## Green acres, East Portland

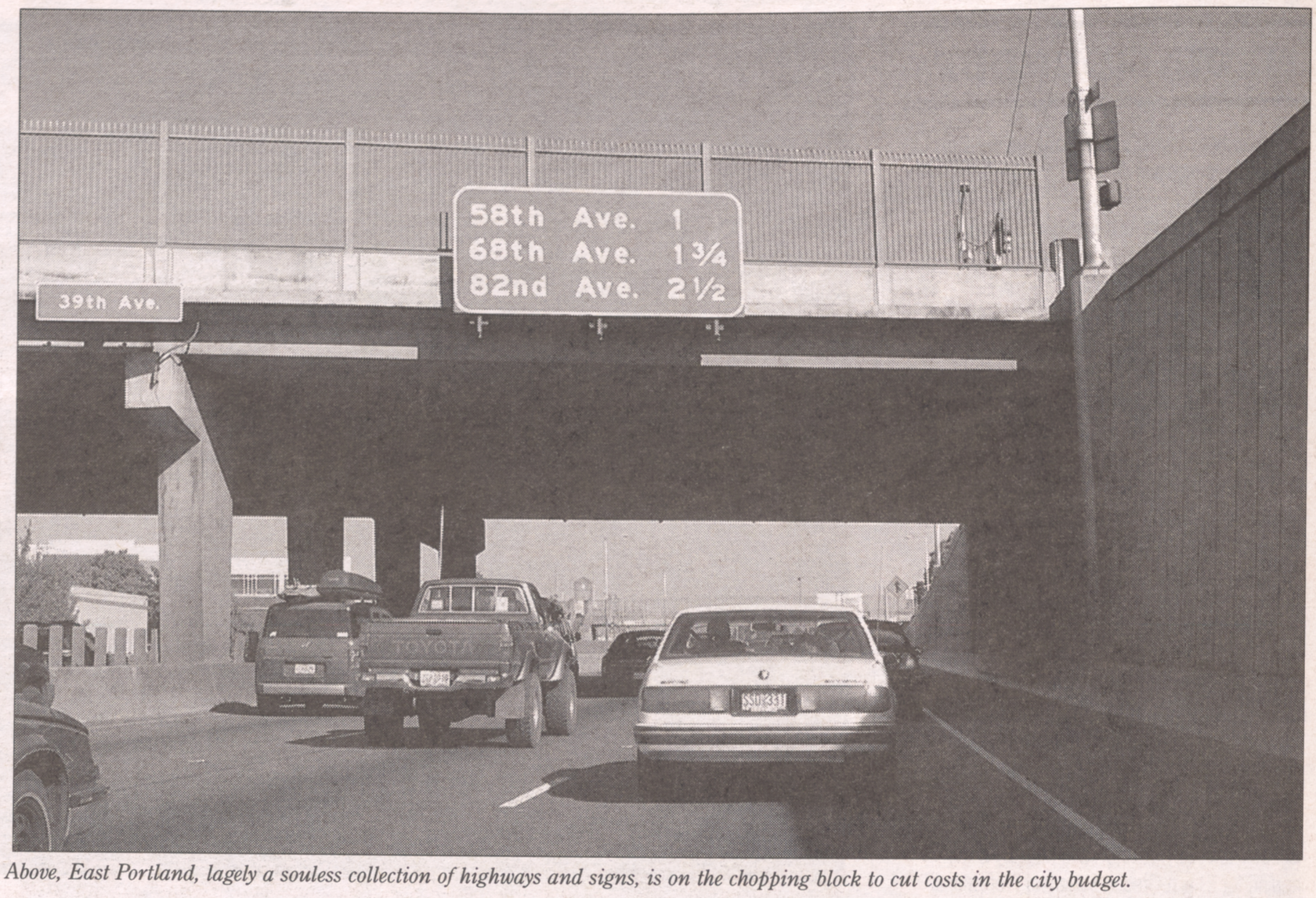
East Portland is the place to be, hard living
is the life for me

Strip malls and dirt roads far and wide
Discount cigarettes, sex shops, liquor
and wine
Keep downtown Portland, give me that
good ole' corner dive

The Pearl is where I'd rather stay
I get allergic smelling blue-collar workers
anyway
I just adore my downtown view
Dah-ling I love you, but give me Park
Avenue

"The poor."
"The high end stores."
"Dirty air."
"Pioneer Square."

