

## **THE GOBIE STORY; Frank's 'call boy' tells all**

**George Archibald, and Paul M. Rodriguez The Washington Times; Part A; Pg. A1 September 1, 1989, Friday, Final Edition**

Stephen L. Gobie wanted a sugar daddy, but Barney Frank turned out to be "Sweet'n Low" instead - "a sweet guy, low on cash."

That's what he called his congressional sex partner, Gobie said in exclusive interviews with The Washington Times.

"In this business, the term 'sugar daddy' is popular for a person that supports you and sponsors you financially as well as otherwise," the prostitute said. "In this case, I had a nickname for Barney - it was 'Sweet'n Low' - sweet guy, low on cash, that's what the moniker stood for . . . And I told him that . . . And he said, 'Hey, I'm only a congressman, I don't make a million dollars a year.' "

**Gobie called "preposterous" the Massachusetts Democrat's claim that he was the male hustler's Henry Higgins, intent on helping him straighten out his life while paying him about \$20,000 a year to be Mr. Frank's housekeeper and driver.**

"The true story is there were no such compensations anywhere near that level of money . . . I would say the total dollar value that came to me from the beginning of the relationship [was] maybe less than \$2,500," Gobie said.

**Gobie insisted again as he has in previous interviews that he used the congressman's apartment as a base for a prostitution service - with Mr. Frank's knowledge.**

**One of his clients was Washington power broker and former Japanese lobbyist Craig J. Spence,** who has been linked to the homosexual prostitution ring being investigated by federal authorities.

Gobie also said he would willingly appear before the House ethics committee which is expected to investigate Mr. Frank's relationship with the prostitute, "if my lawyer told me that it was in my best interest."

Mr. Frank has acknowledged purchasing sexual services from Gobie after contacting him through an advertisement in The Washington Blade, a newspaper catering to the homosexual community.

The congressman also has admitted knowing of Gobie's continued work as a prostitute while on Mr. Frank's personal payroll from mid-1985 to early 1987 and while Gobie continued to have unlimited access to his house in the 200 block of Eighth Street SE.

But Mr. Frank has denied knowledge of Gobie's operating a prostitution service from his house and has requested the ethics probe in part out of fear that Gobie will embellish his story to improve the chances of selling it as a book.

The differing accounts in this unfolding story of a troubled 18-month liaison between one of the House's leading liberals and the man Mr. Frank says pushed him into publicly acknowledging his homosexuality seem to capture the inherent contradictions in both of their lives.

Mr. Frank, a portly middle-aged Boston career politician when he met Gobie, led the fight in the state legislature in the 1970s for urban "combat zones" for prostitutes. **Calling the world's oldest profession "a victimless crime," Mr. Frank now says he was victimized by Gobie.**

The prostitute, in turn, a 28-year-old hooker when Mr. Frank answered his ad for "hot bottom and large endowment," rejects being labeled homosexual or bisexual. Instead, he said he's a heterosexual who isn't good at deviant sex.

"My proclivities, my heterosexuality, precluded me from being a successful escort for men because sex was almost non-existent, and the strength of my relationships with men was strictly on my character, personality and my sense of humor," Gobie said.

"But being able to to have people call you and respond [to ads], and continue to be successful and have repeats - people calling you again - is difficult. And then I realized that I was not going to make it as an escort, either for women or for men . . . So I thought if I was going to make it at all, I would make it actually running escort services as a madam because I have a good sense for business."

Coloring Gobie's accusations, however, are a series of criminal convictions dating to 1975. He was convicted at 17 for the felony sale and possession of cocaine in Fairfax County.

Gobie was convicted on four felony counts in 1982: possession of obscene material, productions of obscene items involving a juvenile (taking photos of a 15-year-old girl with whom he was having sex), oral sodomy and possession of cocaine.

Gobie, whose professional name in the underground prostitute trade is "Greg Davis," grew up the son of a Marine Corps master sergeant who was a budget analyst at the Pentagon.

"He was a very strict conservative person from the military, . . . your traditional gung-ho Marine . . . He wanted to lock me in my room for the rest of my life until I agreed to get a haircut," Gobie said.

It was an unhappy boyhood marked by rebellion all the way, Gobie said. He defied all his parents' moral values and teachings.

"At six, I performed oral sex on my first female. She reciprocated. She was five," Gobie said. "I was having orgasms from age nine on . . . My father came to me at the age of 14, I believe, the first time in the basement of my house to discuss sex with me, and I cut him off right away and I said, 'Dad, I probably know more than you do at this point.' "

By age 14, Gobie had been labeled "incorrigible" by Fairfax County juvenile authorities for skipping 9th grade classes at West Springfield High School and refusing to return home on Friday afternoons.

"Me and my friends at 15 were watching X-rated movies on the family projector down in the basement when my family was watching TV upstairs," he said. "A friend of mine worked at a medical building as a janitor at night and he got them out of the psychiatrist's office who used them for sexual marriage counseling."

A year away from home during his sophomore year at a southwest Virginia boarding school failed to mend Gobie's ways, despite his claims of a promising record.

"I was a standout basketball player [at the private school]. I played for the school team. And I also brought my grades back up to an acceptable level," he said. "I wasn't real concerned with making straight As. That wasn't a goal of mine. If it had been, I would have."

