

“THE WORLD FAMOUS PLAYERS BALL” AT-A-GLANCE

*A Briefing Document based on Online Research and General Knowledge
July 2005*

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

What is The Players Ball?

- “The Players Ball” is an annual celebration party attended by “pimps”, the women under their control, and members of the general community who support such an event.
- The yearly gala glorifies various aspects of pimp culture, and often includes elaborate clothing attire, music, drinking, and dancing.
- It is often held at hotels or nightclubs and is attended by anywhere from 50-500 people.
- One main aspect of The Players Ball is an Awards Ceremony, where pimps are given trophies and awards for various coveted titles such as “No.1 International Pimp of the Year,” or “No. 1 Super Player.” The criteria for these titles usually relates to levels of annual income from pimping.
- The Players Ball has been both embraced and promoted by popular culture, receiving celebrity endorsement and attendance, blatant public advertisement through local radio stations, and corporate sponsorship. Some events have even been endorsed by local Mayors. Pimp N’ Ho parties have also proliferated on college campuses, emulating events such as The Players Ball.
- Celebrities that have allegedly been linked to The Players Ball in the past include rappers such as Snoop Dogg, Flavor Flav, Digital Underground, and Cypress Hill.
-

What is the history of The Players Ball?

- The general lore surrounding “The Players Ball” is that it is a tradition started in Chicago in November 1974 to honor the birthday of Don Juan, who is now one of the nation’s most prominent and well-known pimps.
- For numerous years, The Players Ball was held informally in Chicago, but soon began to be replicated in large urban areas throughout the country.
- Although The Players Ball is ostensibly a tradition of over 30 years, it has risen in popularity and hype over the past 15 years since the early 1990’s. Bishop Don Juan is known to consistently attend many of The Players Balls around the country.

Where is The Players Ball held now?

- Currently, The Players Ball is a thriving tradition that occurs annually in many large cities such as Chicago, IL; Washington, DC; New York City; NY; Miami, FL; San Diego, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Las Vegas, NV; Atlanta, GA; Houston, TX; Detroit, MI; and St. Louis, MO.
- Smaller outgrowths of The Players Ball are also held in other small to mid-sized cities such as Baltimore, MD AND Tuskegee, AL.
- Local Players Balls are organized by local pimps in each local area. For example, the Washington, DC Players Ball is generally considered to be held in honor of “Pimp Ju Ju’s” birthday, and Ju Ju is alleged to play a role in organizing the event. There are also elements of national coordination.
- There are also rumors of other coordinated events such as the Players Rendezvous, Players Picnics, and Players Cruises.

Do real pimps actually attend The Players Ball?

- Certainly. The pimps in attendance at The Players Ball are alleged to be the very same pimps that are guilty of engaging in criminal behavior such as sex trafficking, money laundering, and tax evasion.
- In an Atlanta indictment in the U.S. v Pipkins case, the indictment charges Charles Pipkins, Herman Gordon Hutson, Jr. and Terrence Anderson of all attending the Players Ball in Detroit together. Pipkins was later charged and convicted for RICO statutes and other criminal offenses. Pipkins' total criminal sentence is 30 years (see U.S. v. Pipkins).

What are some potential crimes that pimps attending The Players Ball have committed?

- Sex trafficking (1591)
- Involuntary servitude (1584)
- Physical/Sexual assault
- Assault with a deadly weapon
- Kidnapping
- Sexual abuse of a minor
- Money laundering
- Tax evasion
- False and fraudulent identities
- Fraudulent checks
- Racketeering
- Falsifying business records

How much income do pimps really make?

The following are examples intended to demonstrate how pimps make money off the women and girls held under their control. Much or all of this income can be evaded from Federal reporting and taxes.

- In 2002, Oakland police identified 218 minors actively being prostituted by 155 pimps. The girls were 11-15 years old. Each girl had a quota of approximately \$500 a day, which would go to the pimp. ¹ 218 girls multiplied by 300 days a year at \$500/day amounts to revenue of approximately **\$32,700,000 a year**, or approximately **\$211,000/year per pimp**.
- A woman-operated Internet-based escort service in New York City earned **\$3 million a year** for a decade before it was busted in January 2005. At the time of the raid, the madam was exploiting a 15 year old runaway girl. ²
- A Dutch man, known as "Big Pimpin' Pappy" ran what police said was the largest call-girl ring in South Florida history. Fort Lauderdale police documented his gross earnings conservatively at **\$6 million a year**. In 2003, he was featured in Forbes magazine in an article entitled "Wages of Sin." The article described a lawsuit he filed, while in prison, against a credit card company that withheld money from his escort business. He won \$3 million. ³
- Polaris Project, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit working with victims of human trafficking recently conducted an informal analysis of a pimp's wages, based on direct client accounts. One teenage girl was forced to meet quotas of \$500/night, 7 days a week and gave the money to her trafficker each night. This particular pimp also controlled three other women. Based on these numbers, Polaris Project estimates that the pimp made **\$632,000 in one year** from four young women and girls.
- Other past Polaris clients have described higher **quotas of up to \$1000/night and more**, all of which they turned over to their pimp each night.

