Portland Bad Date Line: Limitations & Challenges

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harm reduction conference

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disclaimers

I am speaking as a local activist involved in sex workers’ rights advocacy who has been involved with Portland Bad Date Line at different levels over years.

I am however not speaking as someone directly involved with the PBDL (though my friends are), nor as a representative of any group or organization.
Portland Bad Date Line was started in 1998 by Danzine, an organization by and for sex workers, which also published widely distributed zine, *danzine*. Other grass-roots sex worker groups, such as Invisible Fringe and Sex Worker Actions Group (SWAG) also collaborated with Danzine on PBDL. Bad date sheets were published each month, and distributed by peers and by social service agencies.
Danzine closed its doors in 2003. Since then, Multnomah County Health Department along with various social service agencies have been operating PBDL.

PBDL continues to receive reports via postal mail, voicemail, and email, and bad date sheets are sent to dozens of social service agencies around the town.
On this form there is a list of check boxes... they are there to help you remember and let you know what info would be helpful to us. Please check ALL the boxes that best describe the situation and feel free to fill in the blanks. (If there is more than one perp, check to the left of the boxes for second perp.)

**WAS THERE A VEHICLE?** Y ☐ N ☐
Do you have a total or partial license plate #?
What type of vehicle was it? A car ☐ truck ☐ van ☐ SUV ☐ Other? ☐
2-door ☐ 4-door ☐ Hatch-back ☐ Convertible ☐ Other? ☐
Condition? new ☐ old ☐ dirty ☐ a wreck ☐ other? ☐
Color? red ☐ yellow ☐ blue ☐ white ☐ black ☐ green ☐ brown ☐ other? ☐

**WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?**
Was it morning ☐ day ☐ night ☐ the wee hours ☐

**WHERE DID YOU MEET? WHERE DID YOU GO?**
Street ☐ What was the pick-up location?
Did they drive you somewhere else? Y ☐ N ☐ Where? ☐
Or, did you meet in a club ☐ modeling studio ☐ out call ☐ on the internet ☐ Other? ☐

**BAD DATE DESCRIPTION**
Was there more than one person? Y ☐ N ☐
Did you catch a name or nick-name? ☐
Gender? Male ☐ Female ☐ Trans ☐ Other? ☐
What was their approx age? ☐
Appearances: Were they white ☐ black ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Native American ☐
Asian ☐ other ☐ mixed ☐ don’t know ☐
Did they speak with an accent? Y ☐ N ☐ What accent? ☐
Body type? Short ☐ tall ☐ thin ☐ medium ☐ fat ☐ muscular ☐ “beefy” ☐
Other details? ☐

**MORE ON THE FLIP SIDE**

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**BAD DATE DESCRIPTION CON’T:**
Color of eyes? blue ☐ green/hazel ☐ brown ☐
Did they have glasses? Y ☐ N ☐
Did they have facial hair? Y ☐ N ☐
What type? beard ☐ mustache ☐ sideburns ☐ goatee ☐ stubble ☐
Were there marks on the body, such as tattoos ☐ scars ☐ birth marks ☐ other? ☐
Where on the body? ☐

Describe: ☐

**DETAILS**
We also want to hear in your own words what happened. Some things to think about might be: What was the FIRST thing the bad date said to you? (Some bad dates use the same opening line or say the same phrase when out to hurt someone.) Can you repeat parts of the conversation? Are there any more details? For example: what they smoked, if they wore cologne, etc.
Okay, what happened?

One more thing: Are you or the person you are reporting for okay?

**OPTIONAL:** We like to know who we are serving, would you please tell us your approximate age ☐ race/ethnicity ☐ gender? ☐
If you are trans, were you passing? Y ☐ N ☐
If you are a service provider in an agency, what agency is it?

**WHEN YOUR’E DONE, YOU CAN GIVE US THIS REPORT IN FOUR WAYS:**
1) Lick a stamp & mail it: PO Box 14814, Portland OR 97293
2) Read it to us on our Voice mail: (503) 535-3901
3) Type it up and e-mail us: PBDLreport@hotmail.com
JULY 2008
Number of New Reports: 1

FEMALE WORKERS

BLACK SUV, shifty new, tinted windows, 4dr, no back/middle seats, picked worker up on 82nd & Stark, W Male, early 20's, no facial hair, short 5'4", very pale, hot, convinced worker to leave $50 on front seat, he said he had been ripped off before. Sex in back, when done he pulled out a gun & told her to get the fuck out of the car or he would “blow her face off”. Worker got away & is ok.

