just that cut and dry, you have to put money into it because you have to buy the costumes. The costumes are very expensive. You have to spend a great deal of time on your music and choreographing the shows and everything like that. And some of the girls that are just in go-go, sometimes that are waitress one day, a go-go girl the next day, a telephone operator the next day, and they really don't spend the time. It's not really a career with them. And with most of the strippers that I've worked with, it is actually a career for a period of time.

- You feel it's a lot more professional attitude to be a stripper than a go-go girl?

- Oh, yes. Much more professional. We, we have go-go girls who actually get sick and they don't come in, strippers don't get sick, they don't get hurt, they don't have emotional problems. They do, but they, they're not able to show it. The show goes on regardless of what's going on in their personal lives. And the go-go girls are much more flexible than that. They can be replaced much easier. So they, they can, they can afford to be sick a day they can afford just not to show up or to goof off, but the strippers can't do that. We have to be

here.

– How do you make your contacts for jobs?

– Well, if you are on the road or in a circuit, so to speak, there are about five agents left in the country and you call one of them and you send them your pictures and they in turn book you. And then if you get good billings from the club that you go into, they book you into another one and so on and so forth. Unless you can book yourself into one club, which as I have, I have done here. I book myself in here for three weeks and I've stayed a year and a half. So it, it can work either way.

– You were telling me how the economic situation has changed things for strippers. Would you speak to that again?

– Well, I was saying I believe that it is a dying business. So burlesque is definitely a dying business. There are still strippers in the business in this country, but many of the clubs across the country have closed up. They don't pay that well anymore. I think it was a matter of they were trying to save money, so they got a, they've got girls that didn't do quite a professional job, they lost a little bit of business, so then they had to save more money. And the business has gone down and down and down because the professional women in this business have dropped out of the business and many of the girls are working for next to nothing. So you have that to compete with, and it's very hard for a professional in the business to make the money anymore because you have to compete with anyone that just comes off the streets and wants to work now. So it's, it's not good anymore. When I got into the business eight years ago, the feature attractions in this business were making, now eight years ago, from maybe $500 a week to $1,500 a week. And now it's very difficult, even for a woman that has been in this business and is a professional to make six or $700 a week on traveling on the road.

– Do you guys have a light?

– What?

– Okay, I'd like to ask you what you think about when you're going through your routine.

– Oh, I think what I need to buy at the grocery store the next day, I think about a piece of property I might like to buy. I think about whether or not my diamonds are gonna stay in my ring for another set because I've broken them two or three times. Everything, but what I'm doing, probably. I've been up there so long, it's automatic. I count my beats automatically. I do the show automatically. I relate to my audience automatically, all without them knowing it, hopefully.

– What do you think is happening with them?

– I think they're entertained. I think I've been in this business long enough that I can entertain my audience without giving them a second thought. And that's the whole idea. Many, many women in this business are not entertainers. They, they carry their personal problems and everything else onto stage with them, and they let it show. And I think that this business is like any other entertainment business, whether you're sitting in a movie or going to, you know, to see a professional singer or anything, it's an escape. That's why many people are here. They want to get out of themselves and think about something else. And you have to let your audience believe that you care about them and that you are there to entertain them. You have to be happy or make them feel as if everything is lighthearted. And that's what I try to do and successfully, I hope.

– Do you classify the audience as a variety of kinds of people or basically just people out for a good time that night?

– Oh, many, many kinds. I've met every type of person from the bum off the street to the professional workers, to the blue collar workers, to every, every sort of work classification, class, classification, anything you can think of, there, There are all sorts of people that come in here. Young, old, middle age. There is, there is no classification for the people that you see in these nightclubs.

– We talked earlier, and you seem to be fairly familiar with the cultural overlay districting of this. And would you speak to me about what you think is happening that way?

– Well, we mentioned it before, excuse me.

– People, right now, If your car is parked next door to the Italian village or the Chamberlain Rubber company. Please move it. Otherwise, owners of the Italian village will have your car towed away.

