

**Quality of Life Issues In the City of Long Beach:
A Graded Analysis**

By

Honors Cultural Anthropology Class

Of

Long Beach City College

Professor Adrian Novotny, Instructor

August 20, 2005

The Long Beach City College Honors Cultural Anthropology class of spring semester, 2005, devised a project to conduct field research in anthropology. At the start of the semester, the Long Beach Chapter of the ACLU heard about our plan and indicated they would be interested in the results of such a study, perhaps further developing it as a pilot program model for possible use in other cities. The class recognized the need for qualitative and quantitative data on how well Long Beach is meeting the needs of its citizens in terms of the stewardship of the environment, the availability and success rates of social services, the treatment of minorities, public education, health care, affordable housing, child welfare, and the like.

The class was organized into two-person teams and each team selected topics at the start of the semester. The ultimate goal was for each team to assign a letter grade from A to F to the agency, office, or general area of research chosen. The teams carefully defined the scope of their studies, limited by time constraints (one semester), by the size of the research teams (two persons), and by such limitations as transportation, lack of funding, and the accessibility of staff personnel and other sources of information on our topics. A longer-term goal is to provide a research foundation on which successive classes, in anthropology or other disciplines, might expand, continue, upgrade and otherwise add to the information accumulated in this first study. Three or four other instructors at Long Beach City College have already indicated their interest in obtaining the results of our research with which they might develop further study in their own classes.

After several modifications, revisions, and focus shifts during the semester, the class finally arrived at the following choices of topics and their completed term papers are attached for your information:

Tab 1...Affordable Housing

Tab 2...Child Welfare

Tab 3...The Gay and Lesbian Community

Tab 4...Health Care

Tab 5...The Homeless

Tab 6...Neighborhood Associations

Tab 7...An Assessment of the Physical Environment, Part I

Tab 8...An Assessment of the Physical Environment, Part II

Tab 9...Funding and Scholastic Equity

Tab 10..Welfare Services

Each team has assigned a grade on their topic based on the following rubric established by the class:

A (superior performance)...complete effective operation with few suggestions for improvement. Reached all goals, individuals working in the area feel successful in what they are doing and cooperated with the student researchers in their projects. The operation was transparent (information was available and accessible) and the staff maintained a future-oriented perspective with clear goals and mission statements. Clients were largely satisfied with the service.

B (good performance)...Most clients express satisfaction with the agency and the agency met most of their stated and written goals. Satisfactory cooperation with researchers.

C (acceptable performance)...Satisfactory operation with a mix of successes and failures; some cooperation, some disappointments in agent access and information availability.

D (poor performance)...Agency generally fell short of their goals; widespread negativity, expressed both by clients and express and implied behavior of agency functionaries (interns, receptionists, clerks, case workers, etc.); a general lack of cooperation from agency personnel.

F (failed performance)...Lack of even minimal cooperation or satisfaction, the operation is generally unable to provide services or assistance to clients or researchers; lack of vision, absence of goals and direction.

All the grades were averaged, and a G.P.A. (Grade Point Average) of 2.2 (C+) was calculated for the combined topics/agencies within the project. Our assessment was slightly higher than similar studies, for example, the SCAG (Southern California Association of Governments) study completed early this year, which gave all of Southern California an overall G.P.A. of 1.5 (D+) in consideration of seven factors of: employment, income, housing, mobility, air quality, education, and safety (Press Telegram, February 4, 2005, pg. A-1).

The results of our study are being presented to the City of Long Beach (to the Mayor and the City Council) in September, 2005 for their review with the hope that areas of need will be considered for increased funding, added

staffing, city management redesign, or other attention that would serve to strengthen and improve the city's record on quality of life issues. Copies will also be furnished to the local chapter of the ACLU for their consideration of possible complementary studies in other metropolitan areas throughout California and the U.S.

Summary of the Findings

Each team of researchers attempted to make use of personal interviews with agency personnel, clients, case workers, administrators, and others involved in the research areas as appropriate, to provide a cultural "human face" to the various research projects undertaken in this study. The following is a brief summary of the research findings.

Affordable Housing—this paper reviewed the availability of low-income housing, considered Section 8 subsidized housing and the Long Beach Housing Authority. The researchers conclude, not unexpectedly, that a shortage of affordable housing currently exists.

Child Welfare—examined elements of the recent "No Child Left Behind" Act, summarized the reasons parents often neglect their children, correlated child welfare with poverty levels, looked at funding agencies, and discussed the importance of education in the quality of children's lives.

Gay and Lesbian Community—this study considered the effectiveness of the local support groups, the students attended meetings to assess the goals and policies of several groups and looked at local physical and mental health care availability.

Health Care—considered both local corporate facilities as well as free clinics in terms of availability, affordability, success rates, and added a brief historical survey of local health care facilities and treatments. The profitability of health care facilities was also examined.

The Homeless—this paper looked at causes, the extent, the severity, and the consequences of homelessness. Several local facilities were visited and interviews with key personnel were conducted. Case studies personalized the report.

Neighborhood Associations—covered the history, goals, and the structure and function of neighborhood associations with a focus on three different associations within the city of Long Beach, members of which shared insights as to the associations' effectiveness.

Photographic Survey—Part I...sent teams of students into the city to photograph and analyze “the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” in an attempt to assess the physical surroundings of our community. Part I concentrated on beaches, housing, commercial structures, and recreational activities. The researchers found in their survey a bit of all three—the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Photographic Survey—Part II...this research team chose to consider the general areas of the quality of the air, the coastal water, the local wildlife, and polluted site restoration. The students bemoan the apparent preference for “economy over environment” reflected in many problematic areas of the city.

Funding and Scholastic Equity—researchers attempted to identify similarities and differences between inner city and suburban public schools. Working with the Long Beach Unified School District, the team studied two schools in the inner city and two suburban schools. Personnel were interviewed and school structures, personnel rosters, programs, and student performance tests were studied. Some inequities were uncovered among the schools surveyed.

Welfare Services—Identified a number of clients and conducted interviews to assess whether needy individuals and families were satisfied with the services provided. Different programs and agencies were discussed and the researchers concluded both from the difficulties they had accessing agency personnel and from their interviews, that the various welfare services are generally lacking in client service and public relations.

The projects from this semester's Honors Cultural Anthropology class were generally well done considering most of the students had no experience in original research before undertaking this study. As the course instructor and project coordinator of this on-going research, I look forward with great anticipation to subsequent Honors classes which will continue and expand this research. It is my sincere hope that this study and those to follow, will

serve to initiate progressive change among the agencies, departments, and institutions included in this project.

Please direct any questions, comments, or other feedback to me, Professor Adrian Novotny at Long Beach City College in any of the following ways:

By mail...

Long Beach City College
Department of Social Science
ATTN: Dr. Adrian Novotny
4901 East Carson Street
Long Beach, CA 90808

By email...

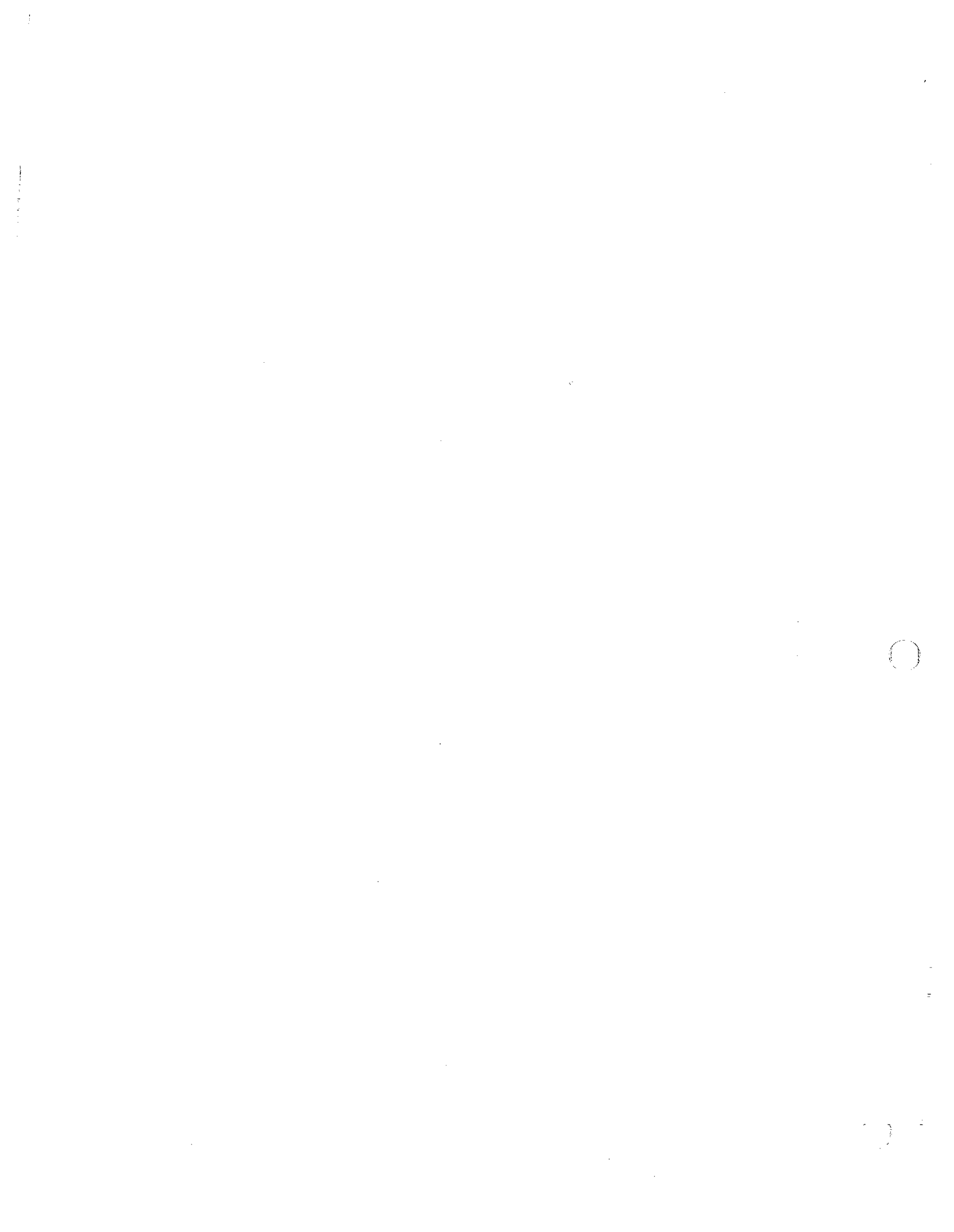
anovotny@lbcc.edu

Or by phone...

562.938.4652

I would like to thank the various agency and institutional personnel who cooperated in this study, the ACLU for inspiring the project, and the students in Honors Cultural Anthropology at Long Beach City College who conducted the research, did the reports, and brought the first semester's effort to completion.





A Study of Affordable Housing in the Long Beach Area

By:
Christina Graves
And
Aaron Dwinell

For:
Dr. Novotny
Honors Cultural Anthropology
Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-2:00
M204

Spring 2005
Long Beach City College
Long Beach
4/19/05

Table of Contents

I. Definition of Affordable Housing.....	pg. 1
A. Project Assessment.....	pg. 1
B. Grading.....	pg. 2
II. Scope of the Project.....	pg. 3
III. The Long Beach Housing Authority.....	pg. 4
A. Problems of Renting with Vouchers.....	pg. 4
B. Participants Rules and Regulations.....	pg. 5
IV. Housing Needs.....	pg. 6
A. Household Income.....	pg. 6
B. Household Affordability.....	pg. 7
V. Household Supply and Demand Factors.....	pg. 7
A. Housing Growth.....	pg. 7
B. Household Overcrowding.....	pg. 8

Definition of Affordable Housing

Many cities across the United States need to address the growing problem of providing affordable housing for those who do not earn enough for their residence. Affordable housing is when the home dweller does not pay more than forty percent of his or her income on housing. (Community Developmental Department Housing Authority <http://www.longbeach.gov/cd/housing/section8/default.asp>) Making affordable housing attainable can be accomplished by implementing programs that partially subsidized the rent, setting aside housing for those who earn a modest income, or imposing a price ceiling to ensure that tenants are not being overcharged. This study focuses specifically on the Long Beach area, and while there is a need for a study on affordable housing in other cities there are limitations that force us to focus on one city, our city, Long Beach.

Project Assessment

The purpose of this study is to gather information about affordable and accessible housing in the greater Long Beach area. Much of the information and data we gathered are obtained from social service programs, bureaucrats printed literature, interviews with their employees and representatives, interviews with case studies and the recipients of these services, and media searches. We also obtained the latest statistics and Census Bureau information stating how much real estate is actually set-aside for low-income families, what their average income is, and the average cost of home-ownership as well as the cost of renting a modest apartment in the city of Long Beach.

This study is being performed in conjunction with other researchers in order to compose a compilation of the city's services. At which point it will be presented to the Long Beach City Council in an attempt to inform them of major problem areas as well as areas of good performance, while at the same time allowing the researchers to address certain concerns the city may have. These studies will differentiate from one another by addressing issues ranging from the environment and ecology, to health care and welfare.

Grading

After the information is gathered it will be summarized in a report in which the city will receive a grade based on how well the city performed and met the needs of the issue in question. The way that a grade is going to be assigned is by looking at the various mission statements of government programs and measuring how much they are being followed or if the programs, which implemented them, are even surpassing them. This grade should then be able to provide a better understanding of problem areas that need to be addressed and our efforts will also be used to provide other cities with a framework to use when researching and preparing to grade their own cities' social and civil services.

Scope of the Project

The scope of our project is limited by time restrictions due to the brevity of a semester length college course. The focus of the project is the Affordable Housing program in the City of Long Beach. The extent of this venture is subject to the

information drawn together from a variety of our stated sources. The information was gathered without personal bias by leaving out our personal predictions and preconceived notions. This, as well as being relatively new to the whole information gathering process was a hurdle that we had to overcome before being able to make a useful report on the state of affordable housing in the Long Beach area.

We are also going to look at the amount of affordable housing the city has allocated based upon the population of those needing affordable housing accommodations. In order to gather all this information we are conducting interviews with real estate agents involved with affordable housing, with renters looking for a place to rent, as well as lower-income home buyers in need of assistance finding a home they can afford. We are also going to look through newspapers for major releases relevant to our topic, and we will explore websites set up by the local government to provide information on affordable housing such as The Long Beach Housing Authority. After locating a few of these agencies set up to control affordable housing we will contact representatives to see how their agency is set up and how well it performs its tasks. All techniques will be employed in the best way possible; hopefully resulting in meaningful information that justifies the grade we give the city on affordable housing.

The Long Beach Housing Authority

The Housing Authority for the city of Long Beach provides many different services in regard to affordable housing, most notably subsidized housing. Subsidized housing is a program in which the Housing Authority actually pays part of your rent or

house payment so that you will not be overpaying on your rent and will be able to make your house payment. Overpayment is defined as spending more than forty percent of your earned income to pay on rent. It is important for the Housing Authority to provide this service because it keeps people off the streets as well as creating the greater sense of community and connectedness people get when they have a place they can call home.

(<http://www.longbeach.gov/cd/housing/requirements.asp> The Housing Authority for the City of Long Beach)

One tenant who receives help from the Housing Authority was able to share some of her experiences and concerns regarding the subsidized housing program.

“It is more commonly referred to as section eight and although the service is critical for aiding families in their survival this aid does not come without a cost states,” Ms. J. an informant who is currently receiving help from the Long Beach Housing Authority. “There is a negative stigma associate with the recipients who receive help with their rent and or household payments. There are many landlords and real estates agents who are not willing to accept the section eight vouchers or rent out their properties to these families.”

Problems of renting Homes with Vouchers

When scanning through the local classified ads of the Long Beach Press Telegram there were many ads, which stated, “No Section eight.” Many believe that those who are on section eight simply do not want to work, will not play their rent on

time, will be destructed to their property and aid in the eroding of their neighborhoods. These restrictions have confined section eight recipients to section off parts of the city. There is another growing area of concern. Property owners who do rent out to section eight tenants are charging those more to rent their units. They will continue to be able to get away with this until more are informed about the program. Even with the negative association of the program our informant states, that it is a good program, the people who implemented the program just needs to educate the public about the section eight program.

Participants Rules and Regulations

The fact is the section eight program has implemented many checks and balances to ensure that landlords will get tenants who pay their rent in a timely fashion and keep up there units. The program will supplement the tenant's portion of the rent making sure they do not pay more than forty percent of his or her income on the rent thus ensuring they can afford to pay their portion of the rent. The Housing Authority pays the rent on time, and the tenant must pay their portion of the rent on time too or they will lose the Housing Authority assistance. All adult household members must obtain a criminal history check from the Long Beach Police Department before their household is authorized to receive rental assistance from HACLB. The report must show that each individual has not engaged in any drug or violent criminal activities for a three-year period. The Housing Authority contracts a license city health inspector who conducts a yearly inspection of the tents household. The tenant must keep his or her unit neat, the tenant must keep his or her utilities paid and the property owner must make all the

corrections stated by the inspector or the tenant will not be allowed to rent the unit. The Housing Services Bureau is another organization founded to provide educational programs such as running a first-time homebuyer program which educates people teaching them things they should know when buying a new home. It also helps existing owners renovate their property, provides assistance to developers involved with the creation of new affordable housing developments and by finding shelter designed for those with special needs.

Even with all these programs and learning services, it can still be difficult for some to find a home or an apartment. The Housing Authority has limited resources. A person must be placed on a very lengthy waiting list before they can receive assistance. To get on the waiting list one must fill out an extensive and vigorous application. It takes an average of five to seven years of being on the waiting list before a person can begin receiving housing help or have a voucher issued out. This application can only be submitted when the waiting list is open. At this time, the waiting list is currently close and it will not reopen until 2007.

Household Income

Due to factors such as job availability, inadequate pay, and the tendency of our current housing climate to increase in price many long beach residents are simply not able to pay for adequate housing. A Long Beach area two bedroom, two bathroom, house/apartment cost an average of \$1,000 per month. This means that in order to afford a rent or a house payment of \$1,000, a household must make in excess of \$40,000 a year, or \$19.23 per hour, to avoid overpayment, defined as paying more than 40% of your monthly income on rent. This is a problem for both renters and buyers alike because as

house prices go up, the renter or buyer must pay a higher percentage of their income on their housing expenses. Some people who work in Long Beach do not even make enough money to pay the average rent. The current minimum wage in the State of California is \$6.75; this means that it would take two full-time minimum wage earners, each working fifty-eight hours a week, to afford the rent on a home that costs \$1,000 a month. This is unacceptable because many families in need of affordable housing make minimum wage, and if they are working fifty-eight hours a week that does not leave much time for anything else.

Household Affordability

According to the 2000 census, the average income of 1000 homes is \$37,350 per year. This is a problem because the cost to a renter is slowly rising in the state of California, with no signs of stopping anytime soon. This is occurring in a city where one-third of the population makes less than \$25,000 a year and two-thirds of the population earned less than \$50,000 (The 2000 Census)

Housing Growth

There are many factors causing the average cost of homes to rise, but one major reason is that we are not creating enough new homes every year in order to accommodate for California's quickly growing population. The United States growth rate can be calculated by adding up, the sum of the birth rate and the legal and illegal immigration rate and subtracting the sum of the death rate and the number of those immigrating out of

the United States. The current growth rate is 1.4% meaning in 49 years the population of the United States will double. California has a current population of roughly 30 million and with its growth rate of 1.5% the California population will double in 42 years.

The number of new homes required is directly tied to the amount of population growth expected in the same year. Currently California needs roughly 220,000 new units of housing every year in order to accommodate for population growth. However, sadly, for the past decade, we have fallen far short of creating this many homes annually. Because of this, we have seen a rise in the cost of home ownership, a decrease in the rate of home ownership, higher housing cost burdens, increased crowding, as well as a longer commute. For example last year Long Beach experienced a seven-point-five percent increase in population size, but only had a two-point-six percent increase in the number of available households and a one percent increase in housing stock. (Housing Action Plan pg.6 FY 2005-FY 2009) This is definitely a problem because affordable housing programs will become more and more difficult to fund and operate due to the quickly rising costs of renting or buying a home. Moreover, as the population increases the number of homes available to buy or rent will decline as more families compete to live in these homes.

Household Overcrowding

Ms. Lewis is a Long Beach residence who earns a moderate income. She is currently searching for a home of her own. When asked about her search she commented, "It is really hard to find a house or even an apartment that is in my price range. I began

saving to move out for the past three years and it seems that in that small about of time inflation has sky rocked. I do not receive assistance from any programs so I have to find another way to supplement the rent I am currently looking for roommates.” The rising prices of housing is increasing the amount of tenants, which occupy a unit, and thus leading to problems of overcrowding. As apartments are becoming more and more common and houses become more and more uncommon, there are more people living in more confined spaces. This is affecting residents’ quality of life, as parking is becoming spares, and household amenities such as laundry faculties and water and trash collection are continuing to rise. According to the Housing Action Plan, the “household size appropriate for the unit” is the number of bedrooms plus one. This mean a two-bedroom household should house three people a three-bedroom household should house four people and so on. Due to the imbalance of supply and demand, 86% of households are living in overcrowded housing.

The city of Long Beach is facing the challenge of providing its residents with an adequate amount of affordable housing. Subsidize housing is a great way to help fight this problem but the city is unable to provide this assistance to all of its residences. The only way to fight the inflation of housing prices is to adjust the factors of supply and demand. If the supply is greater than the demand the price has to rise in order to find equilibrium. The only way to keep the price down or stable is to provide more of a supply. Long Beach is not providing a great enough supply of affordable housing and thus the price, the price of overcrowding, the price of the reduce quality of life, the price of inflated cost, the price of living in Long Beach is to great.

Grade and Conclusion

Subsidized housing from the Housing Authority is a great program; it allows a small amount of individuals with lower incomes to afford a house they would otherwise be unable to pay for. But it is not without its problems. The city is unable to issue vouchers to everyone who qualifies for them, let alone all the other people who need affordable housing and do not qualify. This is due to many reasons, most notably the severe shortage of housing in the greater Long Beach area. Other reasons include the fact that there are not many other programs to assist lower income families, and the ones that do exist face either poor information distribution, little to no exposure with the public, or even social stigma. Because the city is actually making an attempt to address the issue of affordable housing through the Long Beach Housing Authority, but is failing to build even the minimum amount of homes to compensate for the growing population, our team decided to give the city a C grade. We thought this grade was fair due to the city's apparent inability to educate the public, the fact that there are not enough homes built or being built in the Long Beach area, coupled with the inability to provide vouchers for every family that needs an affordable home.

Works Cited

Housing Authority of Long Beach (2000-2005). *Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers*. May 10, 2005, <http://www.longbeach.gov/cd/housing/section8/default.asp>

Housing Authority of Long Beach (2000-2005). *Housing Requirements*. May 10, 2005, <http://www.longbeach.gov/cd/housing/requirements.asp>

Housing Services Bureau (2000-2005). *Housing Action Plan*. May 11, 2005, <http://www.longbeach.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=4076>

United States Census Bureau (May 13, 2005). *United States Census 2000*. May 14, 2005, <http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>

Recommended Reading

- Meck, S., Retzlaff, R., Schwab, J. (2003). *Regional Approaches to Affordable Housing*. APA Planning Advisory Service.
- Davis, S. (June 1, 1997). *The Architecture of Affordable Housing*. California: University of California Press.
- Eddings, Keith. (December 11, 2002). *In many States, Affordability is a Matter of Law*.
<http://www.thejournalnews.com/pricedout/11hsg01.htm>





Child Welfare in Long Beach

Analytical & Field Research on the Study of the Quality of Life in Long Beach

By:

Research Team Of:

Sheiva Hosseinzadeh

Sheila Hosseinzadeh

Dr. Adrian Novotny

Honors Cultural Anthropology

T-Th 12:30-2:00

Long Beach City College

Long Beach California

May 19, 2005

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction.....	1-2
	A. Scope of project	
	B. Goals of project	
	C. Statistics of children who need help	
II.	Importance of Education.....	2-4
	A. History of Education	
	B. Stories of Children we interviewed	
III.	No Child Left Behind Act.....	5-9
	A. Flexibility given to school districts	
	B. Strengthening teacher quality	
	C. Annual testing	
	D. Questions that arise regarding this act	
IV.	Interview with Our Mentor.....	5-6
	A. Experience from social workers	
	B. Our motivation for this project	
V.	Conclusion and Survey.....	10
	A. Report card grade of city	
	B. Future research	
VI.	Works Cited.....	11-12
VII.	Recommended Reading.....	13

I. Introduction

As Honor students at LBCC and as students of Dr. Novotny's Anthropology class we were asked to embark on a project that had never been attempted before. We were asked as students and researchers to study various subjects in Long Beach, and to state our conclusion on these topics with a final letter grade. We were encouraged to refer to our own community in order to collect data, and meet certain individuals who were experts in our line of research. Through this project we as students were learning and discovering the strengths and weaknesses of our society. Our team decided to explore the child welfare issues in California as well as in Long Beach. We were attracted to this subject sometime during the semester when we attended a meeting where an extremely motivating social worker spoke about some of the issues on child welfare and education. A spark of sudden interest led us to research this subject and learn more about the child welfare programs that are currently being utilized.

