

METROPOLITAN

Council acts to jail prostitutes

by Nathaniel Scott

"I'm so pissed off. You guys have sold us down the river," yelled out Jan Mihara, Wednesday, July 13, when the City Council unanimously passed three ordinances designed to remedy the city's prostitution problem.

Effective immediately, the ordinances carry a minimum \$300 fine or diversion into an alternative program for the first prostitution conviction, and a minimum \$500 fine and a seven-day jail sentence for the second offense, with each subsequent conviction carrying minimum fines of \$500 and a 30-day jail sentence. The fine details have yet to be worked out, but the ordinances apply to both the prostitute and the john.

Some discussion arose about equal rights regarding alternative programs for johns. According to

City Commissioner Margaret Strachan, "The problem is, there have been no [alternative] programs." She will be working closely with County Commissioner Gladys McCoy, who is designing such a program, which is planned to be implemented within the next 60 to 90 days.

Strachan maintains that the "best way" to deal with prostitution is to intervene at the onset. Her concerns are pimps and other factors which lead to prostitution as a way of life.

The great prostitution debate, Wednesday of last week, was hot and heavy. Citizens from throughout the Metropolitan area came to testify for or against the ordinances.

Some said the ordinances would impose hardships on prostitutes, ultimately causing them to commit serious crimes.

The allegation surfaced that the ordinances would be discriminatory

because, predominately, the prostitutes are women of "color."

Statistics were introduced, claiming that 80 percent of the prostitutes and 80 percent of the johns were not from Portland.

Nevertheless, most of those who testified were concerned about alternative programs, especially for teenage prostitutes.

Edna M. Robertson, Northeast neighborhood coordinator, said, "It [the ordinances] takes a burden off the neighborhoods." She added that she still favors legalizing prostitution, "providing it can be worked out."

Sharron McCormack, North Portland's crime coordinator, said, "I support the idea of stronger action." She added, by way of circumventing racial allegations, "To divide by racial lines does not attack the problem."

17-year-old Shannon McCormack

said, "It concerns me that we can no longer walk to the bus stop [without being accosted]. It doesn't matter what we wear; we are no longer safe [from solicitation]."

At one point, Commissioner Charles Jordan questioned whether or not a seven-day jail sentence would seriously deter prostitution. But, in the final analysis, he said, "The only way we are going to send a message is mandatory jail sentences." However, Commissioner Jordan introduced the alternative program idea, which received strong support from Commissioner Strachan.

The City Attorney's office and the ACLU doubted whether the "city has the authority" to enact such ordinances. This authority, the City Attorney's office said, would have to be tested in the courts.

The Wages for Housework Campaign and the Portland Committee for Unemployment Action said they are circulating a local and national petition to outlaw all laws against prostitution.

"Prostitution? You can't stop it," claimed one who has been in the remember. "When I came to Portland in 1941, they had a red light district across the river," he said. "It needs to be legal."

Which brings me to the only male (other than officials or representatives of agencies) to testify at the great prostitution debate. Timidly he proposed what he called a "radical idea." It was for the legalization of prostitution. But not one prostitute or john testified. Perhaps they were busy sampling each other's wares: money and tainted love. Whatever the case may be, they missed the grand finale. When Jan Mihara yelled out her dissatisfaction, the Mayor screamed: "You're out of order!" To which she replied, "I know I am, but so are you."

Cleaver stumps for Reaganomics

GRASSROOTS NEWS, N.W. — Eldridge Cleaver, a man who has lived a life of many extremes, defrosted his current ideology in front of an audience of sixty people last Friday night at the Northwest Service Center. His visit was sponsored by the Unification Church of Portland, whose members are referred to by the mass media as "Moonies."

Cleaver is best known as the former Minister of Information for The Black Panther Party of the 1960s and the author of *Soul On Ice*. In 1968 he was exiled from the United States and lived in various communist and socialist countries. He stated that he became sadly disillusioned with the Marxist-Leninist ideology and says he is on "a crusade to wake up America to the worldwide threat of International Communism."

In his opening statements Cleaver said that, in practice, communism was not what he expected. "I did not find communism to be a Utopia. It is a false Robin Hood that talks in the name of the poor but never distributes the wealth. The State is narrowly held and economically stifled."

