



Dick Bogle

Last week we looked at how street prostitution in North and Northeast Portland seems to be growing and how the criminal justice system admittedly seems ineffective in deterring it.

Most of us know prostitution will never be eliminated—that's why they call it the oldest profession in the world. However, when the prostitutes act as though they own the streets and no housewife or student can walk those streets without harassment from Johns then it's time for a change.

First of all, we have to examine what prostitution is and means. Many of us are inclined to say, "We've always had it, they don't hurt anyone and it's not as important as arresting burglars and robbers."

But all of that is not true. Prostitution does hurt people. Prostitution hurts prostitutes.

This hurt is both physical and mental. Many are at the mercy of pimps whose only concern is how much money he can get and when he feels it isn't enough, will beat the girl with fists, coat hangers or anything else he can put his hands one. There are several unsolved murders of prostitutes in Multnomah County and Clark County, Washington.

Besides physical injury, many of these young women suffer extreme psychological damage. Who knows what potential lies deep and untapped in a person whose entire life has become one of being used and used and used?

We all know the crime rate has risen and of course part of that is due to current high unemployment and federal, state and local budget cuts which caused elimination of many programs.

The problem of a declining quality of life in North and Northeast as it pertains to what happens when the streets are owned by the hookers is being attacked on two fronts.

First the system itself. Police Chief Ron Still says, "We need to lock up more prostitutes. We know they move up and down the coast and into Canada and very simply if we make it tough on them here, they are going to go somewhere else and so are the pimps."

He and other police also realize that no matter how many are arrested there is still limited jail space for prisoners.

This lack of jail space poses tough decisions for judges who must always consider how many spaces are available on any given day.

Multnomah County District Court Judge Linda Bergman says, "We have 35 beds in this county to house women charged or sentenced for the entire county. I could probably fill those beds with women charged with prostitution. I think the Community is probably better served if some of those beds are used for people charged with serious felonies."

Presiding District Court Judge Don Londer says, "All of us share the concerns about prostitution raised by citizens and I have met with Chief Still, District Attorney Mike Schunk, a representative of the Public Defenders Office and County Corrections to outline procedures to remedy the situation as it exists today."

"Changes will be made now and second and third offenders will be taken off the street and that's as good a deterrent as we can come up with at the present time."

Perhaps the biggest deterrent will come from neighborhood people.

Sharon McCormack is the Northeast coordinator for Neighborhoods Against Crime. She and a number of neighbors have met with police officials from East and North precincts, the Drug and Vice Division and the District Attorney's office.

Results are already beginning to occur as neighbors are organizing.

Members of the Piedmont Neighborhood Association have walked the streets talking to residents and business people to enlist their assistance in fighting prostitution. The degree of support is astounding. Some folks have volunteered to allow police to use their homes as observation locations to build cases against hookers for loitering.

They plan to have as many as ten pickets—men, women, young and old—march alongside prostitutes on the streets. They also have enlisted the aid of a retired commercial artist and Pacific Power and Light Company. The artist is going to paint a huge sign saying, "RESPECT N.E. NEIGHBORHOODS. JOHNS KEEP OUT."

PP&L will supply the guy wires and poles and will have its crews install one across Union Avenue near Stanton for northbound traffic and another sign saying the same thing for southbound traffic near Portland Blvd.

We'll have to wait and see the results of this combined Justice System and direct citizen involvement will have but it sounds like one heluva beginning to me.

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From the Capitol

by Rep. Ron Wyden

Q. With interest rates still on the rise, is it realistic for middle income Portlanders to hang on to the American dream of owning their own home?

A. I think it is—if we look to innovative financing alternatives.

For example, Oregon Fair Share, the Elliot Neighborhood Association, Portland area savings & loans, area realtors, the Black United Front and the Oregon Home Builders Association are currently working on an effort to provide affordable housing in North-Northeast Portland neighborhoods.

Under this plan, private lenders, such as savings & loans, would put up 70 per cent of the financing for a new home at market rates. The group hopes the other 30 per cent would be financed through the city (with Housing and Community Development funds) at 3 per cent interest.

Builders would use various cost-saving techniques—such as compact design features, common wall construction, etc.—to keep the cost of the completed structure down to approximately \$40,000. Members of the affordable housing group (dubbed the Albina Inner-City Development Corp. (AID)), have identified 200 vacant lots in the North-Northeast area suitable for this program.

In addition to new construction, AID is advocating rehabilitation of existing homes in the area.

Although this plan will not meet the needs of all Portlanders, it is at least a step in the right direction. Most important, it represents the type of individual initiative and innovative thinking that we must implement if the American dream of homeownership is to become a reality for middle-income Portlanders.



Open Letter

by Ron Still, Chief of Police

I was recently asked why more than one police car may respond to a call. It's sometimes difficult to understand why two or more officers show up to take a 17-year-old runaway into custody or to simply quiet the neighbors who are arguing.

