

Babies cont'd from pg 1

In most prisons, babies born behind bars must be given up within a day to a relative or foster care.

"Before I came here, I thought it was a terrible idea. A baby in prison? No, thank you," the 24-year-old Dumas said as her daughter, Codylenn, gleefully rocked in a bouncy seat. "But it's

their babies, the U.S. is not among them.

Dumas was three weeks pregnant when she was arrested last year, along with her boyfriend, on charges they tried to steal a safe packed with \$32,000 in cash and jewelry. Her baby was born just days after she took a plea bargain on attempted burglary charges that

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Nobody thinks raising babies behind bars is ideal, and some worry that the children could be scarred by the experience. But some advocates say that the practice allows mother and child to develop a vital psychological attachment, and that the parenting classes and other practical instruction help the moms stay out of trouble when they get out.

About 112,000 women are in state and federal prisons, mostly for drug or property crimes. And an estimated 1 in 25 are pregnant when they enter, according to the nonprofit Sentencing Project. But there are no national statistics on the number of babies born to inmates.

Of the more than 100 women's prisons in the U.S., there are eight nurseries. While nearly 100 countries, including South Sudan and France, have national laws that allow for incarcerated mothers to stay with

sent her to Bedford Hills, about an hour north of New York City, for up to two years.

She is now among 15 carefully screened new mothers allowed to serve up to 18 months of their sentences in a nursery unit that includes a communal playroom stocked with toys and mother-and-child rooms equipped with a single bed and a crib. The walls are painted with rainbows, fluffy clouds and jungle and barnyard scenes. The nursery currently has 16 babies, including a set of twins.

During workday hours, the babies are taken across the street to a day care center, where they are watched by staff and other inmates while the moms go to school or vocational programs.

But there are constant reminders it is a prison. Armed officers patrol the unit. And the moms know their babies can be taken away for such infractions as fighting or even leaving a toy in a crib while the baby sleeps.

Read the rest of this story at TheSkanner.com

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shared their experiences with others who had gone through the same thing, according to Harris.

"I think we kind of opened the door a little bit for people to talk about something that's kind of uncomfortable to talk about," he said. "And now that... gets people working to try to change this."

The film inspired local television broadcaster KGW to produce a news piece on racial profiling. Investigative reporter Kyle Iboshi interviewed Roosevelt High School students and racial profiling victim Kervencia Limage who said he was falsely accused of stealing from a Tualatin Best Buy.

Iboshi also interviewed Portland attorney Greg Kafoury, who has filed around 20 civil rights lawsuits against

retailers for false arrest and discrimination.

Mitchell said the students' film and subsequent media coverage are part of

“Through these interviews, people felt less alone as they shared their experiences with others who had gone through the same thing

the lesson for the mass communication class. She said the goal was to support a student-led effort to conceive, produce and stand behind a project that was important to them.

Mitchell said it was an opportunity to show the students that people believe in their voices and that they should feel

welcome in the media industry.

"That's pretty incredible, that something that could have been small and insignificant has really seeded something

that has been empowering for a whole lot of people," Mitchell said.

Some of the students said the video has given them new direction and focus. Junior Joti Mangat and Donnell both said they had worked in media before but the project gave them confidence to produce their own work.

Harris had considered pursuing journalism as a career before enrolling in the urban griots class and the experience with the racial profiling project has strengthened that interest.

"Since coming into it and doing these projects, getting the kind of exposure that we have had... now I am really thinking about having a career in a journalistic field," Harris said.

The students are also considering pushing for a Shopper's Bill of Rights like the one put forth by a coalition of civil rights leaders and high-end retailers in New York City in 2013. That policy said store employees who racially profile customers could be disciplined or fired and that shoppers suspected of shoplifting needed to have their civil rights supported.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Black Child Development

Phoebe Coulibaly, 13, participated in the workshop "Be a Change Agent Using Storytelling!" at the Seattle Black Child Development Spring Conference May 21 at the John Stanford Center. This year's theme was "A Future of Hope: Moving Youth from Equity to Excellence!" and featured keynote speaker Janice E. Hale, Ph.D, a professor of early childhood education at Wayne State University in Detroit and the author of three books on educating African American Children.

O'Dea cont'd from pg 1

Dave Ward said O'Dea misrepresented critical details about the incident right after it happened — telling Harney County officials the wound was self-inflicted and failing to disclose he worked in law enforcement. Ward has told reporters he didn't know of O'Dea's involvement in the shooting until he was able to interview the victim, who survived the incident, on May 16.

But Mayor Charlie Hales, who also serves as police commissioner, knew about the incident four days after it happened. According to reports in *The Oregonian* and the *Willamette Week*, O'Dea called Hales four days after the shooting and acknowledged his involvement. Oregon State Police and the Oregon Department of Justice are conducting a criminal investigation into the shooting, and the Independent Police Review Division launched an investigation Monday. The bureau's own professional standards division is also performing an internal investigation.

Following public pressure and a call from the Portland Police Association for O'Dea's resignation, Hales issued a press release Tues-

day afternoon saying O'Dea was on administrative leave.

"We need our Police Bureau operating at its best, and our officers can't do that when there's turmoil and confusion surrounding their leader," Hales' statement said. "Chief O'Dea has been pro-

staffing issues, the ongoing (Department of Justice) DOJ-related items, budgetary issues and of course, we are headed into Rose Festival and a busy summer. I know you will continue to work hard and serve this city to the best of your ability," the release said,

“Administrative leave during these open investigations is in the best interest of the Bureau and the city

—Mayor Charlie Hales

viding excellent service as our police chief, and now needs to focus on these investigations. He and I agree that going on administrative leave during these open investigations is in the best interest of the Bureau and the city.

According to the Portland Police Bureau's press release, Henderson sent an email Tuesday to all members of the bureau pledging that she would keep the lines of communication open.

"My pledge to you during this time is to communicate with you as we move forward. Headlines aside, we have a lot on our plate as an agency, including critical

quoting Henderson.

Hales' spokesperson, Sara Hottman, said it's too soon to tell whether or when O'Dea will be permanently replaced.

"There are still open investigations determining whether there has even been wrongdoing. The acting chief will stay in place until the investigations produce findings. Depending on the outcome of the investigations, next steps will be considered," Hottman said in an e-mailed statement to *The Skanner*. "Investigators would have to provide timelines on when investigations will be wrapped up."