High Jinks

My Muff Has Tusks!

If you’ve heard that one before, you’ve been burned by Kathy McGinty.

By Mike Sula

Over a few weeks in the fall of 2001 a bunch of randy, lone-some lechers up late at night on a Yahoo masturbation chat room got lucky with a sex-crazed piece of jailbait calling herself Kathy McGinty. Her photograph showed a young blond with a smoldering gaze curled up barefoot on an unmade bed and wearing a school uniform that revealed the slightest peek of white panties. She had no trouble finding guys to chat with, and occasionally she’d invite them to call a phone number with a Chicago area code. “This is Kathy,” said the outgoing message on the voice mail. “Leave me a message. If you sound sexy enough I’ll call you back.”

Many lads called and spoke with Kathy who, when asked, matter-of-factly described herself as “five two, blond, nice tits, wet pussy.” She got right to business, asking “What do you look like?” and “What would you do to me if you were here?” Many obliged, awkwardly and enthusiasti-cally describing “very large hands” or offering promises of licks to the thigh and spankings. Kathy seemed easy to please, quickly responding with dirty talk, heavy breathing, and rapturous moans. But after the preliminary verbal crotch sniffing, something made the quivering excitement in the men’s voices give way to befuddlement. There were frequently long silences before Kathy’s replies, and there was lots of white noise in the background whenever she said anything. Sometimes she repeated herself using identical intonations and inflections. When callers asked why she sounded so funny, Kathy would apologize: “I’m sorry, I’m on the speakerphone so I can touch myself.” Many were unfazed by the occasional lapse or oddity, so absorbed in their own efforts they seemed hardly aware of her. Then Kathy would get angry. “You phone-fuck like a faggot,” she’d say. “I can’t feel your dick. It must be teeny.” Or she’d go crazy: “Check out my hairy balls!” “My muff has tusks!”

When Kathy climaxed she sounded like she was being murdered. Invariably, when she started talking backward or announcing “Satan controls my robotic vagina,” the encounter would end on a dial tone. Like most telephone pranks, Kathy McGinty was born out of boredom. Derek Erdman, a painter who runs Hyde Park Records, and Julia Rickert, a UIC lit student, were living together in Pilsen that fall. “It was getting cold out,” recalls Erdman. “I spent a lot of time on the Internet, and Julia spent a lot of time reading gigantic 18th-century books about parliament and romance.”

The pair took out their ennui on virtual onanists because they were “easy marks,” says Erdman. “If botanists were really eager to talk about something fascinating, we’d have done that as well.” At first they amused themselves by harassing chat room denizens online. When that lost its thrill they put out the phone number and began collecting voice-mail messages. Then Rickert wondered if there was a way to talk to the callers without sullying themselves with actual conversation, and

Our Town

Julia Rickert and Derek Erdman, aka Kathy McGinty

[snip]

Those who ignore the past are doomed to repeat it. “Feminists made it possible for women to be politically involved enough to fight against women’s political involvement,” writes Amanda Marcotte at pandagon.net. “Feminists made birth control available so that women who would otherwise be tending baby after baby can help overturn laws that ensure one’s right to birth control.” —Harold Henderson | hhenderson@chicagoreader.com

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## Mountain Bikes

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<th>Model</th>
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<tr>
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- Weighted Alpha aluminum frame
- Shimano Acera rear derailleur
- Bump-damping RST front suspension fork

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- Weighted Alpha aluminum frame
- Light alloy anodized
- Bump-damping RST front suspension fork

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- Weighted Alpha aluminum frame
- Light alloy anodized
- Bump-damping RST front suspension fork
- Front shock absorber

## Road Bikes

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<th>Model</th>
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<td>Trek 1200</td>
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- Stainless steel lightweight aluminum frame
- Rear-springing Bontanger carbon fork
- Relaxed Shimano Sora/105 shifting system

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<td>Trek 2100</td>
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- Stainless steel lightweight aluminum frame
- Rear-springing Bontanger carbon fork
- Shimano 105 shifting system

## Hybrid Bikes

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<tr>
<td>Trek 7300</td>
<td>$440</td>
<td>$329.99</td>
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- Weighted Alpha aluminum frame
- Upright riding position with comfort seat and seatpost
- Smooth-shifting Shimano 105 rear derailleur

## Hybrid Bike

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<td>Trek Madone S 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Light and fast OCLV carbon frame
- Bulleted-proof Shimano Ultegra shifting system
- Bontanger Race Lite wheelset

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Erdman produced an old Yamaha sampler. They created a list of stock phrases to move the conversation along—and a bunch that might stop it in its tracks. Rickert recorded these in tones variously disaffected, bitchy, childlike, or carnal.

