

I have to say that this piece does a great job of describing Portland right now-particularly how the city council operates. Also, my stepdaughter is paying the same rent in San Francisco that is being charged here. Back in the day, we were all convinced that by working together, we would improve things. Plus, we had really effective leaders who were really smart, creative and charismatic. Today's "leaders" seem to give up immediately when faced with a problem. And, it wasn't just that everybody knew each other.....I went through a year long program, run by Harvard in the Portland School District, that was devoted to taking people of accomplishment from the community and teaching them to work effectively with students of color in order to not only bring up their grades, but also learn to deal with government and the world. For some reason, we all felt a sense of responsibility-something I don't see today. I think it was due to the way we were educated.