Through our research we have discovered that there are some new laws being put into effect that President Bush is hoping will improve our education all over the U.S. One of the many new ideas being enforced is the No Child Left Behind Act that is promising to improving children's education as well as improving the quality of their education.

Through our research we have studied the affects of these programs have looked programs and laws that will be put into place through President Bush's Master plan. We have collected information from the media and explored hundreds of websites; most importantly we visited some of our neighborhoods and schools to get insight on the types of child welfare programs as well as there effects on the clients who are in need of them. As any research group, restrictions that bound our research would be things such as

transportation availability, information that couldn't be gathered, and of course the lack of cooperation from some unwilling or extremely busy individuals. A project of this magnitude takes a lot of motivation and dedication shared among a research team.

Through our efforts we will grade the past, present, and future plans for child welfare programs towards education and explain how we chose the grade and why they earned the chosen grade. We hope by doing this our community will improve.

II. The Importance of Education

The Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission states that for some time now, governments have undertaken to serve neglected children by taking them into their care or by helping the families of these children through what we now called child welfare services. During the last fifteen years, a majority of states and provinces have developed and implemented child welfare service program to insure the needs of their citizens. Research shows that many children who aren't receiving the right kind of education are most likely to become children who won't succeed in education and get to the point of dropping out. This leads to underage workers who will work at low paying jobs and will have a hard time supporting themselves as well as contributing to the rest of society who will one day have children who may possibly follow their parent's examples and be unmotivated as well, and won't succeed scholastically. Social Worker's believe that these are reasons why welfare reforms were implemented, to allow all people equal opportunity to receive the best education they can in order to receive a high paying job and to one day provide for their family as well as their own community. For a long time it was thought that children were no longer succeeding in school due to their household

situations and lack of a sufficient family income which is forcing young children to work rather than receive a good education. Many welfare programs were being implemented in order to keep children financially stable so that they have the opportunity to finish school and to have a chance like other students their age.

There are so many families below the poverty line or families with single parents who are working five to six days a week in order to bring home a meal to feed their children and to ensure a roof over their heads. These parents without any choice are often forced to neglect their children in all forms because they don't have any time to stay home and be with their kids. The majority of the time the oldest child is left at home taking care of the rest of the children while the mother and father work. These children aren't given the chance or the chose to concentrate on school because they are placed in a situation where they have to grow up quickly and contribute as much as they can to the family. The majority of the welfare programs created in the past were here to help these children have hope and help them take special classes, receive tutoring, find ways to get financial aid, and more, so that they have the chance to go to school and do something with their lives in the future.

Statistically, the number of Long Beach residents living below the federal poverty level rose by nearly two percent compared to last year as the city moved form tenth to seventh on a list of cities with the highest poverty rates. For children the poverty line rose dramatically, there were forty two thousand living in poverty just last year, all of whom were under the age of eighteen. Poverty in Long Beach which is nearly thirty eight

percent, are nearly families headed by a woman without husbands present, according to the Census Bureau's survey.

Students who are below the poverty line are forced to attend schools where educated isn't enforced compared to upper class schools such as private schools. They are being taught by teachers who are inexperienced and are unqualified to insure the enhancement of their student's knowledge. For example, one young girl attended a school that was designated as failing under state and federal standards for more than three years. But low expectations were the least of this seventh-grader's problems. In 2004 her gym teacher became irritated by his unruly class and punished all the girls by putting them in the boys' locker room. Two boys dragged Ashley into the shower room; one held her arms and the other held her legs, while they fondled her for more than ten minutes. The teacher was not present, and no one helped her. This is just one of the many situations that has arisen in our school systems, eventually when children aren't being educated the violence within schools and within society increases. Another example would be of another school attending a near by high school, this student after refusing to give up his chemistry class stool to a latecomer. According to a Philadelphia Inquirer story based on this account, his assailant, who outweighs him by about sixty pounds, typically arrived late for chemistry class and demanded the subject's seat. The young boy was studying for the state's high school proficiency exam and refused to move. The student said he was surprised when the student confronted him later in the locker room. He was beaten by at least four students. Samet could transfer to the other public high school in Camden, but it officially designated as "persistently dangerous".

III. No Child Left Behind Act

Violence and crime increase contributes to Presidents Bush's decision three years ago, which signed into the law No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), which reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, a law first passed in 1965. As President Bush explained in an article written by Lisa Snell, who is the Director of Education and Child Welfare For Reason Foundation quotes President Bush in a January 8, 2002, speech at the University of New Hampshire, "If a school can't change, if a school can't show the parents and community leaders that they can teach the basics, something else has to take place. In order for there to be accountability, there has to be consequences. And the consequences in this bill is that after a period time, if a parent is tired of their child being trapped into a failed school, that parent will have different options, public school choice, charter, and private tutoring". The new law reflected a commitment to ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, receive a quality education. To reach this goal, NCLB refocused federal education programs towards stronger results, more choices for parents and students, and greater flexibility for states and school districts.

IV. Interview with Our Mentor

A mentor throughout this project passed on her personal beliefs and explained the pros and cons to this newly enforced law. Our mentor has been working in Long Beach as a Social Worker for at least two years and has spent most of her time working in low income areas around California. During a presentation that we attended she mentions few important components that play a huge role within this law. First of all, the No Child Left

Behind Act allows for increased accountability as well as flexibility for states and communities, more choices for parents and students, and strengthens teacher quality, and helps all children learn to read. Increased accountability requires each state to set standards for grade-level achievement, and annual testing of students. Assessment results will be broken down into several subgroups by race, gender, and disabilities, and etc. These results from the schools and school districts must be made available to parents and to the public at all times. Now if these schools and school districts repeatedly fail to make adequate progress toward the state proficiency goals, they will be subject for corrective action and can be restructured by the states. Some schools that are four or five years involved with Program Improvement, are required to engage in major changes in the school's operation. Parent choice services require state schools to work with their district offices to prepare a restructuring proposal for approval by the local government board. The most common approach to restructuring our school systems is to reorganize school staff assignments and creating a new curriculum. Another approach would be a reconfiguration of the school with the approval of the State Board of Education.

More flexibility for states and communities allows for flexibility given to school districts in how they use federal education funding. A social worker introduced to us by our mentor, states that, "school districts are able to transfer up to 50% of the funds they receive under state grant programs to any one of these programs or to their Title-1 program. The covered programs include the Teacher Quality State Grants, Educational Technology, Innovative Programs, and Safe and Drug-Free Schools programs". This

initially gives school districts the ability to decide how much of these funds are being allocated into these specific programs.

Strengthening teacher quality is one of the main focuses within this act. This requires there to be a highly-qualified teacher in every classroom. A "highly qualified" teacher must have a bachelor's degree and be certified or licensed to teach within the state of his or her employment. Key parts of the President's efforts to ensure a quality teacher in every classroom includes providing state grants to recruit and train teachers, recruit highly educated and qualified individuals to become teachers. Another key point would be to expand programs that train teachers in specific subject's and implementing the Teacher Protection Act and by creating a New Teacher Tax Deduction.

This new act is enforcing annual testing, grades two to eleven are required to pass California standard tests as well as California Achievement Tests. One of the most important exams is known as the AYP (adequate yearly progress) which is designed to show the yearly progress of students as compared to the year before. This test shows improvement if any among the different grade levels. High school graduation requirements have changed, beginning of last school year, students need to pass Algebra I. Now the minimum requirements also includes three years of English, two years of Math, three years of social science, including one year of US History, one year of World History, one semester of American Government, and one semester of Economics, two years of Science, one year of either visual and performing arts or foreign language; and two years of physical education. Also now high school students must pass the California High School Exit Exam called the CAHSEE. This exam must be passed in order for

students to receive their diploma. There are two parts, an English portion and a Math portion. Students are given this exam six times in order to ensure their success in passing. They are given the exam once in their sophomore year, twice their junior year if they haven't passed yet, and still if the exam is not passed, students are placed into a specific class designed to better prepare students to pass the exam. They are given two more chances their senior year and one more final chance to take the exam the summer leaving high school.

We have taken an in-depth look at what is entailed in the No Child Left Behind act and all the ways it is suppose to improve the quality of life for everyone, but does it really fix public education? How good are the choices? Are charter schools really better? Are there enough highly- qualified teachers? There are so many questions gone unanswered. Is throwing money at education the way we should go about fixing it. At www.rppi.org found that the 2003 Programme for International Student Assessment demonstrated that students in countries that spent more on education don't necessarily do better then the countries that spent less such as Australia or Belgium who spent less per students then the US. Or is rising the standards for teachers and an incentive for people to become teachers for the little pay they receive for the amount of training they must now endure to become "quality teachers". What teacher is going to go teach at Title 1 schools that are failing when Charter schools are getting the most funding for there high success? Or is adding more test and assessment exams the best way to test our children to witness there improvement. Not only do our children have to worry about there classes and taking Sat 9's but now in middle schools they have assessment and exist exams that add to the

stress of being an educated person. As we talked to many parents to find their concerns and status on these issues we soon realized that a lot of parents were concerned with these issues too.

One of the most interesting topics that were being brought up by a few social workers was Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, where people must satisfy basic needs before they can worry about meeting higher needs. In his pyramid you must first take care of hunger and thirst, and then take care of safety and love and belongingness before you can take care of esteem needs and achievement and education before you can reach self-actualization. You have to get past basic needs before you can get a decent education before you can reach self-fulfillment. They also discussed Intrinsic and Extrinsic motivation is how a person can influence a student to do better for themselves or give a student an incentive to want to do good for themselves.

Culture is one key factor in creating the kind of youth in which U.S. Citizens would feel confident in passing on the responsibilities of a greater society. There for a culture is meant to better prepare our youth for these responsibilities. There are five characteristics within a culture, one a culture is symbolic, it is learned, shared, integrated, and finally it explains reality. The culture in which we are born into creates a modal personality in each individual person. These are traits or characteristics found combined within that specific culture. Our personalities and characteristics are a result of the culture in which we are born and raised into. Therefore, if the culture in which we are currently living in can express and enforce the importance of education among our youth, then they will be highly educated and will one day have children to pass on their strong beliefs of

getting a good education and so forth. This will create a society of highly education humans that will live on through out that specific society or culture.

V. Conclusion with Grade

Based on this semesters work, research, interviews, and meeting and talking to professionals in our own community, we as researchers and students in the subject of child welfare with an emphasis on education are now able to place a grade on our final product. Based on a criterion created by the entire class we are now ready to give our research topic a grade, "B". This grade was chosen from a rubric that states the a B grade meets some yet not all of the clients expressed satisfaction with the organization and their dealings, meets most yet not all of its stated and written goals, and finally better than average. Child welfare is meant to only do great things for children and allow them to have some choices and chances to reach their goals. Some children are unfortunate for many unfortunate reasons and these programs are created to reach out to those unfortunate students and help them receive the best possible education they can so that they can live better lives. The system is not perfect and there are some holes that need to be patched up. This is why the program received the grade in which we gave it because until those patches are closed it will never be perfect, yet the No Child Left Behind Act only wants to ensure the best for our youth and therefore it only has the children's best interest at heart. Had we had more access to speak to more involved individuals and had a larger research group, or possibly more time, then much more research can be found within this field and subject.

Works Cited

“A Quality Teacher in Every Class.” The White House page. 4/1/2005.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/teacherquality/>

“California Child Welfare and Adoption”. 4/13/2005. [http://www.child](http://www.childwelfare.com/california-child-welfare.htm)

[welfare.com/california-child-welfare.htm](http://www.childwelfare.com/california-child-welfare.htm)

“California Commission on Teacher Credentialing”. CCTC Home Page. 4/4/2005.

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl561.html>

“Consolidated State Performance Report”. California Department of Education.

2/31/2005. Web page N/A.

“Expanding the Promise”. No Child Left Behind home page. 3/3/2005.

<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget06/nclb/index.html>.

Hewlett, Ann Sylvia. When the Bough Breaks: The Cost of Neglecting Our Children.

Basic Books. New York. 1991.

Kadushin, Alfred. Child Welfare Services. Macmillan. New York. 1980

Lucas- Keith, Alan., Sanford, W. Clifford. Group Child Care as a Family Service.

University of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill, NC.1977.

“Representative George Miller Statement on NAEL findings on Charter Schools”. Press

Release. 4/10/2005. <http://www.edworkforce.house.gov/democrats/releases/html>.

“Requirements for Admission to Teaching Credential Programs.” CSUCI. 4/20/2005.

<http://educaiton.csuci.edu/admissreq.html>

Snell, Lisa. “Education and Child Welfare Program.” 4/4/2005

<http://www.rppi.org/education/>

Snell, Lisa. "Child Welfare". Reconstructing California's School Finance System.

4/13/2005. www.rppi.org/school_finance/html

Standley, Dena. "Make a Difference". N.Y. Times. November 8, 2000.

Standley, Dena. "Child Welfare- The Aftermath of Foster Care". N.Y. Times. April 11,
2004.

Recommended Reading

Barth, P Richard., Maluccio, N Anthony., Pecara, J. Peter., Plotrick, D Robert.,

Whittaker, K James. The Child Welfare Challenge: Policy, Practice, and Research

Aldine De Gruyter. New York. 1992.

Hewlett, Ann Sylvia. When the Bough Breaks: The Cost of Neglecting Our Children.

Basic Books. New York. 1991.

Kadushin, Alfred. Child Welfare Services. Macmillan. New York. 1980.

Lucas- Keith, Alan., Sanford, W. Clifford. Group Child Care as a Family Service.

University of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill, NC.1977.

Ringin, Stein. Citizens, Families and Reform. Clarendon Press.Oxford.1997.

0

0

0

①

②

③

The Gay and Lesbian Community:
A Survey of the Support Programs provided
to the community by the City of Long Beach

A field and
media-research paper

By the research team of
Jared Anderson

&

Melanie Graham

For
Dr. Adrian Novotny
Honors Cultural Anthropology
Tues-Thurs 12:30-2:00 PM
M204
Spring 2005

Long Beach City College
Long Beach, CA

May 19, 2005

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Support Groups.....	3
3. Health Care Services.....	6
4. Summary and Conclusion.....	9
5. Works Cited.....	11
6. Appendix A: Media Treatment.....	12

Introduction

On January 10, 2005, the Honors Cultural Anthropology Class was presented with a project that would measure the quality of life of various aspects of the Long Beach community. After some deliberation, the class accepted.

The topic discussed in this particular paper is the Gay and Lesbian Community. Another focus will be on the amount and quality of the support programs in this community including such topics as: how many support groups there are, health care opportunities, etc. Before getting more in depth with this particular topic, however, there are some vocabulary terms that will be used quite often in this paper that need to be defined at the outset.

To begin with, **homosexuality** is defined as the physical and emotional attraction of one person to a member of the same sex. When someone is called **a gay**, it

is in reference to a homosexual man. A **lesbian** then is a homosexual woman. When something is referred to as **gay-friendly**, it means that the point of reference is open and welcoming to the Gay and Lesbian community. More specialized jargon includes a **drag queen** -a gay man who dresses in women's clothing and is attracted to other gay men. A **dyke** is a particularly masculine lesbian whereas a **queen** is a particularly feminine gay man. (Interview A)

This project will only examine a small segment of the support programs of this particular community. Even though the research team has tried to be all-inclusive with the scope of studies, it would be near impossible to study all of the areas of the quality of gay life. Additionally, the scope of this project has been limited to the Gay and Lesbian community. Even though in many media articles the community is referred to as GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered) the research team decided to focus on

the Gay and Lesbian community for a number of reasons. There is a limitation of time (the research team only has one semester to complete this project), funding (we have no funding for this project), and team limitations (our team consists of only two people). Another problem that came up with this particular project is that there were no real sources available on the Gay and Lesbian community in the field of anthropology - there were no books or articles readily available without a subscription to a highly specialized database.

Support Groups in Long Beach

There exist a fair number of support groups for Gay and Lesbian individuals in the Long Beach Area. A vast majority of these groups, however, meet at one location - the Gay and Lesbian Center of Long Beach. A few of the groups that meet at this location are the Young Adult

group (under twenty -five years of age), the Native American Two Spirit Group, the Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club, a Coming Out Support group, and the Alcoholics Anonymous Gay Men's Stag Night group. Because many of these groups deal with extremely sensitive matter or anonymity is involved, the research team was only able to attend the Young Adult support group meeting.

Before attending the Young Adult meeting clearance had to be gained. In order to get clearance, one of the facilitators had to be called to ensure that we were going to be at the meeting for academic purposes and that we would not exploit what would be going on at the meeting. After two weeks we were given clearance to attend the Young Adult group's meeting.

Upon entering the meeting room the extent of welcome that was extended to the research team was immense. We

were not treated like two researchers but as a part of the group. This enabled us as researchers to be able to be participants and engage in what conversation we could but also observe the workings of this particular group.

The Young Adult support group discussed an assortment of issues. Among these issues were relationships, friendships, work, sex, and social settings. Many of the topics discussed readily lent themselves to interpersonal support as opposed to support coming only from the facilitator. The participants offered each other advice through discussion of the aforementioned topics. The group also created the opportunity to meet in a social setting outside of the meeting.

Another support group that is available is on the Long Beach City College Liberal Arts Campus. The Rainbow Alliance is a support group that meets on Wednesday

evenings to discuss issues and plan social events for the campus. While the research team was unable to attend one of their meetings it was found by speaking to Subject A that the group does indeed deal with contemporary issues and offer support opportunities.

Mental and Physical Health Care Support

The biggest provider of health information and services to the Gay and lesbian community is the Gay and Lesbian Center of Long Beach. One of the services provided by the Center is psychological therapy that is available upon appointment. Someone seeking these services can contact the Center to set up an appointment and speak with a trained counselor experienced in dealing with issues that can be very sensitive.

The Center also offers free HIV and AIDS testing on a frequent and regular basis. Though most of the programs at

the center are funded privately, this particular mode of support is funded by the government.

Those interested in getting information about different resources in the city can get it at the Center. Among these resources are the CARE program at St. Mary's Hospital and health services provided by the Health and Human Services Department of Long Beach.

The CARE program at St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach offers many different forms of mental and physical health care, including " benefits counseling, mental health services, nutritional counseling and supplements, and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (or ADAP)." (Pamphlet 2005)

One of the main focuses for the CARE program is to recognize those with HIV and connect them with health care services. They do this by doing seminars and presentations at various public places (i.e. churches, temples, schools)

and educating the populace on HIV and AIDS. Another group that provides AIDS and HIV testing is the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services.

The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services also provides HIV and AIDS testing but these services are not provided free of charge. For those without insurance or MediCal the cost is forty dollars and that cost may be waived but only if the person being tested qualifies. For those with insurance there is an administrative fee of forty dollars. The Department also provides testing for other STDs for a cost. The program, called Family P.A.C.T. (Provider Planning Access Care and Treatment), is the program that the HIV testing falls under. This particular program is run by the Department and is publicly funded.

While searching for programs offered through hospitals in the area, we found that Long Beach Memorial occasionally offers HI V testing. As far as programs tailored to the Gay and Lesbian Community of Long Beach, Long Beach Memorial Hospital and Pacific Hospital of Long Beach do not have anything at this time.

Summary and Conclusion

After having spent a semester working on th is particular project, the research team can safely say that the next group to do this will perform markedly better than we did - partly due to the fact that schedules were not exactly compatible, but mostly due to the fact that it was the first time doing anything of this magnitude. Many barriers have been broken, and this will make it easier for future researchers in this particular field of study.

The research team spent the better part of a month weighing the different opportunities and how much support they really offer. After careful deliberation, it is the decision of the research team that with regards to the support services offered to the Gay and Lesbian community of Long Beach the grade received is a B+. Even though there are noticeably more opportunities in Long Beach for the Gay and Lesbian community for support, many of them only come from one place. This can cause some problems with regards to those who wish to attend but because of distance cannot.

Works Cited

Pamphlet

"CARE: Program, Clinics and Outreach". St Mary's Hospital of Long Beach. Long Beach. 2005.

This pamphlet describes all of the services provided by St. Mary's Hospital, more specifically the CARE Program at St. Mary's.

Interview.

Subject B. Long Beach. April 29, 2005.

This interview was mainly for vocabulary purposes. This person gave many of the terms used in this paper.

Frontiers

"Frontiers Newsmagazine". Frontiers Newsmagazine. Long Beach. Vol. 23, No. 26. April 13-26, 2005.

This magazine deals with issues pertinent to the Gay and Lesbian community, but more specifically the male Gay population.

LN

"LN: Lesbian News". LN: Lesbian News. Long Beach. Vol. 30, No.10. May 2005.

This magazine deals with issues pertinent to the Gay and Lesbian community, but more specifically the female Lesbian population.

Blade

"Blade: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Newsmagazine". Blade. Long Beach. May 2005.

This magazine deals with issues pertinent to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community. There is not a particular group of the aforementioned that this newsmagazine is tailored to.

Appendix A: Media Treatment

When doing a research project with the capacity for a high impact (such as this one), it cannot be complete unless there is some research time devoted to seeing how the media treats the particular area of the quality of life. This particular portion of the project is no less deserving of a small survey of media treatment.

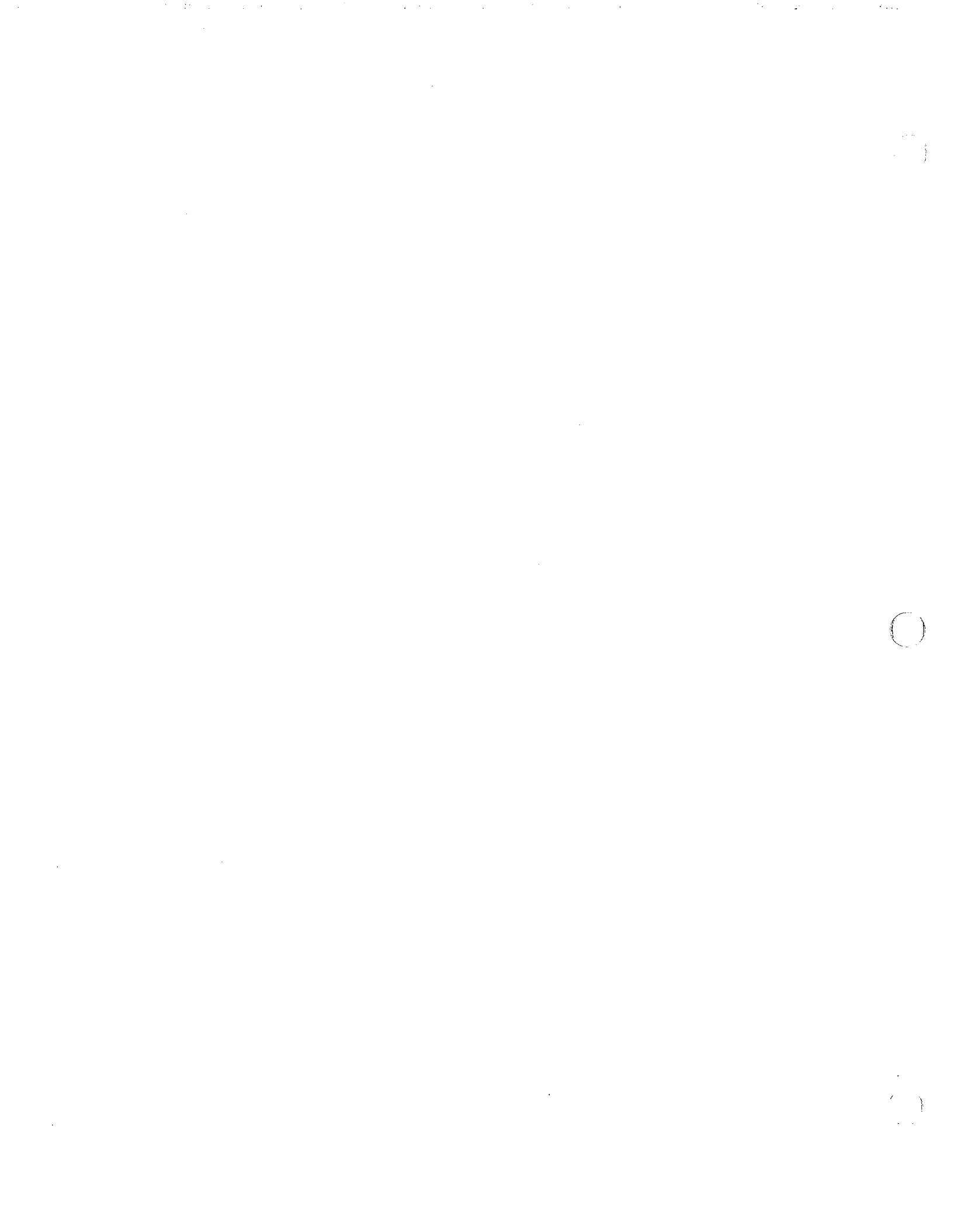
At first when searching for research material, there was an obvious lack of articles written in recent times. With all of the mass media clamoring for coverage of the recent Same Sex Marriage topic, there has been a lack of coverage of anything else with regards to the Gay and Lesbian Community. There were one or two articles written within the last 5 months, such as "AIDS Walk Long Beach Walks Away" in which the split of the organization that usually runs the AIDS Walk from the Gay and Lesbian Center

of Long Beach is discussed. The media bias here is almost nonexistent, or at least to the untrained eye bias would be undetectable.