Initially they cultivated their victims, chatting them up via instant messages before inviting them to call. Finally they used the chat room to post a general invitation to call. "And they called right away," says Erdman. "It was like they were rabid." Erdman frequently had trouble locating the most appropriate responses on the sampler, which explains the unnatural silences. As they recorded more calls they added more phrases and got better at keeping the conversations going. Many callers seemed to have experience describing their fantasies—they just didn't call the guy's 800 number for a few days, costing him several hundred dollars in phone charges. "He was furious," says Erdman. "So I guess we considere[d] it even Steven after that."

Last spring Erdman and Rickert tired of copying CD-Rs and released a Kathy McGinty "collector's edition" CD with six extra tracks, including some early voice-mail messages, some generally pornographic responses from inmates. Erdman has a habit of pulling people's chains and then publishing the results. In college in Ohio he responded to about 100 ads placed by imprisoned bikers in a motorcycle magazine. Claiming to be a lonely woman who'd lost her virginity to a biker at 13, he received about 130 generally pornographic responses from inmates. He printed the results in a zine he called The Dianne Files. "I got scared after a while," he says. "My friends started sending me fake letters from prisoners saying 'I know what you did. I'm gonna find you.'" A few weeks later he received a recording from the guy graphically describing a three-way he'd had with his wife and a friend (the recording's available on Erdman's Web site, derekerdman.com). Another time they began getting calls for Kathy from vocalists answering a newspaper ad she'd allegedly placed recruiting musicans for a September 11 theme band called "Osama Bin Rockin'". Certain people just don't think the prank's funny. Erdman and Rickert are often asked if they feel bad for duping the poor suckers. "I have a justification all worked out," says Rickert, who's now an editorial assistant at the Reader. "Perhaps it was good for them to learn a lesson that was only embarrassing, not detrimental financially. Maybe now they've learned that people on the Internet aren't necessarily what they appear to be. When some Nigerian coin artist is trying to get them to deposit a lot of money in a foreign bank account they might stop and think, 'Wait a minute— I got had by that sexy girl.'" "Yes, Julia was going out of her way to help," says Erdman, admitting his motivations aren't so selfless: "Deceiving can be a really good time."

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Police say a cop who was on patrol at the time heard, ‘Oh my God, why did you just do that?’ of luggage, answering the dispatcher’s specific questions.

‘I heard that and was like, ‘Oh my God, why did you just do that?’’ says a cop who was on patrol at the time and who wishes to remain anonymous. ‘My partner was like, ‘What’s the deal?’”

An officer at the scene radioed in a request for a supervisor with his specific questions.

With its funds, the police department has bought new weapons, replaced old equipment such as outdated gas masks, developed networks and databases to improve intelligence gathering and information sharing, and implemented “terrorism readiness” training for recruits at the police academy. It has also held various training exercises, such as a four-day drill at which a jet crash was simulated and participants learned about distributing material in the wake of a bioterrorism attack. But according to the combat veteran, police officers by and large have not been invited to counterterrorism drills. “They were for managers and information sharing, and implemented “terrorism readiness” training for recruits at the police academy. It has also held various training exercises, such as a four-day drill at which a jet crash was simulated and participants learned about distributing material in the wake of a bioterrorism attack. But according to the combat veteran, police officers by and large have not been invited to counterterrorism drills. “They were for managers and information sharing, and implemented “terrorism readiness” training for recruits at the police academy. It has also held various training exercises, such as a four-day drill at which a jet crash was simulated and participants learned about distributing material in the wake of a bioterrorism attack. But according to the combat veteran, police officers by and large have not been invited to counterterrorism drills. “They were for managers and inf”