OUR VIEW ON THE ISSUE

Last year, when a sheriff’s deputy, who was assigned to Spring Valley High School in Columbia, South Carolina, dragged a 16-year-old female student from her desk (photo right), debate on social media immediately erupted about zero tolerance in the public education system. Like you, we were disturbed by both the overreporting of seeing a young Black girl’s body attacked and the underreporting of incidents of Black girls’ school suspensions, which Morris brilliantly documents in Pushout. In a moment when people have turned to Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to celebrate #BlackGirlMagic, we are seeing fewer and fewer portraits of real-life young, gifted and Black girls across the media spectrum. In fact, we celebrate those young people who are reclaiming their surroundings and embracing the Black Girl Attitude that is an intrinsic part of who we are. It is how we have survived through generations and will continue to do so, collectively against insurmountable odds.

Excerpted from Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools.
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