



Armored Vehicle Collides with Bus

On Saturday morning at approximately 10a.m., an Oregon Armored transport vehicle collided with a Tri-Met bus at the corner of N.E. Broadway and Williams St. Witnesses say the #4 Fessenden was traveling north down Williams Avenue when the armored vehicle ran a west bound red light and smashed into the front corner of the bus. The driver of the armored vehicle and one passenger from the bus were taken to the hospital with minor injuries. PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL

CHARLES JORDAN SPEAKS

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We've got to concentrate on the majority. Then they could help us deal with the rest of them. This is what I would do. We know the kids who are out here trying to make it, so I'm going to help those who want help, those who say "Look, I'm at risk and with a little help, I can make it".

Yugen: Okay.

Jordan: But we're taking our money and building more prisons and jails when you can give these kids a little help! That's what I would do.

Yugen: There is a correlation between the options you spoke about earlier, and criminality and imprisonment. Right?

Jordan: The cycle we're in right now, we can't win, and are doomed to lose. And that's because nobody is prepared to make the tough decisions. Look at the increase in the number of federal prison beds. The thousands of dollars over a lifetime we spend for a prison bed, and what we could do with that money for 10 kids. There is a lack of courage in this country and those who have the courage lack good will. There is not a problem in this world we can't solve. God didn't make an incomplete world. We know Head Start works. So why don't we fund it adequately? Fix our education system. We've walked on the moon, gone higher than any one, gone deeper than any fish, have the technology to do things that our great grandparents would say is voodoo.

Yugen: It sounds like the problem is rooted in a system of government policy, economics and politics.

Jordan: We went to Afghanistan and spent billions of dollars on bombs and then got hypocritical, and started dropping food from planes. Perhaps if we started dropping the food 10 years ago we wouldn't have needed to spend billions of dollars on bombs. You're going to tell me we can do all these things but can't fix the educational system; food on the table for every hungry family, we can't provide. Yet we pay farmers not to farm, and people are dying from starvation. But... what can I do as a person? I don't know, I don't have the answer. Honestly, I wish I had the answer. But I do know my God does.

Yugen: I actually believed the anthem that states 'God Blessed America'. This is a special place, and we are a special people, right?

Jordan: America is a special place. You and I are two of the richest people in the world. There are people in Africa living on one dollar a day. You and I have food, clothes, and we're free to go anywhere in this city and have a strong sense of place because we have rights. We have calendars, places to go and we believe that God... I don't believe people stop to think what God has done for them. It's harder for younger people then older people to think about what God has done for them. I look at how far God has brought me and the things I've come through. But why do we have to get old before becoming wise? Wisdom is with old people because we have lived longer and God has done more for us. I've been here longer so I have more experience with God, His goodness, His love. And this is why I hold on to Him because I know there is nothing else out there.

Survey Finds Teens Troubled

(AP) — More teenagers are using cocaine and regularly smoking and drinking, but an increasing number are also wearing seat belts and refusing to ride with a driver who's been drinking, according to a survey released last Thursday.

The annual survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in schools across the country, examined the behavior of 13,600 high school students.

The survey found injury and violence-related behaviors have fallen, but kids still regularly smoke and drink — nearly half said they'd consumed more than one alcoholic beverage more than once in the month before the survey.

The number of teenagers who said they had tried cocaine within the past 30 days rose to 9.4 percent, up from 5.9 percent in 1991. About 4.2 percent of students said they had used cocaine in the past 30 days, a 59 percent increase from 1991.

About 46 percent of teenagers said they'd had sex, down from 54 percent in the 1991 survey. The percentage of sexually active teenagers who had used a condom increased from 46 percent to 58 percent from 1991 to 1999, but then remained there through 2001. That points to a failure of "abstinence-only" sex-education programs favored by the White House, said James Wagoner, president of Advocates for Youth,

a Washington nonprofit that supports both abstinence and birth-control education for teenagers.

Other findings from the CDC survey:

—The number of teenagers who said they never or rarely wore a seat belt fell from 25.9 percent to 14.1 percent.

—The number of teenagers who said they rode with a driver who had been drinking fell from 39.9 percent to 30.7 percent.

—The percentage of teenagers in daily physical education class fell from 41.6 percent in 1991 to 32.2 percent a decade later.

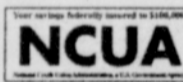
—The percentage of students who carried a weapon decreased from 26.1 percent in 1991 to 17.4 percent in 2001.

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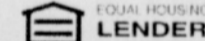


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