– Beautiful baby. Beautiful baby.

– Pardon me.

– Yes.

– The cultural overlay is not a cultural overlay. It's an economic overlay. It's from, it stems from the downtown businessmen moving their businesses out into the suburbs. Hence they lost their business. And they're asking why, and they want to do something about it. The Eastman Theater has gone along with this, and they now blame it on the area, so to speak, and what's happening in this area. And it's really an economic problem. It's not a cultural problem. And it's a way that they think that they're going to attract people downtown by getting

rid of the various types of entertainment in the area. One of which I don't believe that we were originally included, but we are the sacrificial lamb, so to speak. We've been here for 12 years without a major problem. As far as the Eastman School or the downtown businessmen are concerned. Now we had a few things move into areas such as OTB, massage parlors, Discotheque, things like this, that the people were afraid, or they seemed to be afraid to come into this area. So they wanted to rezone the area for economic purposes, and we had to be included in it. And that's exactly what's happened to it. Unfortunately, the downtown businessmen, the Eastman school all had the money, the ability, the power to come in before this happened to the area and put their money into the area. It would not have had to happen. They could have prevented it, but they waited until the businessmen put their money into it, put their time and their effort into it. And then they come in and they said, Now let's move. And, which is, it's totally unfair. And I would assume that if anyone wanted to press it and wanted to start a lawsuit, they would have quite a suit on their hands to get them outta here, of the massage parlors and everything like, like of this sort would eventually gone out anyway, because the vice squad in Rochester is very adequate and they do something about it after there's a couple of complaints. So that could have been rid of very easily. They really didn't need to rezone the area to get rid of this sort of business in this area. But unfortunately now, I think they've cut off their noses to spite their face, so to speak, because they will have a problem now. The only thing that we can get our license for is a discotheque, which will probably come into this area, and it will be worse for the area economically than the existence of this sort of entertainment or exotic dancing is here.

– You were saying that.

– Sure. Oh, Jesus. Yeah. I'm all right. Okay.

– You were saying that when you close, you close and that some of the other businesses don't necessarily do that.

– Off the record. Did I say that? I'd rather not.

– You don't?

– No. Too much, too much politics and too many, too many feelings involved there that I don't care to discuss.

– What do you wanna know?

– You think that the, I think you gave me some reasons before, but you were saying that this type of business is declining, and Robert was saying that he thinks that it's because it's too mild.

- Not true.

- That's not the reason for the decline. As a matter of fact, it's exact opposite. They have gone farther and farther until many of the men don't wanna bring their wives in. Not into this place, per se. This place is very mild, but the business all over the country and other places in this city, people are embarrassed to be seen in these places. And that has cut a lot of it out. I believe. And.

- The.

- The affiliation with this business, because it has gone farther and farther as far as the moral aspects are concerned, People don't wanna be affiliated with it. And they, they categorize us all together. They don't realize that perhaps we put on a much more entertaining show and a much more professional show than say some of the local theaters put on. They class us all together and they are afraid to come in anymore. I believe.

- You think the incidence and increase in X-rated films has had a big influence?

- Oh yes. A great deal. A great deal. Because they can pay $3. They don't have to come in and spend a lot of money. And they can, they can see much more. And yet that business will eventually go down too, I believe, because they have gone too far. I mean, I wouldn't wanna be in there. I wouldn't wanna be seen, going in and, and this, you know, nudity rarely affects me, and I wouldn't wanna be associated with it. So why are, is the man off the street wanna come in and be caught in one of these places or seen in one of these places? They're embarrassed.

- What do you mean nudity rarely affect?

- Well, nudity does not offend me. Offend me. No, it does not. But I don't think that I would wanna be seen going into an X-rated movie house.

- Some women feel that, that when men come in and look at women here, that they're looking them at them is, they might say, if they really got off on a beautiful horse or some kind of beautiful car or object, How do you feel about that? Do you feel treated that way? Yes.