TURQUOISE SMALL 4-DOOR TRUCK white male, clean-cut “looked like a tweaker”, approx 40 yrs old. Picked up worker in middle of the day on 72nd & Gissan, drove to Candlelight Bar in downtown. Got “cocky” and aggressive tried to choke her.

2X WHITE CANOPY TRUCK w/BROWN STRIPES FPR-148 82nd & Powell. “Richard” dark hair, handlebar mustache, very blue eyes. He pays “extra” to get rough in the back of his truck. Slaps, rough on breasts, likes to spit, esp. in the face/mouth, held throat & bruised face.

UPDATE: IN CUSTODY!! “DC” on 82 & FLAVEL: Blk Male, “DaVina” tattoo’d on stomach, “Playboy” on rt shoulder, goes by “DC”, silver sedan, pulled up & told worker “I want a girl to get high with”. Forced BJ, no money.

BLACK SEDAN TINTED WINDOWS maybe Lexus W Male, 5'9", 32 y.o. stocky, dark hair, “looked Russian” but turned out to not have any accent. Tattoo on hand near thumb & forefinger. Said he was a longshoreman. Picked up female worker around 52nd & Halsey, brought her to nearby park._pd $60 for sex w/no condom. Refused to pay, beat her up, threw her out of car, yelling: “I just gave you HIV!” Whether he is really HIV+ is unknown. 12/07

“TRACY” Blk M, shaved head, beefy build, 5'10". Downtown on foot. Refused a condom, when she said no, he ordered her to turn tricks for him.

STING TAVERN 82nd & SE Flavel. Latino M, tall & skinny. Really drunk, driving a small, dark blue truck w/fold down seats. Traded for beer. Drove to 104th & SE Powell. Tried to go into woods, she said no, he raped her in the bushes.

GOLD MINI SUV, Lic# DG-557. Picked up female worker @ 82nd & Burnside. W Male, 40 y.o., bald, 6’0”, brown eyes, big wad of chew, “Looked like a cop”. During BJ, grabbed her head, she told him to stop, he grabbed her throat, she tried to get out of car, he grabbed her sleeve, “You’re not going anywhere AT ALL!”. She escaped, he came after her on foot, but when she crossed street & approached another worker she knew, he left her alone.

YELLOW MUSTANG (no hood). Update: IN CUSTODY!! W Male, 35-45 y.o., very skinny, looks like on drugs, 5’9” John Wayne Mckinley, convicted in many states for drugs and rape one with a knife.

E2 WOLF 46 y.o., W Male, well built, 200 lbs, 5’11” tattoos on arms, brown hair, blue eyes, well off, drives nice SUV’s, flashes a lot of $$$, has small gun, harasses women and high school girls, sometimes pleasant, sometimes rents women. Usually on 82nd but may have changed area.

“MOTORCYCLE MIKE”: 82nd & Foster bus stop, holding motorcycle helmet, asked if she was working, said his Harley just got towed, had been drinking. Late 40’s, 5’6”. Silver hair, blue eyes, “HOSTILE INTRUDER” Female worker on a date in client’s car, as they were finishing, a Latino male in a white ext cab truck honked his horn, laughed, flashed his lights and made threatening gestures. May have watched whole thing.


GOLD FRONT TEETH: Blk Male, 5’7”, 200 lbs, 20 y.o. Behind King’s Row Motel on 11/06/06. Offer’d to pay $70 for bj & intercourse. Raped & robbed worker. Says he’s from San Fran area. Stays @ Travel Lodge 9 & Burnside.

BLACK NISSAN: Neuer model, tinted windows. 82nd & Flavel. “Husky” male, mid 30’s, dark hair. Got out of car, punched & kicked her in ribs & stule purse.

FEMALE PIMP: 82nd & Ogden, in trailer, Blk Female, 50 y.o. Worker was given hotshot of heroin in back of shoulder & od’d, dragged out by woman & two men, pulled down worker’s pants & they poured battery acid on her and left her there. Suspected to be gang-related.

