

The Politics of Sexual Labour

Wendy Chapkis, author of *Live Sex Acts*, discusses the lives of those who work in the sex trade, and how society could better serve these individuals.

by Sarah Murphy
News Editor

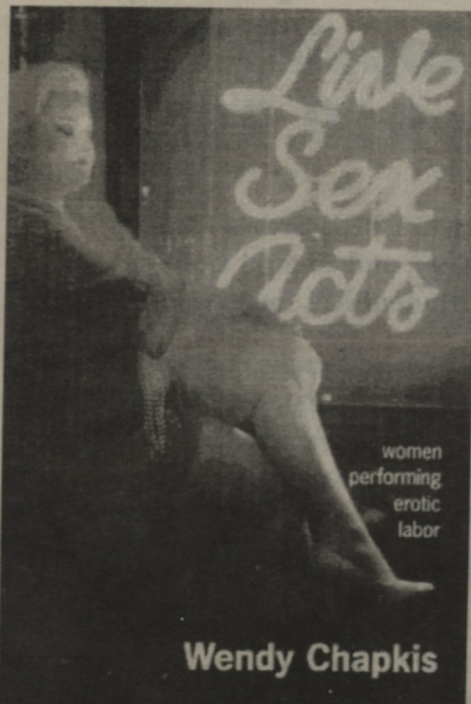
To many, Wendy Chapkis has become a celebrity apologist for prostitutes.

Chapkis, an assistant professor of Sociology and Women's studies at the University of Southern Maine insists that she is really a good girl, who is simply fascinated by the more bold. These bolder women, sex workers, are the subject of Chapkis's most recent

book entitled *Live Sex Acts*.

In writing this book, Chapkis did not only want to pose a challenge to the enduring division between "good girls" and "bad girls" but also wants to explore the debate within feminism surrounding commercial sex.

"Feminism was poised to have a complicated discussion about sexuality, [but it] turned to a war instead," said Chapkis, who was horrified by the bloodletting within the feminist community occasioned by the different perspectives on prostitution and pornography. To a number of feminists,



Wendy Chapkis

women performing erotic labor

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