One of the only other things that we found in recent times was coverage of the Gay Pride Parade of 2004. But even still, this was not in the form of an article - only pictures came up. On a higher note, there are a number of magazines specifically tailored to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) community of Long Beach and its neighboring areas. Some of these magazines include LN (Lesbian News), Frontiers, and Blade. Each of these magazines deal with pertinent issues to the GLBT community.

After having done research regarding mass media treatment of the issues of the local Gay and Lesbian community, the conclusion arrived at is this: With regards

to usual everyday issues that would usually appear in a newspaper for the heterosexual community, the media does not typically cover the same things for the Gay and Lesbian Community. However, with the more specialized magazines that are specifically designed for them, the Gay and Lesbian community can read about those issues that may appeal to them more. The only question is that if there are more pressing issues that Frontiers and LN and Blade cover with regards to the Gay and Lesbian community, why isn't the mass media covering it?



0

0

0

“An assessment of health care in Long Beach, California: How healthy are we?”

A field research and case study project.

By the research team of:

Terry Smith

And

Leron Konowecki

For:

Dr. Adrian Novotny

Honors Cultural Anthropology

T/TH (12:30-2:00)

M – 205

Spring 2005

Long Beach City College

Long Beach, California

04 – 15 – 2005

Table of Contents

I. Introduction.....	Page 3
II. Origin(s) of Long Beach Health Care.....	Page 4
III. Clients.....	Page 5-6
IV. Financing.....	Page 7-8
V. Impact.....	Page 9-10
VI. Summary and conclusion.....	Page 12
VII. Work Cited.....	Page 13
VIII. Appendix A.....	Page 15

Introduction:

In starting our research, we feel it necessary to clearly define what we mean when we employ terms often used in (public) many different contexts. The main focus of our research is to assign a 'grade' to the health care system in Long Beach, California. The criteria we base this grade on is based on community (humanitarian) benefit, the success rate, access, the end result, and restrictions. We consider the practicality, and influence of free clinics, and corporate medical facilities. To do this, we will define what we mean by fair and affordable, available, grade, and scope.

By using the terms, "fair and affordable," (in reference to health care) we feel this means health care services that are readily available to all those who seek it; and at a reasonable price, and not based to a person's economic level. In that frame of thought "available," (to our paper) means a system of conveniently located health care facilities, close to all manners of transport, with a flexible of hours of transportation, and the enthusiasm of staff members to discuss the services preformed. The "Grade" to be assigned will be a traditional letter grade allocated on our facilitator's rubric, and corresponding to the criteria set forth. This is based on the ability of the Long Beach health care system to: prove functional; the level of cooperation; their goals (set and reached), and being of a benefit to the community. The scope will be an overview of the health care provided, the satisfaction of client base, cooperation, and future plans. The term "range" is the variety of services, and the amount of clients served as a whole versus the amount services being provided. "Alternative Medicine," will be discussed for its general purposes, and is defined as a rational alternative method of treatment, in comparison to "traditional care" of the established status quo of the medical community; a practice only utilized by one percent of licensed practitioners (doctors).

Origin(s) of Long Beach Health Care:

The history of Long Beach, before 1850 was somewhat difficult to find, at least accurate information was lacking without the help of the city. However, there is a vast amount of information of Long Beach in the early, and mid 1900's. The following examples illustrate how cultural norms and medical technology helped to move our community forward. Long Beach has a long history (from an anthropological viewpoint) of being on the cutting edge in moving forward with our health care, and communities. If we look at our city culturally, as well as medically we see our pattern of exploration and enculturation; the medical advancements are quite impressive:

- ✚ 1900, infant mortality, and maternal mortality had decreased 90-99%
- ✚ 1901, identified tie linking drinking water, and dental care
- ✚ 1931, research discovered fluoride, and dental care was identified
- ✚ 1940, introduction, and, use of antibiotics
- ✚ 1950, cardiovascular disease decreases
- ✚ 1977, small pox infection was irradiated

In 1900 information concerning contraception and contraceptive devices was illegal in U.S, and the realization of contraceptive practice increased the infant (and maternal) mortality rate over ninety percent (Stats book 23). Most of the above advances are documented in the department's Health Statistics report, a report put out by the city to the public. In the report, the director, Mr. Ronald R. Arias, states:

Since its inception in 1906, the health division has locally developed and implemented programs and services to reflect Long Beach's diversity, for 96 years, the Health Department has played a vital role in shaping the health of the community.

The Long Beach health department is top-rated, the department tries to help our community, and according to Mr. Arias, "We feel a strong commitment to work in partnership with our community members to improve the quality of life for all Long

Beach residents (Stats 8).” The statistic report (stat book) says a picture of the overall health of Long Beach, from designing programs of awareness of health risks, to meeting the needs of Long Beach’s diverse, ‘and dynamic’ population is succeeding in their mission. The founder(s) of the department are not mentioned, but the Department of Health and Human Services ‘Mission Statement’ is:

The mission of the city of Long Beach department of Health and Human services is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Long Beach by addressing the public health and human services needs, ensuring that the conditions affecting the public’s health afford a healthy environment in which to live, work, and play.

The city and citizens of Long Beach strive to move forward while honoring our culture from the past, and a prime example is the growing gay and lesbian community in our city. Long Beach welcomes our gay brothers and sisters, but it is unfortunate that some of the gay community practices risky sexual behavior. This, coupled with the overall lack of general health care makes the lack of safe sexual practices and direct contributor to the rise of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Hepatitis C in the (male) gay community. You will notice in our media coverage section, we list a public service announcement for S.T.D’s. The example we use, the add calls for young men, is a military parody to “do your duty”, and it is reference to the rise (spread) of a Gonorrhea public service announcement.

Clients:

We found through formal, and (mostly) informal interviews--utilized by a questioner to get an opinion poll from a cross section of the insured demographic--in Long Beach the persons with insurance are happy with their level of coverage. Our subjects ranged from ninety-five, to nineteen, and the questioners were factored into the grade assignment. It was not possible to factor any spatial data from the uninsured

element of Long Beach, but we address them in a later section. We are unable to obtain very much data on these client interactions (insured), to consider the possible attention, and care of providers offered to clients. We did notice that even less than helpful staff members only became less than helpful when they found out we were not patients. Our subjects that we use as examples in our sample data (questioners) represent the wide diversity of our city; those polled all covered by various forms of insurance.

- ✦ Subject one, 61, white, upper-middle class, and in moderate health, and diagnosed obese, insurance is provided through a P.P.O, and the subject has prescription benefits.
- ✦ Subject two, 84, black, in stable health, covered by a P.P.O, with prescription drug benefits.
- ✦ Subject three; 39, white, living with hepatitis C, and mild depression, subject receives S.S.I (Social Security Insurance) otherwise are in fair to good health. Subject's insurance is provided by '*Medical*,' and he also has prescription drug benefits.

The opinion we encountered (from the sparse participation of potential subjects) was that people that have a health care provider; graded with high marks for both treatment and prescription drug benefits. The large gap was the clients of so-called free clinics, or state run health systems, as we did not easily locate these facilities. We had to wonder if two (motivated) college students had a hard time, what chance would an illiterate immigrant have. We tried tirelessly to interview non-English speaking persons, but found that these people would not answer our questioners, and were less than fourth coming. We feel these individuals are of a migratory faction, the migrant worker(s), illegal alien(s), and even the ignorant, are all not covered by insurance, and are all victims. Sadly, many working class people with families have no health coverage (like a homeless person). Due do the difficulties, and the problems exclusive to the poor; such as moving often, and a less healthy diet, it goes to say that this unstable lifestyle adds to health problems. These are the 'citizens' with no health care, people indigenious to an

area migrate for various reasons, most of these citizens fall under the classification of uninsured (along with lower middle class families, and single adults). This was partly the reason they were skeptical about any discussion. In contrast to the under insured Hispanic population, is the reality that between 1998 and 1999 the number of live births for the Latin population doubled that of any other group, with a live birth rate of 43,000 (Stats 39). Not all these births were that of migratory and illegal residents, but the number should be more reflective of the coverage these groups receive in relation to health care. The richer the medical community grows, there seems to be a mirror image of the impact on the poor, sinking deeper into poverty with fewer free clinics and means to find health care. The burden is not relieved by the reduction in health care workers, or facilities. In Long Beach, the number of medical facilities being opened in poor areas, is shrinking fast, in comparison to the medical facilities opening in middle-class areas.

The (anthropological) visions of the past are not relevant today, as the Medicine Men, Shaman, and Healers of old, being revered in the village with places of respect in the tribe. Today in western medicine, the doctors have a position of prestige, but in our society (and city) these healers are more concerned with money than people. The socio-economic status of a person, and their health concerns need to be on the person, not the 'profit to patient ratio.' Instead of our overall health outside concerns drive the level of treatment, as doctors treat people with concerns of malpractice law suits and insurance rates. Every agency, and company we contacted, from the Mayor, to H.M.O's, ignored our repeated contact attempts. This is unfortunate, as the level of cooperation is a high ranking piece of the rubric, so the low marks should serve as motivation to cooperate with future studies. The rings true from the smallest single doctor (P.P.O) to the Mayor herself; as redirecting e-mails, providing empty promises, and a lack of cooperation (and discussion) from the current administration are laughable. We had no luck in contacting

any representatives to discuss the health care system in Long Beach, and sadly, this is a driving factor of our contemplation of a low grade, and we fear it is a current trend.

Follow the Money:

Follow the money; how much money is generated by co-pays, and insurance premiums, and what is the profit ratio for the heads of the corporations involved? How much do clients pay? Do clients pay reasonable fees for medical services rendered at so called "free" facilities, in comparison to H.M.O / P.P.O's? One such facility is the Chestnut street clinic. Is it actually free, or on a pay what you can basis? Is that more than co-pay? What do they get for payment, and are treatments equal? Why the (if any) difference? And are the services as bad as our limited access indicates at free or low income clinics? Are there similar complaints from clients of P.P.O's, H.M.O's, and "Free clinics?" Are both sides corporate owned, and if so by what corporations? These are the questions we were not able to answer. The money trail, was the most uncooperative of all, and we hope the Mayor's office will look into this, and, or aid future researchers. We were lucky to find several clients to discuss their personal experiences in relation to the high cost of minimal coverage; as corporate revenues soar and dwindling individual rights. The following three subjects were gracious enough to give us an interview:

- ✚ Subject one, spends \$613 a month for her family's health insurance, 24% of her income. Rather than go without coverage, she sacrifices other needs; her heat has been shutoff, and recently dropped her car insurance.
- ✚ Subject two, 52, years old and is a dress store owner in East Los Angeles; half her income on medical insurance. She has recently given up her cell phone; clothing from garage sales; longer turns on her heat.
- ✚ Subject three, closed his company after 17 years in industry; stopped his family insurance policy; citing rising cost.

These sacrifices for health insurance will increase as insurance costs rise, and more people (even healthy ones) are making drastic changes to afford insurance. numerous people are delaying homeownership, delay saving money for their children's

college funds, or sacrificing wealth to ensure low cost medical bills. Many people, especially lower and middle-class workers and the chronically ill, are spending an unimaginable amount of their income on medical insurance. Also, in many cases medical insurance has become the number one priority before purchasing houses, cars, etc... Between 2000 and 2004, the amount of people spending over twenty-five percent of their income (which is a figure normally tied to homeownership) went up nearly a twenty-five percent (Washington D.C. based families USA, 2000-2004). At the same time period, a nationally celebrated, Southern California based healthcare insurance rose their premiums at an avg. of fifty-nine percent, and the employees' incomes rose twelve point nine percent. This could be the growing trend of "house-rich, cash-poor", as those who spend most of their income on housing, and hold on to their medical insurance are known as the "insured poor."

Impact

Eventually, people will join the almost 45,000,000 Americans without medical insurance. Estimates show that in California, costs are rising faster than the rest of the nation, and will continue to rise four times as fast as salaries will. In 2003, California costs went up to fifteen point eight percent while the rest of the country lingers at thirteen point nine percent, with more employers capping their spending on health coverage.

In that case, the employees pay for all rate increases, and there are companies dropping insurance. There are so many providers that a rational person would think the high prices would bring a decreased demand of healthcare which would eventually bring down the prices, but the prices are stagnant and the corporate facilities even hesitate to staff hospitals properly. We found where nurses are needed to fill empty beds; some Long Beach health care facilities are making an effort to provide the best care to the community. For example, and according to an ABC news internet article, "California

hospitals are scrambling to meet first-in-nation nurse staffing ratio”, a ratio of one on duty nurse to a five patient ratio (ABC.COM). The facilities are looking to private staffing sources to find the nurses, and closing beds, or holding people in emergency room longer to ease overcrowding. It is not going well, as another article states, “...even if money came down from heaven to pay for all the additional costs, you still can't find the nurses (Jablon, 1).”

The impact on the community provides us a good indicator to add into our grade; are the providers doing a good job (providing) by us (the people they serve) or are the patients a means for bank accounts to grow. Do the providers, and drug manufacturers, and sales people, have the best interest of the residents of Long Beach in mind. How are these corporations encouraged, or discouraged by our state and local governments. What are the consequences for maltreatment of the compact with the general public? There are a multitude of questions we need answers to: How is the impact helping, or hurting our community; Are the clients served; did Uncle Joe have a chance to live, or at least to die with dignity? We considered this fact: illness takes our lives, but does the city facilitate a sound, reasonable prognosis and (or) solutions that give a patient the equal time to die, as they do to live? Does the impact of more nurses, or less corporate profits, or even more so, intervention from the local and state government, 'impact' our citizens. If so, what fraction of the health needed to live a better life do we receive? When people live fuller lives, they contribute more to our society as a whole, and then we all benefit, but this is where the City also falls short.

Risky Sexual Behavior:

The sole problem does not lie with the doctor, pharmaceutical manufacturer, or health maintenance organization; as we must all accept personal responsibility. Take for example the sexually risky behavior of younger, homosexual age groups, risky sex without

protection, and the rise of sexually transmitted diseases. The sexual promiscuity of some types in the group is having unprotected sex, and this is contributing to the rise of Chlamydia, Hepatitis C, A.I.D.S, and gonorrhea. The rise is mainly in the age groups 20-30, ethnicity was a factor, but all groups reflected higher numbers. However, the city has launched an awareness campaign to address the rise of sexually transmitted diseases in the gay community. The example of an awareness PSA commercial: "Syphilis is on the rise in Long Beach" a military parody commercial. The awareness commercial (aired; 10:55, 03/03/05) was a safe-sex advertisement called for all able bodied gay men to report for duty, "It's your duty to have protected sex."

The (UN) insured:

The uninsured, in contrast to the "insured" is the truly appalling, or dirty secret of our society. People that, for one reason or another have no (job related insurance) health care, period. It is unfortunately the biggest disparity in the health in Long Beach, and a very un-factorable element, as our consideration of the grade assignment for the (level of quality) health care in Long Beach. In America today, some of our fellow citizens matter less than others, even in the health insurance they have, or require. In the article from the web site find articles, titled, "Cutting to the heart of the theory the latest on charity care litigation", Frank Fedor writes:

The nation's not-for-profit hospitals, which represent 85 percent of the industry, are at the center of a growing debate. As of November 2004, 70 lawsuits had been filed in federal court, with the cases targeting nearly 300 facilities these people live in unpleasantness we can not imagine, and that lifestyle only adds the risk of health related problems.

The number of insured is, in fact, not an accurate measure of those indeed, living without accessible, affordable health care. With mountains of paperwork to fill out, just to join free systems like *Medi-Cal*, or welfare, discourages people from participating.

For people with the occasional flu, or blue collar-work related injury this is not appealing, especially when the process takes thrice as long as the ailment to run its course. This is also a big factor in the assignment of a grade; the treatment of the uninsured, or indigent, is at the center of a growing debate as the collection, and billing practices are out of control. These corporations are harassing, and treating the uninsured in a less than honorable manner for their billing and collection practices toward uninsured patients.

Summary and Conclusion:

Summary of Long Beach health care system; the level of coverage by insured residents of Long Beach is very favorable (to above average), until the potential corporate profitability versus (non-financial) community betterment is factored into the equation. The grade drops from the sexual risks, as a local health problem, but the city addressing the issue is in their favor. The lack of any (all) cooperation, the second highest factor pulling down the grade is the uninsured-factor versus corporate profitability. Overall, the grade that the health care system in Long Beach earns is a "C" (barley). We it important to note that the problem with the system in not only here in our city, but Nationwide it is a growing problem that deserves further research. In addition to our grade we recommend the following:

- The increased involvement of city officials, departments, and people.
- Larger research teams (with two-person teams to focus on a sub-category)
- More cooperation from health care providers.

So, in grading our city, in comparison to the national standard, the Long Beach system earns the "C" because it has problems, but is far better than impact on our community than other equal-sized systems. We are ahead of most of the nation, however this should not lead to the complacency, as the future (and its problems) will be here before we know it.

Appendix A (Media coverage)

- ✓ **A PSA commercial:** “Syphilis is on the rise in Long Beach” a military parody commercial, aired at 10:55, on Thursday the 3rd of March.”

WORK CITED:

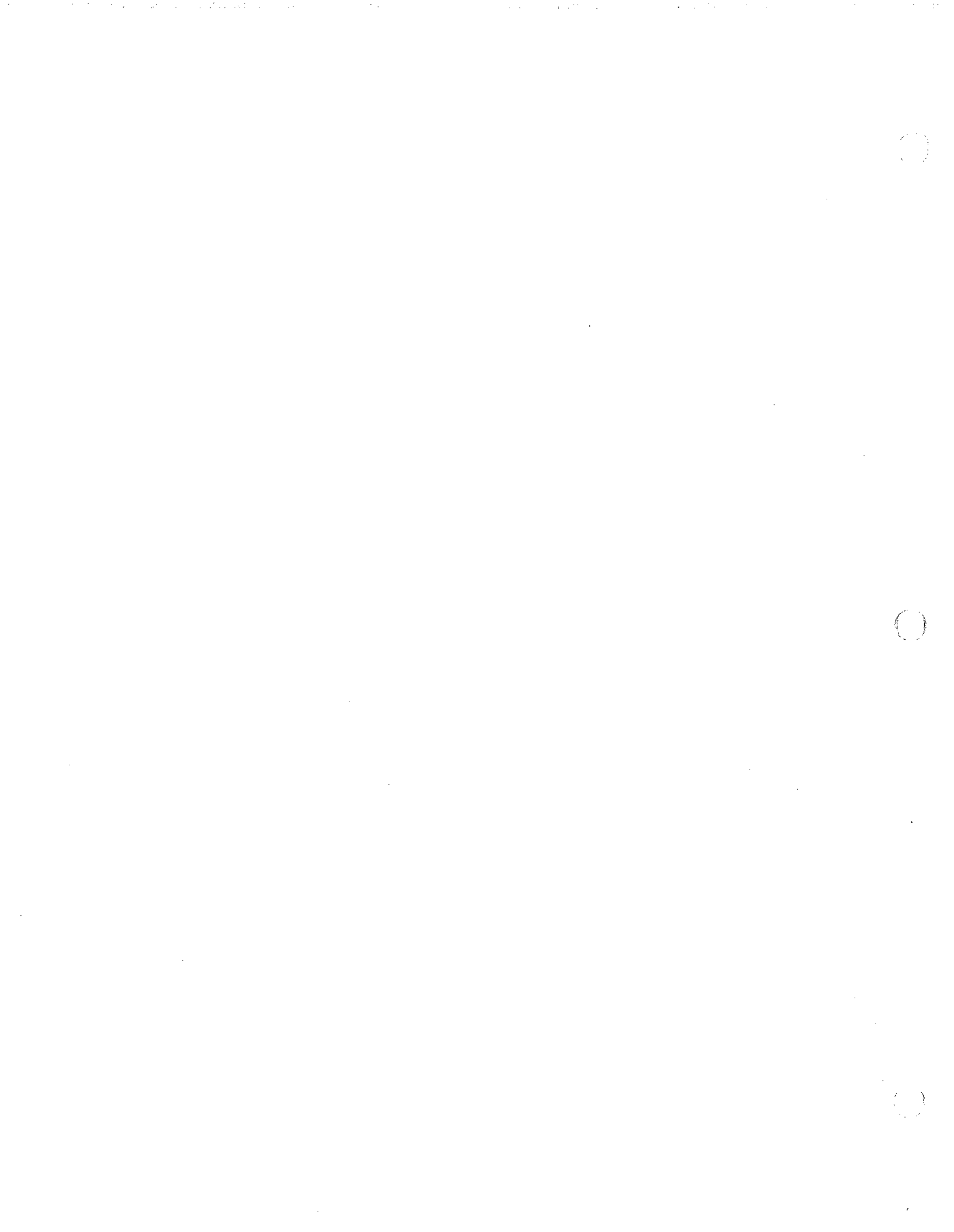
Appelbaum, Kalman. “The Sweetness of Salvation, Consumer Marketing and the Liberal-Bourgeois Theory of Needs.” *Current Anthropology*. June, 1998 Vol.39 (3):323-349.

Fedor, Frank. “Cutting to the heart of the theory the latest on charity care litigation”. Find articles.com, March, 2005.
http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m3257

Garrison, Jessica. “Candidate says L.A Has Health Crisis in Healthcare.” L.A times. Section A. March 2005.

Jablon, Robert. “California hospitals are scrambling to meet first-in-nation nurse staffing ratio”. ABC news.com. April 2005.
<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wirestory?id=646435>

City of Long Beach. “City of Long Beach Health Statistics Report”. Long Beach Health Department. 2002. <http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/search/default.asp>



Homeless in Long Beach:
A Study of the Causes of Homelessness and the Help Available to the Affected

A Field Research, Interview, and Text Research Project

By

The research team of
Jose Camacho and Susana Montijo

For

Dr. Adrian Novotny
Honors Cultural Anthropology

T-Th 12:00-2:00 pm

M204

Spring 2005

Long Beach City College

Long Beach, CA

5/19/05

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Demographics.....	2
Causes of Homelessness.....	4
Organizations/Interviews.....	6
Christian Outreach in Action.....	6
Long Beach Rescue Mission.....	8
Multi-service Center.....	9
Case Studies.....	10
Future of Homelessness.....	14
Conclusion.....	15
Summary.....	15
Report card grade.....	16
Recommended future research.....	16
Appendix.....	16
References Cited.....	18

Introduction

This paper is an assessment of the city of Long Beach in its efforts to resolve its homeless problem. Since the study is about homeless people, a clear definition of homeless and other terms used throughout this paper must be provided. Homeless is any person who lives either on the streets or in a homeless facility. Those people who have been homeless for a year or more or several times in the past few years are defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as chronically homeless. This study is limited to the city of Long Beach and all the data and affiliations mentioned are local and only apply to this city.

Interviews, case studies and text research are the methodology for this assessment. To be able to give a grade to the city on its ability to handle this problem, we needed to know about the organization and facilities available to the homeless, as well as the services they offer. The organizations researched for this paper includes the Christian Outreach In Action, The Multi-service center, and the Long Beach Rescue Mission. In order to make the assessment as fair and balanced as possible, we also contacted and interviewed various homeless people, who we will call subjects in this paper, to get their point of view and their opinion about the help offered by the city. Interviews from several city officials and descriptions about some of the facilities that we toured are also included.

Initially, it was difficult to contact key people. We reached answering machines or got referred to others. It seemed everyone was busy. With a lot of perseverance, however we were able to make contact. One of the successful strategies involved personal contacts. We found going to the places and calling by phone beforehand to be the most effective. Emails only work once in a while. Overall, we found that this issue was assessable and not purposefully secretive. Almost everyone we talked to was willing to give information and help to obtain more

information. A major challenge was that we seemed to be calling during a busy time of the year because most organizations are filling all the paper work needed to receive grants from the government. One of our interviewees, the director of Human services in charge of the homeless count this year, was especially busy. Being persistent in calling did pay off.

There have been time constraints because of school and work. One needs to have all the questions and work organized in order to be able to better utilize time. We have worked our way around this by doing most of our work together on Fridays, which is our only school-free day during the weekdays and by finding time to call people between classes. Another obstacle was working on the paper while doing other classes' homework and studying for tests and quizzes.

