

Business group gives anti-business workshop at conference

A Portland business group recently put on a workshop titled, "Why Portland sucks for business" at a national conference meant to recruit new businesses to the area.

The workshop focused on the pitfalls of living in a city full of liberals and communist electives.

"We're really upset that Portland electives don't do a better job at attracting businesses to Portland," says one of the workshop presenters. "We travel around the country letting people know that our streets are overrun with hoodlums. It's astonishing to us why people don't want to come here to do business. We blame the local government for spending so much money on social programs and not enough money on doing exactly what we want them to do."

Asked why there are not more Fortune 500 companies in Portland, a spokesperson for the business group says, "It's clearly the lack of compassion for what big business can give back to the community."

"We hate it in Portland," said one business executive who traveled with the group. "The people are so liberal it makes me sick. We're going to go back and demand that City Hall does more to recruit new business to the region. If they aren't with us, they're against us."

Groups work to move homeless across downtown

The local Chamber of Commerce is working on a strategy to move homeless youth downtown from SW 3rd and Stark to SW 5th and Alder.

It's thought that nearly 60 staffers from City Hall, nonprofits and the business community will be working on the plan. It's the group's goal to create a process that will take somewhere in the ballpark of 400 hours to develop, several public hearings and create a divided public.

"It's our hope that the new law created through this process will be in place for 16 months before being ruled unconstitutional," says one business rep. "That's four months longer than the first three plans we came up with. We'll take it."

Businesses are upset because the City of Portland doesn't currently have sunset laws for homeless youth that represent a certain "dark" culture.

A spokesperson for My Shelter Is Better Than Yours, a nonprofit working with homeless adults, says they've recently become experts on homeless youth who hop trains and listen to punk rock. "They're devil worshippers. We want them out!"

Another nonprofit who works to end poverty overseas says they feel more comfortable in places like Iraq than downtown Portland. They've recently hired the Pinkerton's to run the tramps out of town and to keep the riffraff off their doorsteps.

Food cart owners have promised that if something isn't done soon they will form a vigilante group and take the law into their own hands.

Homeless youth say they plan to protest by playing jug music 12 hours a day in high-traffic areas with their dogs. "We'll also get really high," said one youth.

Private security companies who provide security downtown for a budget-strapped police bureau declined to comment on the new policy, saying only, "We're open for business."



Lance Armstrong begs a police officer to let him use the restroom before a recent race in France.

REUTERS/POOL/FILES

Oregon Republicans want cyclists drug tested

STAFF REPORTS

A spokesperson for the Oregon Republican Party wants cyclists in Oregon to be tested for performance-enhancing drugs before receiving any more funds from the state's transportation budget.

"It's clear that the majority of cyclists, especially those with their Lance Armstrong look-alike outfits, could be doping," says Jerry Roadchester, R-Pendleton. "We may even ask for some

funds back."

Cycling parents across the state were already scrambling to explain to their children that Lance Armstrong was actually not a role model after defending him over the past 10 years.

"My mom and dad lied," said a tearful Jimmy, 11, who said he was once one of Armstrong's biggest fans and whose family had donated to Armstrong's foundation.

A spokesperson for Portland's cycling community says that while many of the cyclists in Portland may be doping, they

aren't actually using performance-enhancing drugs. "We'll admit that many cyclist in Portland are riding around stoned, but that steroids were not their drug of choice."

Republicans described the doping allegations among Oregon cyclists as being a threat to the values and morals that made this country great.

Joe, a 45-year-old skateboarder, declined to comment on this issue, but passed along a knowing head nod during our interviews.

Office holders ask voters to just be quiet

STAFF, REPORTEDLY

Clamor among public makes it hard to concentrate, some say

City and county elected officials are asking voters and advocacy groups to just be quiet and let them work.

"This is a really, really hard job," says one political insider. "It's going to be really hard for us to cut millions of dollars this year with all of the people complicating our messages."

One spokesperson for a local government agency said that one elected official actually had his feelings hurt after voters went public with concerns. "We only ask that voters actually come out and take part in our successful campaigns. If we're going to gut important programs, honestly, we would rather that people just stay home if they have one."

"Honestly, we don't care about the elected officials or the people," says one city worker. "I come into to this cubicle every day, 40 hours a week and am asked to be a trained monkey. I'm like a rat in a lab. All I care about is making it through the day. Making our city work? I'm not sure how much that actually matters."

Elected officials say things may not get better until the next campaign season when they plan on rolling out a new plan to deal with the old plan that replaced the older plan that was outdated due to a changing economy that will pick up sometime in the near or distant future.

Some advocates interviewed for this story called BS. Others remained quiet. Most insiders didn't care either way.



Please don't take any of this seriously.



City Hall in quiet mode, the way workers like it.