

# METROPOLITAN

## Neighbors oppose "adult motel"

by Robert Lothian

The Eliot Neighborhood Development Association is taking on the adults-only San Rafael Fantasy Motel in its continued fight to rid lower Union Avenue of prostitution.

The motel, at 109 N.E. San Rafael St., has been a neighborhood problem for years, said Michelann Ortloff, chairwoman of the neighborhood association. Recent changes at the motel have caused local residents to become concerned that it will attract prostitutes, drug pushers and pimps and cause related problems for the neighborhood, she said.

Known for years as the Desert Motel, its name was changed recently to the San Rafael Adult Motel and then changed again to the San Rafael Fantasy Motel. Newspaper ads appeared reading, "fantasize with your playmate," and a sign directing traffic to the motel was installed in a private yard on Williams Ave.

Ortloff said that "in and out" traffic at the motel has increased even though the neighborhood association has campaigned for two years to cut down on prostitution on Union Ave.

"There are a lot of people calling me, especially people who live around there," she said. "It's the kind of thing we want to discourage in the neighborhood."

Roger Anderson, the motel's manager, defended the recent changes at a meeting at Unthank Plaza June 25th. "We're doing a good job of cleaning the place up and I think that's contributing to the community. Were not there to boost the prostitution business," he said. Besides new carpets and paint, he said, improvements include x-rated television and waterbeds. One room, with a Jacuzzi, a sauna and mirrors over the bed, is rented at a three-hour minimum for "sort of a health type deal," he said.

Henderson said that Calvin N. Rector, who leases the motel from its owner, Richard F. Mannis, runs similar adults only motels in Parkrose and on the Oregon coast.

"All you are doing is inviting blatant prostitution with the three-hour rentals," said Sgt. Ralph E. Radner of the Portland Police vice division. "That's what led to the shutting down of the Crown Motel," a center of prostitution on Interstate Ave., he said. He advised neighborhood residents that they could picket the motel, petition the city council and to take "any and all concerns" to Commissioner Schwab.

One person in the audience described broken bottles, fights and loud traffic in the middle of the night, and children trying to peek in the windows near an adults only motel on S.E. Powell Blvd. "If what you've got brewing here is anything like what we've got out on Powell, I'd say do something quick," she said.

Mannis, owner of the San Rafael Motel, said he wanted to cooperate with the neighborhood association. As a gesture of good will, he said, he had the name changed on the Williams Ave. sign from the San Rafael Adult Motel to the San Rafael Fantasy Motel. "We don't want them, we don't like them and we'll do anything we can to get rid of them," he said about the

prostitutes.

Mannis said there was no illegal activity going on at the motel, and that if he found that the lessee was condoning illegal activity, he would pull the lease.

"I would like you to come and sit in my living room tonight and tell me there's no illegal activity," replied a resident who lives near the motel. He said he has stepped on used hypodermic needles left in his yard by motel patrons.

"We've heard this 'we stuff' before," said another resident. "It's 'We' just as long as you can make some money."

Mannis hinted that the association was being unreasonable. "You are taking it upon yourselves to disrupt and destroy a legitimate business," he told them.

Ortloff said the neighborhood association will continue to pressure Mannis and Rector to change the motel's orientation away from pornography and prostitution toward a business more compatible with the neighborhood.



Sign on the corner of N.E. Rafael and Williams Avenue points to the former Desert Motel, now an adult business and source of neighborhood controversy. (Photo: Kris Altucher)

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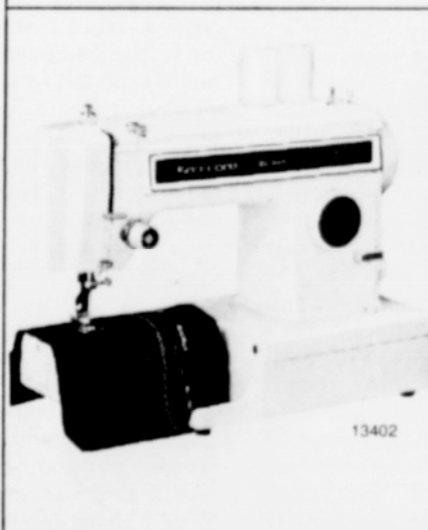
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