Demographics

Statistics

The City of Long Beach 2004 Homeless Assessment provided us with most of the demographics and other statistics mentioned in this section. This assessment has two parts, the "City of Long Beach 2003 Homeless Count" and the "City of Long Beach 2003 Homeless Survey." The homeless count was conducted on the 12th of March, 2003, from 5 am until early evening. The count was done through the streets, homeless facilities, and in non-residential homeless programs throughout the city. The people counted were those residing in their cars, the park, the sidewalks, abandoned buildings, emergency shelters, and in transitional housing. The count was made by the Department of Health and Human Services who consulted with the Institute for Urban Research and Development, a research organization. More than 300 volunteers also helped, as well as many other current or formerly homeless people to help with the count on the streets. Also, about 100 more persons representing the many shelters and food

programs in the city, counted homeless persons at those sites. All this culminated in the first citywide homeless count of Long Beach and the data collected is summarized in the following paragraphs.

Long Beach is the 5th largest city in California with one of the highest homeless populations of about 5,845 homeless people on any given day, but since many of them fall in and out of homelessness, the actual number of people who became homeless during one calendar year is about 20,176 people. Some of them are only in transition, but others are in a state called chronic homelessness, which is when a person is homeless for many months or years and more than one time a year. 3,776 of those people are adults while the other 2,069 are children. Men make up 71.5% of all homeless adults or about 2,699 people. On the other hand women only represent 28.4% or 1072 people of the adult homeless population of Long Beach. Children under the age of eighteen are 35.4% or 2069 people of the homeless population. Usually these children are part of the nearly 795 families homeless in Long Beach on a given day.

The majority of the adult homeless population or about 45.7% or 1,726 people are African American. Whites make up 29.4% or 1,110 people, while Latinos comprise 15.9% or 600 people. 3.2% or 121 are Asian and only 2.5% or 94 were recorded as Native Americans or Alaskan Natives. The remaining 3.3% or 125 people stated other on the count. Although the majority of the adults counted were baby boomers, 359 were young adults between the age of eighteen to twenty four, and 227 were seniors of sixty two years of age or older.

Causes of Homelessness

The second part of the 2004 homeless assessment is the "City of Long Beach 2003 Homeless survey" which was done during the four month period of April through July in 2003. It was administered by thirteen persons, including five members of the Long Beach based Community Action Network, a group made up of homeless persons, three graduate students from Cal State Long Beach, two students from Long Beach City College, and three community residents. 1,018 homeless adults were surveyed, giving a representative sample of the different sub-populations of Long Beach. The findings from the survey are described below.

About 58.7% of the survey respondents are residents of Long Beach, which means that more than 40% of the city's homeless are from nearby cities and probably from other states. The survey also found some of the main reasons why so many people are without a home in this city. These reasons include lack of income, domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse, and being release from foster care.

About forty percent of the city's homeless had a monthly income of \$224 or less which is far less than the cost of rent for single room occupancy. Nearly all the respondents earn less than \$800 a month, which means that to rent a home, most of these people would have to spend all their money in rent and they wouldn't have money to eat or pay for utilities. According to the government, affordable housing is defined as costing less than thirty percent of a household's gross income. Of all the homeless people surveyed, only seventeen percent answered that they didn't have any income. One third said that they lost their last job because they were laid off, another third said that they lost it because of medical conditions and other similar reasons, while the other third answered that they lost it because either they quit or got fired.

About 38.3% of the women surveyed acknowledged that they had been abused or mistreated by a spouse or intimate partner and/or by a parent or relative. A few men also acknowledged being abused or mistreated, but in their case nearly half by a parent or relative.

One of the biggest problems in Long Beach is probably mental illness. According to the survey, nearly 27.3% of the homeless adult population reported symptoms of mental illness. The people under this category experience psychotic symptoms, mood disorder, depressive symptoms, or bipolar symptoms. The symptoms are in some cases alone and in others it is a combination of a few of them. Almost 85% of the people with psychotic symptoms are not being treated at the moment.

Another big problem in the homeless population is alcohol and substance abuse. About 60.6% of all respondents are currently using alcohol and/or drugs, while another 25.6% stated that they used alcohol and/or drugs in the past but were not using them now, and only 13.8% said they have never used any drugs.

The need for healthcare is both a cause and a consequence of homelessness. This is because without any health care, chronic health problems go untreated and it prevents the person from getting or keeping a job (Assessment, 37). People with any serious health problem are the most likely to become chronically homeless because their health problems impedes them from getting off the streets (Assessment 38). About 30.4% or nearly a third of the respondents had "persistent" health care needs, but only 23.5% had received treatment in the past year when the survey was administered. Dental care is even scarcer, with only one out of ten respondents answering that they receive dental care during the past year. There are about 3.1% of homeless adults and teenagers that are HIV+, and although 71.9% of them have received services for their disease, more is needed.

Although the above data are accurate, they only reflect the people counted and surveyed at a specific time in 2003. In order to have a more accurate count that reflects the homeless people in Long Beach, periodic counts such as the one made this year (2005), should be examined and compared to the data collected on the 2003 count. If more counts occur in the future, they should also be taken into consideration and they might reflect how well the city is really doing to help resolve this issue of homelessness. In other words if the number of homeless decreases, the city is doing a great job, but if it increases, there is a problem. Another factor is the time the count is performed because the 2005 count was done during rainy days so it was very difficult to find homeless people since they were hiding from the rain.

Information more recent than the count is information we have gathered from people who work with the homeless issue. The major reason for homelessness as we have gathered from them is the lack of living wages and affordable housing.

Organizations/Interviews

Christian Outreach in Action

There are many organizations whose main focus is to help the homeless of Long Beach, but since there are still thousands of people not being helped by these services a lot more is needed. The Christian Outreach in Action was the first of the organizations that we contacted. They were really friendly and approachable. We didn't even have to make an appointment, because we arrived one day and waited until the Executive director that we were going to interview finished some paperwork and the interview started. It happened so fast that we were a little unprepared, but we managed to ask important questions. From the interview we learned of all the services that the COA offers. They give breakfast meals and dinners Monday through

Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday there are grocery distributions for families with low income, and they don't have to be homeless. On Mondays and Wednesdays there are clothing distributions and every month they receive 300 Metro tokens to distribute for the homeless.

The Christian Outreach in Action also offers a Men's Transitional Housing program which ministers up to six men who have been homeless or incarcerated (Re:Action). These men live in a small house next to COA and besides receiving counseling to find out what they need and a twelve step program to help them get through, they are also the work force in the COA, serving the meals, distributing the clothes and groceries, and fixing anything that needs fixing around the shelter. This is a great program that can take men off the street and give them the push to stay off of them forever. More programs like these should be implemented by the government. A similar transitional house program is also offered for women with children. Many of these women have been abused and need help to get back on their feet and this program offer them with that opportunity.

The COA receives most funding from donations from private organizations, churches, and individuals, as well as some grants by the government. Sometimes they receive forgivable loans, which don't have to be paid after seven years if the organization keeps working to help the community and its homeless people. Finally we learned that most of the people the COA helps are referred to them by many churches. In the end of the interview, she gave us a newsletter of the organization as well as some statistics and her business card in case we needed to ask her anything else about COA.

Long Beach Rescue Mission

Although the Long Beach Rescue Mission was one of the first places we located, we didn't interview anyone or tour any of their facilities. The reason for that was because when we went to one of their locations, the Samaritan House, without an appointment, the receptionist told us that if we wanted to speak with anyone we needed to make an appointment by phone. We called several times but we only reached answering machines, so we shifted our focus towards other organizations. Almost at the end of our research, we were given two phone numbers and names of people from the LBRM that could help us, but due to our time constraint we couldn't contact them. Fortunately, they have a website with some important information about them.

The Long Beach Rescue Mission has two locations in Long Beach, the Samaritan House and the Lydia House. The Samaritan House was created in 1972 in response to the increasing homelessness in the community. In 1983, it was replaced with a clean, two-story building that offers 120 beds, dining tables, kitchen, bathrooms with showers, clothing room, laundry, chapel, counseling and administrative offices, and an outside patio (LBRM website). Lydia House was established in 1973 and became the city's first shelter for homeless women and their children. It was replaced by another two-story building which provides beds, a playroom for the children, bathrooms, living room, dining room, counseling office, kitchen and an outside patio (LBRM website). It is only for women who have been battered, mothers with children, and women that need help to overcome their personal problems. These two facilities have helped thousands of people over the years and their funding comes from private donors in the community.

Multi-service Center

The Multi-service Center is actually a collection of fourteen different nonprofit agencies that provide various homeless services. We managed to get a tour of the facilities as well as some interviews with the coordinator of the Multi-service Center. The facilities are very well kept and they offer some services such as showers, laundry, and transportation as well as many other services through the fourteen agencies residing inside. The Department of Health and Human Services provides services such as street outreach, intake reception, housing coordination services, supportive case management, and comprehensive assessment. The *Atlantic Recovery Services* helps youth and adult in drug and/or alcohol recovery to find permanent housing. *Beyond Shelter* helps family with transitional and permanent housing services, life-skills training and homeless prevention. *Goodwill Industries* provides employment preparation training courses, vocational assessment and job placement. The *Institute for Urban Research and Development* it is working on the Project Achieve, which is supposed to be a fifteen-nine-bed year-round shelter. The MHA or *Mental Health Association* is there to help people with mental problems by giving them treatment, and housing placement for the chronically mentally ill. The *New Image Emergency Shelter* provides HIV services, motel and food vouchers, and other services. The *Department of Health and Human service* provides health education and screening for adults and testing for STD and HIV. The SAF or *Substance Abuse Foundation* is a detox program to help those people that abuse drugs and alcohol. The *Children's Clinic* provides childcare for homeless families, as well as healthcare for children. Some of the services available for veterans include transitional and permanent housing, work reentry programs, and an employment center, all provided by the *US Veterans Initiative*. Those are some of the agencies available at the Multi-service Center.

Overall most of the agencies and organizations we researched were very helpful and cooperative. For the most part, they didn't seem to withhold information and were very helpful in recommending more people for our research. I would give the city a "B" on cooperation. While most if not all of the agencies we looked at seemed to be doing a good job at helping the homeless, their biggest obstacle is funding which comes from government grants and private donations. The best programs, such as those that provide transitional housing as well as counseling and skill training for homeless seem to be the best choices to help the homeless but these programs can only accommodate a very limited portion of the homeless in Long Beach. But to make a reasonable assessment of any of these agencies, we need to listen to the people they are trying to help, the homeless.

Case Studies

When doing research on the homeless situation in Long Beach, it would be incomplete if we didn't include their voices. To understand their situation better and to receive another point of view about the city's efforts to solve this problem, we interviewed six homeless persons of diverse backgrounds and with completely different stories. All of them were really nice and cooperative and very willing to share their stories. To keep them anonymous, they will be referred to as subjects.

Subject 1 is an African American adult in his late 20s or early 30s. He has been homeless since December of last year. He usually attends the Long Beach Rescue Mission for food and shelter and he believes that the shelter is doing an okay job. He studied in Political Science in Cal State Long Beach. He was a Real Estate Loan Officer when he lost his job and ended up on the street. He says he gets three meals a day and if there was something the city could do to help,

it would be to build a year round shelter since right now almost none are open throughout the year.

The second subject we interviewed was a middle-aged white man who had been homeless for about a year. He said he didn't like shelters because they were too "stuffy" and "crowded" so it wasn't a surprise that he rated their services as bad. He graduated from high school in 78'. When he was young his left eye had to be operated on and he lost part of his vision in that eye. He used to work on shipping and delivering products until he got laid off. Then his identifications were stolen on the street so he couldn't get a job without the proper identification. Now that he has multiple sclerosis and other health problems such as pain in the hips and shoulders, as well as some bleeding feet. Due to all those problems it is nearly impossible for him to get a job and keep it. He believes that what the city should be doing to help him and others is creating housing assistance. Then he added that the city should also clean up the parks where they stay because he usually sees a lot of trash and that those aren't living conditions for people. He gave the city an overall grade of D- or F.

Our subject three was a friend of subject two and he started talking to us. He was also a middle-aged white male. He has been homeless for the past thirteen years straight and for the last twenty three in and out of homelessness. Since he was in the penitentiary he had found it almost impossible to find a job because he says that if he lies about being in jail and the employer finds out he will get fired and if he tells them they won't hire him. He believes that "shelters are worst than the street" and that he can't leave any belonging for a second because they might get stolen, and that the food in there makes people sick. He also said that shelters are "rip-offs" because, according to him, the coordinators of these centers take a lot of the money and spend it on themselves. In his opinion, Long Beach is a very "rich and wealthy" city and that the mayor

keeps most of the money. He had just come back from staying at a hotel but his money had run out. He told us many stories. One of those was the one about the first Grand Prix in Long Beach in 1992. He said that the police rounded up the homeless. They city made a lot of money that year and that none of it went towards the homeless. He believes that many of the buildings constructed should be made into shelters or affordable housing instead of selling them to "rich corporations". He seemed to have many conspiracy theories, but some of them could be true.

Our subject four is a fifty-one-year-old white woman that has been on and off homeless since 2001. Said she rather not talk about how. She stays at no shelters, but only goes to eat at them. She says the COA is okay. She said that instead of building these new areas downtown, they need to build shelters. She's an 11th grade drop out. She says that it's hard to get a job because of her age and health problems. "Rent is ridiculous," she says. There's no rent control in Long Beach. She has two sons locked up who she would probably be staying with if they were out. In response towards our question about police treatment of the homeless she said that some of the police are okay, some are not, while some don't care. One guy out there at the park got beat, only because of things he had done in the past. Another of her friends got stabbed last year and died. The killer got eighteen years to life. She also says that sometimes she eats all day and sometimes a few times a day. She says that the money they are using to build condos they need to use to help them. She says they don't want homeless people but that they don't put up places for them. She does say though that Long Beach has a lot to offer even for them. She says its not easy being homeless. She says most people there stick together, and that is the way it should be. When it rains she runs for cover. She got soaked recently. It was a bad experience but now she can look back and laugh about it. She says that they are not really allowed to sleep anywhere but if you know where to go, it's safe. She says that it's not all bad, there are good things too. She

said she's had some fun times. She says you get close with people. You learn how to love your fellow man and that most of the time you do have money, but it's not enough to live in housing. She says that some people have it all and then lose it. Her grandma sold the house and then this is what happened. When she was talking about the good experiences she had as a homeless person, she started crying probably because no matter how good she tries to put it, it is still a really harsh situation.

Our fifth subject didn't say much. He was a Latino man in his middle thirties. He had been homeless for two years. He Goes to Samaritan house. When rents got high, he was living at Redondo Beach with his wife, but then she got sick and she wasn't able to work. She died and her three boys were all grown up. He got his I.D. stolen and has tried to get it back to find a job. He has no bad experience in Long Beach. There should be more shelters. He seemed pretty mellow and explained that all he does is wander around in the park and talk to the friends he makes.

Our last subject was a black woman from New York. She came for a dying relative and run out of money so she couldn't afford a hotel or plane ticket back to New York City. She has a ten-year-old daughter and a twenty-year-old son. Her daughter is back in New York and she is trying to take her back from the government. When we were interviewing her she was getting ready for an interview but she was worried because her identifications were stolen. She gave the city an F but, she's only been a month out here, so it is not necessary a justifiable grade.

For the most part, it seemed that the people we interviewed were not at any risk of dying of hunger, but for the most part their spirits were suffering. It seemed that the longer they had been homeless, the worse their opinion of the city, which is reasonable since they had been trying for years to get on their feet without any success.

Future of Homelessness

The city is working on a "Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness." This plan "will establish a community-wide infrastructure that will include a Steering Committee" and "a Working Group (<http://www.homeless-research.com/>). The Steering Committee will be co-chaired by "both public and private sector leaders" and the Working Group will be made up of community representatives. Both groups will be working towards the goal of ending homelessness in Long Beach. Focus Groups will be held whose purpose it is to "build an infrastructure of community-wide participation." This plan will include the "Closing the front door and Opening the back door approach. The former includes plans to keep people from falling prey to homelessness and the latter refers to plans to help remove people off the street by re-housing them and placing them in permanent affordable housing (http://www.homeless-research.com).

Another issue that the city and various organizations within the city such as ICO have been working on, is a 59 bed shelter for the homeless. According to our sources there was resistance to this shelter because of NIMBY or "Not in my Backyard" mentality of the residents. This shelter as we understand it will be a night shelter where the homeless can sleep. It will be an all year shelter. They will have to be bused there and back from the Multi- Service Center. This shelter has been a long time in the making and finally all things have been straightened out, except for the latest we have heard on the issue on the 15th of April, which is that the shelter had no contractor. These issues are important in the struggle to help the homeless and so they need to be watched closely over the next couple of months to see what kind of progress they are making.

Conclusion

The 5,845 homeless adults and children in the city of Long Beach have some options on where they could get help. From the Long Beach Rescue Mission's two locations, the Samaritan House and the Lydia House, to the Christian Outreach in Action, and the many agencies at the Multi-service Center, this offers the most complete service that any homeless person might need, from childcare, showers, HIV care, and many others. First of all when grading the city many aspects need to be taken into consideration. On cooperation, I would give the city a "B", only because it was somewhat hard to contact some people in charge of some shelters, but overall most people involved in this issue were very pleasant and helpful. The shelters on paper seem to give a somewhat satisfactory operation. Given the fact that there are many more homeless people than there are spots at shelters and other facilities related to this issue I couldn't give a completely satisfactory operation grade. Since the grade is given to the city's ability to handle and deal with the homeless problem, many topics have to be taken into consideration such as affordable housing and overall wages. Housing seems to continue increasing so the city won't get a good grade on this area. Long Beach is the 7th poorest city in the country, which is one of the reasons for the high homeless rates. Also the city is not only composed of the government officials, but of its citizens too, so the lack of cooperation of the people of Long Beach to accept a new shelter that would give many new people a bed to sleep will lower my grade a bit. Taking into consideration that about 40% of the people in Long Beach came here after they had become homeless, it could mean that the city is doing something good that is attracting nearby people. The city is taking steps to end the homeless issue but as the "Ten Year Stragety to End Homelessness" is just beginning more time is needed in order to evaluate it, and see what progress they are making, and to see if it is being effective. So to summarize the city will receive

a "C" grade. It is a satisfactory grade but the city in general needs a lot of rethinking, which not only includes helping the homeless but keeping more poor people from becoming homeless.

Recommended Future Research

For future research on this subject, the main thing that should be done is to use the homeless counts that the city of Long Beach is making. After a few counts, a trend can be observed either for good or for bad. Another thing is to research more in depth the agencies featured in this assessment as well as a few new ones until all the shelters and agencies are taken into account. Many more case studies of the homeless people should be made so that we could gain a greater understanding into their lives and their needs. We didn't get too much specific information on funding, where it comes from exactly and how is it being spent, so those are some areas that need more investigation.

Appendix

Overall, we felt that the media does pay attention to the homeless. Recently a few articles in the Press-Telegram talked about the Homeless count but only because it was an important event in the community, besides that it is usually mentioned on the newspaper attached to an article about an important person. There were a couple of articles written about the homeless last year mainly concerning the fifteen nine bed shelter. The homeless get into the news mostly when there is big event happening.

Some of the articles that we did find about homelessness in Long Beach talked about the homeless count, police brutality, and the progress or lack of progress concerning shelters. Here are some articles concerning the homeless that have appeared in Long Beach newspapers:

- Manzer, Tracy. "Aquarium Shooting was in Self Defense." Long Beach Press Telegram. 11. May. 2005.
- Mellen, Greg. "Homeless vacated from roadside." Long Beach Press Telegram. 4. May. 2005.
- "A Hometown Thank you." Long Beach Press Telegram. 19. Apr. 2005
- "Federal Official Visits To Start End To Homelessness Plan." The Downtown Gazette. 21 Mar. 2005.
- "Jury says stabbing was no accident. Court: Jeffrey Thomas convicted of killing fellow transient." The Long Beach Press Telegram. 18 Mar. 2005
- "Shelter for Homeless Ends Operations for the Season." The Grunion Gazette. 17 Mar. 2005
- "Homeless Plan Process Approved." The Grunion Gazette. 17 Feb. 2005.
- "Count Takes Stock of Homeless. L.B. Second Tally in Two Years Unites Agencies, Volunteers in National Push to Track Problems." The Long Beach Press Telegram. 28 Jan. 2005.
- "Help for Homeless." Long Beach Press Telegram. 27 Jan. 2005
- "Winter Shelter for Homeless Finds Home." The Grunion Gazette. 27 Jan. 2005
- "L.B Gets Record \$3.9M Federal Grant to Fight Homelessness." Long Beach Press Telegram. 26 Jan. 2005
- "Long Beach HUD Grants Broken Down by Program." Long Beach Press Telegram. 26 Jan 2005
- "Volunteers to Count Homeless." The Grunion Gazette. 20 Jan. 2005
- "Comments Justified." The Grunion Gazette. 6 Jan. 2005
- "Homeless Are Out In The Cold. L.B Shelters Due To Open This Winter Still Closed. Some Shipped Elsewhere." Long Beach Press Telegram. 28 Dec. 2005

Reference Cited

"The City of Long Beach 2004 Homeless Assessment"
2004

Homeless Research Institute for Urban Research and Development Website.
<http://www.homeless-research.com/>

Long Beach Rescue Mission homepage. <<http://www.lbrescuemission.org/helphome.html>>

Re:Action. The Newsletter of Christian Outreach in Action. June 2004.



()

()

()

**Neighborhood Associations:
A Closer Look at Neighborhood Preservation**

Direct Observational Field Research

By the Research Team of

Genna Attwood

Nicole Gillett

For Dr. Adrian Novotny

Honors Culture Anthropology

Tuesday-Thursday 12:30-2:00pm

M204

Spring Semester 2005

Long Beach City College

Long Beach, California

May 2, 2005

Table of Contents

Page

1.....**Introduction**

2.....**History**

4..... **Goals**

5.....**Contacts**

7.....**Evaluating Findings**

7..... **Summary and Conclusion**

Appendix

Introduction

The organizations being evaluated in this project are the Neighborhood Associations of the greater Long Beach Area. A Neighborhood Association is a non-profit group of neighbors, who come together to solve a problem or to help beautify their city, and who have regular meetings (Neighborhood Resources Center). They participate in these meetings to discuss actions they need to take in order to make their lives better in their specific neighborhoods. This can mean cleaning up the houses, graffiti on signs, historical sites preserved, and so forth. This project will take an in depth look of what the Neighborhood Associations are doing to better the lives of their citizens. This project will evaluate the functions, actions and concerns of the organization, and the effectiveness of Neighborhood Associations. We are grading their performance on how they are improving the quality of life of the people living in the neighborhood and how effective their actions and goals are. We will not include people of other organizations associated with the Neighborhood Associations, as there was not enough time to research their involvement. An additional limitation is that we are also not evaluating the quality of the projects they undertook nor how well they performed them, but only what they tried to accomplish.

Information on this project is highly accessible. People are more than willing to help supply much needed information. Meetings and responses from heads of Associations are easily available. The justifications for the purpose of the Neighborhood Associations are mostly to protect the historical aspect of the city, which includes but not limited to buildings, sites, monuments and objects, as well as improving the appearance

and appeal of their cities and ensuring the maintenance of property values. The city is very cooperative with the Associations and tries to compromise with whatever wishes they make; they even come to their events and meetings. The city finds Neighborhood Associations to be a good thing and a pro-active part of society (Member of California Heights Neighborhood Association).

What worked best when retrieving information for this project was getting involved. Calling the city to get a list of Neighborhood Associations was easy. People were very eager to e-mail us back, their meetings happen frequently and offer an in depth perspective of how Neighborhood Associations function. Research material was easy to find with librarian help and search engines on line. There were many articles having to do with these organizations and what they have done for their community. And now let's explore...

History

The origin of Neighborhood Associations is quite simple. Organizations are made up of people, like an extended family, in a certain community who want to improve their surroundings. The demands of these many people are then taken to the meetings and get approved and then taken to the city in order to raise funding and permission to carry out these desires. Some of the times the Neighborhood Associations need to raise the money for their projects they undertake with the help of the city. Associations take great interest in protection of historical buildings and places, such as the Pike in downtown Long Beach. They also try to improve their surroundings by taking on projects that beautify the city, such as the graffiti clean up day and tree plating. They put demands on themselves

and the city to make it a cleaner friendlier environment to help the population and growth of the citizens and its assets. Most of their goals are reasonable, however, on occasion, Associations tend to get out of hand with their rules and regulations. Some even try to overpower the city officials and make decisions for the whole city when it only concerns a few. So instead of it being a compromise of all citizens in the community, it becomes the demands of a few and the members that show up and participate. For example, there was a boy who had a tree house in his yard. However, the people of his Neighborhood Association claimed it was 6 feet too tall and they must destroy it. In the end support from many others for the boy made the Neighborhood Association back down from its demands ("Child With Leukemia"). Older people who do not see the joy in playing around in a tree house probably took on these kinds of demands; instead they want their neighborhood to be more of an elderly "sophisticated" area.