You are my life, poor now
Goodbye downtown Portland life
East Portland, this is where we long to be




*Above, East Portland, lagely a souless collection of highways and signs, is on the chopping block to cut costs in the city budget.*

# Local officials look to give back East Portland

STAFF RETORTS

Portland policy-makers are working on a new plan to give East Portland back to whomever it belonged to before being annexed into the City of Portland some 20 years ago.

Insiders say that with more than 26 percent of the population taking up 10 percent of the city's budget, "it's just too much to ask. It's been a nightmare," according to one source, who declined to look us in the eye.

"Let's face it," says a lobbyist for downtown businesses. "East Portland is costing us too much. We honestly don't care how diverse the district is, or if their schools are performing above average. Downtown is blighted. Have you seen the latest Urban Renewal Districts?"

"To be honest, I think walking to school on dirt roads builds character," says one political strategist. "Our grandparents did it. I just don't see the need for sidewalks. Bike lanes? Forget about it. These are hard times and hard times call for desperate measures. Do you know how desperate those people actually are out there? It's hurting tourism for all of us."

With the city facing a $25 million deficit, it's smart fiscal policy, says one staffer inside City Hall who declined to speak on the record.

Mayor Charlie Hales says that if people are concerned about the proposal, they can call one of his four staff members and that they would might eventually reach someone.

Metro officials said little on the matter other than, "We don't want East Portland."

Multnomah County officials say that while there's a lot of opportunity in East Portland, the sustainability of the area might not fit into their sustainable plans.

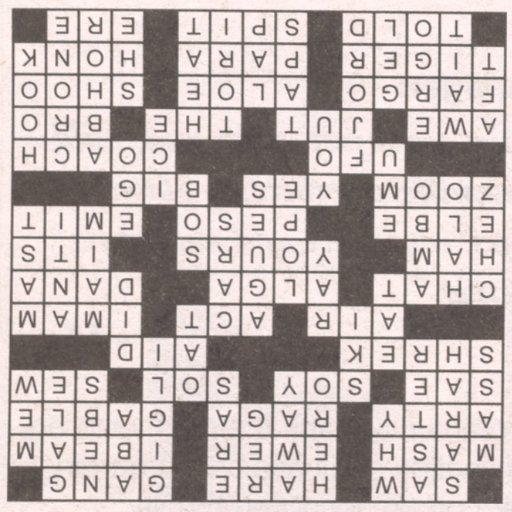
State officials say they are too busy working on the "Bridge to Nowhere" project (See page 5) to help East Portland.

Residents west of 82nd Avenue contacted for this story didn't know Portland actually extended past 60th Avenue. "I mean, we drive through there I guess on our way to Mount Hood. We sometimes buy gas there."

## CORRECTIONS

Street Roots strives for accuracy, but we're human. So we also strive to correct errors in our paper whenever possible. Please report any errors to our managing editor, Joanne Zuhl, at 503-228-5657, or write to joanne@streetroots.org.

Answers to puzzles on page 15



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| 5 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 4 |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 8 |
| 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 |

## VENDOR WORK ADS

Work Wanted
Dog walker; House cleaner; Care giver. Dog lover who is honest, sober and reliable. Rate: Private treaty. Eileen V. (message) 503-228-5657

Need a worker? Can do almost anything, light or heavy. References supplied. $10 an hour. Ask for Cassidy Morse, 503-228-5657 (SR office), or 503-875-6504 (cell).

We Are The Safety Net!

Find out more about saving Portland housing and human services at www.wearethesafetynet.org