

## PROSTITUTION

Those who object to prostitution do so on either moral or social grounds. The former grounds are two: prostitutes sell love, and they undermine matrimony. The first argument is invalid, because mercenary sex is, by definition, loveless--and so is, regrettably, much free sex as well. The second argument is valid, but the only way to inure marriage from the temptations of prostitution is to keep good sex in it and to dissolve it as soon as love ceases.

The social reasons against prostitution are two: prostitutes propagate venereal diseases, and they can be exploited by pimps. The first argument is not quite sound, because any promiscuous person is likely to catch and transmit a venereal disease. The second argument does not hold water either because

there are pimps only where prostitutes need protection, particularly from the forces of law and order. Where prostitution is not criminalized, and prostitutes are allowed, nay encouraged, to unionize, there need not be pimps. (Besides, pimps are no worse than the owners of swet shops.)

In conclusion, there are no valid moral or social arguments against prostitution. Moreover, prostitutes sell a service which, in ~~sexually~~ repressive societies, is highly appreciated by married people, who might otherwise be exposed to sexual assaults in the street. Prostitution is certainly ugly but, far from being a cause of moral corruption, is an indicator of it. Moral corruption is not corrected by eliminating<sup>n</sup> its symptoms but by attacking its causes.