

# Stop Oregon "3 Strikes And You're Out" Initiatives

The Oregonian reported in May that racism was documented in the Oregon courts.

This bias will be increased if a number of anti-crime initiatives proposed for the Oregon November election become law. There is national and statewide institutionalized racism and anti-working class discrimination that targets people of color and the poor at every step of the justice system. This bias determines who is arrested, the seriousness of the charges, the length of the sentence, and who gets probation. For example, the white Nazi skinhead murderers of Mulugetu Seraw were charged in state court, but Black youth charged with drug offenses are frequently tried in the more severe federal courts.

Initiatives I-47, 51, 54, and 55 will increase this bias. These bills increase mandatory sentences, try 1-year olds and up as adults, mandate life in prison for 3 violations of "most violent" crimes, like murder or robbery, and permit government and private

sector workers, many making union wages, to be replaced by unpaid convict labor.

These proposals are part of the rightwing strategy to scapegoat the poor and people of color for crime and violence in U.S. society. The rightwing is selling a poisonous anti-crime package nationally and locally by claiming these laws will protect the community from murderers and rapists. Genuine public concern is being manipulated by rightwingers like Representative Bob Tieman. He is an initiator of most of these proposals and is also proposing legislation to cut public employees retirement benefits. He is part of a national drive to replace decent wages, and union protections with low-wages and part-time work. This helps big business at the expense of most workers who are left with fewer and worse jobs, unemployment insurance, and welfare. These measures will increase injustice and therefore crime and imprisonment.

More prisons will not increase public safety. Imprisonment doesn't

work when it is not logical or fair. (The justice system punishes crime that is caused by lack of opportunity experienced by the poor and people of color or locks people up because they are poor and/or of color.)

The US imprisons a greater share of our population than any other nation, but this does not reduce crime. The over-representation of people of color in prisons and among those who receive the death penalty is a national crime and outrage. A great proportion of federal prisoners are convicted for low-level drug offenses, with no record of violence.

Youth, adults of color, and immigrants are routinely targeted and arrested by police.

You can be charged with a crime if you are Black, young and shopping at the Lloyd Center Mall, if you are Hispanic and walking down the street, if you are homeless and on the street, or if you are "dressed like a gang member" or hang out with gang members. This is outrageous. Shopping at the malls, being in a gang, or being

friends with gang members, is not illegal. It is our constitutional right to assembly and free association.

One of the "violent felonies" listed in the Oregon "3 strikes and you're out" Initiative #51 is "conspiracy to commit these crimes." This can apply to anyone, and it will be used to criminalize youth of color and gang members. You won't have to do anything illegal or even be present at a crime to be charged with conspiracy.

The Oregon Juvenile Justice Department is, unfortunately, not following their mission which is to "guide" and "nurture" youth and "prevent their entry into the adult justice system" Instead they are falling into line with this national trend to blame all of the U.S. social problems on our children. They are considering proposals to remand youth as adults, build bootcamps, harness children with fingerprinting and photographic records when charged, and make parents "responsible" by requiring them to pay the costs of jail and the courts when their children get into trouble

and charging them with a crime if their child uses a weapon. This will destroy many families, the lives of youths, and hurt single mothers the most.

These measures must be stopped. Please don't sign I-47, 51, 54, 55 initiative petitions and work against them. Demand that our elected representatives, the Juvenile Justice Departments and all agencies serving children, reject these negative proposals. We need justice, not a rightwing scam that weakens our constitutional rights and gives money to prisons and programs that criminalize youth, the poor and people of color. It will impoverish us all.

We should spend our money to raise the minimum wage improve our public schools, create union-protected jobs with safe, humane working conditions for everyone. Our tax dollars should provide free, quality 24 hour child care, free universal health care, well-funded and staffed neighborhood recreational programs, and human and social service agencies. And that's

just for starters.