- Yes, I do. I think it really is majorly an escape and a form of entertainment. And I think that you can look at a beautiful painting, or a horse or a car or anything that you find to be attractive. And I don't like the word getting you off, but yeah, I, I think it, it's a beautiful thing. And I think that that's why they do it. The phone ring. I'm sorry, but I am going to have to get dressed.

- Is it okay if we.

- I won't have that on now.

- Well, . You're still rolling. That's okay.

- Yeah.

- Okay. And we have a release form. Sure. You have it here.

- It.

- Says that you've done this willingly. And you consent to give your name.

- All right. It's six seconds Steve, is that enough? ♪I can see the judge's eyes, they handed you the prize. ♪ ♪ I bet you took the cutest bow. ♪ ♪ You must have been a beautiful baby, ♪ ♪ Because baby look at you now. ♪

- ♪Hello Baby! ♪ ♪Ya, this is the Big Bopper speaking. ♪ ♪You sweet thing. ♪ ♪You know what I like ♪ ♪ Chantilly lace, and a pretty face ♪ ♪ And a pony tail a hanging down ♪ ♪ And wiggle when you walk ♪ ♪ And wiggle when you talk ♪ ♪ Make the world go round ♪ ♪ Aint nothing in the world like a big eyed girl ♪ ♪make me act so funny, make me spend my money ♪ ♪ Make me feel real loose, like a long neck goose ♪ ♪ Oh baby that's a what I like. ♪ ♪ What's that baby? ♪

- So we can hear a voice. Okay. Can you tell me who you are?

- My name's Christy Spieler. Yeah. And what do you do here?

- Right now? I'm, well, tonight especially, I'm go-go dancing. I'm filling in, I work over at the Encore and the same family owns both clubs. And they called up tonight and asked if they had a spare go-go girl. I came over. So that's what I'm doing here.

- Have you been here before?

- Yeah. I have. I worked here when I, I don't know, I guess it was the beginning of last winter. I worked here for a little while and then I wanted to get out of go-going, go into stripping, you know, there's more money in it, I don't know, it's basically the same thing, you know? So I don't know.

- Whatever.

- Is that what you do with the Encore then?

- Well,

– She could move over here and be responsible for two eyes on the camera.

– Rolling.

– Okay.

– Is, are the people who come to the Encore pretty much the same as the people that you find here?

– Yeah, they're all basically the same. Just I'd say any ages. Men and women, they just come to drink, have a good time. Probably mostly out of, you know, women come outta curiosity, you know, it's just like any other job, you know, I can, I don't even consider it as work. Mostly like going out, drinking and dancing, you know, It is hard. It sometimes, cuz you work, you're behind off, you know? But I enjoy it. I don't know.

– How long have you been doing this?

– It's been on and off for just a couple years now. I dunno, I've worked most of the go-go places around here and that's when I went to the Encore cause I wanted to get into stripping. There's a little more money, you know, I had some money saved for costumes, you know, a stripper and a go-go girl. There's not too much difference except experience, costumes, you know, you'd have to have a better, you know, wardrobe and I don't know, I'm still not stripping. I just do that part-time because you know, these girls down here have been in the business, what, 10 years, 15 years? You know, I'm still haven't got up that high, you know, I'm only 20, so that's why I've only been dancing two years. Right.

– Have you considered doing any other kind of work in the past?

– Yeah, I've, I have a nursing degree, but I went to school for a long time for that and everything. But once I started working at it, it was just too boring. I don't know. I play guitar and that's what I've done mostly. You know, I've worked clubs, you know, you know, as a musician, whatever. And I dunno, I find it exciting. I like to meet people and talk to people. Just be with people, you know. I've thought about becoming a stewardess and this and that. Planning of going out to California soon. I've been out there before. My mother, my father lives out there. Excuse me. And I dunno, I loved it out there. I was thinking about going out there and starting school again, you know.

