

Target cont'd from pg 1

Target is losing ground to competitors like Walmart and Costco, who have posted gains during the same period. The company's retreat from DEI was confirmed in January when it ended anti-racism training, stopped promoting Black-owned businesses, and abandoned its participation in the Human

the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder, which operates near Target's corporate headquarters, criticized the company's DEI reversal as ill-timed and harmful. "The timing was disturbing," she said. "It was a slap in the face." The company's performance shows clear consequences. Target reported a 3.8% drop

“Target’s manipulated silence toward the Black Press sends a powerful and troubling message

Rights Campaign's corporate equality survey. It also scrapped its internal DEI goals, sparking immediate backlash from civil rights groups, Black consumers, and Black-owned media.

"This has raised a red flag to Black America," said Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). "We've not had direct communication with Target's CEO, Brian Cornell, and we intend to intensify our efforts to get this issue resolved in the interest of 50 million African American consumers across the nation." The NNPA launched a selective buying and public education campaign after Rev. Jamal Bryant's "Target Fast" attracted nearly 200,000 supporters. The NAACP issued a consumer advisory citing Target's broken promises on racial justice. The anger has not subsided.

"Target's manipulated silence toward the Black Press sends a powerful and troubling message to Black America—that our voices, platforms, and influence are expendable," said Bobby Henry, publisher of the Westside Gazette and NNPA chairman. "True diversity requires long-term investment. When companies pull back, we must do the same. Black consumers are speaking with their dollars every day." Tracey Williams-Dillard, publisher and CEO of

in comparable in-store sales during the first quarter of 2025. Cornell, on a recent company earnings call, admitted "we're not satisfied" with the performance and pointed to "the reaction to the updates we shared on Belonging in January" as one of several headwinds. According to Caliber, Target's reputation has also suffered, with its Integrity and Leadership Scores both dropping from 65 to 58. The company's Recommendation Rate fell nearly 25% between January and May.

The latest Business Insider review of Target stores in Wisconsin, California, and Washington, D.C., uncovered inconsistent customer experiences. Some stores were clean and organized but lacked foot traffic, while others had locked-up products, out-of-stock inventory, and insufficient staff to assist customers. In one D.C. location, shoppers frequently had to hunt down employees to access basic items behind security cases. Despite the backlash and boycotts, Target says it remains committed to inclusion. "Target is absolutely dedicated to fostering inclusivity for everyone – our team members, our guests, and our supply partners," a company spokesman told Black Press USA. "Today, we are proud of the progress we've made since 2020 and believe it has allowed us to better serve the needs of our customers."



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

‘No Kings’ in Seattle

An estimated 70,000 Seattlites protested in the streets of Seattle on June 14, said to be the largest rally in the city's downtown. Masses of demonstrators packed into streets, parks and plazas across the United States on Saturday to protest President Donald Trump, marching through downtowns and small towns, blaring anti-authoritarian chants mixed with support for protecting democracy and immigrant rights.

Eviction cont'd from pg 1

are represented by attorneys, while 47% of landlords have legal representation.

"We cannot afford to cut the eviction defense programs for renters when the system already puts tenants at a disadvantage, with unequal access to legal services," she said.

Advocates criticized the disconnect between such data and what they see as a stubborn funding preference for emergency shelters among state and local leadership.

"The rate of homelessness is increasing every single month because more people are being evicted into homelessness than we are phasing out of homelessness into permanent housing," Noddings, community engagement coordinator at CAT, said. "Only 1 in 5 adults that go into our sheltering system in Multnomah County end up in permanent housing placement. The other 4 out of 5 are ejected back onto the street, where they will stay."

Rent increases have far outpaced stagnant wages, and tenants find themselves in an expensive rental market whose rates are increasingly driven upward in by the proliferation of private equity firms in property management.

Deadly Outcomes

"We are manufacturing a human rights crisis here in Oregon

when we allow these evictions to continue," Noddings said. "It is far more expensive, far more inhumane, for us to cut these programs and force people onto the street where they will cost

sands of sweeps across the city in recent years, destabilize an already vulnerable population. Numerous studies have shown that such sweeps lead to an increase in overdose deaths.

“We are manufacturing a human rights crisis here in Oregon when we allow these evictions to continue

the state significantly more money in homeless prevention and placement services, where they will lose their jobs and are often separated from their children, and where some of them do not make it at the end, because living without permanent housing is deadly."

A ProPublica report published last week highlighted the sharp increase of fatalities among Portland's homeless population – 450 deaths in 2023, compared to 113 deaths in 2019 – that is disproportionate to any increase in homeless populations, and makes Portland the deadliest city on the West coast for those living on the streets. The report highlights how this increase in mortality happened alongside more aggressive clearance tactics, and the addition of hundreds of shelter beds.

Critics of city policy argue that an "out of sight" approach to homelessness, including thou-

"Instead of scaling up the support (for eviction prevention), the legislature is gutting the very programs that keep people in their homes," Ho said. "Cutting rental assistance by nearly 80% will eliminate help for more than 23,000 households."

Multnomah County Commissioner Shannon Singleton said the proposed cuts would deepen the homelessness crisis and create a need for even more shelter, which she called "the least cost-effective tool we have."

"It is much cheaper to help someone stay in housing than to help them get back into housing once they've fallen into homelessness," she said. "And with eviction prevention, we avoid the impact of the trauma of homelessness on families."

Bandana Shrestha, director of the AARP Oregon, stated that more than 90% of recipients use

See EVICTION on page 6

No Kings cont'd from pg 1

cordings that critics say further reveal Trump's authoritarian ambitions.

In one hot mic moment inside the Oval Office, Trump is heard telling El Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele, "The homegrown criminals are next. Yeah. I said homegrown are next—the homegrown. You've got to build about five more places. Yeah, that's fair. Alright? Yeah. It's not big enough. No, yeah. Come on." The chilling exchange raised the alarm over whether Trump

was seriously proposing sending U.S. citizens abroad for detention, an idea legal experts say would directly violate the Constitution.

The remarks follow a pattern of Trump admiring autocratic leaders. In an earlier on-camera exchange, Trump gushed about North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un: "Could happen, yeah I would have him, yeah, I think it's something that could happen. Hey, he's the head of a country, and I mean, he's

“‘The homegrown criminals are next. Yeah.’ –Trump

the strong head. Don't let anyone think anything different. He speaks, and his people sit up at attention. I want my people to do the same."

Those words, now resurfacing as tensions escalate and threats to democratic institutions rise, reveal how close America is to its first dictatorship.

"It is absolutely well-known that these dictators and autocrats are rooting for you to be president again because they're so clear they can manipulate you with flattery and favors," former Vice President Kamala Harris warned during the September 2024 presidential debate.