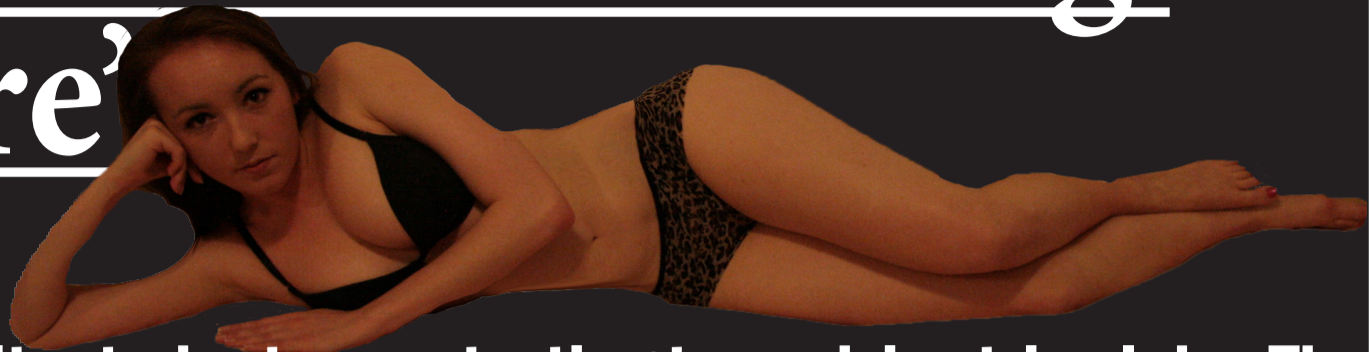


'My breasts are securing my future'



To avoid debt, university students are starting to work in strip clubs. The high paying adult entertainment industry could prevent student debt

By Jonathan Stone

STRIPPING appears to be an extremely effective way for attractive students to stay out of debt.

Whilst some university students are satisfied to work in Tesco, HMV or a variety of fast food restaurants, two students at the University of Kent are more than happy to remove their clothes for the entertainment of others.

Sports Therapy student Emily Edwards, 19, and Tourism student Stephanie Price, 18, both have secured jobs at a local strip club near their university campus. Both girls work eight hours a week, and between them collect a grand total of £800 from wages. On a busy night, tips can push their total earnings over £1000.

Both girls stand solidly by their decisions to seek employment in the adult industry. "Having regular employment with good pay keeps me focused. Some of my friends are too hung-over on Mondays to attend lectures, but not me. I get a good night's sleep and haven't missed a lecture since I started the job" protests Edwards at claims her job is not suitable for somebody who should be focusing on her academic work, rather than flaunting her body parts at late hours of the evening.

The pair's decision to undertake work in an area with such a high income comes as no surprise. Over 30,000 students in the United Kingdom are still awaiting funds from the Student Loan Company. Loans are not the only source of income for students. Many rely on grants and bursaries, which too are yet to arrive in

thousands of student bank accounts.

Choosing to work in such an industry raised major concerns with both the girl's parents and the University. What one would possibly expect to surround what is seen as a seedy area of entertainment doesn't necessarily have the negative connotations of crime and drugs usually associated with the job.

Unfortunately, the management of the club have requested to keep the

"Having regular employment with good pay keeps me focused."

name anonymous. The club Emily Edwards and Stephanie Price are employed by enforce strict anti-drugs

ploying students) is actually preventing it from becoming one. A ban from drinking alcohol during shifts and regular drug tests ensure the health, and just as importantly the safety, of the dancers. This not only ensures quality in their performances, but also battles the controversy of employing such young adult-performers.

Why the management are being so cautious is not exactly baffling, but one aspect of the situation does appear to be going over looked. Hypothetically, these two girls could become pioneers for young adult-performers. This case not only shows the capacity of students in the modern day, but also how far sex has come in the political correct world we live in. Once Andrew Price, 43, father of Stephanie Price understood the conditions of the employment concerning how is daughters safety would be the managements number one priority, he "could not see an issue" with his daughter performing. He "accepts that she is old enough to make her own decisions" and that he is "proud of her entrepreneurial spirit".

It is unlikely that the adult industry will ever be accepted as mainstream entertainment. However, if it continues to make progress as it has done with Miss Edwards and Miss Price, who knows what the future could hold.

The Daily Herald does not suggest students reading this start a career in the adult industry, but urges students to seriously consider suitable employment to counter the failures of the Student Loan Company.



A colleague of the students, dancing at the club

policies and anti-alcohol policies among their staff. It is unfortunate that the management is scared of bad publicity; as such care surrounding what could be quite a big issue (em-



Emily Edwards and Stephanie Price at their student halls before work

Student Finance failures force students to strip

THE BBC recently reported of a student who had been forced to resort to stripping in order to put food on her plate.

The student, who has remained anonymous, is the first person to attend university in her family. The student has expressed major concerns about letting her family down if she is forced to take a year out of university, despite

it being for financial reasons that are out of her control. The London student,

"My mum is so proud of me. She thinks I am down here in London having a great time."

who has had to work multiple jobs to survive, plans to travel back home to Leeds next week to start work at a strip

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club. "I would obviously much prefer to not have to do this" says the 20 year-old, "but I don't have much choice as my parents cannot give me any more money".

This student, along with thousands of others, is a victim of circumstance out of her own control. An inquiry

into the failures of the Student Finance Company is due sometime before Christmas, but this does not excuse the 30,000 students still without any financial aid, other their own savings, or their parents.

Although the university has lent her £400, the student is still in serious financial trouble. At just 20, she already owes her father and siblings thousands

of pounds, on top of what she will owe the Student Finance Company in several years time, if they ever get round to processing her application.

The student is most concerned about disappointing her parents. "My mum is so proud of me. She thinks I am down here in London having a great time." "I don't think I will get my loan through until after Christmas".