Tucked in hallways of street malls and hidden behind blacked out windows, servers in “Cafes con Piernas,” or “Coffee with Legs,” work to support their children or save for a college degree while wearing skin tight dresses or lingerie. They are single mothers sustaining families who don’t know where they work. They are foreigners who came to Chile because their salary has a higher value. To their customers, they are sexy psychologists who make a short break in the midst of a busy business week more interesting. For 60 years, “Cafes con Piernas” have been a meeting place for businessmen in central Santiago, Chile.

* Po is a filler/emphasis word in Chilean spanish
Sara Contraras, 33, prepares coffee while her coworker Sandra Monsalve, 33, dries her freshly painted nails at Café Maniqui. The short work week is convenient for Monsalve, with two children to raise. The cafe is one of the many “Cafés con Piernas,” which translates to “coffee with legs,” that can be found in central Santiago, Chile.
Servers at Blacks, stand on an elevated platform in the middle of the cafe. The women are not allowed to work more than 30 hours per week because they wear platform high heels that become very uncomfortable after standing for their 5-hour shift.
Carolina Calfiman Mansilla, 30, embraces one of her customers on Nov. 15, 2013. He visits her every morning as he goes to work, and he is married. “Chilean men are unfaithful,” Mansilla says. At the end of the day, she earns up to $50,000 Chilean pesos daily, which is equal to $100, from her interactions with customers.
A majority of the men who frequent “Cafés con Piernas” are married and are over 40 years old. “They come to feel young enough and attractive enough to get girls,” customer Rodrigo Albarran says. “They want to feel alive.”
Katherine Vera, 29, and her client Rodrigo Albarran talk at Café Camboriú. Albarran has been getting coffee from Vera for a year and has even followed her from cafe to cafe as she’s changed locations. Their relationship has become one of friendship, and he says she is like his psychologist.
Axel Araya, 22, a barista at Café Paraiso, adheres a poster of server Leslie Gonzalez, 27, to the door to advertise her return after being pregnant. Araya said the women feel like family because he spends every day with them. Friendships among the women are rare because they compete for customers.
Katherine Reyes, 22, compares a picture of her son with a picture of her client’s son. She lives at home with and supports her mother and her 1-year-old son, neither of whom know that she works at a “Café con Piernas.”
Carolina Califman Mansilla, 30, converses with Hugo Valdivia, 34, at Café Paraiso on Nov. 13, 2013. Mansilla studies psychology at the University of the Americas. Although the visual draw to the cafe is erotic, one customer said that the most important part of the servers’ jobs is to listen and converse.
At the end of the day, the fantasy conversations businessmen have with women in cafes are only for money. Katherine Reyes, 22, counts her tips at the end of the day. She makes between $20,000 to $50,000 Chilean pesos in tips per day, which is equal to between $40 and $100.