

Police report war on 'johns'

Grassroots News, N.W. — Surrounded by a blitz of publicity, Portland Police Bureau Public Information officer Dave Simpson announced the results of the Bureau campaign against prostitution. "On

May 25, we launched some intensive enforcement having to do with prostitution in various areas of the community where it has grown intolerable. We have arrested 112 men and 72 women." He stated that 41 of the men were not taken into custody although there remain outstanding warrants for them.

"The emphasis has been against the 'John,' the 'trick,' the customer who has created the problem by being here. We think it has been successful to a limited degree. The rest of the system has to support the arrest. It has to be meaningful if we are arresting the same people over and over again. We are going to have to have some place to put them. Fines are good up to a certain point but we run into the same problems with the lack of jail space." Simpson defines the campaign as being successful in the area of the 'Johns.'

Mark Teppola, Vice President of the Central Eastside Industrial Council, agrees with Officer Simpson that the sweep to mop up the 'tricks' has been successful. "This is

probably the most effective program that we have had. It has reduced the problem in terms of visible street prostitution."

Teppola says the problem created by prostitution in an established business area is one of harassment. "It creates a very unhealthy business situation. You have the problem with pimps and fighting. No one really knows the answer to solving the problem of prostitution. Education is an important area and these billboards assist in that process of educating." Teppola believes the three billboards that are up around the city have been effective. "A lot of 'Johns' might not have been aware that this was a crime situation."

The billboard states, "If you are looking for a prostitute plan on getting arrested." The ironic thing about the billboard that was picked by the Police's PR department as the stage for their announcement, is that someone browned out the 'ar' in arrested, so the billboard reads, "If you are looking for a prostitute plan on getting 'Rested'."



Dave Simpson, public information officer for the Portland Police Bureau, reports on the Bureau's campaign to stop prostitution. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Juneteenth

"... That on the 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free. . . ."

(The Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863)

GRASSROOTS NEWS, N.W.

— Due to historical circumstances beyond President Abraham Lincoln's control, he was forced to free human beings who were stolen from Africa with the assistance and consent of his government. This event is recognized by the descendants of former slaves as "Juneteenth." In Portland, at Bethel A.M.E. Church, a committee was formed to educate the public on Juneteenth. Ms. Marion Jacobs says the premise of Juneteenth is to celebrate the Emancipation Proclamation. It was issued officially on January 1, 1863. President Lincoln was reluctant about passing this Proclamation because some of the officers in the Union Army did not want blacks to serve, while others needed them." Ms. Jacobs stated that this reluctance displayed itself as many officials refused to read the Emancipation Proclamation. "In Virginia, seventeen blacks were hung because they read the Proclamation to their fellow blacks."

The name Juneteenth comes from June 19. This is the day the word that they were free reached some of the slaves. "This date is not universal among blacks. In Washington, D.C. it is celebrated in January. In other parts of the country it is celebrated in February. Juneteenth is our Fourth of July."

Clara Peoples provides an additional thought to the celebration of Juneteenth. "I feel it is about time that we as black people stand up and be counted for our own freedom, as well as enjoying the freedom of the Fourth of July." What should Juneteenth mean to the youth of 1983? "That they should stand up with pride and be proud to be black as we were taught. Whatever you are, just be the best. Have pride in your own race. That is what Juneteenth should mean."

Ed Mitchell, another member of the Juneteenth committee, answers this question another way. "Juneteenth means freedom and responsibility. Oftentimes we take our freedom for granted and forget that there has been some dues paid. We are still paying. Just look at the unemployment figures for our young people. We hope this weekend to try and drive home the point that even though we have come a long way, we have still got a long way to go."