¹ "Oakland fights to turn tide of rising child prostitution," *Oakland Tribune*, July 31, 2004.

² "\$30M prostitution ring busted," Nicole Bode, Kerry Burke and Robert F. Moore, *New York Daily News*, January 28, 2005.

³ "Big Pimpin' Pappy finally takes a fall," *Miami Herald*, July 30, 2004.

Why is The Players Ball significant or related to human trafficking?

The Players Ball is attended by real-life pimps, who often engage in behaviors and control mechanisms that meet the legal definitions for human trafficking, which is a Federal crime. In essence, The Players Ball is a yearly and blatant gathering of potential Federal criminals and human traffickers.

- Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and is now considered the third-largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world. It is considered a crime under US law.
- Trafficking and slavery take on many forms, occurring in the sex industry, industrial or agricultural work, domestic servitude as a housekeeper or nanny, and forced marriage.
- Anyone can be a victim of trafficking, including both foreign nationals and US citizens, and both men and women, as well as children.
- As defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the legal definition of human trafficking is:
 - sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
 - the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- The involvement of minors in commercial sex is regarded definitively as human trafficking.
- Pimping involves the actions, means, and purposes that comprise human trafficking:
 - ACTION – Elements of recruiting, transporting, and obtaining.
 - MEANS – Significant elements of force, fraud, and coercion, as elaborated below.
 - PURPOSE – Commercial sex acts are induced.

FORCE

- Beating/Slapping
- Beating with Objects (bat, tools, chains, belts, hangers, canes, cords)
- Burning
- Sexual Assault
- Rape/Gang Rape
- Confinement/Locked in
- Torture Practices
- Seasoning/Initiation

FRAUD

- False promises
- Deceitful enticing and affectionate behavior
- Withholding wages
- Lying about working conditions
- Lying about the promise of “a better life”
- Preying on desperation and poverty

COERCION

- Threats of serious harm or restraint
- Threatened abuse of legal process
- Intimidation/Humiliation (Pimp circle)
- Emotional Abuse
- Climate of Fear
- Modeling abusive behavior
- Controlling daily life skills
- Creating dependency
- Establishing quotas

What are some other noteworthy court cases that involved pimps and prostitution?

- *U.S. v. Try Footman*, 99-1558, U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit (2000): This decision upheld the conviction of a pimp for running a ring of prostitutes who were transported across state lines from Massachusetts to Delaware.⁴
- *U.S. v. Kendal Ray Williams*, 00-30409, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (2002): Williams was convicted of four counts of persuading a person to travel in interstate commerce to engage in prostitution (Section 2422A), four counts of transporting a minor with the intent to engage them in prostitution (Section 2423A) and one count of interstate travel in aid of racketeering (Section 1952). In 1994, the Defendant convinced his 15-year-old girlfriend to prostitute herself in order to earn money for her family. After crossing into another state, he took the adolescent's money and belongings, beat her, raped her and threatened her with a gun before she escaped back to Montana.⁵
- *U.S. v. Pipkins* - On February 6, 2002, in Atlanta, Charles Pipkins and Andrew Moore are believed to be the first pimps of prostituted children found guilty under the RICO Act. Shortly after this landmark verdict, 12 other people already indicted under similar charges were found guilty and sentenced in Atlanta. Pipkins and Moore received sentences of between 30 and 40 years.⁶
- *U.S. v Curtis* – 2004 case. United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein announced that Carlos J. Curtis, 27, of Brooklyn, New York, was found guilty today in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia of six charges, including Sex Trafficking of Children (the first such conviction obtained after trial under this new statute), Transportation of Minors for Prostitution, Transportation of a Person for Prostitution, and Possession of Child Pornography. Curtis faces up to life imprisonment when sentenced before the Honorable Gladys Kessler. A sentencing date has not yet been set by the court. According to the government's evidence, on Tuesday, November 5, 2002, Curtis and an accomplice enticed a 12-year-old runaway child to become a prostitute by offering her food, clothing, and shelter. On November 7, 2002, Curtis and his accomplices transported the 12-year-old and a 26-year-old woman from Queens, New York, and a 17-year-old runaway child from Maryland to the District of Columbia so that the children and woman would engage in prostitution.⁷
- *U.S. v Gates & Heyward* – 2004 case. United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein announced that Gary Gates, also known as "Sweat," 42, was sentenced today by the Honorable Ellen S. Huvelle in United States District Court for the District of Columbia to 178 months of incarceration, five years of supervised release, and a \$1,000 fine, for the four counts of sex trafficking of children and one count of first degree child sexual abuse to which he pled guilty on June 23, 2004. On April 23, 2004, Gates and female accomplice, Tamisha Heyward, also known as Quilena Taylor, 27, were indicted for running an illegal sex trafficking operation which involved the prostitution of more than thirty women, including girls as young as 14 years old. Gates and Heyward, both formerly of 16th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., were charged with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of children and sex trafficking by force, transportation of minors for prostitution, and coercion and enticement of children to engage in prostitution, among other offenses. On May 13, 2004, Tamisha Heyward pleaded guilty to child sex trafficking and possessing a gun. Today, Heyward was sentenced to 108 months of incarceration, to be followed by five years of supervised release, and ordered to pay a fine of \$5,000.⁸