Another example comes from the Long Beach Press Telegram. The article was printed May 17th, 2005. The headline states "Neighbors look down on house face-lift". The article describes a man who is remodeling his house which is considered a historic site. However, his Neighborhood is up in arms about the remodel because of its drastic changes. Yet the Neighborhood is up in arms about nothing because they refuse to understand that the architect rebuilding his house is specialized in maintaining historic sites (Mellen). If the Neighborhood just took time to understand what was going on then this would not be such a problem. Sometimes Associations get too over zealous when it comes to controlling what goes on in their Neighborhoods. These are some of the good and the bad of the Associations.

Goals

The goals of the Associations try to maintain and protect their city. They want to make it much more desirable for people to move in and live there for many years and preserve property values of the homes in their neighborhood. They also try to get rid of eyesores and criminal activity. Mostly all the associations are paired up, or are historical preservation societies. This is because many cities have historical buildings and places they want to preserve and maintain; either tangible or intangible with museums and pictures. The Los Alamitos Neighborhood Association did this with the 1942 earthquake. They preserved pictures and documents concerning this great quake in our own city. Many of the houses now and structures have been rebuilt or restored. The associations try to keep their city's history alive and remembered.

Organizations also help beautify their cities so that it will become an attractive place to settle for all people who live in the area. This can be deciding what colors are allowed on houses and buildings to how many trash cans they receive. The Associations decide on what the needs of the members are and the others in the city and then take action in problem areas. They also solve safety issues involving crime and protection. They have monthly visits with officers and criminal justice workers who in turn give them advice on how to stay safe and not become a victim. This helps in their effort to try to make their city safer, more beautiful, and richer with history in order to provide a great place to live. If people are happy with where they live, their quality of life will greatly improve because of their clean atmosphere and the trust neighbors have with each other and their mutual concerns. They have a history. Neighborhood Associations are needed

to enrich the lives of citizens. People then feel they are doing something pro-active and positive for their communities and making a difference. Such a feeling of accomplishment is great for a city because it gives them a new perspective and a new existence they can strive for along with the other objectives and goals of the association.

Contact

We had three initial contacts from three different associations. We looked up associations in the neighborhood resource center and picked out three different ones in all different areas in Long Beach. All the contacts had regular meetings and ways to get a hold of them.

Our first pick was Neighborhood Association number one, which is a historical preservation based association. They are all volunteers in a non-profit organization working to protect and preserve historic and architectural resources in a middle class neighborhood. They have meetings every two months instead of every month. They have a website up and running of all their current projects and updates of what they are doing in the future.

Neighborhood Association number two has 198 members and meet every fourth Wednesday of the month at seven pm. We were not able to attend their meetings or talk to a representative.

Our favorite Association is Neighborhood Association number three. They are so with it and have so many activities and meetings to attend. They have 50 – 100 members on board and meet every second Thursday of the month. They are very connected to their community and to its officials. They have all sorts of websites and exhibits to go through

and see just what kind of progress their making. They are connected with the Historical Society of Long Beach and members interact with each other to make their city beautiful. They have police officers come in every other month to check up on the progress or challenge since last meeting. They get tips from the citizens and then the officers go out and take care of the problem. The members claim they are very good at doing this in a time efficient manner. They discuss problems facing their city and their history and also new companies and industries coming into their cities. They create a clan in which they trust and share with one another like a family does at reunions. They were very pleasant and very welcoming to our visits. They seem to be making great progress.

As another source we talked to a neighboring city's leaders and they mailed us information on their Neighborhood Associations This helped in determining the differences between the two cities and their similarities and differences in dealing with mismatched communities. They were very helpful and kind and knew what to give us and who to connect us with. Unlike the Long Beach City office where it took hours to get a hold of a person only to find they had no idea what we were talking about. We had to call a whole different office just for them to tell us that we had to come in and view the needed information. This was a little concerning and confusing to know that the associations were private knowledge. It was odd that public institutions would be privatized by the city by only letting people who go into this building, quite hard to find, and view the documents there without offering a copy to put into the report. There was a huge difference with help from the cities, but that did not affect the performance or helpfulness of their organizations.

Findings

We found that the Neighborhood Associations were very effective and efficient in their ways of dealing with community problems and issues. They helped their citizens with their needs and special interests. They set up memberships and activities and special interest meetings to help inform their neighbors. They are run and put on by people who live in the community itself so that they are aware and care just as much as the people there.

Summary and Conclusion

We grade the Neighborhood Associations a high B. They put much effort and devotion into their projects which bring their neighbors a higher quality of life. They did not receive an A because of the issues some neighborhoods have with their dominance over what they can and cannot do to their own property. Their over zealousness may cause more stress for neighbors than satisfaction with the Association. However, the good ultimately out-weighs the bad and the Neighborhood Associations deserve a high B.

Bibliography

“Child With Leukemia Is Allowed to Keep Tree house.” Los Angeles Times. 2005 13

January 2000 B19

<<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=47921928&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=27896&RQT=309&VName=PQD>>

Mellen Greg, “Neighbors look down on house face-lift.” Long Beach Press Telegram. 17

May 2005: A1+

Further Suggested Reading

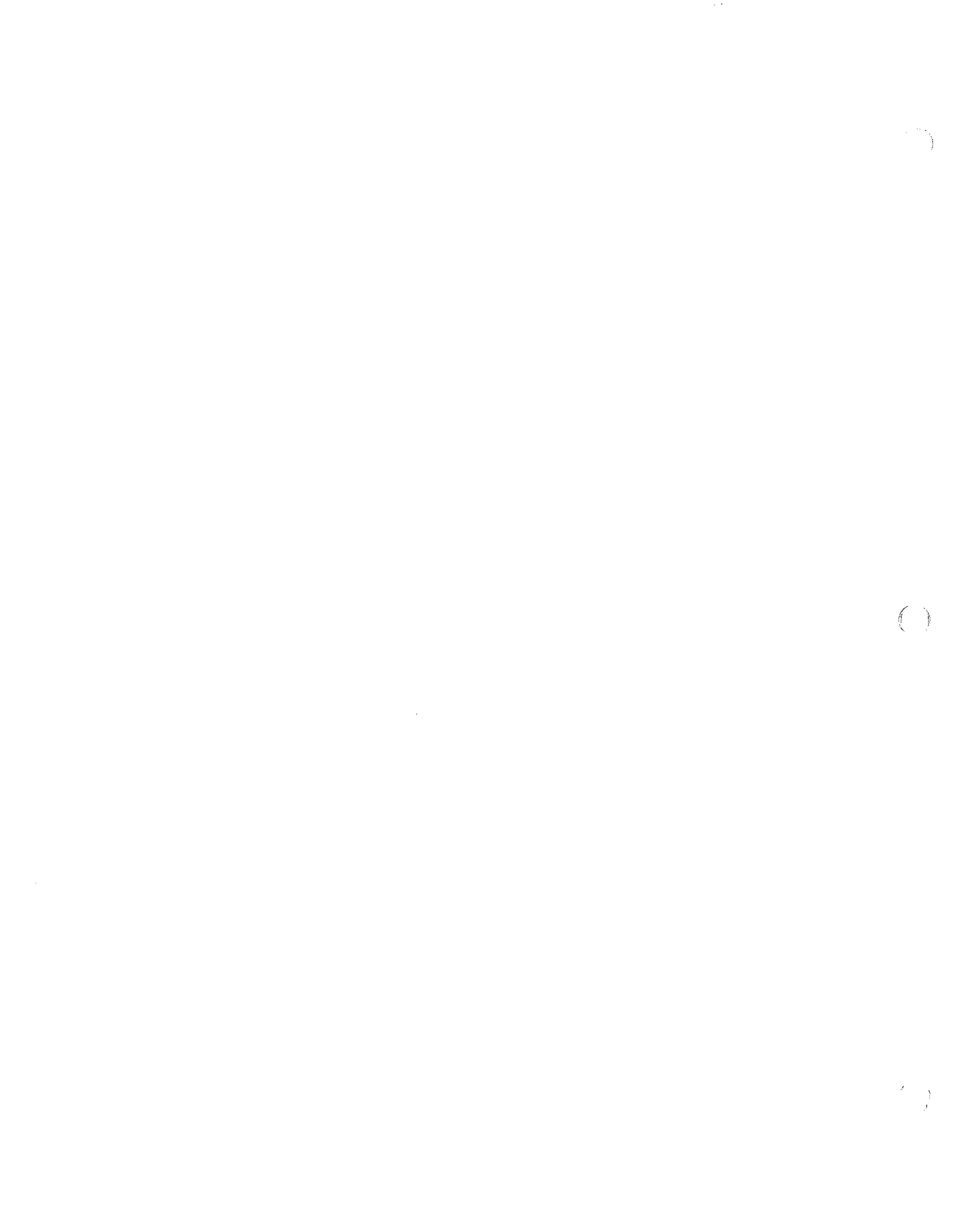
“Power to the People; Whether the issue is safety or beautification, residents are finding strength in numbers.” Los Angeles Times. 2005, 23 May 1999 A1

<<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=41799316&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=27896&RQT=309&VName=PQD>>

“Vacant Lots are Getting Makeover Treatment in Long Beach Project Neighborhoods:

Task force devises ‘Dirt to Turf’ manual to offer step-by-step property beautification guidelines.” Los Angeles Times. 2005, 7 May 1995 A21

<<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb/did=21426783&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=27896&RQT=309&VName=PQD>>



Quality of Life Issues In the City of Long Beach:
A Graded Analysis

Photographic Survey

By: Yasmin Guillebeau
And
Elijah J. Sims

Honors Cultural Anthropology Class

Of

Long Beach City College

Professor Adrian Novotny, Instructor

Spring Semester, 2005

May 19th, 2005

Table of Contents

I. Introduction.....	PG. 1
II. The importance of visual Anthropology.....	PG. 2
III. Beaches.....	PG. 2
IV. Communities and Housing.....	PG. 4
V. Commercial Structures.....	PG. 7
VI. Recreation.....	PG. 8
VII. Overall Aesthetic Beauty of Long BEACH.....	PG. 9
VIII. Evaluation Grade.....	PG. 10
IX. Suggestions for further research.....	PG. 11

INTRODUCTION

As a part of Long Beach City College's honors Cultural Anthropology class, our team set out to make a photographic survey of Long Beach with regard to its over-all beauty. Because Long Beach is not a small city (fifty square miles to be exact) we realize that our research will only be able to cover limited aspects of the city. For the purposes of this project we have limited our field research to the aesthetic analysis of Long Beach beaches, communities and housing, commercial structure, recreation, and overall aesthetic beauty of the city. With the use of photographs, we have physically visited, and captured on film, a cross section of locations within the city of Long Beach in search of enough consistencies with regard to aesthetics to give the city, as a whole, one evaluation grade, from A to F.

With the help of the 1990 Long Beach census, we were able to get a general idea as to how the wealth is distributed in Long Beach. This allowed our team to travel to a cross section of communities so that we could develop a concept of beauty that was relative to what the city has to offer. In general, we found that the beauty of neighborhoods was directly related to the median level of income within that community, which denotes the existence of social classes within the city (Haiviland). Communities with a higher level of median income tended to be more aesthetically beautiful. Conversely, those communities that were shown to have a low median income were less appealing aesthetically. We will begin our analysis with Long Beach beaches.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY

A picture is worth a thousand words. One of the most successful studies of anthropology deals with the visual aspects of things. With photography, the study of culture in its domain gives researchers opportunity to expand and compare. Visual anthropology is so important because it gives the researcher the naturalistic approach. This arena can be a challenge sometimes. However, when the something like a photo is complete, we are able to see culture in its complex detail. According to our team's research, anthropologists claim photography is a legit abstract process of observation (Collier). Photographs are precise records of material reality (Collier).

There are many ways to research culture visually. Some can study the aspects of culture through film, still-photography, video and non-camera generated images. With whichever process is done, the researcher should examine and express what is viewed in the images. The more expressed the photo is, the better the quality.

BEACHES

According to a government economical development website, there are 541 acres of beach within the City of Long Beach (Long Beach City Department). Few natural phenomena can be held in higher esteem than that of the ocean. Its natural beauty far surpasses many of the unnatural objects within and around it. With the use of our photographic survey we can begin to analyze the quality of the beaches. After taking photographs at Long Beach (one of the beaches within

the city of Long Beach), and Seal Beach, we do not believe these two beaches are very different. According to our pictures, Seal Beach was much cleaner than Long Beach in most respects. Although, a look at the photographs from the beach section of the project *will* reveal that the Seal Beach sand looks cleaner than the Long Beach sand. On Long Beach there were noticeable black streaks in the sand, as if the beach were a huge bathtub that was being drained and leaving a dirty ring of residue (probably oil from tankers) (see image 1.1). A closer look at the Long Beach shoreline reveals that the water has a lot of particulate matter that obstructs the vision so completely that a hand is scarcely visible more than 6 inches below the surface of the water. Seal Beach is improving, but not so much that we would make a clear distinction between these two beaches. Although Seal Beach does not have the same degree of pollutants visible in the sand, there were other troublesome features regarding Seal Beach as well. The Seal Beach sand has debris of various sorts (see image 1.2). This beach seemed as if it was almost covered with pieces of wood from high tide. There were other things on the sand worthy of note such as: various bottle caps, plastic eating utensils, and on several places on the portion of the beach designated for people and not pets, there was even domesticated animal waste.

Still, in our opinion perhaps the worse thing about both Long Beach and Seal Beach is the view (see image 1.3). From the Long Beach shoreline, you can see the Port of Long Beach with huge oil tankers and/or cargo ships, which tend to be black, red, grey or some combination of these colors. These ships look as if they are just anchored directly in front of million dollar residences. A

few miles off shore is what appears to be an island. The island has trees and several structures that are uninhabited. Behind these structures and trees is an oil derrick. Although this is the only such island that can be seen on the coast of Long Beach, there are other oil pumps positioned strategically throughout the city, which are visible from the coast line. The affects of these oil pumps on aesthetics seemed pervasive. Not only do the oil pumps and rigs positioned off of the cost line distort the quality and cleanliness of the water, they are eye sores. These pumps are not only unappealing, but they too affect the health of Long Beach's ocean, as well as its marine life. Similar are the affects of the port of Long Beach. In fact, the ocean is so dirty; our team questions the probability that beach goers will actually see much marine life at all, compared to other places where the pollution is less.

COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING

The communities and housing within the city of Long Beach seem to vary as a direct relationship to the median income level within that specific community. Using the 1990 census, we see that the distribution of wealth within the city of Long Beach can be used in order to determine a cross section of economic sectors (see image 2.1). With use of the census, the financial breakdown of Long Beach is fairly conspicuous. The implications of the census signify that Long Beach is akin to a stratified society (Haiviland). Those who are wealthier live nearer the beach. However, this is not always the case; as you travel toward the eastern portions of Long Beach, the median income steadily rises. There is also a significantly higher median income surrounding the city of Signal Hill

(positioned right in the center of Long Beach). In contrast, the South Western, and the North Western portions of Long Beach have relatively low reported median incomes. The aesthetics of communities and housing reflect these distinctions and can be viewed as symbolic indicators (Haiviland).

The coast-line homes and surrounding beach communities are beautiful in many ways. The architecture in these communities varies, as if every house were made to suit its inhabitants. In communities such as these it was not uncommon to find a home that looked very contemporary right next to another home that had Victorian influences. Much of what we observed from our photographic survey was that within these communities the only true consistency with regard to architecture was the way that almost every home seemed as if it had a totally separate theme (see image 2.2). The landscaping was attractive when the homes in that community had any landscape at all. As we moved further inland, the communities became slightly more homogenous. The communities surrounding Signal Hill and those communities bordering the lower median income North West were less elaborate. These communities were not "beautiful" relative to the communities nearer the cost line, but many of the homes in these communities were still very nice. The neighborhoods in the communities were very clean as a whole and there were few places that we noticed any trash on the ground or in the streets. Even communities that reported low median income were relatively clean.

Within lower median income areas there were *some* clear distinctions to be made regarding aesthetics. The first thing our team noticed was a decline in

the quality of the community's streets (see figure 2.3). There were pot-holes on surface streets, as well as an increase in cracks on the sidewalks. The next thing we observed with the use of our photographic survey was outright lack of landscaping. In these communities there was a considerable increase in rental properties, such as apartments. The apartments had little to no landscaping, and many of them could have benefited from a paint job (see figure 2.4). These low median income areas appeared to be much more homogeneous. The homes and apartments in these areas could be distinguished from one another, but not nearly as much, relative to the homes in the higher income median areas.

Although the homes in the low median income areas were not as appealing, the communities themselves did not appear to be "bad" at all. It seems that the verbal evaluation of these low median income areas did not correlate with the areas true relative beauty (Haiviland). Even these communities were relatively clean (see figure 2.5). There was not much trash in the streets, or near homes, although there was more trash than in other areas. Graffiti was at a minimum in these communities. Our team drove around for hours in search of areas with much graffiti. To our surprise we found very few areas with any graffiti at all. On occasion we thought we had observed some graffiti on a wall, but a closer glance revealed that the graffiti had already been covered over with paint by the city of Long Beach. There were a few notable exceptions: the areas surrounding liquor stores, and small shopping centers in low median income areas appeared less clean. Around liquor stores there was an increased amount of trash in the surrounding street and gutters, the sidewalk was visibly more dirty,

and there was often a number of indigents standing, sitting or lying outside (usually not more than two or three) (see figure 2.6). Shopping Centers within low median income areas suffered similar conditions. Still, generally even the low median communities appeared to be somewhat clean, and fairly maintained.

COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES

Within the city of Long Beach there are many commercial structures which contribute to the aesthetics of the city. If we were to look at the quality of the commercial structures with relationship to a spectrum, the right end of the spectrum reserved for structures that add to Long Beach's aesthetic beauty and left end of the spectrum reserved for structures that take away from Long Beach's aesthetic beauty (polar opposites), we could come to a few notable conclusions. Long Beach structures would rarely ever be on the left end of the spectrum. Downtown Long Beach is lined with buildings ranging in size and in quality. Most of the buildings in the downtown area appear to be beautifully constructed, well maintained, and well lit during the night (see image 3.1). Mixtures of the old with the new structures in downtown add to the city's overall appeal and draw members of surrounding communities to the shops, theaters, and other establishments. As our team moved away from downtown into more suburban areas, the commercial structures began to look almost identical. Such commercial structures can be found all over the city of Long Beach in shopping centers. The general look was a rectangular building, stuccoed and painted beige or tan, with some strategically-planted trees and flowers (see image 3.2). But even though these commercial structures had less character, they definitely

did not take away from the aesthetic beauty. However, whether they added any beauty to the city of Long Beach is negligible. It seemed to us as if these structures were primarily made from convenience, not beauty. At the far end of the spectrum, if anything can be said to take away from the aesthetic beauty of Long Beach it is the seemingly limitless number of liquor stores. These liquor stores rarely added any aesthetic value to the community, and more than often they detract from it. As mentioned before, the outside of these liquor stores had more trash drifting around than most other places in the city, the sidewalks bordering these stores was often dirtier, compared to other walkways. As a side note, there are around twenty two liquor stores on the section of Pacific Coast Highway that passes through Long Beach, alone.

RECREATION

On the other hand, the recreation that Long Beach has to offer is remarkable. Long Beach has eighty-eight parks, twelve libraries, two historic/cultural districts (East Village Arts District, and Cambodian District), seven golf courses (Bixby Village, El Dorado Park, Heartwell, Lakewood Country Club, Recreation Park, Recreation Park 9-hole, Skylinks) , four large shopping centers (Long Beach Towne Center, CityPlace, Marina Pacifica, The Pike at Rainbow Harbor) , seven artistic museums and or theatres not counting movie theaters (Long Beach Museum of Art, International City Theater, Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach Symphony Orchestra, Musical Theater West, Long Beach Playhouse), and one theme park (Aquarium of the Pacific). All of which add to the overall aesthetic beauty of Long Beach. Our team was able to

visit several of the parks in various locations within communities differing in median income, and every park that we visited was well maintained. Most of these parks had play areas for children, sports areas for youth and adults, and well maintained grassy areas (see image 4.1). Many of the libraries are fairly small, but each appeared to be well painted and maintained by the city (see image 4.2). Each of the four large shopping centers has a range of activities, from seeing the latest movie, to eating at nice restaurants. These shopping centers were very well laid out, from the landscaping, to the architecture (see image 4.3). All seven of Long Beach's golf courses appeared to be well maintained and suitable for its purposes (see image 4.4). And there were many other recreational places in Long Beach that were very appealing, and even relatively beautiful.

OVERALL AESTHETIC BEAUTY OF LONG BEACH (Conclusion)

As a whole, the aesthetic beauty of Long Beach is difficult to determine. There are many reasons why Long Beach should be considered a beautiful place, but there are also many reasons that would detract from the beauty of Long Beach. However, due to the constraints of this team's scope we will only consider the aspects mentioned above. Structurally Long Beach is fairly appealing. The beaches, on the other hand, are relatively unclean in most of the sections open to the public, within the city of Long Beach. The communities and housing; however, are mostly appealing; though they seem indicative of a stratified society. There are some particular places where an apartment building or home is not very attractive, but most of the homes in Long Beach appear to be

maintained (on the outside). The commercial buildings and structures were not all beautiful, but most of them were not unappealing. There were a few places within Long Beach, mostly downtown, where the buildings were exceptional, and almost all of them appeared to be well-kept. The recreational aspects of Long Beach were perhaps the most appealing portions of the city, consistently. Almost every place that our team visited with regard to recreation in the city of Long Beach was either very appealing, or outright beautiful. Due to these factors; we have come to the conclusion that the overall beauty of Long Beach is acceptable, but not exceptional.

EVALUATION GRADE

Our team believes that Long Beach has earned a C grade for its aesthetic beauty. The city itself appears to be a fairly nice place to live, in general. There are a reasonable amount of culture and entertainment within the city which adds to its visual appeal. Additionally, even the low income median areas appear to look relatively nice; but, the city as a whole could be improved in a few simple ways. The beaches need to be cleaner. The view of the ocean should not be so obstructed by oil pumps and rigs. Many of the streets in lower median income level areas are not comparable to those areas with a higher median of income. Outside of the costal areas much of the housing appears homogeneous. Lastly, most of the smaller shopping centers do not add anything to the aesthetic beauty of the community.

SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Our team has a few suggestions for further research into the quality of life within Long Beach with regard its aesthetics. Further fieldwork into the distribution of wealth and its role in aesthetics might prove beneficial. Also, a photography survey of the area should be confined by the scope of one's group or objective. It may also be beneficial to use related and recent photographs taken by other groups or organizations. For safety reasons, it may also be beneficial to research certain areas, or visit them for a visual impression, before going into them to take photographs.

Anthropological terms that we integrated into the research paper:
stratified society, social class, symbolic indicators, and verbal evaluations

Government Census Site:

Long Beach Community Development Department

http://www.longbeach.gov/e cd/attraction/smart_location/fast_facts/default.asp

References

Collier, John Jr.

1967 *Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method* New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.

Haiviland, William A.

2002 *Cultural Anthropology* 10th ed. Pgs. 296-321 Australia: Thomas Learning, Inc.

Heider, Karl G.