– What do you think about when you're up there performing in front of people?

– Well, I don't know. I just, music, you know, like I said, I play

guitar, I love music and I just like to get up there and go, you know, I just, I don't know, just comes from my heart. I really don't think of anything except just boogieing, you know, What can I say?

– I dunno.

– What about men who come to look at your body? How do you feel about that?

– At first, the first time I ever auditioned I was looking for a waitress job, you know, and they said, Could I dance? This is the first go-go, you know, the job I had was right here. Oh, I was a nervous wreck. It, it didn't bother me afterwards, you know, it's just, you know, cuz all I do is take my top off, you know? It's just, well gee, I mean look at the styles now. You know, there's a lot of, well what tube tops? Halter tops. I mean just, you know, clothes just about reveal everything. So what's a little more, you know, it didn't, it did bother me a little at first, but not that much. You know, I know a lot of people consider.

– Cause you're a dancer or you might be loose or something. But I think I'm just a regular old, just people.

– Do you find that men treat you that way? That you're just people?

– Some do, some don't. Younger guys get a little, I don't know, I'd say rude at times, you know, but people, regulars, you know, they get, after they come a few times, they get to know that you're just a regular person. You know? I dunno, There's some girls I find that are maybe a little conceited or something because of that. I don't know. I could see where it could make you that, you know, making a lot of money, having a lot of men rave and you know, over you and stuff. But it doesn't get to me cause I'm just stand up for, you know, 'cause I love music. That's all I, I don't know. And it's a easy job. What, whatever. It's not easy, it's just that I enjoy it. Right.

– Makes a difference.

– Yeah, yeah.

– In this area around the Eastman Theater, I guess that the Eastman Theater was concerned that the neighborhood wouldn't be all that comfortable for students, particularly when the parents come to look at the school.

– Yeah.

– And they're concerned that there might be, and I guess there has been some mugging and rapes and stuff like that. And so they pass this ordinance to make this zoned so that no adult entertainment can happen

here. Do you see that that will have an effect on you?

– Well, the Eastman Theater, I don't know how big of an area you're talking about, but I don't know. Not really. Well, I work, like where I, see my steady job's at the Encore that's down on State Street down by the freeway. I don't think that has anything to do with it. I think the area that they're talking about, only two clubs are involved for, you know, this kind of entertainment, is the place across the street and this place. So not really, you know, be just what two clubs, you know? As far as I know, I don't, didn't really know all about it. I knew they were closing down, but I didn't know the particular reason, you know, Now I know, you told me. Right. So I don't really think it would, I don't know, just a, you know, a couple less clubs not to work at. Right. You know, they'll probably open up more. In fact, I know there's a, a friend of mine's opening up a place, I think it's in July he said, or something. It's just gonna be down Goodman and Main. I don't even know the name of it, but you know. Yeah, there'll be another one. He hasn't even decided yet if he's gonna have stripping or not, but it'll be a go-go place, you know? I don't know.

– Why do you think, why do you think all the, they closed down all the adult entertainment in this area? You think there's a reason for that or?

– Well, what did I say I saw on the news was about a month ago, but I don't know. A lot of the restaurant owners and stuff, people around here think that it's, well, you know, this is like the big restaurant area of the city. Right, right. Around this part. And I guess a lot of the owners wanted them closed down. Maybe they were running 'em out, I don't know why, but I guess it was they were losing business, you know? I don't really know. That's the ...

– Do you think that, adult entertainments attract crime in an area?

– Not at all. Not really. Well it would be just, it would attract crime just as much as any bar, you know? Cause well, you know, if a guy or a woman went out and got drunk, he might do something illegal, but he, it doesn't actually, you know, he could go drink at a regular bar or this place or any other place, you know, I don't think it would any more than any other bar.

– You have to get up there. Yeah. Okay. Let me ask you one more question. You mentioned about the, the clo...