

**News and Current Events :: Seattle Considers Banning Lap Dances****Seattle Considers Banning Lap Dances - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2005/10/3 10:07**

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SEATTLE - Strippers who venture too near the laps of their dollar-bill-waving patrons have exposed an unexpected prudish streak in this West Coast bastion of tolerance and liberalism.

Fearing a spate of new cabarets after a federal judge struck down the city's 17-year moratorium on new strip clubs, the City Council is planning to vote Monday on some of the strictest adult-entertainment regulations of any big city in the country.

Seattle's queasiness over naked dancing contradicts its usual freewill attitude, dating back to the city's thriving business separating prospectors from their gold at brothels and saloons. Anti-war demonstrations are routine here, a gay population has thrived for nearly a century, and residents voted two years ago to make enforcing marijuana laws the police department's lowest priority.

"Seattle had always had that reputation for being a wide-open town, so it's an almost-normal kind of Seattle controversy — what is sin?" said local historian David Wilma.