⁴ Found at: <http://www.stopcsec.us/placeframes.php?url=/aboutcsec/fedlaws.html>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ U.S. Attorney's Press Release of the verdict on 7/2/2004

⁸ U.S. Attorney's Press Release of the verdict on 9/8/2004

WASHINGTON, DC SPECIFIC INFORMATION

What do we know about The Players Ball in Washington, DC?

- The Washington, DC version of The Players Ball has generally been known as one of the larger and more respected Players Ball in the country.
- It is confirmed to have occurred in Washington, DC in past years, definitely during the month of August in both 2003 and 2004, and allegedly as a 2-day event.
 - *It is anticipated to occur sometime during the month of August 2005.*
- Radio stations 93.9 and 95.5 are known to have advertised The Players Ball in past years.
 - *In 2005, these two radio stations will again be anticipated to conduct heavy event promotion.*
- Nightclubs such as H2O, Dream, and Home have been known to host The Players Ball in Washington, DC.
 - *In 2005, these nightclubs are leading suspects to host The Players Ball again this year, including both the Awards ceremony and the after-parties.*
- Young Lawyers Corporate Productions (YLCP) at <http://www.ylcp.com/> has information and pictures about the 2003 Washington, DC Players Ball on its Web site. It is listed as “Ju Ju’s Weekend 2003 Players Ball in Washington, DC.” <http://www.ylcp.com/juju/live/index.htm>

SELECTED PHOTOS

The following photos were obtained from public online sources and are intended to depict various aspect of The Players Ball.⁹



⁹ Found at: <http://www.westcoastplayers.com/>

PAST PROTESTS OF THE PLAYER'S BALL

What other efforts to protest The Player's Ball have occurred in the past?

Atlanta 2003 – Two separate protests

- In 2003, the City of Atlanta organized two coordinated protests against The Player's Ball and similar other events/parties
- Individuals and organizations that were members of the protesting coalitions include:
 - Atlanta City Councilman Derrick Boazman – leading voice and protest organizer
 - Dexter Chambers, City Council Communications Director
 - United Youth Adult Conference
 - Dekalb County Task Force on Runaway, Homeless, and Sexually Exploited Youth
 - Southern Christian Leadership Conference
 - Concerned Black Clergy
 - National Defense for Black Justice
 - Coalition to End Child Prostitution
 - Hosea Williams Feed the Hungry and Homeless Program
 - DeKalb NAACP
 - Nation of Islam
 - Residents and concerned citizens

Protest #1 – February 8, 2003

- The coalition held a press conference on Friday, 2/7/2003 to announce their protest the day before the event; the event also received a week's worth of negative press.
- The Player's Ball was held at Club Mirage in Decatur that year on Saturday 2/8/2003
- The protest involved singing spirituals and other hymns such as "We Shall Overcome"
- Protestors carried signs that read "Shame" and "Pimpin Ain't Popular"
- Protestors totaled about 50 and dispersed by midnight; Dekalb County police were present.
- Those defending the club that held The Player's Ball made the argument that it was merely a "fashion show" and the people in there are only "dressing like pimps" but are not real pimps

