

COURT: Videotape central to case against dominatrix, who insists sex not on the menu at her Madame de Sade's House of Erotica

Dominatrix fears conviction, pledges appeal

BY JENNIFER BROWN
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Thornhill dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford predicted her own defeat yesterday after a Newmarket judge ruled that a graphic videotape will be admitted into evidence as the Crown builds its case against the woman known as Madame de Sade.

The court won't decide Bedford's guilt or innocence until Aug. 31, but Bedford clearly saw the decision as a major defeat.

"I smell an appeal," Bedford said as she left the courthouse. "The judge is clearly not a supporter of S&M."

Bedford, 39, has entered a plea of not guilty to keeping a common bawdy house for the purposes of prostitution and says the sado-masochist acts she administered to clients was purely "escapist recreation."

Defence lawyer Alan Young had argued the damaging tape, showing Bedford with a bound man

wearing a leather hood, was a private one made for the man, described by Bedford as a close friend, not a client.

"We can't draw an inference from one person's sexual habits that it is indicative of what occurs at the commercial establishment," Young said.

In the video, Bedford is seen tying up the man, known as Gordon, shaving him and performing a variety of sex acts.

Bogusky is now left to decide

whether the services Bedford was offering amount to prostitution, but Bedford insists that cross-dressing and bondage were the most-requested services at her place of business.

As a dominatrix, Bedford says, she frowned upon sexual acts and made it a clear-house rule she and her mistresses did not provide sexual gratification to clients.

Before the bungalow was raided by York Regional Police in 1994, Bedford and her staff serviced

2,500 clients in 18 months — more than half of whom were repeat customers. Most wanted to act out fantasy roles and two of them came to be known affectionately as The Fly — a law student who wanted to be chased around the house while Bedford played 'spider woman' and squirted him with a water gun — and The Floor Tile — a man who would lay upon Bedford's kitchen floor for up to eight hours while she and her staff swept, stepped and spit on him.

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