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and
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7:15 PM

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**VICTORY
Middle School**

5250 NE MLK (Near Killingsworth)

503-789-9099

FREE Public Charter School



New Principal: Cottrell White, Jr.
Victory Chairman of the Board, Mariano "Dan" Lucero (Left), and Victory advocate Donna Maxey welcome new Victory Principal Cottrell White, Jr. (Right).

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- **15:1 Student-to-Teacher Ratio**
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- **Theme-Based Curriculum**
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**VICTORY
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FREE Public Charter School

Equal Opportunity for All. Victory Middle School admits students of any race, color, nationality and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

Sentenced to HARD TIME

continued ▲ from Front

into Measure 11, people began realizing that the net was too big, encompassing too many people who had never been in trouble before," said Deborah Smith, a Portland State professor who teaches a course titled Racism Within the Justice System.

Measure 11 offenses include assault, murder, rape and sexual abuse, arson, robbery and kidnapping, carrying mandatory minimum sentences of anywhere from 70 to 300 months.

Juvenile offenders are tried as adults at the age of 15 under Measure 11. They're assigned probation officers for adults who often have larger caseloads than their youth counterparts.

Judges cannot make distinction between first and multiple offenders or an individual's circumstance for Measure 11 crimes. Measure 11 also places an "inexpungible" or permanent felony on a juvenile's record.

Former state representative and African-American community activist Jo Ann Bowman helped to organize Parents Against Cruel and Unusual Punishment (PacUp), a group supporting parents of kids

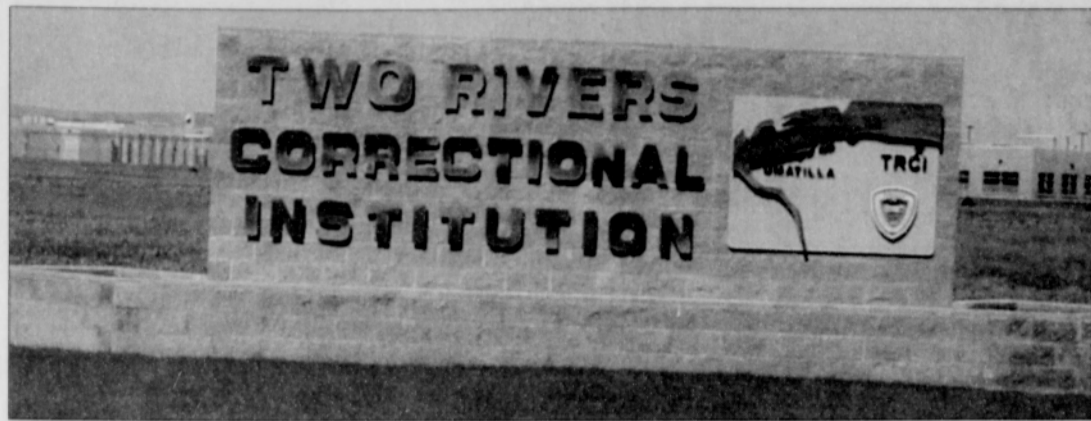


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
The arbitrary tough on crime Measure 11 has helped fill new prisons across the state, like the Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla.

nal justice system is that it disproportional impacts communities of color."

Paul Levy, an attorney trainer with the Metropolitan Public Defenders agrees that Measure 11 is overbroad and damaging to young people.

"Youthful offenders who make their first mistake have a huge price to pay," he said. "The first time offender is treated the same as the multi-time offender. It's a law not capable of taking individual circumstances into consideration."

Donald Lincoln, a program supervisor overseeing youth offend-

It's insane to create a criminal justice system that has no flexibility. It puts all the power in the hands of the district attorney.

— Former State Rep. Jo Ann Bowman

convicted of Measure 11 crimes. Other organizations such as the Oregon Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, have also taken up the cause.

"It does such a disservice to the whole idea of justice," said Bowman. "It's insane to create a criminal justice system that has no flexibility. It puts all the power in the hands of the district attorney. The judge who is impartial can't use his skills to make the decision."

"What we know about our crimi-

ners in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties, says he sees how Measure 11 affects young people, directly.

"This was clearly to deter youth from getting involved in serious crimes but what ends up happening is you have youth that have never had a relationship with the courts in for a length of time. Whether it's your first time or your 25th time, you're going to be charged the same," Lincoln said.

