

JACK GORDON, 'A FAIRGROUND GUY WITH A MISSION'

Jack Gordon is 'a fairground guy' with a mission. He wants his clients - the likes of John Bobbitt, Divine Brown and Paula Jones - to make as much money as possible from their 15 minutes of fame. Ms Jones now calls him 'a maggot', and LaToya Jackson, who used to be married to him, says he's 'human slime', but in the swirl and dazzle of Las Vegas, I find him pretty good company.

As night falls on the Nevada desert, Jack Gordon, ex-husband of the singer LaToya Jackson, is cruising towards the Las Vegas Strip at the wheel of a black Mercedes coupé. At his side is Deborah, a heavily scented blonde, and beneath Deborah, crushed into the rock-hard bucket seat, is me. The local radio station has dug up an old Elvis Presley track, 'Coming in Loaded', which more or less describes our condition.

Since his bitter split from LaToya five years ago, Gordon has built a career as one of the world's foremost suppliers of low-life celebrities. His client list has included John Bobbitt, the luckless 24-year-old US Marine whose penis was sliced off by his 'temporarily insane' wife, Lorena; Divine Brown, the \$75-a-trick pavement hooker who almost ended Hugh Grant's career; and Heidi Fleiss, the notorious 'Hollywood Madam' who is coming to the end of her jail sentence for whore-mongering and tax evasion.

This line of work has proved both profitable and satisfying for Gordon, but today he is a worried man. Earlier this year, hungering for new challenges, he ventured into the world of politics. Gordon signed a deal with Paula Jones whose charges of sexual harassment against President Clinton set off the chain of events that led to Clinton being hauled up before an impeachment committee.

Only now - scarred and spooked by the experience - does Gordon realise what he was dealing with. His first suggestion was that Paula should record a country music album, but when they fell out over the money he went on television to declare that her story of being harassed by Clinton in a hotel room was untrue. Gordon told the audience, 'I said to Paula that if we were going to be partners I had to know

what really happened, and eventually she said, "Nothing happened."

Ms Jones furiously denies this version of events. Her spokeswoman, Susan Carpenter McMillan, calls Gordon 'a maggot'. Under pressure, he took two lie detector tests, but passed only one of them. Whatever the truth, the affair has turned Gordon into something of a hate figure among anti-Clintonites, who think of Paula as Joan of Arc. There have been threats of revenge, and much speculation about Gordon's motives. 'I never should have got involved in politics,' he groans. 'I told Paula, "Kid, you are all you have. You've gotta be your own act."'

VOCABULARY

fairground -- lunapark, pouť
mission -- posláni
the likes of John Bobbitt -- lidi jako John Bobbit
maggot -- červ; zde jako nadávka
slime -- sliz, hnus
swirl and dazzle -- vír a lesk (záře)
cruise -- jet (v klidu a stálou rychlostí)
scented -- navoněný
dig st up -- něco vyhrabat (z archívu)
foremost supplier -- přední dodavatel
slice off -- uříznout
hooker -- šlapka
notorious -- nechvalně proslulý
whore-mongering -- obchod s bílým masem
tax evasion -- daňový únik
hunger for st -- toužit po
challenge -- těžký ale zajímavý úkol
venture into st -- odvážit se někam
charges of -- obvinění z
set st off -- spustit, vést k tomu že něco začne
haul -- táhnout, dotáhnout
impeachment committee -- komise rozhodující o obvinění prezidenta
scarred and spooked -- trvale poznamenaný (doslova zjizvený) a vystrašený
fall out over st -- pohádat se kvůli
get involved in st -- do něčeho se zaplést