He has replaced the black beret and leather jacket worn by the Black Panthers with the casual dress of a lecturer with an American flag on his lapel. "I've had a chance to examine different political systems, and this one is the best. We need to make a distinction between the economic system and the political system. Many will look at the problems in the economic system to criticize our political system."

Cleaver says he believes what is occurring in Central America is a well-organized international apparatus controlled by the communists. "The peace advocates are playing into the hands of the communists."

He made many references to wanting to confront communism by "using America's military might, the CIA or FBI. We need to assert ourselves in the world as standing for freedom and not allowing other countries to come under the communist's yoke. We should interfere totally with more radical actions and throw communism in the garbage can of history."

During the question and answer period, Cleaver responded to a question regarding what he perceived to be the situation in El Salvador: "The people of El Salvador may not be learned in the Marxist-Leninist doctrine but they are learned in "foxhole" communism. This is communism that is not in power but is in the foxholes. It makes common cause with the people by helping them overthrow the tyrants. This is what we have in El Salvador. The other kind of communism is "boardroom" communism, which has the power and its tooth on the necks of the people. This is what we have in Poland, Cuba and the Soviet Union."

In an interview that followed, Cleaver stated his support for the economic policies of the Reagan administration. "His economic policies are certainly unfulfilled. The basic principle of returning the government to the state and local level is one that I like. Along with bringing the federal budget under control."

He also says he believes Ronald Reagan to be the best thing that ever happened to black people, economically. "I didn't like the way black people were plugged into the economy with all these welfare programs. It is insecure. I want to see black people plugged in in the way other people are plugged in, through jobs and salaries like other people. As



Eldridge Cleaver
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

long as the Democratic party was appropriating money for these small programs that were benefiting only a few they were able to keep black people on an economic treadmill that was getting us nowhere.

"Now, we have black people talking economics, when a couple of years ago you couldn't get anyone to talk about economics. Now, we are talking about how to get a piece of the pie and a sound base for us. This attitude has been fostered by the moves created by Reagan."

His pro-American ideology fluctuated when it came to South Africa. "I think the South African regime needs to go. I think South Africa needs to be subjected to the same kinds of restrictions as Cuba and some of these other communist countries. I advocate the same kinds of solution for South Africa as I do for El Salvador. A democratic government controlled by the people. And if we don't follow the right policies, the South African people will be liberated from the racist regime with communist help. If this happens they will have the same kinds of trouble as these other countries in trying to get rid of a communist regime."

"I say the people in South Africa must be set free and we are the ones in a position to make it happen by making our government bring it about. We could make our government bring about that change, not by talking about it and walking away, but by bringing our power to bear to make it happen. And if that doesn't work we should send the Marines down there to change that situation around."

Cleaver concluded by stating he doesn't see his ideological transformation as betraying the civil and human rights struggle of the 1960s.

"In the '60s we were not looking at where we were going. We were looking at tearing down and let the future generation rebuild. We never thought that we would still be alive, and wanted to kill as many of them as we could. We wanted to assert our manhood and tell them we were not punks to be pushed around. If they shot us we were going to shoot them. If we let you down it was only because we were not better shots."



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Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

The 1983 Legislature recently adjourned their 1983 session. The Street Beat team wondered if people knew what happened during the session, asking, "Do you know what the 1983 legislature accomplished?"



John Gressel
Retired

"I don't think they accomplished that much. Nothing came across as if they were together. All I gathered from it was off-the-wall talking."



Jeanne Smith
Student

"I'm not sure. I think they should make all the local communities more aware of what is going on."



Rodney Lee
Boilermaker

"Yes, I do. I like the new law which said you can go to school and still receive unemployment compensation."



Sam Hill
Construction Worker

"I don't know what they did. The information is not being filtered down to the people. All forms of government could do a better job of informing the people."



William Harold
U.S. Army

No, I don't. When I read the papers about it they wrote it in a way that only the highly educated could understand it."



Ida Romero
Unemployed

"No, I don't. I don't know what they did or what they didn't do."

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The English of the 15th to 17th centuries believed that the color red was helpful to the sick. Patients were dressed in red nightgowns and surrounded with red objects.

The construction of Stonehenge required an estimated 1.5 million hours of labor.

The longest national anthem is that of Greece. It contains 158 verses.

A kernel of corn must be heated to 400°F. before it will "pop."

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