Protest #2 – October 24, 2003

- This event was held at the Velvet Room
- Those defending the event again described it as "merely a fashion show" or a masquerade where people dress up as pimps and prostitutes
- The event was originally named the "Pimps and Hookers Ball" but was recast as the "7th Annual Players Ball" due to pressure from protestors.
 - The statement from the Velvet Room's Web site explaining the change is below:
 - "From this point forward 'The Pimps and Hookers Ball' will be renamed 'The 7th Annual **Players Ball**' hosted by Playboy Playmate Jill Scott. By no means did Tucker K Entertainment, Nick & Mark Productions or the Velvet Room intend to offend anyone or cause any ill will and hurt feelings. **This is strictly a dress-up costume party that is wild and crazy.** We would like to make it clear that we are not in any way glorifying any aspects of pimps and hookers and by no means does the Velvet Room, Tucker K Entertainment, or Nick & Mark Productions support pimps and prostitution. For these reasons, from this point forth this Friday's event on October 24th will be called 'The 7th Annual **Players Ball**' hosted [by] Playboy Playmate Jill Scott."

Appendix A: Atlanta 2003 Player's Ball Protest – Press Release

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council Communications

City Hall

55 Trinity Ave. SW

Atlanta, Ga 30303

Contact: Dexter Chambers, City Council Communications Director: 404-330-6309/392-0159

Thermice Jordan, City Council Communications Specialist: 404-330-6823

Ann Briggs, City Council Communications Specialist: 404-330-6775

Date: February 7, 2003

Atlanta City Councilman Derrick Boazman and community coalition leaders host press conference to announce plans for a large protest against “The World’s Famous Players’ Ball” during the NBA All-Star weekend

ATLANTA – Members of a local coalition will hold a **press conference at 10:30 a.m. Friday, February 7, 2003** to announce plans for a large-scale protest outside of Club Mirage, site of what is referred to as “**The World’s Famous Players’ Ball.**”

The press conference will be held at First Iconium Baptist Church, 542 Moreland Avenue, SE at 10:30 a.m.

The World’s Famous Players’ Ball is scheduled for Saturday, February 8.

Members of this coalition includes the United Youth Adult Conference, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Concerned Black Clergy, the National Defense for Black Justice, Coalition to End Child Prostitution, Atlanta City Councilmember Derrick Boazman; Hosea Williams Feed the Hungry and Homeless Program; DeKalb NAACP; the Nation of Islam and host of residents and concerned citizens. Today (Thursday), the SCLC joined the growing list of organizations in opposition to Saturday’s event at Club Mirage on Glenwood Road in DeKalb County.

“We feel that there is nothing socially or culturally redeeming about the promotion of individuals whose principle job is the exploitation of women and children,” Boazman said. “We believe that is the objective of this ball.”

Atlanta has been ground zero for pimps who have exploited young girls; the vast majority are underage and pre-adolescents. Most recently Federal racketeering charges have been used in an effort to try to stop the destruction of the precious lives of some of our most vulnerable young girls. As a result, several well-known pimps were arrested and convicted for exploiting Atlanta’s children.

For more information call 404-330-6053.

Appendix B: News Article about the Atlanta Player's Ball and Prosecuting Pimps

The Strange Twilight World Where Girls Are Bought And Sold

By Jane O. Hansen

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Staff Writer

Out front, the guests are arriving Oscars-style. The new arrivals walk the red carpet, dressed to the nines: fur coats and feather boas, rings with rocks the size of walnuts, bands of gold glittering from their wrists and necks.

And those are just the guys. The women wear bright, skimpy dresses stretched tight around well-toned bodies. As limousines deposit cargos of pretty people, one guest alights from a horse-drawn carriage that would make the Fairy Godmother proud.

But Cinderella won't be coming to this ball.

This is the "Players Ball," a happening for America's pimps, who gather several times a year in cities across the country to primp, preen and be seen and to reward each other with trophies for "Pimp of the Year."

The scene is from a videotape federal prosecutors hope to use later this year in a case against 13 Atlanta men and a woman charged with prostituting children. Prosecutors will try to convince a jury the defendants who attend players balls not only travel together but also sell and trade children among themselves as well as share drugs, condoms, false identification cards, a vocabulary and a code of conduct.

"This is like another world," said **FBI Special Agent Rick Barry**. "It's like a subculture on Stewart Avenue and Peachtree Street."

The U.S. attorney's investigation into child prostitution in Atlanta has uncovered a world seldom seen by the public. It is a world where "players" and "pimps" take pride in "the game" of selling women - and some say children as young as 10 - for sex. Interviews with law enforcement officials and juvenile prostitutes paint a picture of an underground economy that thrives on a pimp's ability to master his "girls," often through violence.

