



The American Muslim Mission led a protest march against prostitution on Union Avenue. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Muslims lead march against prostitution

Grassroot News, N.W.—On the day of tricks or treats a small, determined group of community residents gathered to deny "Tricks their Treats" in a march up and down Union Avenue to protest vices in our community—vices like prostitution, drug abuse and crime. The march was sponsored by the American Muslim Nation, which is the organization that evolved from the Nation of Islam. The resident Imam Mikal Shabazz stated the reasons for the march: "This is a moral march. We are interested in raising the moral consciousness of the people in our community. Prostitution, drug abuse and confusion are all problems in our community. We decided that we would come out and physically demonstrate our displeasure and concern. We understand that the prostitutes, drug addicts and those who are committing crime are the victims of crime such as disruptive households."

"People are confused because the laws have been limited in their capability to be enforced and keep the community clean and safe. It's not only their job but it's the citizens' responsibility to keep the community clean and safe and this begins right in the home with the individual."

Robert King, a marcher, gave his reasons for joining the march. "I was passing by and I saw the signs in regard to sex and pimps and things of that nature. I have neighborhood concerns because we are getting shot down. I've been in Portland since 1943 and worked in the shipyards. Today, we have people coming over here and they're giving them money,

houses and cars. We cannot get anything and we're American citizens."

Imam Shabazz continues: "We have influences in our home to cause us to live our lives in a decent way. When you have knowledge you have the responsibility to share the knowledge. I can't bring everybody into my home but I can come out into the streets."

"We are not too concerned with going to the tricks but instead are trying to raise the consciousness of our own. The weakness is in here because we can't go anywhere else and do these types of things. Our neighborhood has to be strengthened so this is us talking to us. The people that are being victimized are the people in our community."

A lot of the vices are economically related. How is this perceived by the Imam? "If a person has a moral umbrella then that's enough to restrict his movements to the point where he is not going to go outside of his moral and lawful environment to commit a crime because he's hungry. He will use other alternatives like collective buying. But you can't have collective buying when you have one man stealing and the other man bringing food in the house. We hope this march will bring to the surface the need to return to the not-so-distant past, to the things that held our families together."

A prostitute was asked how she felt about the protest. "I don't care what anyone thinks. I've been in institutions all my life and I ain't working for no \$3.50 an hour for nobody. My daughter is going to

have the best." She didn't know whether the protest would hurt business or cause the police to put heat on them. "Whatever they do it will still be around. After all it's the oldest profession."

They marched under the banner of "Dear Johns, Do unto others as you would your Mothers." Their numbers grew as the march continued up and down from Union and Dekum to Union and Fremont.

Fluoridation suit hits county

by Cleo Franklin

Prior to the May 1981 election, in a 3-2 vote of the Board of County Commissioners it was decided to use public money to educate the public on the benefits of fluoridation.

The board agreed to accept \$55,573 from the federal government and provide \$38,581 of local funds for the purpose of informing and educating the public about the purpose, cost and benefits of fluoridation. The campaign was to be conducted by the public health officer of Multnomah County and the Board of County Commissioners received an immediate outcry from the general public questioning the legality of the expenditure of funds. Specifically, the question had been raised whether a commissioner could be personally liable for expenditures made under this campaign in connection with a pending election measure. The election measure in question is the fluoridation repeal which was on the City of Portland ballot for the May 1981 primary election.

ORS 260.432(2) provides: "No public employee shall solicit any money, influence, service or other thing of value or otherwise aid or promote any political committee or the nomination or election of any person to public office while on the job during working hours. However, nothing in this section is intended to restrict the right of a public employee to express his personal political views."

In a memo dated April 4, 1981 to Dennis Buchanan from Multnomah County Counsel John Leahy, Mr. Leahy stated that "...the county

acting through its county health officer may expend public funds to finance educational programs relating to fluoridation of public water supplies so long as those educational programs do not advocate voting one way rather than another on a ballot measure." He also said that "it is necessary that the publicly funded program be truly educational in nature, that is, informational rather than argumentative and should fairly attempt to present the advantages and disadvantages of fluoridation of the public water supply."

Roger Burt, co-chairman of the Citizens for Pure Water said that his group "is planning legal action against the Commissioners." He doesn't agree that the public's money was properly expended. He went

on to say that Citizens for Pure Water has retained Charles Porter to represent the taxpayers in this case and support from the general public is needed. Mr. Porter successfully tried a case in 1972 involving the Eugene Water and Electric Board (Porter vs Tiffany).

In ordering Eugene Water and Electric Board members to pay back EWEB revenues they had used to campaign for a bond issue, the court reasoned that the money belonged to all the people, both those who opposed and those who favored the measure. The court said it was intrinsically unfair to spend public money during a campaign to tell only the story of proponents.

Porter vs Tiffany laid a framework through which the Multnomah County action should be viewed.

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South African investments

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Business League submits plan

(Continued from page 1 col. 2)

financial and technical assistance from the City and the private sector to build the George Baldwin Memorial Industrial Park.

They want 50 per cent of all construction and remodeling contracts funded by PDC set aside for minority contractors and vendors, and a requirement that these businesses be 100 per cent minority owned. They also ask that 50 per cent of all jobs created go to

Black residents. They ask that the borders of the target area be extended to include Alberta and Killingsworth from Interstate 5 to N.E. 33rd Avenue.

The PDC plan is the result of a promise by Mayor Frank Ivancic to target inner Northeast for comprehensive development that would enhance the economic and social life of the community. Broad opinion is that the plan is superficial and that resources are limited.

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