

Scummy Web scam – porn uses nonprofits as camouflage

Asian Art Museum
among many groups
linked to sex sites

BY PHIL TRACY

THE ever-changing world of the Internet has taken a bizarre turn, with links to legitimate companies' and institutions' Web sites turning up cheek by jowl with links to hustlers, shysters and pornographers.

The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, whose collection of Asian art is the most formidable in America, is listed on a "directory Web site" called FLIAsian, which is one of many such cyber-directories operated by a shadowy company headquartered in the Antilles with a mysterious Arizona connection. The museum link appears directly next to links for Asian Girls, Asian Gay and Asian Gang Bang, and not far away are links to Asian Anal, Asian Preteen and Mr. Chews Asian Beaver.

The museum has plenty of less salacious company on FLIAsian.com: the National Asian American Telecommunications Association, which sponsors San Francisco's annual Asian American Film Festival, the Asian American Journalists Association, and a Christian group serving Asian high school students in New Jersey, to name

a few. Oh yes, and San Francisco Study Center, publisher of The Extra and distributor of *InvAsian*, a publication of Asian Women United of California.

The legitimate nonprofits often appear in more than one category of things Asian. And while the number of porn sites among them in the big-type lists run from none to many, porn links in smaller type always lurk nearby.

When we contacted some of our fellow listees, their reactions varied from indifference to disgust.

Karen Swing, AAJA's communications coordinator, said she "wasn't too concerned." When she looked under the Asian Studies category at FLIAsian, she noticed a site dedicated to the teaching of Tibetan Buddhism.

"I find it interesting that there are lots of reputable sites here I know," she said.

Had Swing looked at the category just above Asian Studies — Asian Street Meat — she might not have been so

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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

'NIGHT STALKER' SLEPT HERE



LIZ HAFALIA PHOTO COURTESY S.F. CHRONICLE

Tommy Funanish, basking in his renovated room that he has transformed into a bachelor's den, can't believe the new West Hotel is the same dilapidated SRO he occupied in 1999.

How West was won

TNDC rebuilds SRO rat trap –104 new units

BY TOM CARTER

THE West Hotel has emerged from its seedy past into a pristine, 104-room SRO, the result of a \$15 million makeover that its owner, the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp., called its "most extensive and challenging renovation."

TNDC, which owns or operates 21 buildings in the city, bought the five-story structure at 141 Eddy four years ago. It was such a hovel that a few TNDC employees were afraid to enter some rooms.

Scabrous halls, pock-marked walls and a dingy, smelly lobby all rested on the hotel's decaying redwood support timbers in the basement. They had been put in place in 1907 as the city hastened to recover from the previous year's fire and earthquake, but were so rotted that the building sagged and the floors slanted.

"The elevator fell through to the basement one day," Christine Moyer, a resident since 1997, told the crowd of 100 who jammed the lobby on Jan. 12 to celebrate the reopening. "Some of the doors had been kicked in and there were bedbug and roach infestations, and bare bulbs and broken furniture."

TNDC Executive Director Kelly Cullen told the crowd that Hotel Hell had been a "vile"

and "disgusting rat hole." When project manager Nick Griffin took his well-deserved turn at the podium, he completed the image by saying "dead cats" had been found in some units.

TNDC stripped the West to its bones and built it up as affordable housing, filling it with the formerly homeless, people with HIV/AIDS, seniors, disabled and others of very low income. Of the units, 81 are government-subsidized and 23 are unsubsidized, but priced for poor people. The average yearly income of all the residents now is \$8,615. TNDC requires that no resident's income exceed \$26,660, which is 40% of San Francisco's median. But for 10 units, the West goes upscale; residents can make up to \$31,680. The 105th unit is a one-bedroom for the manager.

Across the West's spiffy, expanded lobby, an easel displayed photographs documenting the disaster days. Up the new elevator on the fourth floor, residents John Fielding and Tommy Funanish each had opened their spotless, carpeted units for public inspection. They stood by gleaming cabinetry that reached to the ceiling. Their televisions were set up as entertainment centers at the foot of their beds.

APARTMENTS SPARKLE

"It's fantastic," said Fielding to his first visitors. The rooms have kitchenette sections with microwave, sink and refrigerator underneath, an armoire, cabinets and added storage in drawers under the bed. The rooms range from a rather confining 104 square feet up to 193 square feet. Each has a bathroom. Fielding's unit is one of 37 that also has a shower, so he doesn't have to make a trip down the hall. His rent is \$450.

Someone asked the middle-aged man if he minded the view—his lone window revealed

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FLIAsian.com's link to S.F.'s Asian Art Museum is next to Asian Gang Bang and other porn sites.