"It's a form of brainwashing," said **Herman Glass, an Atlanta police vice detective**. "There's a control over the girl. What these pimps do is insinuate themselves into the girl's life. They find out about her, her family. Then they use that. If she doesn't do what they say, they'll beat her. Or they'll threaten to hurt her family."

In its case against the 14 defendants indicted in January, the government has brought racketeering charges in addition to child prostitution charges, hoping to win prison sentences of 20 years to life. To convict them of racketeering, **Assistant U.S. Attorney Janis Gordon** must prove the defendants have operated as an enterprise under a 1970 federal law designed to go after the mob - the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, known as RICO.

"This is our mob," she said in November. "Our organized crime isn't like New York's. This is organized crime at its worst."

Attorneys for the defendants say the government's case will not be easy to prove. While the evidence may show the defendants knew each other, it won't show they conspired, the attorneys say.

"It doesn't seem very organized to me," said **Michael Saul**, the court-appointed attorney for **Bryant Weaver Bell**. "I don't see my client's involvement in any organization."

But Gordon compares the alleged pimps' organization to that of drug dealers who carve up neighborhoods, compete with one another and enforce each other's rules. There are rules to this game, and the videos are used to teach them to young girls, according to the federal indictment.

Among them: A prostitute who belongs to one pimp may never look another in the eye. "When a pimp ride by, they supposed to be lookin' at the . . . curb," says a pimp in one video. "And when she look up, she can be broke for reckless eyeballing."

If she makes eye contact, she's considered "out of pocket" and must be disciplined by her pimp, according to Gordon.

If a prostitute "chooses" to work for another pimp, that pimp must "serve" the original pimp, usually with money. A "choosy Susie" is a fickle prostitute who jumps from one pimp to the next and is generally looked down upon by both pimps and prostitutes.

Pimps expect to be paid if one of their prostitutes "chooses" another pimp. "Just to kidnap some other's girl would cause problems," said Detective Glass. "Most of these transactions are financial."

To show ownership, some girls have been tattooed with their pimp's street name.

"I was shocked that **some of these girls have tattoos of their pimps**," FBI agent Barry said. "One girl had the names of two different pimps tattooed on her body. She was sold, and she was most likely a child."

Another Atlanta 18-year-old, who says she was sold for \$1,000 by one pimp to another when she was a minor, still has the **tattoo on her leg that identifies who "owned" her**. "He made me get his name on my leg and do things I never wanted to do," she says. "But I was too scared to go to the cops." She says she is still frightened because many of the defendants know her.

Like any organization, Gordon says, there's a structure to this one. There are "international pimps," those who frequently travel, and "guerrilla pimps," the more violent ones who are known to "trunk" girls, or lock them for hours in the trunk of a car.

"It was an organization within which there was competition," Gordon said. "They didn't put all their money into a big pot. But the fact that they traveled together, they made movies together to explain the rules to the girls, all that speaks to organization."

In addition **to testimony from up to 31 girls, key to the government's case are the videos - two commercial tapes and more than a dozen homemade ones that were seized after the defendants' arrests in January.**

The commercial tapes, billed as documentaries, show how pimps feel about themselves and offer a glimpse into what they call their "secret society." Not everyone can be a pimp. "Pimps are born, not made," several say on the tapes.

The videos glamorize pimps, portraying men whose stereotypical dress, cars and bravado create a near-caricature. At least two of the defendants boast openly about their trade in "Really, Really Pimpin' in da South," a video about Atlanta's pimps that was produced locally.

"Back then, you didn't just become a pimp," says **Charles Pipkins, known on the streets as "Sir Charles."** "You had to earn your stripes. You had to have some game about yourself before you could ever call yourself a pimp."

Pipkins sits before the camera, his black hat tilted sideways, as he talks about getting his start in Atlanta in 1975 and finding the "track" - the area where prostitution thrives. Back then it was Auburn Avenue. Today, it's Metropolitan Parkway, formerly known as Stewart Avenue.

In several clips, Pipkins is pictured at Hartsfield International Airport with two other defendants - **Herman Gordon Hutson Jr. and Terrence Anderson**. In the indictment, **a federal grand jury charges the three went as a group to the Players Ball in Detroit.**

The videos also show how pimps view prostitutes. The women are referred to in only the demeaning terms of "hos" and "bitches," a "pet name," according to one self-proclaimed pimp. **Anderson, known as "Scooby,"** brags he had so many prostitutes he needed a bigger van.

Many prostitutes address their pimp as "Daddy." In a chilling segment, a man's voice, in the cadence of a circus barker, administers an oath to "you professional ladies of leisure." Those taking the oath sound like little girls.