2004 *Seeing Anthropology: Cultural Anthropology through Film* 3rd ed. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

Long Beach Community Development Department

2005 Community Development Department: Economic Development. Electronic document, http://www.longbeach.gov/ecd/attraction/smart_location/fastfacts/default.asp, accessed May 11, 2005

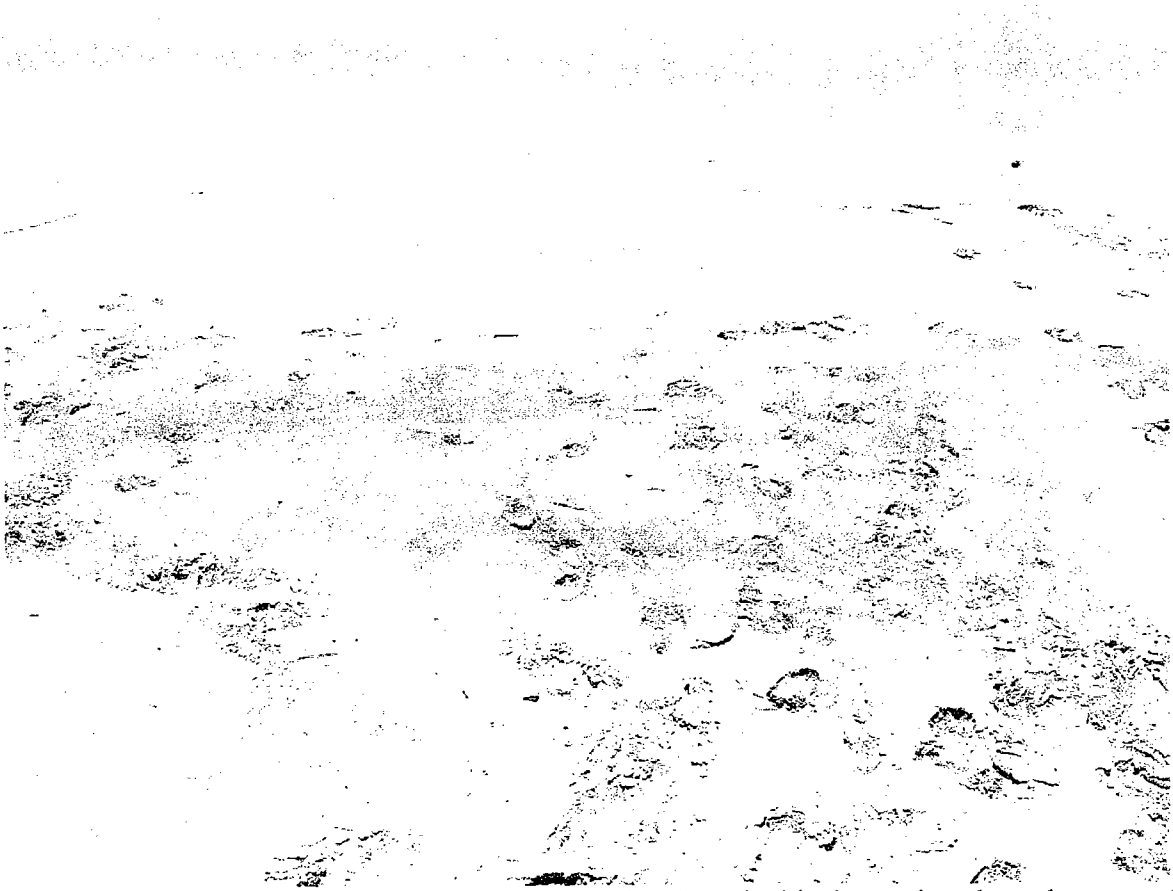


Image 1.1: This is a photograph of the sand on Long Beach. Note the black streaks where the waves have left their mark. Seal Beach has the same black streaks.

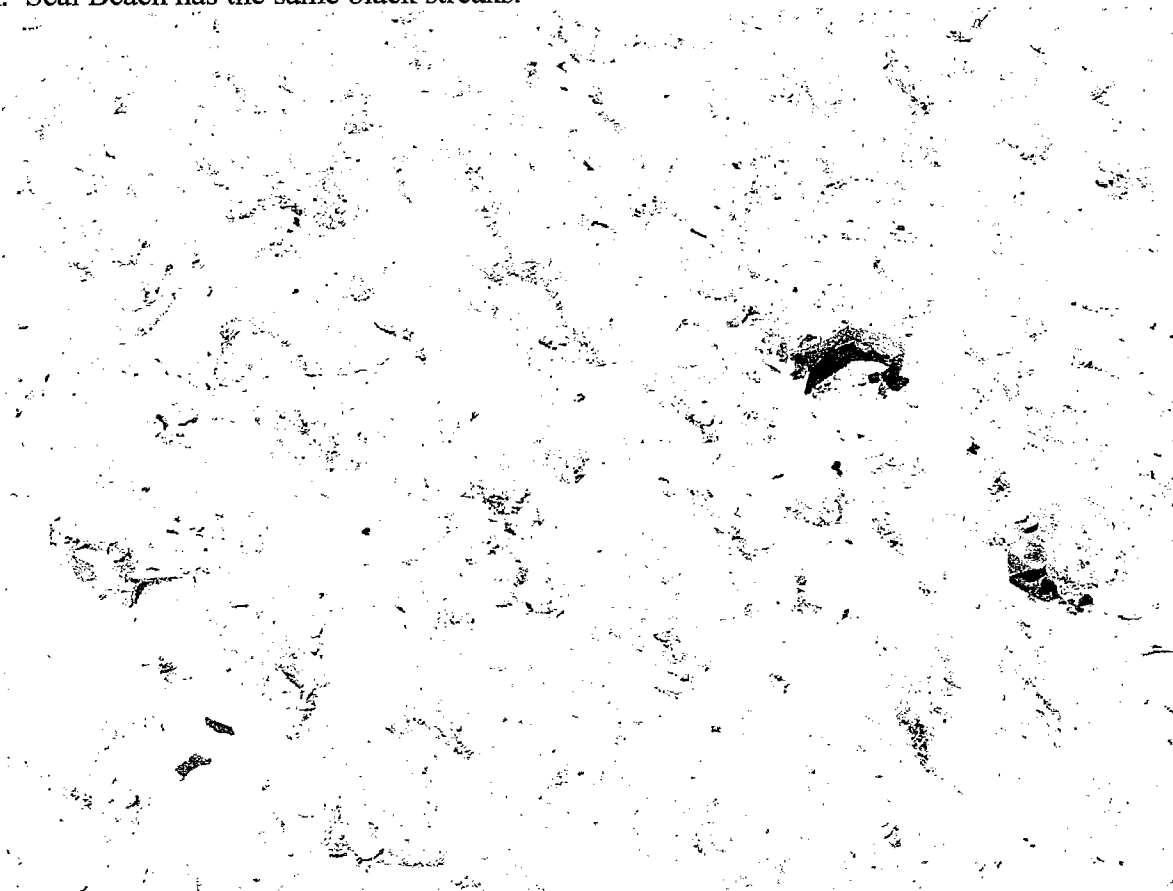


Image 1.2: This photograph shows the large amount of debris in Seal Beach's sand. In this small section of beach, there are pieces of styrofoam, plastic, and rubber.

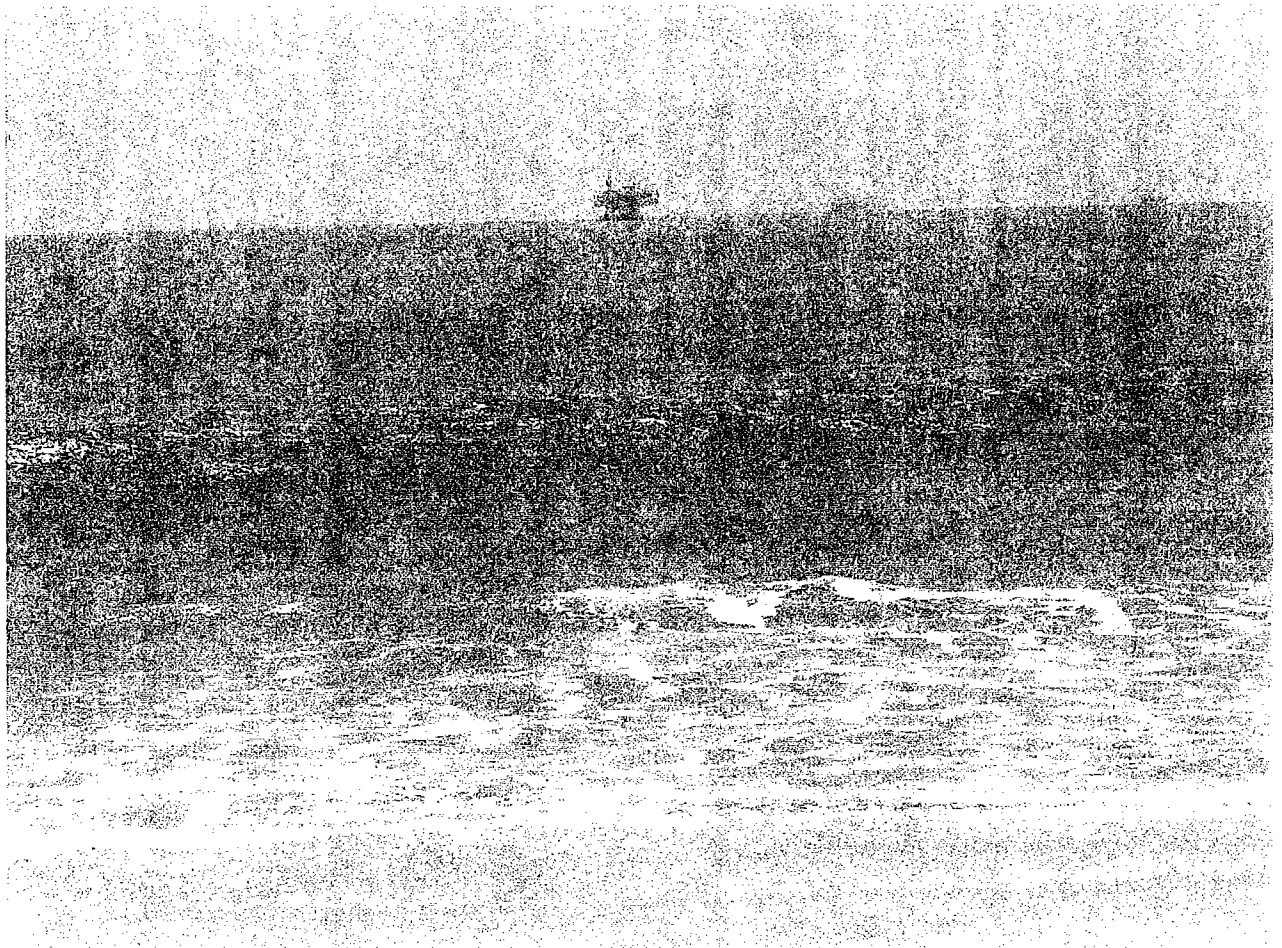


Image 1.3: This is the view from Seal Beach's shoreline. The two small ships appear to be oil tankers, and the structure in the middle is an oil derrick.

Median Income Long Beach

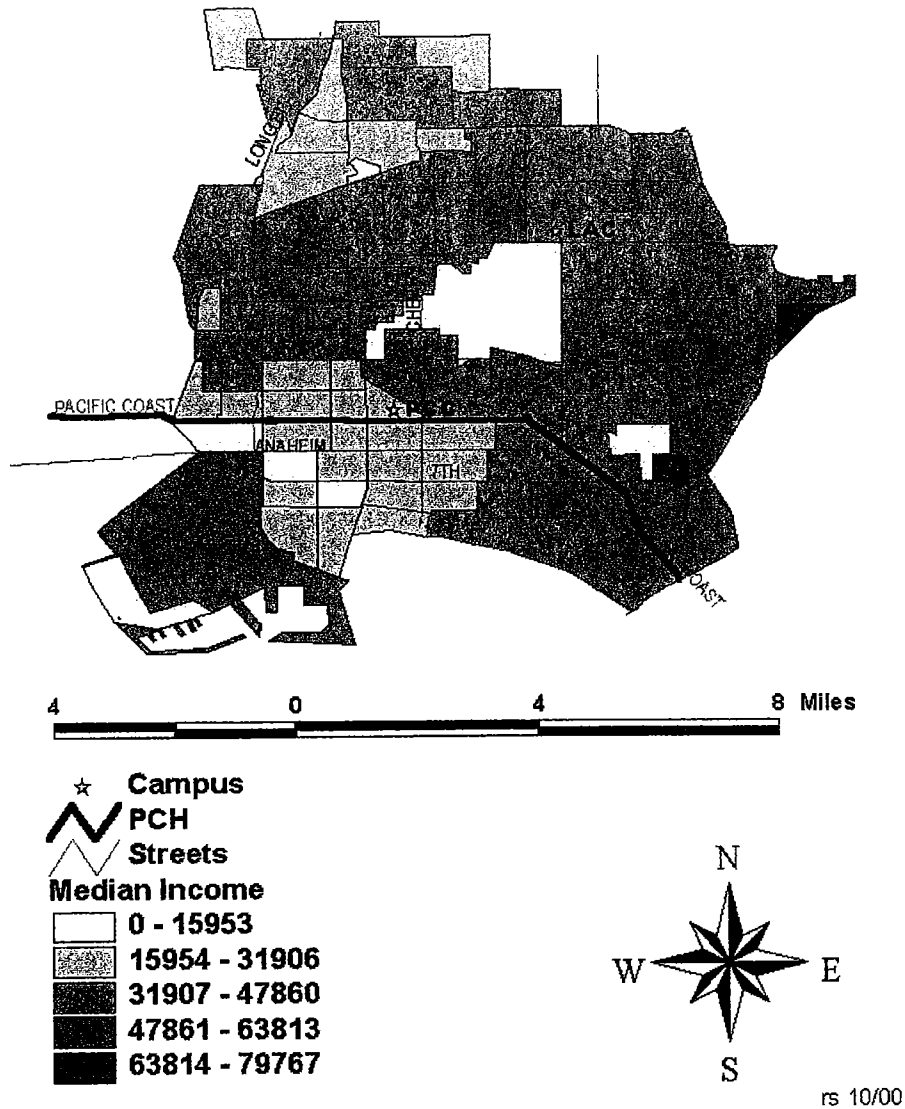


Image 2.1: This map of Long Beach depicts the economic distribution of wealth from 1990's census.



Image 2.2: This is an example of the house in high median income areas. This property is on Ocean Blvd. Note that each house appears to have its own personality.



Image 2.3: This photograph of the cracked street was taken on Long Beach Blvd near 50th Street.



Image 2.4: This photograph was taken in North Long Beach on Atlantic. This apartment building was among the worst that our team saw in all of Long Beach. Notice the lack of landscaping and the need for painting.

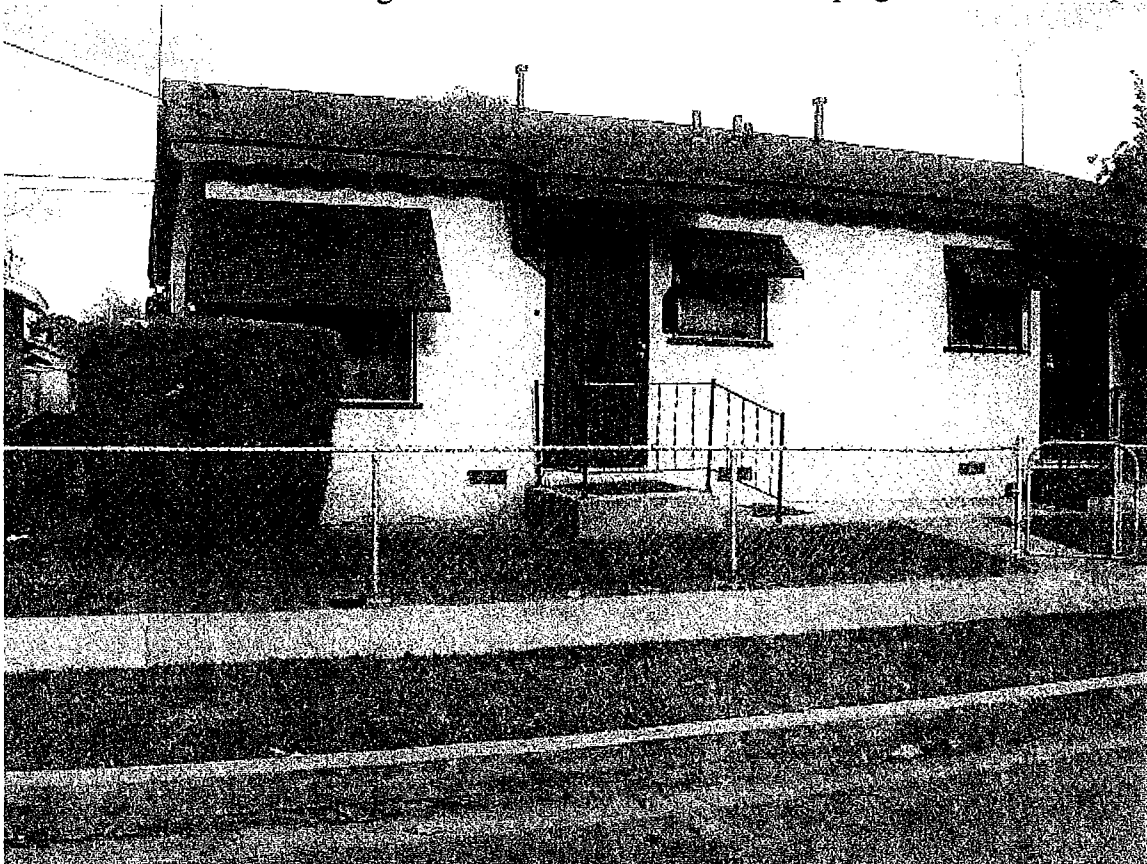


Image 2.5: This is a home within a low median income area. Though it is not totally unappealing, it is not beautiful relative to the homes in higher median income areas.



Image 2.6: This is a typical liquor store on PCH. The sidewalk outside these stores is usually noticeable more dirt than neighborhood sidewalks. At night there are an increased number of indigents and other loiterers.



Image 3.1: This photograph was taken on Ocean Blvd in downtown Long Beach. These commercial structures were clean, well kept, and added to the aesthetics of the city.



Image 3.2: This North Long Beach shopping center is a typical layout for small shopping centers throughout the city of Long Beach.



Image 4.1: This is a park is Los Alamitos Park near Bellflower Blvd. The grounds appear well kept and the play area seems ideal for supervised children.



Image 4.2: This is a Long Beach branch library, one of twelve within the city. These libraries were usually in central locations within communities and always appeared to be well maintained.

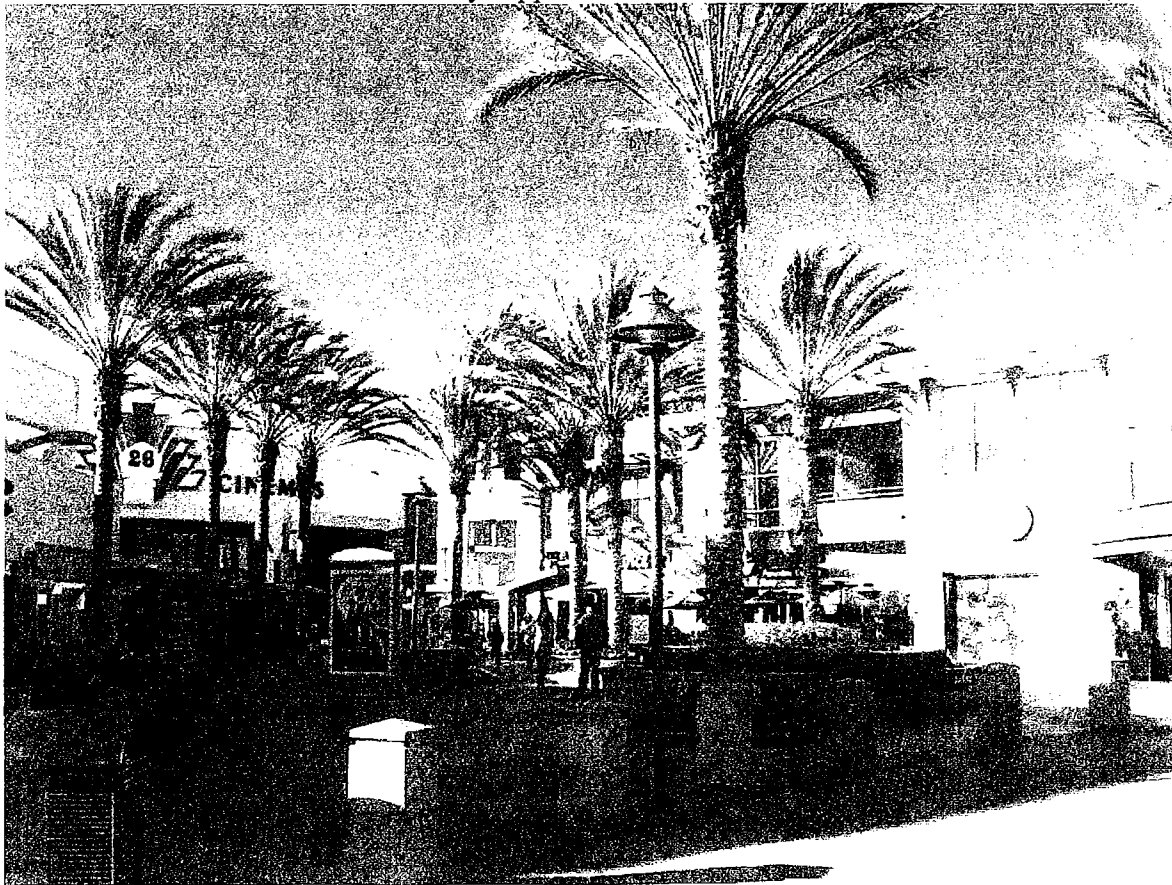


Image 4.3: This photograph was taken at the Long Beach Town Center (a large recreational shopping center). There are four large shopping centers in Long Beach and all of them are very aesthetically appealing.



Image 4.4: This Long Beach golf course, on Lakewood Blvd, is one of seven that the city has to offer. Each is well maintained and adds to Long Beach's overall beauty.

5

0

Quality of Life in Long Beach:
The Physical Environment

A Field Study and Analysis

By:
The Research Team of
Lisa Hartman
Brittney 'Betty' Petersen

For
Dr. Adrian Novotny
Honors Cultural Anthropology
T-Th 12:30-2 p.m. M204
Spring 2005

Long Beach City College
Long Beach, California

19 May 2005

Table of Contents

Introduction.....page 1

Scope of Project.....2

Air Quality.....2

Water Quality.....4

Wildlife & Site Clean-up.....7

Conclusion.....10

Photos.....12

End Notes.....14

References Cited.....16

Suggested Further Reading.....18

Introduction

Just fifty years after Christopher Columbus¹ discovered the American continent, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo² set his sights on the western coast, namely California. He and his crew were said to have anchored off the present site of Long Beach where they were attracted by the native hunting practice³ of burning grass and brush. It was from this observance that he named the area “Bahia de los Fumos”-the Bay of Smokes (‘About Long Beach,’ 2000: ¶ 1). It was not until 1888 that the city’s name was finally established as Long Beach, a reflection of the developing beach community. The opening of the port in 1911 and the subsequent oil discoveries propelled the growth and expansion of the city.

Long Beach now occupies approximately fifty-two square miles of Southern California, six point five of which is shoreline and sustains a population of approximately 481,000. Hence, it is the fifth largest city in California and the thirty fourth largest city in the United States (HRA, 2005: ES-1). Today, if Cabrillo were to see Long Beach he may have a new literal meaning implied by his denoted term “Bahia de los Fumos”.

Due to its prime location and rapid expansion, Long Beach has transformed its natural harbor into the United States second busiest port (‘Port of Long Beach,’ 2005). The Port has positioned Long Beach as a world leader in international trade between the United States and Asia. Long Beach also boasts its own airport; LGB contributes to even more economic prosperity. The city’s civic characteristics portray Long Beach as a major metropolis yet, there is still a strong sense of community despite its size. In fact, Long Beach is one of only three cities in California with its own Health Department and the same is true for its Energy Department. However, Long Beach remains the only city in

California with its own Oil Department ('Port of Long Beach,' 2005).

Scope of Project

As Honors Cultural Anthropology students attending Long Beach City College, we felt inclined to develop a greater understanding of the Long Beach community. Limited to one semester's time to produce this field study, we decided to concentrate our efforts on the resident's quality of life with respect to the city's physical environment.

Through community research, professional and local contracts, and analysis we have produced what we feel is a fair and unbiased assessment of Long Beach's environmental strengths and weaknesses in the form of a "Grade Report". By examining the air and water quality, transportation and energy, wildlife, and site clean-up, we hope to help motivate officials and residents to make the necessary changes to improve the quality of life in Long Beach.

Air Quality

In response to the considerable growth the city has experienced, citizens voiced their concerns for the Long Beach City council to investigate the environmental issues affecting the quality of life in Long Beach. Thus, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) was instructed to conduct an all-inclusive assessment, "to determine whether there is the potential for adverse health effects from environmental pollution on its population" (HRA, 2005: ES-1). Submitted January 18, 2005, the Baseline Air and Noise Human Health Risk Assessment Executive Summary (HRA) found that the ambient concentrations of harmful pollutants NO₂⁴, PM₁₀⁵, and O₃⁶ were generally within both the National and California Ambient Air Quality Standards. However, it also stated that, "MATES II⁷ modeling data indicate[s] that Long Beach is predicted to have one of the

highest [cancer] risks...from the Southern California region,” indicating that, even with the twenty-five percent overall drop in risk, residents should be concerned about the quality of life in Long Beach (HRA, 2005: ES-4).

Another extensive analysis was done by Dr. Thomas Mack of the University of Southern California ⁸ and his findings are sadly similar. Yet this study was much more specific, identifying “cancer clusters” within Long Beach. These are areas of unusually high incidence of a single specific cancer, oropharyngeal ⁹ cancer, which is typically associated with smokers yet, is assumed to be an affect of incomplete combustion (i.e. vehicles, heavy equipment) due to the locations of the clusters- directly east of the I-710 and the southern portion of Long Beach . Even though traffic emissions have not been confirmed as the sole cause, high concentrations of harmful pollutants along with close proximity to high traffic systems (i.e. highways), “may contribute to higher adverse respiratory effects” (HRA, 2005: ES-6). The conditions threatening the quality of life for residents indubitably intensifies when understanding that the location of Long Beach is amidst several high traffic systems.

