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**JUSTICE:** Dominatrix helped high-powered customers handle stress

# S&M gratification goes 'beyond sex'

*Psychologists can't understand why people want to be tied up, court told*

BY JENNIFER BROWN  
 STAFF WRITER

In the world of sado-masochism, achieving sexual gratification is not always the desire of clients, who pay up to \$300 an hour to be tied up, whipped and humiliated, a Newmarket court heard yesterday.

In fact, two university professors testifying at the trial of Thornhill dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford say the biggest organ involved in S&M is the brain and one's own imagination.

Although orgasm can be a result of S&M activity, it is not always the primary reason people take part in bondage role playing, according to Dr. Roy Baumeister, a professor of social psychology with Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

"It's not just orgasm, but forgetting who you are for a brief period of time.

It's not just foreplay, it can have an effect like foreplay but it goes far beyond sex," said Baumeister, who suggested many high-powered professionals seek out the services of a dominatrix to help them handle stress.

The court heard that most clients of a house of domination are older, successful, white males, such as stockbrokers, doctors, politicians and judges.

"This is an escape, separate from their real life," he said.

But Baumeister added that when S&M occurs between couples in their private homes, intercourse usually takes place afterwards.

"It's a real puzzle," he said. "Psychologists can't understand why people want to be tied up and spanked."

York University professor Shannon Bell said she has never observed people engaged in sexual activity during her visits to several dominatrix dungeons in Toronto.

Bell and Baumeister were testifying on behalf of Bedford, 39, known by her clients as Madame de Sade. She is charged with keeping a common bawdy house for the purpose of prostitution.

It is up to Judge Roy Bogusky to decide whether the services Bedford was offering amounted to sex for money.

But sex doesn't enter into the equation, says Bell, an expert in the political philosophy of sex and S&M activity.

She has first-hand knowledge of the underground community of leather

and chains. Bell has served as a dominatrix and received the services of one, as well as cross-dressing as her alter ego, "Sam", on occasion.

Bell said sexual intercourse has always been frowned upon between a mistress and her submissives.

"A dominatrix is really insulted if people think they're having sex with their slaves. Any slave that comes in with the idea that they are going to have sex with their mistress will be turfed out," she told the court. "There is a real code of ethics in the SM community."

Bell suggested there is a small portion of sado-masochism in every relationship, including what might appear as very traditional ones.

"When I was younger, I was married and I believe most marriage has a side of sado-masochism."

Crown attorney Peter Westgate asked Bell why most clients are sexually aroused during sessions, and questioned why that isn't considered sexual gratification.

"People get erect when they're afraid. It is even common for men to ejaculate in their sleep," she answered, explaining that any sign of being aroused could be a physiological response to the pain being inflicted by the dominatrix.

When asked if she had any scientific proof of her statement, Bell simply answered "I've been around."

She then cited two philosophical essays, as well as her own personal observations.

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People can order a prime rib dinner, steaks, fish, chicken parmesan and liver and onions among other items.

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Staff at the restaurant are friendly and go to great lengths to make sure all their customers' needs are taken care of. Fickle Pickle is located at 6302 Main St., which is across the street from the clock tower in the heart of Stouffville.

They are open Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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