"Will you sacrifice your all in all for me?" the deep voice booms.

"Yes, Daddy," the childlike voices answer.

"Will you crack a trick in his head, beat [him] until he's dead for me?"

"Yes, Daddy."

The defense attorneys point out that these videos, portrayed by the government as training films, are commercially produced and available to the public.

"What's going to be important in court is separating myth from fact," said **W. Sander "Sandy" Callahan, the court-appointed attorney for Hutson, known as "Redd."** "All you have to do today is turn on MTV, turn on any radio station that plays music, and half the songs you hear are about being a pimp. It's just a part of the culture."

But the government contends this is an organization with a hierarchy. Key to the organization, the indictment says, is the most prized prostitute: the "bottom female."

"My relationship with Sir Charles, right now, I'm his bottom female," Kathy "Kat" Sherman says in the video. "That's the female that handles most of his business, that's been with him and is dedicated to him. . . . Never left, through jail, hell and high water."

Throughout the videos, the men speak of the need to control the minds of prostitutes, even longing for the good old days when it was easier to get away with **"hanger whupping" and "stick whupping"** prostitutes to keep them in line.

"There are laws on domestic abuse," says a man in "Pimps Up, Ho's Down," a video featured on HBO and mentioned in the indictment. "You've got to be able to control a woman's mind without necessarily applying physical abuse. You've got to be a virtual psychologist. You've got to be a manipulator, you've got to be a dream seller."

In the videos, Sherman and others describe the type of recruits they're seeking. "Most of them have been abused sexually by their parents," she says. "Been raped so many times that they feel they might as well get money for it. Well, it's my job to teach them that it's better to get paid for it than to do it free."

Sherman, who is not accused in the indictment, says she makes no pretense about what the life involves.

"Working the track is extremely dangerous," she says. "It's high risk as far as diseases, as far as abuse, as far as police, definitely police."

The indictment alleges a number of violent acts by the defendants. Herman Hutson is charged with disciplining juvenile prostitutes by **hitting them with a metal bat and burning them with a hot clothes hanger.**

As part of the alleged conspiracy, one defendant provided drugs to juvenile prostitutes who worked for other pimps as well as for him, according to the indictment. Some defendants are accused of providing false identification cards to juveniles and providing condoms to other pimps.

Scenes from the Players Ball also hint at what the government contends is a close-knit association among pimps. In one video, Bishop Don "Magic" Juan, a nationally known ex-pimp turned preacher, advocates a national pimps seminar, "so we can get players to come down there and bring their problems: how to catch a hooker, what you do to be a boss player, what do I say to my wife when I've decided to be a true player and walk out on the family?"

"The Bishop" is today credited as the founder of the Players Ball, and he continues to host them around the country, **most recently in February in St. Louis.** In a phone interview, he boasts, "I'm the best you know, baby. I'm chairman of 3 million players worldwide."

In the video, Juan is seen chairing the "Players Ball Awards Committee" as members discuss the necessary qualifications for Pimp of the Year. The criteria: "Your jewelry, your clothes, your cars, your women, your bankroll, the joint where you live," he says.

When one pimp wins the coveted trophy, two women carry the 4-foot-tall, three-tiered award. As he struts in front of them in his royal blue suit, diamond-studded earrings and 4-inch-high gold rings, his girls walk behind him, lugging the heavy trophy, their heads bowed.

That kind of servitude is at the heart of the relationship between prostitutes and pimps, Detective Glass says.

"Let me tell you what pimping is," he says. "Pimping is slavery."

TALKING THE TALK

Pimps who prostitute children and adults share a common vocabulary, according to law enforcement officials. Here are some of the terms:

Players and macks: Pimps.

Players Ball: An annual ball for pimps where trophies are awarded for "Pimp of the Year." The next big Players Ball is scheduled for Dec. 1 in Chicago. There are also Players Rendezvous, Players Picnics and Players Cruises.

Choosing: When a prostitute elects to work for another pimp.

Breaking bread: When "choosing" a new pimp, a prostitute must prove herself by earning him money before he accepts her.

Serve: A pimp who's "chosen" by a prostitute must serve notice to her prior pimp, generally in the form of a cash payment or something else of monetary value.

Choosy Susie: A fickle prostitute who jumps from one pimp to the next.

Daddy: How many prostitutes address their pimp.

The game: Making money through prostitution.

Pimpology: The art of pimping.

Bottom female: A pimp's most trusted prostitute who helps collect money, recruits prostitutes and posts bond when they're arrested.

Track: Where prostitution thrives. In Atlanta, the "track" often refers to Metropolitan Parkway. Peachtree Street is called "the financial district."

