

LAW & JUSTICE

School-to-Prison Pipeline Found

ACLU report shows uneven punishment

A new report by the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon shows that African American, Latino and Native American students are subjected to harsher discipline than their white peers in Oregon.

ACLU of Oregon Executive Director David Fidanque said that such discriminatory impacts are consistent across the country even though studies have shown that students of color are no more likely to violate school rules than their white counterparts.

He said the ACLU and many

other organizations have long been concerned about the disproportionate punishment of young people of color.

"What we've seen is that this harsher punishment in schools eventually 'graduates' to a greater likelihood of intervention and incarceration in the juvenile justice system, and later to the adult justice system," Fidanque said.

The ACLU report focuses on Oregon public school disciplinary data for the 2008-09 school year broken out by race and ethnicity. That report includes data on suspensions, expulsions, referrals to alternative education settings, and drop-out rates. In addition, the report confirms that the disproportionate representation of youth of

color is also reflected in data for the juvenile and adult corrections systems.

Among the findings in the recent report:

African American students represent about 3 percent of all Oregon students, but they represent 7 percent of students who receive out-of-school suspensions;

Native American students represent 2 percent of all students, but they represent 3 percent of students removed to alternative education settings;

Hispanic students represent about 17 percent of all students, but they represent more than 25 percent of all students expelled; and white students represent 68 percent of all students, but only 61.5 percent of those expelled.

"Once students are referred to the juvenile justice system, the disparities for students of color become even greater," Fidanque said. "Once again, African Americans represent 3 percent of the youth population, but 13 percent of those in 'close' custody juvenile corrections facilities operated by the Oregon Youth Authority. Hispanics comprise 15 percent of the youth population, but 25 percent of those in close custody."

Fidanque noted that state and many local education officials have been working to close the "achievement gap" between students of color and their white peers on the assumption that there is a connection between academic achievement and success in school.

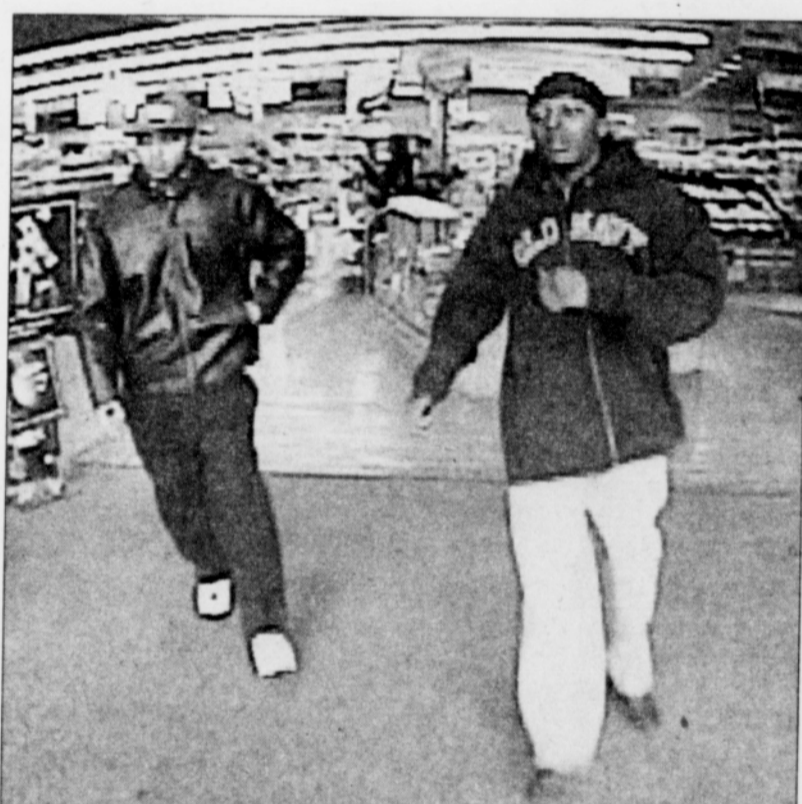
"The point of our report is that it

is also urgent to address discipline practices that are pushing young students of color out of our public schools," Fidanque said.

He said that ACLU representatives have met with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo and members of her staff to discuss the data and ACLU's request that her department issue annual reports on the disciplinary data.

"With appropriate safeguards, making more data available to the public, government officials and elected leaders will help school officials and the public evaluate and implement more effective policies aimed at shutting off the school-to-prison pipeline at the front end," Fidanque said.

Video Shows Robbery Suspects



Store security cameras captured images of three men police say are suspected of robbing banks in Gresham and Troutdale.

Police are seeking the public's help in identifying three men they believe robbed banks in Gresham and Troutdale and attempted to rob another bank in Gresham in the span of just two hours.

Photos of the suspects taken from store surveillance cameras, as well as photos of the vehicle the men are believed to have been driving, were

released to the public.

The first robbery occurred Nov. 6 at the U.S. Bank on 300 E. Powell Blvd. in Gresham at 9:30 a.m. The same day at about 11:30 a.m., three suspects attempted to rob the Bank of the West at 825 N.E. Hogan in Gresham. Eleven minutes later the Wells Fargo Bank located inside the Safeway at 2501

S.W. Cherry Park Rd. in Troutdale were robbed.

Police believe the same suspects are responsible for all three crimes.

Anybody with any information as to the identity of the suspects is encouraged to call the Gresham Police tipline at (503)-618-2719 or Troutdale Police tipline at (503)-613-7633.

Wyden Opposes Military Ban

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., has called on the Senate to repeal the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy as part of the annual Defense Authorization bill making its way to the Senate floor after Thanksgiving.

Wyden, who voted against the

law 17 years ago as a member of the House of Representatives and has worked for its repeal in the Senate ever since, calling the ban on openly gay military a "toxic combination" that is harmful to national security and detrimental to individual free-

doms.

Wyden has sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid asking that the National Defense Authorization Act come to the floor with the Don't Ask Don't Tell repeal amendment intact.

How to Prevent Car Prowls

The Vancouver Police Department is once again encouraging citizens to remove valuables from their vehicles before leaving their vehicle unattended.

Citywide statistics show auto prowls are up 56 percent from

2009 and prevention is the key to curbing this crime trend.

With the holidays approaching it is absolutely critical that citizens practice crime prevention strategies by keeping their vehicles free of tempting items.

- DEPRESSION - THE INVISIBLE TOXIC CONTAMINANT



December 12th – from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM at Emmanuel Church Community Center – Pastor Franklin A. Alvey, Ph.D., Th.D., a 30 plus year member and senior counselor of Emmanuel Church, with a history of 51 years in marriage, will present a forum on the subject of Depression and its effects on the individual and family. This will include the whys of feeling depressed, hopeless and helpless. He will also provide some prescriptions for ridding people of this soul destroyer. This no charge forum will be held in Emmanuel's Community Center at 1033 North Sumner Street. *Seating is limited due to outside media coverage.*

Some subjects to be discussed will be the whys of:

- Persisting sadness, anxiousness or moods of emptiness.
- Feelings of depression due to overwhelming financial strain.
- Feelings of guilt or worthlessness.
- Trouble sleeping; difficulty in rising or subject to over sleeping.
- Tendencies to rely heavily on sleeping medications.
- Thoughts of suicide or "they'd be better off without me."
- If God really loves me why doesn't he heal me of this problem?
- Depression brought on by abuse or rejection.
- Being mentally held captive due to another's mind control.
- Some proscriptions for overcoming depression.

For more information call 503.287.2223 from 9 AM through 4:30 PM Tuesday through Friday or online at www.emmanuelpdx.com