Safety is one of the primary factors in deciding how many officers are sent on any call. That 17-year-old may be 6 ft., 180 lbs. and want to fight the officers. That family argument has a good chance of becoming violent as most people don't want outside interference.

By sending an adequate number

of officers, it is more likely that the situation will be handled without violence. If there is no violence, then the officers there should be able to handle it.

We set guidelines for the number of officers to be dispatched on calls. But because there is no such thing as a "typical" call, the dispatchers also rely on past experience and the information provided by the caller in addition to these guidelines.

For example, we send at least two officers to a family argument, more if the information provided indi-

cated potential violence.

We also dispatch more than one officer to crimes in progress or other situations that may involve violence. Because there are so many unknown variables, we make an attempt to send enough officers to be able to control that situation. This may result in 2 or more cars coming into your neighborhood.

Part of those unknown variables can be answered by citizens who call in the request for the police. Try to provide as much information as possible, answer the questions the operator asks and don't hesitate to

call again with more information if the situation has changed. With your help, we can provide the assistance you need.

If you have comments or questions regarding the Portland Police Bureau, send them to me through the Public Information Office, 222 S.W. Pine, Portland, Oregon, 97204. I will not be able to respond in my open letters to each and every concern, but will select those which will assist in improving communications and relations with the community.

Schools report minority enrollment increase

Superintendent James Fenwick reported Monday that Jefferson High School has enrolled fewer students than were expected and that many of the former Adams students that were assigned to Jefferson have

enrolled elsewhere.

By the third day of school, Jefferson had enrolled 1,306 students, 274 short of the 1,580 predicted. Approximately 90 students, mostly Black, transferred from Jefferson to

Lincoln. Also, there appear to be a sizable number of white students, who formerly attended Adams, who have not registered at Jefferson. Jefferson currently has 54.5 per cent minority enrollment.

Racial composition of the student population is 26.6 per cent minority, compared to 24.2 per cent last year. Black students make up 14 per cent (6,821); Asians are 8.9 per cent (4,339); Native Americans are 1.8 per cent (894); and Hispanics are 1.7 per cent (831). The total enrollment is 48,562, down nearly 3,000 students from last year.

Minority enrollment has increased in several community schools. Boige is at 86.3 per cent minority; Irvington, 42.7 per cent; Humboldt, 72.2 per cent; Vernon, 65.9 per cent; Woodlawn, 61.9 per cent. Other neighborhood schools are: Eliot, 47.7 per cent; King, 64.0 per cent; Sabin, 51.4 per cent.

Tubman, still located at the old Monroe High School building, has 61.1 per cent minority enrollment. Other schools with more than 50 per cent minority enrollment are Ball, with 50.2 per cent, and Rice, with 66.1 per cent, mostly Southeast Asians.

Differences of opinion over the implications of these enrollment patterns were expressed by board members Herb Cawthorne and Frank McNamara.

Cawthorne is not concerned with racial percentages, but considers the issue to be the education of the children who are in the schools. "The percentages don't mean anything since we haven't considered that when deciding school closures and other things that caused the increase."

Frank McNamara's primary concern is also education, "but that does not mitigate my other concerns. If there is a trend toward separate schools that concerns me and to the extent that there are controls we can exert, we should exert them."

Steve Buel added that if the Board really believes that all schools with 90 to 95 per cent white students are more segregated than those that are 60 per cent Black, and that Ainsworth is the most segregated school in the district, then they should ask for a list of those "problem" schools, not just for a list of the schools with high minority populations.

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Pacific Power Citizen of the Week

A familiar face around the neighborhoods of North and Northeast Portland is that of Sharon McCormack. Mrs. McCormack is currently coordinator of the Northeast Neighborhoods Against Crime program where she provides crime prevention information, home locks and currently is working on the issue of prostitution and street safety for women and children.

Among Mrs. McCormack's volunteer contributions are serving on the boards of the American Friends Service Committee Education Project, the Piedmont Neighborhood Association, the AFSC Regional Community Relations Committee. She formerly served on the boards of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations, the Union Avenue Redevelopment Committee, the Economic Development Promotion Committee of the Inner Northeast Council, and the North Branch YMCA. She is a precinct person for the Democratic Party. Mrs. McCormack volunteered for four years with the Neighborhood Options in Child Care and for three years with Villa St. Rose, a treatment center for girls. She is currently chairing the planning committee for the NE Community Leadership Workshop.

She also finds time to be active in Holy Redeemer Church and School.

Mrs. McCormack and her husband, Bill, have four children, ages 6, 13, 16 and 18.

Mrs. McCormack was born in Texas, moved to Yakima, and came to Portland to attend the University of Portland. After graduating, she taught French for two years. She has been a resident of the Northeast area for 22 years.

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