Date: The "john" or prostitute's customer.

Out of pocket: Breaking the rules. A girl who looks at another pimp is "out of pocket" and must be disciplined.

Cuffing: When a prostitute keeps the money she earned, rather than turning it all over to her pimp.

Safety zone: Strip clubs where pimps are less likely to be bothered by vice cops.

Breakers: People who break down a girl's will through gang rape and other demeaning sexual acts.

International pimps: Pimps who travel.

Popcorn pimps: Wannabe pimps who talk the game but may have only one prostitute.

Guerrilla pimps: Pimps who use violence.

Trunking: Disciplining a girl by putting her in the trunk of a car and driving around.

Appendix C: A Players Ball Receives Mayoral Endorsement

The Players Ball, held in Tuskegee, AL is advertised as being wrapped into a larger event called Spring Fest. Using this guise, Spring Fest received support from the Mayor, as evidenced in the below images.

alabama spring fest association, LLC.
Presents 11th annual
Spring Fest
aka Player Ball & Greek Picnic In Tuskegee/Montgomery April 7-10
Exit 32 Off Interstate 65

The New Greek Stroll/Party Hop Show
Competition with cash prizes

Official Party Spots Player Parlors

Soul Inn
Spring Fest Kick'Off
(college nite) **April 7th**
Ballaz Ball **April 8th**
Spring Fest After Party
April 9th

Candy Shoppe aka TBA...
Ex-Mayors Mansion
Players Ball **April 8th**
Greek Picnic
After Party **April 9th**

National Guard Armory
THE OFFICIAL
Spring Fest
After Party
April 8th & 9th

First Friday/
Ole School
Friday **April 8th**
THE PICNIC
April 9th
& After party

In Concert
The Kings of the Underground
Check Out Potential, Acts, Singers, Rappers, Models Get Discovered
For More info on Underground Promo Show & Chance to Perform call 334-725-1176 or email us at harmaspringfest@yahoo.com
All Organizations Please Reserve Your Picnic Spots Early

Stay tune for more Parlors...

Graphics Designed & Printed by Mype Graph/ACE WORLD PROMOTIONS 662.215.1496 or 334.725.1176

CITY OF TUSKEGEE

MAE DORIS WILLIAMS
COUNCIL AT LARGE

COUNCIL MEMBERS
LUTALO K. ARYEE
DISTRICT 1
WILLIE LOUISE FIELDS
DISTRICT 2
GEORGETTE WHITE MOON
DISTRICT 3



JOHNNY FORD

MAYOR

P.O. BOX 830687
101 FONVILLE STREET
TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA 36083

PHONE: (334) 727-0065 • FAX: (334) 727-4820

February 23, 2005

Mr. Francois Faulkner
Coordinator
Alabama Spring Fest Association
P.O. Box 830477
Tuskegee, AL 36083

Dear Mr. Faulkner:

I am delighted, on behalf of the City of Tuskegee, to welcome and support the Alabama Spring Fest 2005, which will be held April 7-10, 2005. I am also delighted to encourage the vendors and business community to support this effort which will attract thousands of college students from around the country.

We will extend an invitation to all the citizens of Tuskegee, as well as the students, to join with us in making this an exceptional event.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

JOHNNY FORD
Mayor

Appendix D: Article about Ju Ju, the past host of the Washington, DC Players Ball, his relationship with Don Juan, and his attendance at the 2003 Atlanta Players Ball

They still got game – Creative Loafing Atlanta

CL hangs out with the hard-pimpin' hosts of the notorious Players Ball

BY [SCOTT HENRY](#) , 2/12/2003

Archbishop Don "Magic" Juan rolls another fattie as he muses about the sad state of his former occupation: "Most of the guys who say they're pimps, they're living in their mother's basement."

The Bishop, as his fellow players and fans call him, has shed the white, floor-length mink coat and green, rhinestone-encrusted, Elton John-style sunglasses he'd worn an hour earlier during his appearance at the World's Famous Players Ball. Back in his hotel suite, he turns his attention to the mound of hi-test ganja in front of him, seemingly oblivious to the raucous game of craps going on at the far end of the long table at which he's seated.

Half a dozen women occupy two nearby couches, most watching a videotape of a previous Players Ball, while some of the Bishop's traveling companions mill about, sipping Hennessy out of gold-plated mugs and striking the occasional pose. **Slumped in a chair still wearing his mink coat and matching fur-covered fedora is a large man with "JuJu" monogrammed onto his lapel; a large, gold goblet on the floor between his feet bears the word "pimp." Asked if he is, indeed, a pimp, JuJu pauses a moment and drowsily answers, "I call myself a businessman," before nodding off.**

Kilo for kilo, there seems to be less debauchery going on at this gaudy gathering of pimps than at the average frat party.