Dr. Mack recently affirmed his claims at a conference held in Long Beach (Feb. 25-26, 2005). The event was organized by the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center, a partnership of USC, and UCLA scientists funded by the National Institute of Health Sciences, based at USC's Keck School of Medicine. Titled, "Growing Pains: Health and Community Impacts of Goods Movement and the Ports," several revered scientists presented evidence indicating current levels of air pollution in Los Angeles-Long Beach region are high enough to cause illness and deaths (LBReport, 2005: ¶ 6).

The most disturbing evidence citing Long Beach's staggering air pollution problem comes from the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC). The NRDC considered the nation's 239 Metropolitan Statistical Areas ¹⁰, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and ranked the top fifty by the number of premature deaths attributable to particulate air pollution. In, "Breath-Taking: Top 50 MSA's Ranked by Attributable Mortality," Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA placed number one at 5,873 estimated annual cardiopulmonary ¹¹ deaths per year in 1994- nearly 1,850 attributable deaths higher than second place New York, NY (Shprentz, 1996). And still, ten years later, Los Angeles-Long Beach ports are responsible for, "almost a quarter of the particulate matter in the South Coast region...emitting as much diesel exhaust as 16,000 tractor trailers idling their engines twenty-four hours a day" (NRDC, Governor, 2004: ¶ 5). Thus, Long Beach, California is among the most polluted region in the country. Not only are Long Beach residents plagued by acute and chronic respiratory illnesses and high risk cancer, but so are several of the surrounding communities such as San Pedro and Wilmington.

Water Quality

With a name like Long Beach, most anyone would expect a vast, brilliant beach where residents savor the sand and the surf and the city, as a whole, reveres it as an asset. Long Beach was indeed named after plans to develop it as a thriving beach community but somewhere along the way Long Beach became more of an economic asset and the focus shifted to the port. Consequently, the water quality has suffered from the industrial impact and environmental neglect. Heal the Bay ¹² monitors numerous sites around the country and then produces annual grade reports of its findings that reflect the actions and affects of local governments such as Los Angeles County, including Long Beach. The

Environmental Health Division of the City of Long Beach operates approximately twenty-three locations throughout its six point five miles on a weekly basis to collect samples throughout the year. However, prior to 1999 Long Beach monitoring programs were either inadequate or nonexistent. The 2003-2004 Annual Beach Report Card for Los Angeles County stated, “the number of poor-to-failing grades was right in line with the four year average. A significantly higher number of C grades and a relatively lower amount of A grades most likely stems from the influence of Long Beach’s overall grades dropping significantly,” (Heal the Bay, 2004: ¶ 9). This is yet another example of the environmental degradation that not only affects Long Beach residents, but local surrounding communities as well. The report concluded, “if you want to go swimming in Long Beach this summer, we encourage you check our weekly beach report card...and to pay special attention to late summer water quality,” (Heal the Bay, 2004: ¶ 4).

Incredibly, Long Beach once was a popular surf spot. In 1913, Duke Kahanamoku visited “the Waikiki of California” and inspired several locals to surf. Long Beach later hosted competitions, even national championships. But those days are long gone. The completion of the breakwater and the additions to the port changed everything.

‘The Breakwater’ is actually made up of three sections. The ‘San Pedro’ section was started in 1899 and was completed in 1912 at two point eleven miles long. The ‘Middle’ breakwater started in 1912 and completed in 1940 at three point five miles long. These two sections provide a safe harbor for both the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The third and final section is the infamous ‘Long Beach Breakwater’. It was started in 1940 but interrupted in 1942 by World War II due to a lack of materials and manpower; Construction was not able to resume until 1946. It was at long last completed

in 1949 at two point fifty-three miles long. This section was intended as a defense measure and safe anchorage for the Navy's 6th fleet. Though, there is much confusion today about the extended existence of the breakwater since the Navy's withdrawal from the area. Some advocates say that it provides protection for the peninsula; opponents challenge that its existence has destroyed our beach by restricting natural ocean circulation and trapping in pollutants (Hendricks, 2005: Interview).

A series of articles written in the 1990's by Press Telegram Staff Writer Bill Hillburg boldly confronted several of the issues surrounding the breakwater and the city of Long Beach. In his, "Should L.B. bring back the surf?" article published June 16, 1996, Hillburg advocates that the removal of the breakwater could boost tourism for the long lost "Queen City of the Beaches." Prompting further investigation, the Long Beach Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation¹³ produced a study¹⁴ that, "sought to explain some of the benefits associated with the proposal to remove the Long Beach Breakwater in an effort to restore breaking waves on the beaches, increase water circulation, and ultimately reduce pollutants in the near shore zone" (Surfrider: Benefits, 2000: 1). Past studies have shown that environmental degradation of natural resources, such as the coastline, can weaken economic potential.

In a beachfront property value survey in the L.A. Times Real Estate Section June 25, 2000, Long Beach coastal zip code 90803 sunk below Surfside 90743, Manhattan 90266, Hermosa 90254, Redondo 90277, Huntington 92648, and Seal Beach 90740. In this continuous strip of coastline, Long Beach cannot compete with the other coastal communities due to its lack of clean water and surf. It is estimated that this environmental dilemma causes Long Beach to miss out on \$52,856,000 beach use revenue per year

(Surfrider: Hey, 2000). If accurate, clean water, waves, and coastline environment could provide the residents of Long Beach with a higher quality of life by removing the ecological and economical burden that is the breakwater.

The following figures were taken by Surfrider Long Beach Chapter Executive Committee Member, Ed Hendricks. Mr. Hendricks grew up in Long Beach when the surf still rolled in and has witnessed what the loss of such a valuable natural resource has done to Long Beach. On Labor Day, 'the unofficial end of summer,' 2000, these photographs were taken as undeniable, physical evidence of Long Beach's economical as well as environmental loss (please see page 12).

Wildlife & Site Clean-up

The Port of Long Beach is a point source for much of the pollution. It oversees nearly \$100 billion worth of merchandise from major trading partners such as Asia and Europe. Founded in 1911, the port now covers more than 3,000 acres of land ('Port of Long Beach,' 2005). The Port has developed programs which aim to improve the quality of life in the area; while also working to maintain a balance between environmental enhancement and economic benefits.

The Port has programs designed to help restore and reserve wetlands for the wildlife. "Through an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and other resource agencies, the Port acquires and restores coastal wetlands in Southern California in exchange for the right to develop Port property," ('Healthy Harbor,' n.d.). The Port provided \$1 million toward restoration of 29 acres of wetlands with the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve. The reserve protects a nesting area for the California least tern, a bird on the federal endangered species list. The project marked the first occasion of any

public agency or private company in Southern California participating in an off-site location. The Port also funded an \$8.8 million wetlands restoration project for the Seal Beach National Refuge.

Approximately forty-five million fish belonging to seventy-four species, ninety-nine species of birds and hundreds of different species of microorganisms thrive in the San Pedro Bay ecosystem. Numerous birds including three endangered species: Peregrine falcons, California brown pelicans, and California least terns, all inhabit the harbor. The Port attempted to relocate a large colony of black-crowned night herons in 1998. Early studies showed that the birds were thriving; recently the birds have moved because of “disturbances caused by cleanup operations the Navy was required to perform in and around Gull Park,” (‘Healthy Harbor,’ n.d.). The harmful effects of this displacement of natural ecological balance not only negatively affects the wildlife but deprives residents of a natural resource that once lost can ever be regained. Thus, economic development must be more carefully monitored in order to sustain the overall quality of life in Long Beach.

Another threat being monitored by the Port is the introduction of non-native species to the area. The introduction could spell destruction for the native wildlife. “To help prevent non-native species from entering local waters, the Port actively promotes compliance with a 2000 state law requiring that ballast water originating outside coastal waters be exchanged offshore before being emptied into the San Pedro Bay,” (‘Healthy Harbor,’ n.d.). However, in April 2002 a lawsuit was filed by the Surfrider Foundation for illegal port dumping by a fleet of foreign-flagged cruise ships operated by Carnival, Princess, and Royal Caribbean cruise lines. Numerous techniques are used to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species and all approaches were ignored, “Cruise lines

must stop fouling California's waters in the name of good times and big profits", said Jim Wheaton, an attorney for Environmental Law Foundation in Oakland, Ca.

Recently the Port of Long Beach has adopted a 'Green Port Policy'¹⁵ that establishes environmental goals and guiding principles (2002).

"[The green port policy] protects the local community and environment from harmful port impacts...Employs the best available technology to minimize port impacts and explore advanced technology solutions... Promotes sustainability in terminal design, development and operations...Distinguishes the port as a leader in environmental stewardship and regulatory programs...Engages and educates the community about port development and environmental programs," (Calhoun, 2005).

The Green Port Policy is an extension of the existing action plan "Healthy Harbor Long Beach" which includes the action items such as the Wetlands Restoration. The Long Beach City Council has endorsed the "Green Port Policy," yet Noel Park, president of the San Pedro and Peninsula Homeowners' Coalition, said that the plan "contains no such specifics and makes no actual commitment to attain healthy air to our communities," indicating that the policy is insufficient (2005).

Currently, the possible development of a LNG¹⁶ site, liquefied natural gas, is causing concern among residents as well as city officials. "On April 21, the House of Representatives passed an energy bill that would include giving the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the upper hand in deciding the future of liquefied natural gas facilities in the United States," therefore compromising the ability for state and/or local governments to make important decisions regarding state and local responsibilities ('LNG

Terminal Proposal,' 2005). "City officials and state regulators have been fighting the feds since a facility was proposed for the port by Sound Energy Solutions¹⁷, a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Corporation," if unsuccessful in stopping this plan it could go forward as early as 2008 ('LNG Terminal Proposal,' 2005).

The LNG terminal was proposed to be constructed at Pier T. LNG is composed of about ninety-five percent methane and is highly flammable. Locals are concerned that possible lack of funding could lead to health and safety hazards caused by having such a powerful chemical so close to a highly developed port. The city's Fire and Police Departments are concerned about the possible terrorist attack and the likelihood that the addition of a LNG terminal would require a "major fiscal impact" says Long Beach Fire Chief Dave Ellis (2005).

The city's budget deficit is more than \$60 million and "sufficient federal resources have not been designated for additional security at the port since 9/11, general fund depletion is a real concern if the LNG facility is built," and Frank Colonna from the 3rd district and chair of the Federal Legislative Committee said, "We want to keep the fate of our city and economy and overall security in the hands of our port and city," ('LNG Terminal Proposal,' 2005).

Conclusion

The City of Long Beach has come a long way since its early beginnings. The city has flourished economically, yet it is obvious that its surrounding environment has suffered at its expense. Our mission was to produce a fair, unbiased, yet truthful assessment of the environment and how it affects the quality of life for the residents of Long Beach and we feel we have accomplished this within the scope of this field study. Through a variety of

approaches to understanding our multi-faceted study we have identified strengths and weaknesses with respect to policies and procedures of Long Beach's various governmental, health, service, residential, and commercial organizations and institutions. Again, limited to only one semester's time and the outgoing effort of only a two person team, we have decided upon a grade letter for the City of Long Beach that accurately reflects the general attitude of economy over environment. Due to this stance, the residents' quality of life has suffered significantly. The City of Long Beach, in respect to its environmental strengths and weaknesses, deserves a disappointing "D" grade. By examining the air and water quality, transportation and energy, wildlife, and site clean-up, in a way that reflects a letter grade, we hope to motivate officials and residents to make the necessary changes to improve the quality of life in Long Beach.

End Notes

- 1 An explorer and trader who crossed the Atlantic Ocean and reached the Americas in 1492 under the flag of Castilian Spain. Columbus was not the first European to reach the continent. It is widely acknowledged today that Scandinavians had travelled to North America from Greenland in the 11th century and set up a short-lived colony at L'Anse aux Meadows.
- 2 An explorer noted for his exploration of the west coast of North America while sailing for Spain. Cabrillo was the first European explorer to navigate the coast of present day California in the United States.
- 3 Vast clouds of smoke were rolling high in the sky from burning grass and brush ashore where the native Indians were conducting one of their periodic rabbit drives.
- 4 Nitrogen Dioxide: The result of photochemical reactions of nitric oxide in ambient air; major component of photochemical smog. Product of combustion from transportation and stationary sources and a major contributor to the formation of ozone in the troposphere and to acid deposition.
- 5 Particulate Matter less than 10 Microns:
 - Particulates: Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes, or smog, found in air or emissions
 - Micron: One one-millionth of a meter.
- 6 Ozone: Found in two layers of the atmosphere, the stratosphere and the troposphere.
 - In the stratosphere (the atmospheric layer 7 to 10 miles or more above the earth's surface) ozone is a natural form of oxygen that provides a protective layer shielding the earth from ultraviolet radiation.
 - In the troposphere (the layer extending up 7 to 10 miles from the earth's surface), ozone is a chemical oxidant and major component of photochemical smog. It can seriously impair the respiratory system and is one of the most wide-spread of all the criteria pollutants for which the Clean Air Act required EPA to set standards. Ozone in the troposphere is produced through complex chemical reactions of nitrogen oxides, which are among the primary pollutants emitted by combustion sources; hydrocarbons, released into the atmosphere through the combustion, handling and processing of petroleum products; and sunlight.
- 7 Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study II: The South Coast Air Quality Management District (regional regulatory air quality enforcement agency) field program to evaluate potential toxic health risks from ambient air monitoring and modeling .
- 8 Dr. Thomas Mack, Prof. of Preventive Medicine at USC's Keck School of Medicine, recently published *Cancers in the Urban Environment -- Patterns of Malignant Disease in Los Angeles County*,

End Notes

- 9 Oropharynx: The middle part of the throat that includes the soft palate, the base of the tongue, and the tonsils.
- 10 INFORMATION NOT YET FOUND
- 11 Cardiopulmonary: Having to do with the heart and lungs.
- 12 Heal the Bay was founded in 1985 to fight for a "fishable & swimmable Bay." It is a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life using research, education, community action and policy programs to achieve this goal.
- 13 The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots, non-profit, environmental organization that works to protect our oceans, waves, and beaches through conservation, activism, research and education. Founded in 1984, Surfrider Foundation's most important coastal environmental work is carried out by Surfrider Foundation's 60 chapters located along the East, West, Gulf, Puerto Rican, and Hawaiian coasts. Surfrider Foundation now has over 40,000 members in the USA; in addition, International Surfrider Foundation chapters and affiliates have been established in the 5 foreign countries of Japan, Brazil, Australia, France and Spain.
- 14 "Benefits of Reconfiguring the Long Beach Breakwater," by the Long Beach Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. December 3, 2000.
- 15 The Green Port Policy is a wide-ranging policy adopted by the city of Long Beach which aims to make environmental protection a top priority. The policy includes five guiding principles: 1) protect the local community and environment from harmful port impacts. 2) employ the best available technology to minimize the port impacts and explore advance technology solutions 3) promote sustainability in terminal design, development and operations 4) distinguish the Port as a leader in environmental stewardship and regulatory compliance 5) engage and educate the community about Port development and environmental programs.
- 16 LNG, Liquefied Natural Gas, is currently the fossil fuel of choice in the U.S. and around the world. It is the liquid form of natureal gas and takes up only 1/600th the space.
- 17 Sound Energy Solutions proposes to build an LNG receiving terminal on 25 acres of industrial land at Pier T in the Port of Long Beach. Construction would take about three years, cost approximately \$450 million, and employ 1,000 union workers.

References Cited

- About Long Beach: History of Long Beach. (2000). Retrieved March 7, 2005, from the City of Long Beach, California Web site
<http://cms.longbeach.gov/aboutlb/timeline.htm>.
- Baseline Air Quality and Noise Human Health Risk Assessment Executive Summary (HRA). (January 18, 2005). Retrieved March 7, 2005, from the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services Web site:
<http://www.longbeach.gov/civica/filebank/blobload.asp?BlobID=7036>
- Calhoun, J. R., (2005). Long Beach Port's 'green' policy is comprehensive. *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Retrieved April 18, 2005, from
<http://www.presstelegram.com/cda/article/print/0,1674,204%257E21479%257E2807988,00.html?>
- Heal the Bay. (2003-2004). Annual Beach Report Card: Los Angeles County, CA. Retrieved March 7, 2005, from
<http://www.healthebay.org/brc/annual/2004/counties/la/analysis.asp>
- Healthy Harbor Long Beach. (n.d.). Retrieved February 25, 2005, from
http://www.polb.com/html/4_environment/water.html
- Hendricks, Ed (March 18, 2005). Telephone Interview.
- Hillburg, Bill (June 16, 1996). Should L.B. bring back the surf? *Press Telegram*.
- Real Estate. (June 25, 2000). Coastal Home Prices by Zip Code. *L.A. Times*.
- Long Beach Report. (February 28, 2005). Scientists @ LB Conference Present Evidence Indicating Current Levels Of Air Pollution in L.A.-LB Region are High Enough to Cause Illness and Deaths, Call for Reductions In Pollution at LA/LB Ports; Economist Says Ports Receive Subsidies That Invite More Growth. Retrieved April 29, 2005, from Long Beach Report Web site:
<http://www.lbreport.com/news/feb05/portmeet.htm#mack>
- LNG Terminal Proposal. (April 29, 2005). *Beachcomber*.
- National Resources Defense Council (NRDC). (September 9, 2004). Governor Should Sign Law to Control Port Pollution Say Harbor Residents, Environmentalists and Elected Officials. Retrieved March 7, 2005, from the NRDC Web site:
<http://www.nrdc.org/media/pressreleases/040909.asp>
- Park, Noel (April, 2005). Port Policy-Re: "L.B. Port's 'green policy' is comprehensive".

Press-Telegram: Opinions. Retrieved from
<http://www.presstelegram.com/Stories/0,1413,204%257E23185%257E2820239,00.html?>

Port of Long Beach. (n.d.). Retrieved February 25, 2005, from
http://www.polb.com/html/1_about/overview.html

Shprentz, Sheimann (May 1996). *Breath-Taking: Premature Mortality Due to Particulate Air Pollution in 239 American Cities; Top 50 MSA's Ranked by Attributable Mortality*. Retrieved March 7, 2005, from the NRDC Web site:
<http://www.nrdc.org/air/pollution/bt/btinx.asp>

Surfrider Foundation, Long Beach Chapter. (December 3, 2000). *Benefits of Reconfiguring the Long Beach Breakwater*.

Surfrider Foundation, Long Beach Chapter. (n.d.). *Hey, Long Beach- What's Our Beach Worth?*

Wheaton, J., (April, 2002). *Surfrider-Long Beach Chapter Press Release about Ballast Water*. *Surfrider Foundation*. Retrieved March 17, 2005, from
<http://www.surfrider.org/longbeach/ballast.htm>

Suggested Reading

Baseline Air Quality and Noise Human Health Risk Assessment Executive Summary

Long Beach Press-Telegram

National Resources Defense Council

The Beachcomber



Funding and Scholastic Equity: A Study and Comparison of Selected Inner City and Suburban
Schools in the City of Long Beach

An anthropological field project incorporating statistical data, ethnographic research and
personal interviews

By

The research team of Claudia Banegas and Katherine Goar

For

Dr. Adrian Novotny
Honors Cultural Anthropology
T-Th 12:30-2:00pm
M204
Spring 2005

Long Beach City College
Long Beach, CA.
19 May 2005

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Origins of the District Plan.....	2
Contacts with Clients.....	3
Financing.....	4
Successes and Failures.....	11
Summary and Conclusion.....	12
Suggested Further Research.....	12
Works Cited.....	14

Introduction

Long Beach is the fifth largest city in California. It has a population of 487,100 and it spans across fifty-two square miles. Not only is Long Beach one of the largest cities in California, measured by its total population and land mass, but it is also one of the most diverse cities when measured by the vast number of nationalities it represents. It is no surprise that Long Beach's public schools are as diverse as the city. In some ways, the public schools of Long Beach represent its present and future growth as a largely diversified city. In order to serve a group of students both economically and ethnically diverse, it is necessary for the Long Beach school district to promote and adhere to equitable funding for their public schools. In such a diverse environment, how is equitable school funding recognized and practiced? When assessing the quality of life issues in Long Beach, it is essential to take into consideration the state of its public school funding and exactly how that funding relates to the quality of education the students in Long Beach receive.

This is the question the authors of this paper have attempted to answer through an in depth analysis and research of the issue. This paper seeks to identify the various types of funding the Long Beach Unified School District receives and allots to their public elementary schools. The reason for choosing a sampling of elementary schools is to emphasize the importance of the primary education received at such schools which will in turn provide insight into the quality of education a child receives in subsequent years and ultimately will reflect their overall academic achievement. Taking a step further in the research to answer questions concerning how well equitable school funding is achieved with a larger sampling representative of Long Beach's schools and large

population, it would be necessary to do extensive comparison of more than the four schools surveyed in this paper.

In order to analyze such an abstract topic, it is vital to understand that school funding is defined as the monies that local, state, and federal governments endow to a school district. From the school district, the money is then disbursed to the district's schools. These funds are distributed in accordance with an individual school's needs stemming from its geographic area, its students' socio-economic status, test scores, and the number of students in attendance. Therefore, a quality education might be measured by learning opportunities afforded to the students through funding based on how well the school's specific educational needs are met.

Because the city of Long Beach is so diverse in terms of socio-economics and ethnicity, it is imperative to examine and research the different services and resources available to all its citizens. In order to provide an accurate analysis of education in the city of Long Beach, it is essential to study and compare both inner city and suburban schools, while limiting this research to four schools, since four schools allows for a more focused approach to the issue, as Long Beach contains approximately 100 elementary schools. Consequently, this will assist us in determining what factors are critical to students' performance and eventually to their success.

Origin of the District Plan

Long Beach Unified School District was founded in 1885. Because of the growth of the Long Beach community, schools became necessary and thus there was a need for the formation of Long Beach Unified School District, its governing body and the board of trustees. The purpose of LBUSD, as stated in the Mission Statement,

...is to insure the educational success of all students by having high expectations, a commitment to excellence, and a comprehensive program, confirming the belief that all students can learn and become responsible, productive members of a competitive society.(lbusd.k12.ca.gov).

Contacts with Clients

In addition to a quantitative aspect of this research, qualitative fieldwork provides a firsthand perspective of how funding is effectively handled from the district to the four schools specified in this research. The schools selected for this research are named schools "A" and "B" as being inner city schools, and schools "C" and "D" as being suburban schools. The majority of qualitative research used in this paper has derived from contact with administration and personnel at the four schools.

The Program Facilitator at school "A" ensures that programs at the school are sustained by the appropriate amount of funding. At school "B" the program facilitator shares in the responsibilities that the Facilitator at school "A" has. School "C" contact was made with both the Principal and the Secretary of the school. All Principals of the schools are empowered with the decision making positions concerning funds distributed. The Secretary meanwhile, sees that all administrative duties are accomplished, and therefore was able to provide information regarding some of the basic characteristics of the school. School "D", as with school "C", was contacted via the Principal.

In addition to visiting the four schools selected, contact was also made with Long Beach Unified School District administration. Initial contact at the school district was made with three School Board members, and all were interviewed. For the purpose of this paper and the board members' confidentiality, the three board members will be titled

“Board Member 1”, “Board Member 2”, and “Board Member 3”. And while these Board members were accessible in assisting with the qualitative research of this project, other LBUSD administration was not as willing to help further this research and disclose information. In an attempt to hear the voice of the teachers in Long Beach, an association representing teachers was contacted, specifically the Assistant Executive Director. The interview at the teacher’s association was unsuccessful in representing the teachers’ voices, so it was helpful to solicit information at teachers’ supply stores where Long Beach teachers frequent.

A well rounded collection of qualitative data also includes the media’s handling of the issue. To provide this aspect of the research, contact was made with a Long Beach newspaper journalist whose writings and columns deal with the topic of school funding in Long Beach.

Financing

Long Beach Unified School District functions with the support of federal, state, local, and donated or granted monies. Federal funds are called Title I funds. These funds are defined as:

...grants [that are] intended to help elementary and secondary schools establish and maintain programs that will improve the educational opportunities of educationally disadvantaged children who live in school attendance areas with high concentrations of children from low-income families. The funds are intended to provide instruction and instructional support for these disadvantaged children so they can master challenging curricula and meet State standards in core academic subjects (U.S Department of Education 2003: 6).

Title I funding is used in the United States to serve “2 million students with limited English proficiency, 1.2 million students with disabilities, and more than 100,000

children identified as homeless”(u.s. department of education). In order for a school to receive these funds, the school must exhibit that seventy-five percent or more of their students are qualified for free or reduced-price lunch. The majority of Title I funds are used for instruction, supporting or hiring additional teachers and instructional aides, instructional materials, computers, and support for other instructional programs and resources. These funds are intended to equalize a school’s resources in both high and low poverty schools by financially supporting districts with greater needs which may receive fewer funds from state and local governments.