Instead, Gobie turned to marijuana and other drugs after his return to Fairfax County and expulsion from West Springfield High for truancy during his senior year in 1974. He never received his diploma, although he subsequently passed the General Educational Development test, the equivalent of high school completion.

"I didn't start using drugs until after the trouble started in Springfield, smoking marijuana and experimenting with every drug you could think of - everything," Gobie said.

The serious run-ins with the law then began, court records show. In 1975, Gobie was convicted of a misdemeanor marijuana possession charge in the District. Later that year, he received a five-year suspended sentence in Fairfax County for distribution of cocaine and served three years probation.

In 1977-78, Gobie said he attended Chowan College in Murfreesboro, N.C., a fundamentalist Southern Baptist school and one of few colleges that would accept him "to get a school record that would enable me to transfer" to the University of South Carolina, where he hoped to join a girlfriend.

But it didn't work out. At Chowan, "I raised the roof off the place," he said. "I threw extensive parties and I was responsible at that time for the entertainment at parties, whether it be females or whether it be party favors - drugs and things like that."

Gobie said his parents were divorced in 1979 and left the area. The prostitute said he hasn't seen his family, including two younger brothers and an older sister, since. By then, at age 21, he had decided to reject the family name and start a new life as a male escort.

"I met a woman one day in Hecht's clothing store," he said. "I was trying on a suit and she asked me if I had ever done any modeling work. She was just a customer, a very elegant looking woman, a very attractive older woman. And she approached me and asked me if I wanted to have lunch with her. She picked me up."

Gobie says of the 47-year-old woman, whom he refuses to name: "I owe everything to her. I'll never do anything to hurt her in any way."

"Our first discussion centered around modeling and advertising, things like that," he said. Then I went to her apartment . . . She took me under her wing . . . I worked for her. She was a madam. She operated an underground escort operation of mostly females, but she had a few select males also. She had extensive women clientele that she had a hard time finding suitable escorts for. It was very hard to find gentle young men.

"It's easier to find women than men [escorts], apparently - men who have the inclination and the capabilities, who have what it takes to be successful with women as an escort."

Women clients - middle-aged and older women, both married and widows - place more emphasis on obtaining male escorts who are charming, entertaining, good conversationalists and socially attentive, Gobie said, while male homosexual clients are more interested in obtaining "animalistic" sex.

"Male clients are more sexually oriented. They very seldom care about character, personality, sense of humor, things like that," he said.

Since becoming an escort, Gobie said he has personally serviced "more than 500" women clients and "hundreds" of male clients, but would not be more specific.

"There was never an occasion, even before the AIDS crisis, I was [ever] involved in any unsafe sex practices," the prostitute said. "I always took precautions . . . using condoms."

Asked if clients always want him to use condoms, Gobie responded, "No. Sometimes clients are willing to pay thousands of dollars for you not to use condoms. In that case, alarm bells would go off in my head, and those are the people that I wouldn't think of having sex without a condom no matter what the dollar figure was.

"Those are people that are potentially dangerous to you," he said. "Their motivations might be sinister, in that they might have contracted a disease from some escort in the past and now, through some sort of revenge motive, try . . . to infect other people in that business as a way of getting back."

However, in dozens of interviews over the last two months, Gobie has given details of sexual acts including an explicit tape-recorded description of his first sexual encounter with Mr. Frank in April 1985, and it was clear that neither Gobie nor his sex partners were wearing condoms.

This week, Gobie said he had recently been tested for AIDS and the results were negative.

Gobie entered the male escort world through a prominent free-lance photographer for leading Washington-area homosexual publications whom he was introduced to by his female madam friend. The photographer "eventually got me involved in the modeling and escort work through the male scene" - including work for some of Washington's homosexual businesses and nightclubs, Gobie said.

"I did advertisements, endorsements for the [homosexual] bars in town and things like that . . . I was the first 'Mr. Rascals,' " he said, referring to the prominent Dupont Circle homosexual bar Rascals.

Gobie said he also worked at some of the area's posh hotels as a concierge and front office manager as a legitimate "front" for his escort activities from 1978 to 1984. "Hotels are very valuable places to make contacts," he said.

Gobie said he worked at such hotels as The River Inn in Georgetown, Guest Quarters in Foggy Bottom, the Bristol Hotel, Quality-Inn at Pentagon City and the Regency Raquet Club condominium complex in McLean.

But the roof on his legitimate fronts caved in when he was convicted on the four felony charges in Alexandria in 1982.

All but four months of his five-year prison sentence was suspended, and Gobie was placed on probation for three years, during which he was ordered to undergo psycho-sexual therapy at the Washington-based Human Sexuality Institute.

"I was forced into the underworld by my probation and by the nature of the charges and the fact that my probation officer was breathing down my neck to try to try to let everybody in the world know what was going on," Gobie said. "I felt as though I couldn't go through legitimate avenues for work anymore, and the logical thing for me to do was to establish my own escort service.

"I knew that there was a ton of money to be made," he said. "And I knew that I could get away with it if I could provide myself with some sort of official cover to deceive and mislead the probation department, which I did."

That "official cover" was employment by Mr. Frank, who allowed the prostitute to use his house and wrote to the Virginia probation department saying he had hired Gobie as a personal employee, Gobie claimed.

Mr. Frank acknowledged writing the letters but denied they were intended to mislead or deceive probation officials.