It's 3 a.m. on what seems a typical night on the road for the Bishop and his crew of players, hustlers and hangers-on. A short while earlier, they had wrapped up a group gig at **Club Mirage in Decatur, where several hundred people braved the cold weather, All-Star traffic jams and the censure of local church leaders to stand in line and pay up to \$200 for VIP tickets to party with the big-name pimps.**

The Saturday-night event had gone off with only a single arrest despite **weathering a week's worth of bad press** and attracting a **few dozen sidewalk protesters** and the **close scrutiny of DeKalb police**. As is usually the case in such circumstances, the **notoriety seemed only to boost ticket sales.**

As its critics charged, the Players Ball was technically guilty of glorifying guys who make illicit livings sexually exploiting women. Yet, as these grown men with such names as Good Game, Dr. Magic, Robert Money and Minister Seamore strutted around in outlandish, candy-hued suits, dropping pimp-speak aphorisms like, "If it don't make dollars, it don't make sense," it was difficult to imagine how the arrival of these wise-cracking cartoon characters in their white, triple-stretch Ford Excursion could possibly have caused the fuss that it did. Unless, that is, one was mindful of the fact that the Bishop's authorized biography boasts that he often used violence to keep his women in line during his 13 years in the business. Instead, the Players Ball had the air of a nostalgic celebration of the fashions and attitude of a bygone lifestyle that had long been stripped of its real-life menace by Hollywood and Madison Avenue.

According to Minister Seamore, whose white mink coat is set off by bright purple fur epaulettes, street pimpin' in the classic sense has been killed off by crack and the Internet. "You can't put girls on the corner now," he explains. "They either get hooked on drugs, or they get online and go into business for themselves."

Arguably the county's best-known pimp since Iceberg Slim, Bishop Don Juan has been formally retired from "the Game" since 1985, when he claims to have turned to the Lord and begun "pimpin' for Jesus." But the Bishop's particular brand of spirituality isn't apparent to the untrained eye, unless it's an unorthodox

strain of bling-bling Rastafarianism. His crew's only outward display of religiosity comes in their constant use of the word "church," exclaimed apparently as an all-purpose greeting and commentary, much as "dude" is used in slacker circles.

The Bishop's explanation doesn't clear up the confusion: "It's like saying, 'God bless you,' but you can't get players and hip-hop artists to say, 'Bless you,' so we say 'church.'"

Back at the hotel suite, his colleagues are happy to answer questions about their lifestyle. "There are only a few pimps in the room," Robert Money confides. "The rest of us are players." And what, exactly, is the distinction? "To be a player, you gotta be in the game." Um, thanks.

In his blue satin suit, matching hat and mustache, the light-skinned Money resembles Ron O'Neal from the title role of *Superfly*. He explains that a custom-made drinking vessel is an essential part of a player's wardrobe. "This one cost \$1,000," he says, hefting a gaudy, 24-carat gold-plated tankard with letters somewhat superfluously spelling out "Money."

Swaying slightly, Good Game, draped in what he terms "butterscotch mink," is feeling sentimental: "I want you to let people know that, eight years ago, the Bishop saved my life." By getting you out of pimping? "No, by getting me *into* pimping," he says. "I was in the business of selling drugs and beating people up." And they say the Lord moves in mysterious ways.

Rising from his seat, where he's been smoking his blunt by sticking it into his nostril, the Bishop goes to the boom box and repeatedly plays part of an R. Kelly remix song that mentions him by name. **He explains that his friend, rapper Snoop Dogg, who was to have co-hosted the Players Ball in Decatur, had been unable to join the group because he'd gotten stuck in downtown traffic.**

But Snoop will have other chances. This week, the gang will reconvene in the Bishop's old stomping grounds of Chicago to headline another Players Ball. Next month, promoters in L.A. will pay to bring the Bishop and his fellow ex-macks to that city for another such gathering of old-school pimping talent. After that, Money says, it's off to Miami.

To hear him describe the circuit, you might be inclined to think Players Balls had become the new Trekkie conventions. Until you remember that he's a hustler, Money almost has you believing that pimps fulfill an important human void in these uncertain times.

"Everyone wants to be a player," he explains, fanning a handful of twenties and waiting his turn for the dice. "We help uplift depressed people. I mean, who's better at having fun than us?"

scott.henry@creativeloafing.com