Demand that the corporations give back the millions they got from Measure 5, and that corporate taxes be increased to fund the services we all need and have a right to. Big business gets a free ride with tax loopholes, tax giveaways, and by paying inadequate wages, while our society crumbles. Let's not fall for the rightwing line of blaming the victims--people of color, workers, union members, women, the poor, and immigrants. It is time to hold accountable those who run this society--big business and government leaders. Business and government leaders control the wealth we have made and the money we pay in taxes, and they are responsible to see that we get the benefit of that wealth. No more tax breaks for corporations. No more higher taxes, dead-end jobs and prisons for us and our children.

Adrienne Weller, Radical Women  
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## Kids Sign On Say No To Drugs Race Car

Children are invited to sign their name on the Northwest Dodge Dealers Say No To Drugs Race Car as part of their commitment to remain drug free, and meet driver Dr. James de Boer and members of the race team. Dr. de Boer and the Say No To Drugs Race Car will be at Dick's Country Dodge (767 SW Baseline, Hillsboro, 503-640-1050) on Tuesday, June 21 and at Vancouver Dodge (1015 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA, 206-574-1131) on Wednesday, June 22 from 10am - 8pm both days. Dr de Boer will be with the car from noon - 2pm and 4 - 6pm both days.

Children and adults will have an opportunity to view autographs from well-known personalities who have already signed the Say No To Drugs Race Car, including Michael Andretti, Emerson Fittipaldi, Richard Petty and former Beatle and racing enthusiast George Harrison. They may also receive a team ribbon and become an official member of the SNTD Race Team by making a donation to the foundation (suggested amount \$1).

The Say No To Drugs Foundation is a non-profit organization that sponsors a Racing Team to encourage youth to make a commitment to remain drug free. Dr. de Boer of Palm Desert, California, is the founder of the SNTDF and the driver of the Say No To Drugs race car that will compete in the Dodge/Shelby Pro Series at Portland International Raceway on Friday, June 24. Known by kids as Dr. D, he is the reigning USAC Formula Russell Champion and the Formula Alpine Pro Series Champion and currently ranks fourth in the championship points standings for the Dodge/Shelby Pro Series.

The Say No To Drugs Race Car will be on display in the Dodge/Shelby Pro Series exhibit area at Portland International Raceway on Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26 for viewing signatures.

For further information on the SNTDF, call the foundation office at (619) 340-4617 or the public relations office at (310) 305-0401.

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## Portland Public Schools Serves Free Lunches

Some 4,900 youngsters will receive free lunches and snacks this summer at 43 Portland-area youth centers and parks in a federally funded Summer Food Service Program that begins June 20 and runs through Aug. 18.

Portland School District's central kitchen will produce daily meals for students under age 19 participating in educational enrichment programs, recreation and craft programs and field trips. Meals, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are provided to all children participating in the programs listed on the attached page. Specific information on site locations is available from the Portland Park Bureau or calling the school district's Nutrition Services Department, 331-3366.

## Man Charged In Murder

Harry James Villa III, a 19-year-old North Portland man, has been arrested and charged with murder in connection with the April 29 shooting of Corey Denail Taylor, which occurred at Northeast Cleveland and Beech Street.

Homicide detectives Michael Hefley and Tom Nelson arrested Villa. The suspect is listed as a gang affiliate.

Taylor died after being shot multiple times as he stood with a group of people on the street. Detectives believe that the homicide was in retaliation for the October 1993 murder of gang affiliate John Sweet. Arrests have been made in connection with that homicide.

# Preparing a Generation of Thinkers

THANKS TO LOTTERY DOLLARS



Roseburg's Eastwood Elementary School has all the appearances of your everyday elementary school. You'll find the standard play equipment and bicycle racks. You'll also see fields for a recess full of tag, baseball, and soccer. What sets Eastwood apart from most schools is their outdoor classroom and fish hatchery located along the 40 acres of Deer Creek that runs through the school's property.

Students at Eastwood are learning for more than the three R's of reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. As part of the watershed enhancement program funded by Lottery dollars, fifth-grade teacher Dan Tilson is providing students with an understanding of nature that no book can teach.

To Dan Tilson, he sees the project as part of the changing face of education: "People are starting to realize that what we are doing right now is not going to work for the century. . . . We need to prepare a generation of thinkers."



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