

'Art that is life' exhibit showing in Spokane

SPOKANE (AP) — A butcher knife takes the place of a palette knife when artist Jane Orleman paints her childhood abuse in brilliant colors.

A little girl tightens the noose on a man labeled "damned daddy" with a knife in his bleeding chest. There's a man with an erect penis straddling a girl on the floor, her doll nearby. A naked woman, chest-deep in water, reaches for a rope.

"This is art that is life," said Orleman, 51, of Ellensburg.

"It looks like the sort of work that people could get in an uproar over. They are offended, but they are offended that this happens."

Orleman's "Smiling on the Outside" exhibit will be on display at the Chase Gallery at Spokane City Hall from Wednesday through Nov. 5.

The Spokane Arts Commission does not recommend the exhibit for young children because of its intense and violent imagery. Screens will be placed around the display at the artist's request.

The commission anticipates a strong public response to the display, so it has taken the precaution of explaining the exhibit to the city's department heads and showing them slides in advance.

"This is something we have to acknowledge as part of our community and part of our lives," said Shirley Cannon, director of the Spokane Sexual Assault Center.

"I think that it's very provocative art and will evoke feelings from people that reading about sexual abuse will not."

Volunteers from the Spokane Child Abuse Network will be available during tours to answer questions about child abuse and incest.

Orleman said she first remembers being molested at age 3. When she got older, she was beaten or sexually assaulted almost daily, Orleman said.

"Through the art, I've been very out front with this. This hit me that the reason this can continue is we keep it a secret. I have nothing to lose," Orleman said.

"If people think badly of me because of something that happened to me 40 years ago, so what?"

City passes anti-panhandling laws

SEATTLE (AP) — A series of ordinances to curb panhandling and other unruly street behavior will help restore civility to the city's downtown, the architect of the laws said.

The ordinances, passed Monday by the City Council against a backdrop of hisses and catcalls, are aimed at the city's homeless. They prohibit, among other things, public drinking, urinating and defecating, and lying or sitting on sidewalks.

Mayor Norm Rice is expected to sign the ordinances, and they would go into effect 30 days after that.

"I'm pleased," said City Attorney Mark Sidran, who wrote the proposals. He said the council's action "makes an important statement about restoring civility to the streets."

"We need to address the kind of problem behavior that makes our downtown streets unsafe and unsanitary," council member Margaret Pageler said.

"It's time to step forward and make Seattle a better place for everyone to live — both rich and poor, both housed and unhoused."

Her comments were met by a cacophony of derisive snorting from the audience, many of them homeless advocates.

The council passed an ordinance criminalizing repeated instances of drinking, urinating or defecating in public. A first offense remains a civil violation, subject to a citation like a parking violation. A police study showed those penalties have been largely ignored.

The new ordinance would make second and subsequent violations misdemeanors, with maximum penalties of a \$1,000 fine, 90 days in jail and a year's probation.

The vote was 7-1, with council member Jane Noland opposed.

The council unanimously passed an ordinance prohibiting sitting or lying on city sidewalks. Violation would be a civil infraction subject to a \$50 fine or community service.

The council also unanimously passed a new definition of aggressive panhandling that strength-

'The vote was a political slam dunk.'

— Ken Cole,
spokesman homeless coalition

ens the enforceability of the current law.

Aggressive panhandling remains a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. It is defined as "begging in an intimidating manner in such a way as to scare a reasonable person."

The council rejected an amendment that would have delayed enforcement of the public urination law for six months, to allow the city to install public toilets.

"No one on this council or sitting in this room wants people urinating or defecating in public," Noland said in support of the amendment. "We are a civilized community. However, it does seem like we've gotten the cart before the horse. Before we criminalize going to the bathroom, we have to have toilets in place for people to use."

"I'm embarrassed that we've waited two months to pass these ordinances," Pageler replied, comparing Seattle's downtown streets to those in Third World countries.

"I'm not willing, like some council members, to wait until tailgating season is over for the benefit of a few football players to pass this."

Homeless advocates blasted the ordinances.

"The vote was a political slam dunk," Ken Cole, spokesman for the Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless, said in a news conference after the council action. "The backlash against the poor and homeless has officially begun."

"These ordinances make me a criminal twice," said Jo Jo Herrera, who said he was homeless.

"If I'm in an alley I'm a criminal, and if I urinate in an alley I'm a criminal. Why don't you put bathrooms in before you make me a criminal?" he asked.

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