According to Lincoln, it's particularly hard for youth to rejoin

Minimum Sentences

OFFENSES	REQUIRED SENTENCES
Aggravated Murder	30 years-life-death
Murder*	25 years
Attempt to commit aggravated murder	10
Conspiracy to commit aggrav. murder	10
Manslaughter I*	10
Rape I*	8, 4 months
Sodomy I*	8, 4 months
Unlawful Sexual Penetration I*	8, 4 months
Attempt to commit murder	7, 6 months
Conspiracy to commit murder	7, 6 months
Assault I*	7, 6 months
Kidnapping I*	7, 6 months
Robbery I*	7, 6 months
Arson I	7, 6 months
Manslaughter II*	6, 3 months
Rape II*	6, 3 months
Sodomy II*	6, 3 months
Unlawful Sexual Penetration II*	6, 3 months
Sexual Abuse I*	6, 3 months
Assault II*	5, 10 months
Kidnapping II*	5, 10 months
Robbery II*	5, 10 months
Using a Child in a Display of Sexually Explicit Conduct	5, 10 months
Compelling Prostitution	5, 10 months

*Original Measure 11 Offenses

society with a Measure 11 offense on their record.

"It's going to be difficult coming out as a felon. Going in at 17, coming out at 25, you have nothing but a felony charge haunting you for the rest of your life."

A ballot measure attempting to repeal Measure 11 in 1999 was voted down, largely because of a pro-Measure 11 platform from one-time candidate for governor Kevin Mannix during his campaign for the state attorney general.

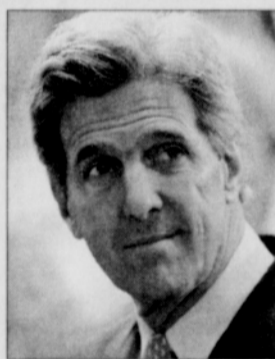
Since then, the governor has convened a major task force studying all facets of sentencing in the state.

"I think it harms society to label 16 year olds felons for life. They're going to have such a tougher time becoming a productive member of society, getting and keeping a job," said Smith, who was also a trial lawyer, often defending Measure 11 cases. "To automatically set up all these kids that way, is very disturbing to me."

Better College Opportunities Promised

(AP)—Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry says if he's elected president, 1 million more students will graduate from college during his first five years in office and he will bring a special focus to boosting opportunities for low-income and minority students.

"We need to move toward the day when four years of college is as universal and affordable as a high school education is today," Kerry told the Rain-



Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry

bow-PUSH Coalition.

His plan would make a special push to encourage students to study.

He said although college graduates will earn \$900,000 more over their careers, less than a third of all Americans and less than a fifth of black Americans have a four-year degree.

Kerry's education plan would require colleges to report to parents and students annual data on the number of minority, low-income and middle-income students enrolling and graduation.

His plan would make a special push to encourage students to study.

Mandatory Sentences Faulted

(AP) — Many get-tough approaches to crime don't work and some, such as mandatory minimum sentences for small-time drug offenders, are unfair and should be abolished, a report from the American Bar Association said.

Laws requiring mandatory minimum prison terms leave little room to consider differences among crimes and criminals, an ABA commission found in its study of problems in the criminal justice system. More people are behind bars for longer terms, but it is unclear whether the country is safer as a result, the ABA said.

The report and recommendations for changes in sentencing, prison conditions and programs for released prisoners follow criticism of the criminal justice system last year from Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

Cosby Doesn't Mince Words on Black Ills

continued ▲ from Front

the white man is doing against us. And it keeps a person frozen in their seat, it keeps you frozen in your hole you're sitting in."

Cosby lamented that the racial slurs once used by those who lynched blacks are now a favorite expression of black children. And he blamed parents.

"When you put on a record and that record is yelling 'n—— this and n—— that' and you've got your little 6-year-old, 7-year-

old sitting in the back seat of the car, those children hear that," he said.

He also condemned black men who missed out on opportunities and are now angry about their lives.

"You've got to stop beating up your women because you can't find a job, because you didn't want to get an education and now you're (earning) minimum wage," Cosby said. "You should have thought more of yourself when you were in high school, when you had an opportunity."

Cosby appeared Thursday with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder and president of the education fund, who defended the entertainer's statements.

"Bill is saying let's fight the right fight, let's level the playing field," Jackson said. "Drunk people can't do that. Illiterate people can't do that."

Cosby also said many young people are failing to honor the sacrifices made by those who struggled and died during the civil rights movement.

"Dogs, water hoses that tear the bark off trees, Emmett Till," he said, naming the black youth who was tortured and murdered in Mississippi in 1955, allegedly for whistling at a white woman. "And you're going to tell me you're going to drop out of school? You're going to tell me you're going to steal from a store?"

Cosby also said he wasn't concerned that some whites took his comments and turned them "against our people."

"Let them talk," he said.

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