GREY DODGE RAM: with canopy, lic# XMY*** near Gilsan & 39th. 5pm, W Male, 35-50 y.o., looked like meth user. “Are you working? I have 50 bucks”, attempted to pull her into truck, she had a knife, he said, “Your knife is no match for my gun”, he may have had mace. She got away.

SALMON CREEK, WA: Sept 05, “Dale”, W Male, Beer Gut, early 50’s, balding, mustache, glasses, Grey Ford Truck, lic/A668**1, also has black, motorcycle, she was pan-handling, he solicited her, on 3rd date he forced and sex.

ON FOOT: Blk Male, med build, short hair, brown eyes, 60 y.o. Asked for BJ, didn’t pay, attacked worker, she got away. He hangs out downtown.

MALE WORKERS

Lt grey 4 dr sedan, older but in good shape. Whit male, 5’10”t brown hair w/8-ball cap, very ‘sketchy and aggro’ picked up young male worker who WAS PASSING AS FEMALE worker in city park (Obryant Sq?) Drove to Wash Park, asked for anal, worker said no, they agreed to a HJ. Guy raped worker annually. Nov. 2001

TRANS WORKERS

Blue 4-dr Toyota Echo Guy #: 1) wht, tall, long died blk hair in polynail, w/ piercing brown eyes, Guy#2 wht, short beefy “football build” blond, unshaven, blue 8-ball cap on backwards Smokes cigars. Young FioM picked up on SW Boarday, driven to a field and raped by guy#2, then back to 39th and Belmont. Mar 2001

***HIV/NO CONDOM GLUES***

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BILLY S.: Uses meth, early 30’s, shirt blk hair, 5’7” 160lbs, tatt on back. Says he’s HIV-. Lloyd Park

CHRIS A.: lite brown skin, late 40’s 5’8” paid $20+crack for sex, said he was HIV+ after.

ARCHEE: Purple fire/thunderbird, W Male, salt/pepper hair, blue eyes, 5’7” VERY THIN, smokes crack, 420 Sandy.

ROB: Blk Male dreads, dark skin, mid 40’s, 5’6” wears loose fitting African or “ethnic” clothing, drives SUV. Pays extra $$$ for no condom.

LOYD CENTER: W Male, tall, slim, beard, brown hair. Threatened rape when youth asked for S, said he is HIV+.

Worker got away.

LARRY: HIV- pays extra for no condom, lic# MR **07 likes dominatrix, drives 3 cars: pick-up, Porsche, Suburban.

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If you are assaulted, call PWCL: 503-235-5333. (They assist men & youth too.)

YOU CAN GIVE US A REPORT THROUGH:
1) US Post: PO Box 14814, Portland OR 97293
2) Voice mail: (503) 535-3901
3) Email: PBDLreport@hotmail.com
4) www.myspace.com/portland_bad_date_line
There is genuine desire to include transgender and male sex workers, but PBDL has not received any reports since 2001. These old reports are included to communicate that PBDL welcomes reports from transgender and male workers, but it has so far failed to become useful to them.
points to consider

✨ How has PBDL’s transformation from a grass-roots organizing project of a group of peers into a program of social service agencies affect its nature?

✨ Why don’t more people who have experienced a “bad date” not report what happened?
When PBDL was organizing, the bad date sheet was distributed from peer to peer. Today, people pick up their bad date sheet at some social service agency.

Asked why she doesn’t report her “bad date” experience, one person answered: “Why? They aren’t going to get these men. What does that do for me?”

When we are organizing ourselves, we participate in PBDL to protect our community, for our collective benefit. Social service makes us think what we can individually get out of it.
PBDL received a report about a police officer who assaulted a woman in the sex trade. After discussions with Multnomah County, which prints the bad date sheets, PBDL decided not to print that particular report because the anticipated police backlash would make it difficult to continue operating PBDL in the future.

PBDL also rationalized its decision: “There is little someone can do” when the violent assailant was a police officer, even if she knew how to identify him. He will assault sex workers regardless.
conclusions

✿ Operation of bad date line within social service framework is becoming increasingly difficult and ridden with compromises under the police encroachment of social services in the era of anti-trafficking hysteria.

✿ There is also a good reason to believe that peer-run bad date line would be more effective at creating a sense of community taking care of its members.

✿ Making bad date line relevant to transgender and male sex workers remain a challenge.
if you like my presentation, please take a look at my zines/booklets!