

# LAW & JUSTICE

## Justice Panel Documents Prison Disparities

### From disproportionately high black arrests

(AP) -- Blacks in the United States are imprisoned at more than five times the rate of whites, and Hispanics are locked up at nearly double the white rate, according to a new study released by a criminal justice policy group.

The report by the Sentencing Project, a Washington-based think tank, found that states in the Midwest and Northeast have the greatest black-to-white disparity in incarceration. Iowa had the widest disparity in the nation,

imprisoning blacks at more than 13 times the rate of whites.

Such figures "reflect a failure of social and economic interventions to address crime effectively," as well as racial bias in the justice system, said Marc Mauer, the group's executive director.

Vermont, New Jersey, Connecticut and Wisconsin incarcerated blacks at more than 10 times the rate of whites, the group said, citing Justice Department statistics from 2005. Vermont



had a ratio of 12.5, followed by New Jersey with 12.4 and Connecticut with 12.

States with the lowest black-to-white ratio were Hawaii, with 1.9, Georgia with 3.3 and Mississippi with 3.5.

In Iowa, blacks are imprisoned at a rate more than double the national average. For every 100,000 people, Iowa incarcerates 309 whites and 4,200 blacks, the study said.

Paul Stageberg, administrator of the Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, said the results are not surprising, but the causes are subject to interpretation.

He said the state's disproportionately high black arrest rates are likely linked to high poverty rates among blacks and lower educational achievement.

In 2001, a governor's task force released a report that said 24 percent of Iowa prison beds were occupied by black inmates even though blacks comprised just over 2 percent of the state's population.

The group that compiled the report made several recommendations such as reviewing federal drug laws and giving judges more discretion to decide sentences rather than imposing mandatory minimum prison terms.



## CRIME STOPPERS

(503) 823-HELP 111 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

### Robber Hits Three Northeast Stores

#### Gets away with cash on third try

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help identifying a robbery suspect caught on tape.

On Saturday, July 7 at 6:11 p.m., a man walked into the Hollywood Liquor store at 3738 N.E. Sandy Blvd. and grabbed a bottle of liquor, walked to the checkout counter and demanded money from the cashier.

The employee asked the suspect if he had a weapon and the suspect said he did not. The employee grabbed the liquor from the suspect and told him to leave. The man complied.

A few minutes later, at 6:22 p.m., the same suspect walked into the Beaumont Liquor store at 3334 N.E. Killingsworth St.

stating he had a gun and demanded money from the cashier. The suspect fled out the door

with the money, but a second employee gave chase, tackling the suspect at Northeast 34th Avenue and Killingsworth. The employee recovered the money,

but the suspect got away.

A couple of hours later, at approximately 8:30 p.m., a man brandishing a knife robbed the cashier at the espresso bar at Nordstrom Lloyd Center. The suspect took money and fled the area.

Surveillance video captured two of the robberies on tape and investigators believe that the same person committed all three robberies. It appears he shaved his beard before arriving at Nordstrom's.

The suspect is described as a white male, 30-40 years of age, 5'8-5'9" tall, stocky build, balding with short red hair, a full beard and mustache, possibly clean shaven now. He was wearing a straw hat, a blue T-shirt and tan cargo shorts and was carrying a tan or grey backpack.



Surveillance video shows a robbery suspect caught on tape.

### Woman Wanted in Portland Store Hold-Up

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for the public's help in identifying a woman who used a gun to rob a small store.

On June 5 at 11:36 p.m., the suspect entered the Holgate Gas and Grocery at 4525 S.E. 28th Ave. and made small talk with

the clerk and then left.

She returned a short time later, and as she talked on her cell phone, she walked to the counter, raised her shirt and exposed a gun tucked in her waistband. She fled the store on foot, northbound across Holgate on Southeast 27th Avenue. She may be associated

with a black SUV that was seen in the area prior to the robbery.

The suspect is described as a black female, approximately 20 years old, 5'5" tall with a stocky build. In a surveillance video, she is wearing a black hooded sweatshirt with a distinctive logo that could possibly be a backwards "F," which may as-

sociated with the skater clothing brand FAMOUS. She should be considered armed and dangerous.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP (4357).

### OxyContin Makers Fined \$634 Million

#### For misleading public about addiction risks

(AP)--PurduePharma, the maker of OxyContin, and three of its executives have been ordered to pay a \$634.5 million fine for misleading the public about the painkiller's risk of addiction.

U.S. District Judge James Jones levied the fine Friday after a hearing that included statements by numerous people who said their lives were changed forever by addiction to OxyContin, a trade name for a long-acting form of the painkiller oxycodone.

Designed to be swallowed whole and digested over 12 hours, the pills can produce a heroin-like high if crushed and then swallowed, snorted or injected.

From 1996 to 2001, the number of oxycodone-related deaths nationwide increased fivefold while the annual number of OxyContin pre-

scriptions increased nearly 20-fold, according to a report by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. In 2002, the DEA said the drug caused 146 deaths and contributed to another 318.

Purdue Pharma, its top lawyer and former president and former chief medical officer pleaded guilty in May to claiming to doctors that OxyContin was less addictive and less subject to abuse than other pain medications.

Michael Friedman, who retired in June as Purdue's president, general counsel Howard Udell and former chief medical officer Paul Goldenheim each pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of misbranding the drug. Of the total fine, \$34.5 million was levied on those three.

Jones placed the company on probation for five years and each of the executives on probation for three years. He also ordered the three to perform 400 hours of community service related to prevention of prescription drug abuse.

### Thieves Hit Wealthy Neighborhoods

(AP) -- A team of burglars has lifted more than \$7 million in jewelry, rare books and cash from dozens of homes in some of Los Angeles' wealthiest neighborhoods, slipping in and out without tripping elaborate alarms or leaving so much as a fingerprint behind, authorities say.

Like a plot from "Ocean's Eleven" or "The Italian Job," authorities say the thieves appear to be a crew of professionals.

Over the past year, they have hit the homes of celebrities, sports stars and corporate tycoons, plus non-celebrity mansions in Brentwood, Beverly Hills and the "Platinum Triangle" of Bel-Air, Encino and Holmby Hills, Lt. Ray Lombardo said Thursday.

And until recently, they've managed to leave few clues for detectives to follow.

One hit at an Encino estate, however, was caught on video.

### Have you seen me?

#### Missing and Exploited Children 1-800-THE-LOST

#### Endangered Missing Abducted



ACACIA BISHOP  
Current Age: 5  
Photo: age 2



4 year age progression  
Date Missing: May 25, 2003  
Missing From: Salt Lake City, Utah

KIMBERLY BROWN  
Current Age: 14  
Date Missing: June 9, 2007  
Missing From: Manassas, VA



If you have any information please contact:  
The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

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