

Chico ex-porn producer to preach morals on "Nightline"

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Donny Pauling's Chico-based porn business netted him thousands of dollars per day until he changed his ways in September 2006.

Pauling, who "gave up porn for God," will be featured on an ABC "Nightline" debate that helps ponder the network's ongoing question, "Is America addicted to porn?"

Originally scheduled for this week, the episode is now slated to air at 11:30 p.m. Thursday.

Pauling will appear with Michigan pastor Craig Gross on the righteous side of the so-called "porn stars vs. porn pastors" debate. Veteran porn actor Ron Jeremy and 25-year-old adult film star Monique Alexander will speak on behalf of the porn world.

The debate, moderated by ABC News' Martin Bashir, took place at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., on Feb. 15. After the panel of four battled it out, Yale students posed questions to the group.

"I think we spanked them; I think we won," Pauling said via telephone from his Corning home. "Their arguments were freedom of expression, but just because we can do something doesn't mean we should.

"There are people's lives who are devastated by it. I know specific examples of Chico girls who lost jobs with Fortune 500 companies, girls having to get reparative surgeries, girls who curled up in the corner of a room sucking their thumbs because of what they were doing."

Pauling, a 34-year-old son of a Redding pastor, said he "recruited more than 500 Chico State girls and others" during his nine years in the business. "I ran a classified ad in the Chico E-R help wanted section for 'models needed' for years."

When women answered the ad, many were quickly turned off. But others signed on, agreeing to be pose for hard-core still and video shoots that were posted to Pauling's Web sites and contracted to other companies, including Playboy. One local model went on to appear in Hustler and become a Penthouse Pet of the Month, he said.

Pauling justified his occupation, telling himself these models were making adult decisions after signing five-page releases.

Then, the epiphany came to Pauling while returning home from a meeting that promised \$4,000 a day for projects featuring his models. Christianity was already increasingly on his mind after discovering XXXChurch.com, a Christian anti-pornography Web site.

"They are a group that goes into porn conventions and into the industry and reaches out to people involved," Pauling said. "Over the course of a few years I was won over."

Once he made up his mind, Pauling said it was easy to leave the money and extravagant lifestyle behind. He gave his porn business to his ex-fiance, "told her to take everything," and moved into a 250-square-foot apartment in Corning.

Now Pauling lives in a larger apartment and has started a new business managing and marketing auto dealer Web sites.

"I learned a little bit about marketing from my adult sites," he said. "We had 12 million visitors a month."

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