

# Exclusions considered for North Portland bike path

BY SEAN P. NELSON  
 FOR STREET ROOTS

Cyclists using a secluded bike path underpass just south of Jantzen Beach and North of Delta Park met Tuesday night to discuss concerns over illegal conduct blocking the path.

North Portland Crime Prevention Program Coordinator Mark Wells answered bicyclists questions along with Ted Miller, district manager with the Oregon Department of Transportation. Jimmy Candelaria, a member of the Bicycle Transportation Alliance and the Oregon Bike Racers Association asked for suggestions on what to do in a tough economy when police are shortstaffed.

"I deal with transient issues every day. There is a difference between someone camping because they're homeless and someone breaking the law," Wells said.

Bicyclists led by Candelaria wanted to know what to do in order to make the area safer. "If you're coming down and you continue down the middle of the path and it looks unsafe, how can you get away?"

The key for bicyclists using the site is whether or not people frequenting that location are engaging in their free speech rights or breaking the law.

"Camping and Portland is a big issue. So is harassing and drug dealing which you

guys have seen. You can yell and scream all you want and it's not illegal. The two areas we're looking at is menacing and harassing," Wells told cyclists. Riders who are approached in a threatening manner by transients should retreat to a safe distance and call 911 or police.

City officials are also working on an exclusion agreement for the site that would exclude people engaging in illegal activity on the site from returning. Those breaking the exclusion agreement would be charged with criminal trespass, Wells said. Miller indicated that ODOT in the district headquartered in the Clackamas area is also working with the city and police to make the bike path safer.

"We're working on an agreement. We're trying to make it safe. What can we do that's lower cost?" Miller asked. Options ODOT and Miller could lead a hand with include resculpting the landscape or vegetation on the site after determining when the landfill was built.

Other possibilities include signs discouraging criminal activity and cameras with the PPB. "If you put up signs the criminals will tag them," Miller said.

# Naked America

By Sherry Asbury

There are three Americas, my friend.  
 America for the Rich,  
 America for the aged, disenfranchised and disabled,  
 America for the middle class.

Freedom and equality are a joke.  
 The rich ringed fingers of the wealthy  
 crush the larynx of the rest of the citizens.  
 From their ranks come the bankers,  
 political wizards, the men of power and might.

Government, my friend, is play pretend  
 at its highest order.  
 Some Sir Galahads ride in and try to change things,  
 but the good old boy network is firmly entrenched.  
 It is all a sham, the voting and politics and hoopla.  
 A few strong men with money falling from their  
 greedy fingers move us like puppets.

One hand washes the other.  
 Deals that would singe the soul are made privately.  
 No one tells, no one talks.

Votes are bought and stolen, elections are a farce.  
 Think of Palin, made a horrendous joke, and all  
 for show — they knew who would win.  
 So where does that leave Obama — a shill,  
 a front man for the real iron rulers of America?

Keep the masses happy, keep them quietly entertained.  
 Never let them see true power in a strong light.

It is a system that teeters on the brink of destruction.  
 Men became too greedy, Americans, too complacent.  
 Furtively they slipped our power from us with sly hands.  
 Now we cannot afford health care, food or even a roof over our heads.

Until we rise up and become "WE, THE PEOPLE"  
 once again, demanding truth, disclosure and fair treatment,  
 we will be trod by the boots of Satan incarnate.

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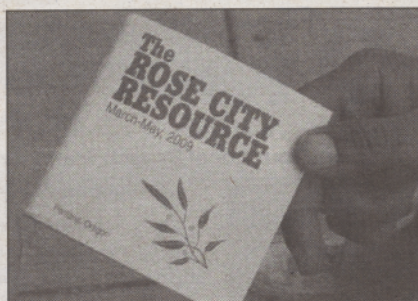
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The Rose City Resource makes it all just a little bit easier. The 100-page booklet records the hours and locations of basic services including shelters, meals, and health clinics, as well as advocacy and long-term solutions such as recovery programs, legal aid, and transitional housing. The guide includes more than 350 listings in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties and is now available in both English and on the Web. Every year, the pocket-size guide helps thousands of individuals and families independently access the services they need.



The Rose City Resource is partially funded through partnerships with the City of Portland and 211 Info. But to keep updating and publishing this all-in-one resource, Street Roots needs community support. The guides are more important than ever. While programs are shifting and shrinking, many people are finding themselves in need of services for the first time. Your support will keep the Rose City Resource in the hands of the people who need them.

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