

COLUMN FROM MAYOR TIM SHADBOLT

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Over the last month we've had some brilliant events in Invercargill and this week we've had the inspirational launch of the Rotary Club of Invercargill North's Dictionaries in Schools Programme and of course the absolutely stunning news about Scotland and Argentina playing World Cup rugby in Invercargill.

Yet by far the greatest number of telephone calls I received from the public and press concerned a professional sexpo.

From my point of view, Mr Steve Crow is simply a very shrewd, well-educated businessman who has worked out that sex sells. There's nothing very original or unusual about the commercialisation of sex, it's only Mr Crow's aggressive, in your face, methodology that is different. The highly provocative "Boobs on Bikes" Parade is his trademark. In any city you will find a minority of sexual voyeurs, who are immensely titillated, if you'll excuse the pun, by ogling buxom, half-naked women on Harley-Davidsons. I guess it's a free country and if that's what turns you on, you're entitled to your weirdness.

The most critical issue facing our city is of course the global economic meltdown and the burning question of how should our city respond. We are having our own Southland Economic Summit next month and it will be interesting to hear from our business leaders.