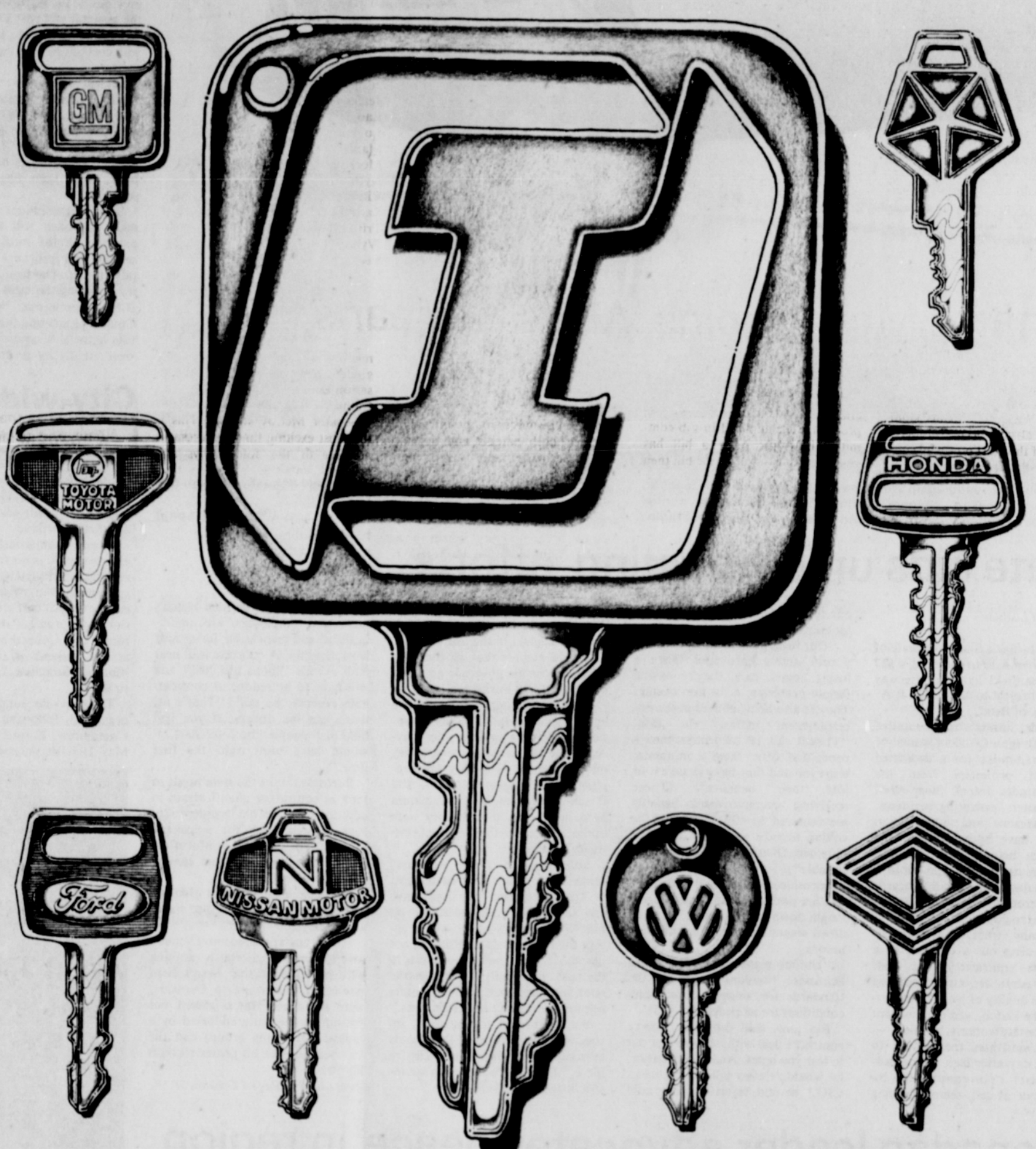
H.H. Nukes believes Juneteenth should be an observation rather than a celebration. "At the end of the Civil War black people in the slave states were faced with the question, 'What does this piece of paper mean to us?' Newspaper accounts related to when black people heard of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. They went to the streets and they danced and they marched and made speeches. The theme of most of the speech making was that although we were no longer slaves, we are not yet free. While we observe Juneteenth in its colloquial form, it is a period of time when we need to rededicate and continue fighting that Civil War that still keeps us in a posture of servitude and bondage."

(Writer's note: Juneteenth will be celebrated at Bethel A.M.E. Church as an outdoor street festival starting Friday, June 17-19. Happy Juneteenth!)

Court sets theater price

Testimony in a condemnation trail to set a price for the Paramount Theater began Tuesday. Owners of the 3,000 seat theater on Southwest Broadway want \$9.5 million for their facility while the City has offered \$2.2 million.

The building is to be renovated for use as a public performing arts center.



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