

May 16, 2009

Can Craigslist be trusted?

Pardon me as I withhold my applause for Craigslist and its decision to remove the "erotic services" section from its Web site.

Craigslist has profited from sex trafficking and prostitution. It charge nominal fees in certain cities for those who post housing and job ads. More people post to these sections because of a high volume of traffic on the Web site, thus providing a mechanism for increased visibility. This volume is generated, in large part, by visitors to the "erotic services" section of the site.

If Craigslist wants to convince us that it is genuinely concerned about illegal activity and exploitation that the site may facilitate, then they need to convince us that they can be trusted to police their own Web site.

Who is going to monitor and approve "adult" postings and how will they be trained? What guidelines and criteria will be established and adhered to?

If we are to believe that Craigslist wants to provide a venue for sexual encounters between consenting adults, they need to implement transparent policies and guidelines that answer these questions.

Actions speak louder than words. A lot more details need to be provided and adhered to before they earn our accolades.

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