State funding and categorical funds are distributed according to the students’ attendance at the school, class size, and various other specific categories. An example of state funds,

The State Instructional Materials Fund Realignment Program (IMFRP) is the source of funding for textbooks. The Long Beach Unified School District allocation is based upon the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) reported in April of the previous fiscal year. The IMFRP allocation is approximately \$25 per student. Governing guidelines for IMFRP funding require that a basic textbook be provided to every student in each of the core subject areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, History Social Science, and Science. These guidelines also prioritize the order in which the district must meet this mandate (Dominguez 2004: 1).

A school may also receive funds raised by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or from donations made by parents. The PTA funds are most commonly used for the supplemental needs at a school, such as fieldtrips, reading progress incentives, graduation activities, etc. The PTA raises these funds by selling food products, I.D. bracelets, books, or having on campus carnivals for families to attend and donate money. Some schools have money donated directly to them by the parents of students in attendance. This

money can either be given directly to teachers to purchase supplies for the classroom or special projects; or it can be given to the PTA.

After establishing the criteria and uses of Federal, State, and Local funds a school in Long Beach Unified School District may receive, examining schools "A", "B", "C", and "D" in respect to how their funds are used has provided a means to determine equitable funding within the schools. School "A", an inner city school, attempts to reduce its class sizes by having a year round schedule. Kindergarten through third grade classrooms have an average of 20:1 student and teacher ratio. Fourth through fifth grade classes average of 30:1 student and teacher ratio. Students are provided with text books and related academic materials for core curriculum. The text books are adopted on a five to seven year cycle. They are selected in order to have one book per student, and additional class sets are also purchased. School "A" is staffed with a full-time nurse, a full-time librarian, a part-time media assistant, a full-time resource specialist, an instrumental teacher, a speech therapist, school psychologist, and a vocal teacher. There are also two community workers who speak Spanish and Khmer and who work with the school's students, parents, and faculty. This school has a student population of 1,223. Nineteen percent of the student population is African American, fifty-nine percent are Hispanic or Latino, ten percent are Asian, three percent are Pacific Islander, one percent Filipino and six percent White (Not Hispanic). The Program Facilitator at school "A" noted that the majority of these students are living in an impoverished neighborhood, many born addicted to drugs, or are first generation immigrants; and they are surrounded by gang violence in their homes and neighborhoods. Many of these students come to school hungry, and when hunger is combined with the various other adverse conditions a

child may be experiencing, he or she may struggle to perform adequately on a consistent basis.

Based on these factors, school "A" receives one million dollars, a majority of which is Federal Title I money. This is determined by the overwhelming number of students who receive free or reduced price lunch, and represent a low or high poverty level. In order for this school to receive significant State and Local funds in addition to these Title I funds, the school's Academic Performance Index scores would have to be above 800. In 2004, the API base score for school "A" was 735; therefore, school "A" did not qualify for State or Categorical funds. It is because school "A"'s low test scores, that the Title I funds from the Federal government supplement what is lacking in State funds to the school. The Program Facilitator at this school also indicated that the school is striving to meet the immediate needs of the students. While they are provided one field trip a year as an enrichment activity, the Facilitator emphasized the crucial investment made towards the special academic needs and extra attention given to the large group of struggling students at the school. This is how school "A" spends their money. They do not provide a large number of enrichment programs, and thus focus on the students' mastering of the basic instructional skills. This school sets a large priority on the academic needs of its students, while sacrificing the possibility of extra enriching activities.

School "B", a traditional inner city elementary school, has a student population of 1,061 students. This school is staffed with forty-eight classroom teachers, a reading recovery teacher, four literacy coaches, two full-time intersession teachers, a computer technology specialist, a resource specialist, a speech and language specialist, a librarian, a

nurse two days a week, and a psychologist two days a week. However, this school has difficulty in retaining its teachers, as many of them leave after a short time of employment. Text books and other materials are adopted on a five to seven year cycle. The student population is composed of eighteen percent African-American, sixty-nine percent Hispanic or Latino, eleven percent Asian, and one percent White. The Program Facilitator at school "B" recognized that the students at this school have issues beyond academic struggles. They are from low socio economic communities, affected by gang violence, lack medical care, severe language challenges, and most compelling for this elementary school is the existing racial tension among the students. Based on the information gathered from school "A" and school "B", both inner city schools, it is apparent while school "A" receives one million dollars in funds and school "B" approximately \$626,000, school "B" demonstrates an urgency and need for both funding and academic assistance that exceeds what their funds can supply.

School "B" receives 626,000 from federal Title I funds. For the required API base score of a minimum 800, school "B" in 2004 received 691 points, not meeting minimum score for eligibility of State awarded money. A huge portion of school "B"'s funds go towards funding a technologically advanced educational program aimed to improve the academic advancement of its students. This program is a major expense, but the school finds it necessary to employ such a program in hopes that the students will improve test scores. With this necessary program and expense, school "B" still finds itself in a financial crisis. The school has resorted to asking businesses and organizations in the community to donate money to help the school to provide bare necessities. A letter addressed to donor reads,

Public schools are in a financial crisis like we have never seen before in our school's history. Our students do not even have the basic school supplies that we have been able to provide in the past... We have therefore launched a new fundraising campaign...(Letter School "B" 2005: 1).

Some of the funds requested will go towards purchasing organization tools for students, paper, pencils, markers, and glue sticks.

School "C", a traditional California distinguished school and U.S. Blue Ribbon school of excellence is located in a suburb of Long Beach. The average class size between kindergarten through third grade is twenty students. And, fourth through fifth grade class size is an average of thirty students. The teachers at school "C" have extensive degrees that exceed the bachelors or teaching credential. In fact, school "C" retains two Doctorate holding teachers, and sixteen teachers have Master's degrees. The staff includes a resource specialist teacher, an adaptive P.E. teacher, a speech therapy teacher, a computer teacher, a district psychologist, a librarian, a school nurse, a school community worker, and a bilingual instructional aid. The student population is made up of fifty-three percent White, twenty-four percent Hispanic or Latino, eleven percent African-American, eight percent Asian, and three percent Filipino. The student population is a total of 882 students. The office assistant at school "C" stated that students in attendance reside in high socio-economic status neighborhoods. There are no children being bussed in to school "C" from the inner city. There is a low population of English as second language students, less than one hundred have a second language barrier. School "C" provides three after school programs in addition to regular curriculum, an after school reading program, a state of the art IBM compatible computer lab, and extra tutoring in subjects. Based on the requirements to receive Title I funding,

school "C" does not qualify, but supplements what they lack in funds with an extremely supportive PTA. The school is doing well academically. And the principal stated that it seems like the school is being punished for doing well, as it does not receive a sufficient amount of State and Federal funds. There are not enough students at the school who receive free or reduced price lunch, thus school "C" must seek out funds from state allotted and PTA contributed funds. School "C"'s API score of 834 qualifies the school for State Categorical funds, 54,000 dollars. In order to maintain its high quality educational environment, school "C" is complemented by a large PTA contribution and membership. The PTA at school "C" has a ninety to one hundred percent membership. According school's Accountability Report Card,

...the PTA supports teachers and students with a variety of programs such as Art in the Schools, Meet the Masters, Read Aloud Daily, Reflections, and Science Enrichment. [The] PTA has also helped to fund useful items from playground equipment to computers (School "C" Accountability Report: 2005).

Another aspect of school "C"'s excellence in performance derives from the partnership established by the school with local businesses. These businesses in turn support academic programs by donating services and goods. School "C"'s students benefit from an exposure to both the businesses themselves and the inspiration they provide the students as mentors. Even though school "C" does not rely totally on Federal and State funds to provide an enriched academic environment to its children, it does find itself, much like the inner city school "B", requesting money from parents of fifth grade students. In a letter composed by the school's Endowment Committee it states,

[u]ntil now, [school "C"] has been extremely fortunate in maintaining its superior staff, programs and offerings thus far, as a result of spending our budget wisely, which allowed us to carryover funds from year-to-year. The reduction of [school "C"'s] budget for the 2005-06 school year means

cuts...
(Letter School "C": 2005).

This concludes that even a suburban school is affected by a greater issue, State budget cuts.

School "D" is a traditional school located in a suburban Long Beach neighborhood. The total enrollment of students is 814. The student population is comprised of thirteen percent African-American, fifty percent Hispanic or Latino, twenty-eight percent White, and seven percent Asian. It is important to this comparison of suburban and inner city schools to know that the majority of school "D"'s students are bussed in from the inner city whose schools are too crowded to hold them. The classroom size for kindergarten through third grade is 20, and fourth and fifth grade classes have an average of thirty-three students. School "D"'s faculty is comprised of a full-time counselor, an eighty percent nurse, a three-day librarian, a one-day media assistant, a district psychologist, and a speech therapist. The text books are adopted on a five to seven year cycle. They are selected in order to have one book per student, and additional class sets are also purchased. This school receives the majority of its funds from the Federal government's Title I program because it's bussed in students come from low socio-economic status. In total the school receives \$407,000 Title I funds, State funds of 83,000 dollars, and English Learners funds (EIA) of 77,000 dollars. Much of school "D"'s funding is used to support both academic and enrichment programs. These programs include a Meet the Master's Art program, computer lab and instruction, science lab, theater productions, instrumental instruction. With an API score of 730, school "D" qualifies only for federal funds, and therefore relies also on PTA funding.

Successes and Failures

After an examination of two inner city and two suburban Long Beach schools, it can be said that success and failures of the schools and district are measured by different factors depending on the school's needs. Factors such as the socio-economic status of students, school location, teacher retention and qualification, availability of Federal and State funds, API scores, PTA involvement, language accommodations, and the availability of enrichment activities and programs are monumental contributors to a school's measure of success and failure. The crux of a school's success in distribution of its allotted funds remains in the hands of the Principal. He or she has the ultimate authority in deciding how the money will be spent and how it will support the school's success while overcoming its failures. With this said, LBUSD really does not have much authority over how a school will spend its funds. Success in a school can be measured by how the school spends its money according to its specific needs. For example, success for inner-city school "B" is not achieved by implementing extensive enrichment programs when the students exemplify a dire need for supplemental tutoring in basic academic areas that challenge them. In contrast, success for suburban school "C" cannot be achieved through the funding of tutors for Spanish speaking-transitional students, but more so through enlightened and enriched programs that offer a challenge for an already proficient group of students.

Failure in LBUSD can be judged by the fact that there are no apparent checks and balances when it comes to its school funding issues. While the school district recognizes where monies are spent in different schools, it does not determine the way the money is spent. This lack of accountability ripples into the schools by denying them liability that would prove effective when delegating funds for essential programs and enrichment.

Summary and Conclusion

By limiting this survey to only four schools, the authors do not imply that the schools examined are entirely representative of LBUSD's funding issues and quality education. There are certainly many limitations involved in the composition of the research and the collecting of resources and data. Part of this limitation comes from time constraints, lack of funds, and the overwhelming size and elements that are involved in funding and finding scholastic equity. The schools surveyed here were accessible by providing quality and first hand information. However, the LBUSD offices were hesitant to provide resources, data and assistance. As such, based on the compilation of sources acquired the authors find just cause in giving the Long Beach educational system a "C" because it is barely meeting the apparent needs of its students and schools.

Works Cited

- Accountability Report Card *School "A"* www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/ 3 2005.
- Accountability Report Card *School "B"*. www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/ 3 2005.
- Accountability Report Card *School "C"* www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/ 3 2005.
- Accountability Report Card *School "D"* www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/ 3 2005.
- Donation Letter *School "C"* 13 May 2005
- Dominguez, Christine. "Office of Textbook and Library Services: State Funding"
www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/ 3 2005.
- Local Education Agency (LEA). "Non-Regulatory Guidance." *U.S Department of Education
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education*. August 2003. 4 2005.
- Long Beach Unified School District. www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/ 3 2005.
- Mission Statement *Long Beach Unified School District* www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/ 3 2005





Welfare Services:
An analysis of Welfare Policies

A Field Research and Case Study Paper

Written By
The Research Team of:

Umair Ansari
And
Casey McFarland

For:
Dr. Adrian Novotny
Honors Cultural Anthropology
Tuesday and Thursday
From 12:30 to 2:00
Room M204
Spring 2005

Long Beach City College – Long Beach, CA

May 19th, 2005

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
History and Origin of Welfare Services	5
Client Interviews	8
Summary and Conclusion	13
Suggested Further Research	15
Appendix A	16
Bibliography	22

Introduction

Welfare services are something that many people are ashamed to admit that they are currently receiving or received in the past. The fact is that two million people in the County of Los Angeles rely on different welfare services each month. In the Long Beach area alone approximately 152, 657 people are currently dependent upon some type of welfare service (DPSS). Some of these people are relying on the system to make it on a day-to-day basis, while others are simply using it as a supplement to an insufficient income. When trying to find out about the welfare services and about what the people currently on the system think of it, it is extremely hard to get a straight answer out of people whether or not they are currently using the system. It is most definitely a pride issue. Although most people are actively trying to better themselves financially so that they do not have to continue to receive this aid, there are those who are simply out to take advantage of and to abuse the system.

This is a case study research paper on the current Welfare System of the Long Beach area. The project was assigned in a Cultural Anthropology class as a sample project for future classes in Anthropology as well in other classes. The assignment was simple, go out and research the Welfare Services offered in your city. Talk to clients and employees, both current and past, to gain an overall sensus of how the clients and employees feel about the services given, and to then take that information and compare it with what the county's stated goals and missions. Then we were to assign the county (or city) a letter grade depending upon how they are doing.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services states that their mission is:

To provide accurate and timely benefits and effective services to individuals and families in need, which both alleviate hardship and promote personal responsibility and economic independence.

To focus on positive outcomes, quality, innovation and leadership.

To maintain a high standard of excellence Department-wide (DPSS).

They go on to define their philosophy as follows:

We believe that we can help those we serve to enhance the quality of their lives, provide for themselves and their families, and make positive contributions to the community.

We believe that to fulfill our mission, services must be provided in an environment which supports our staff's professional development and promotes shared leadership, teamwork and individual responsibility.

We believe that, as we move toward the future, we can serve as a catalyst for commitment and action within the community, resulting in expanded resources, innovative programs and services, and new public and private sector partnerships (DPSS).

The county, while trying its hardest to stick to its mission and to its philosophy, may not be living up to the citizens standards. The service tends to be poor and slow, the employees are often seen as unfriendly and cold, many feel that not enough cash aid is given and the centers are not located close to most clients.

The services that the Los Angeles County Dept. of Public and Social Services offer include CalWORKs, a service that provides temporary financial assistance and employment focused services to families with children under the age of eighteen with income below the State maximum limits. General Relief (GR) is a county funded program that provides cash aid to families that are indigent to southern California and certain sponsored legal immigrants and only to those who are not eligible for federal or state programs. SSIAP (supplemental security income assistance program) assist physically and mentally disabled as well as aged GR participants with the initial SSI

application process. The food stamp program was established to improve the nutrition of people in low-income households, this program increases their food-buying power. Food stamps are issued in dollar denomination coupons and are used instead of cash at the more than 8,000 grocery stores that participate in the county. Parents and their children under age 22 who live together are considered only if their income level does not meet the State maximum.

There are also health care services provided such as Healthy Families, Medi-Cal, AIM (Access for Infants and Mothers), CCS (California Children's Services) and California Kids. There are other smaller programs such as WIC (Women Infants and Children), TANF (temporary assistance to needy families), and GAIN (greater avenues for independence which began as an employment program for AFDC participants) (DPSS).

There are many programs that people either do not know about or think that they will not qualify for because they are already on one program or another. In fact they can use as many different programs as they need and qualify for and are urged to use them especially if they have children and are lacking in an area that is important for daily living, whether it be food to put on the table or a place to take their child for day care or health care.

Los Angeles County recently published a "strategic plan" that would help to make the welfare system run smoother and make the quality of life in Los Angeles County better. The core goals of the Plan reflect the five main countywide goals: 1. Service excellence 2. Workforce excellence 3. Organizational effectiveness 4. Fiscal responsibility and 5. Children and Families well-being. Within each goal there are two or

three objectives to help to better direct the strategies and clarify what the goals mean.

(See Appendix A for document stating the goals and sub-division goals).

History and Origin of Welfare Services

The early 1920s in America seemed like an age of endless prosperity. Construction boomed, business flourished, and the stock market soared. Then on October 29, 1929, the stock market crashed (How Welfare Began).

Not only was the crash of the stock market going to effect businesses but it was going to put a strangle hold on many American families. With the Great Depression came about 18 million elderly, disabled and single mothers with children already living at a bare subsistence level. State and local governments banded together with other private charities to reach out and help these people. The impact of all of the events during and right after the Great Depression led people to realize that they alone would not be able to properly provide adequate savings for their old age, and that some form of greater security should be provided by society. Local governments, usually counties, started to provide relief in the form of food, fuel, and sometimes cash to poor residents. They in return were required to work for the town or county often doing hard manual labor jobs that no one else wanted. Although some worked for their government aid, most were not capable of doing so because they were widows, children, the elderly or disabled. Local governments were known for discriminating against those applying for the aid based on race, nationality, or religion. Single mothers had a tough time during this period, if they applied for aid they were branded by society as unfit mothers, but if they went out to find work and left their children unattended they were criticized for neglecting them.

In 1909 President Theodore Roosevelt called a White House conference to try to find out how best to go about fixing the problem of poor single mothers and their children. This meeting was ultimately unsuccessful although his ideas were on the right

path, preserving the family in the home was preferable to placing the poor into institutions that would be only criticized and costly being left only to fail. "Mothers Pension" plans were put into effect in Illinois in 1911 and sought to provide state assistance to poor fatherless children who would remain in their own homes and be cared for by their mothers. This plan in effect would excuse poor single mothers from working outside of the home and would allow them to help prevent juvenile delinquency as they would be able to watch their children full-time.

By 1933 "Mothers Pension" programs were operating in all but two states. In 1934 the average state grant per child was eleven dollars per month, although they varied greatly from state to state. These programs were still excluding large numbers of families due to the mother being divorced, deserted or minority race or religion. About thirty states at this time provided some welfare aid to poor elderly persons without any source of income. Local officials made all rulings on who deserved Mothers Pension or old-age assistance.

Additional federal welfare aid was provided to destitute old people, the needy blind and crippled children. Financed partly by federal tax money, the states would still be in charge of setting their own eligibility requirements as well as benefit levels. Roosevelt and the members of congress who helped him to write the welfare provisions into the Social Security Act thought that the need for assistance to dependent children and poor old people would be reduced as employment rates improved and as those over age sixty-five began to collect their Social Security Pensions.

In 1992 then candidate Bill Clinton promised in his speeches to "end welfare as we know it." In 1996 a Republican Congress passed and President Clinton signed a

reform law that returned most of the control over welfare back to the states and away from the federal government, this ended the sixty years of federal responsibility of the welfare program (DPSS).

Client Interviews

As we conducted our projected, it was quite difficult for us to find clients to interview whom received any type of welfare. We had to search for our own people to interview since we were denied access by the Los Angeles Department of Social Services to talk to any of their employees or clients. We were almost left hopeless and literally thought of giving up the project. However, we were able to maintain ourselves and we decided to go out in the city and seek out people who received any welfare on our own. We were finally able to find clients to talk to by visiting the local Christian Outreach Appeal. We asked the Pastor there if it would be alright if we spoke with some of the people there while they ate their dinners. Our results were fantastic as we were able to come up with six clients to talk to. The questions we asked each individual during the interview process included:

Pre-question... Are you currently receiving any type of welfare assistance?

1. How long have you been receiving welfare assistance?
2. What led to your beginning Welfare assistance?
3. Are you actively trying to get off Welfare services?
4. What does your family think of you and your family receiving Welfare assistance?
5. Do you work? (Steadily or irregularly)
6. Do your children attend school? (Steadily or irregularly)
7. How many total members in your family live with you and benefit from the Welfare assistance you receive?
8. What are their ages and relationships to you?
9. How do you feel about the Welfare service given to you? (Polite,

compassionate, generally nice and interested in helping you)

10. How could it better improve?
11. What are some positives and negatives about the services given?

We will refer to each of our clients as letters ranging from A to F. Our first Client A, was an African-American male in his late twenties that just applied to receive welfare assistance about three months ago. He applied because he lost his job as being an in home for a woman who recently moved into a convalescent home. His family knows that receiving welfare will just be a temporary thing because as he puts it, "Some income is better than no income at all." Client A is still forward to going back to work for the woman as a nurse again because they will be getting an apartment together soon. A wife and infant child accompanies client A. He believes the welfare office gave him good service. However the only improvement he would like to see is that they would approve cases much quicker to receive cash and food stamps without the hassle of first completing the requirements. For example, he needed cash when he signed up and only received food stamps, which didn't help as much because he claims he needs "...money to ride the bus." As for the services given, the positive was that he had a good caseworker that seemed to care about him and was friendly. The negative aspect about the services given is that he needed cash the moment he signed up and couldn't receive it early enough.

What was unique about Client B was that he didn't receive any type of welfare assistance, but he did know many of family and friends who did and provided us with a great deal of information about how they all feel about the service as a whole. First of all, Client B is a Hispanic male in his late twenties who attends Los Angeles Community College. He claims not enough money is given because now days "...rent is off the ceiling!" When you visit the Social Services Department, it is a whole day process that is especially tiresome and bad if you have kids to bring along with you to the office. Almost all the people he knows said that everyone hated the application process. About the type

of services offered by employees, "There is no passion from the people that work there and the quality is bad." Client B also brought up a good point by mentioning that programs like welfare services that are given to people sort of trap the people within and keep them stuck. Meaning, it doesn't help them recover and get off the programs, it only keeps them down. Client B tells us "Back in the day General Relief was a fad and was abused...people were bragging about it and now days, its considered shameful." Client B also mentions that most of the people he knows receiving any type of welfare aren't looking for work because they are lazy and also do not force their children go to school.

Client C is an African-American female in her early thirties. She had been on General Relief for the past couple years. The reason she receives welfare assistance is because she moved and didn't have much money after moving, but then got laid of. Currently, she just now got a part time job. Client C's family does not know much about her financial problems because they don't really talk. Client C has a child, age eight, who attends school and has a husband who also lives with her. When asked about the services given to her at the office, she replied, "The service was not great, but not bad either." She claims she still doesn't receive enough money to cover her rent cost. Also, she says that there is no emotion from the employees. "Some people are good but some are not nice or helpful, usually depending upon who you get on the day that you go."

Client D is a thirty-year-old Caucasian female who has been receiving food stamps for the past year. The reason for her eligibility is because she recently got laid off and a family member was sick in the hospital. Client D has been actively trying to get off receiving food stamps but she works temporarily at an agency, so until she finds a permanent job nothing can be done. Her family understands her situation but does not

attempt to help her. They believe Client D is "...just experiencing a life lesson that you have to deal with." Client D lives at home with her husband and two-year-old son. She definitely wants to send her child to preschool but is afraid of not being able to pay for his tuition. As for the type of service given by the employees, Client D believes it is satisfactory and needs a sufficient amount of improvement. If she could improve anything about the services given, Client D would ask that they make the process of receiving cash much quicker. On the upside, the positives about the service given include that it helps you financially and the office is located near by. However, the negatives about the services include how slow the process actually is, not enough money is given, and also "...it is embarrassing because there are so many people in the office at once and there is no confidentiality."

Client E is a Hispanic female in her late twenties that has been receiving food stamps for the past four months. The reason for her acceptance of welfare services is that she is a recovering alcoholic who wants to eventually get off food stamps as soon as she can get herself mentally, physically, and emotionally back together again. Her family knows she's been receiving food stamps but don't really care or say anything about it. Client E has recently just started working part time at Target regularly. She has four people in her household including two girls, ages five and six. Her boyfriend also lives with her and currently is unemployed. When asked about the type of services received by the employees of Social Services office, Client E simply replies, "They suck!" Her response may seem abrupt but she feels the employees need to be friendlier, the process of receiving money should be quicker, and the office is too crowded. Client E only likes that food stamps are able to pay her rent and keeps her kids fed.

Our last Client F is a Hispanic couple in their mid-twenties who have now been receiving food stamps for the past six months. The husband recently got laid off from work and the wife is a full-time student also working part time. The couple wants to abandon the use of food stamps as soon as they can financially stabilize themselves. The couple's family is not aware of their financial crisis because they live out on the east coast. They would feel embarrassed about telling so they rather not say anything. The husband now claims to be looking for a job and the wife is set with her part time job. The couple wants to start a family as soon as they can "...bring in a good amount of income." Client F also believes that the social service's office gives receives a satisfactory grade. The couple claims the employees need to become friendlier. The only positive side about receiving welfare is that it "...helps get through tough times." Otherwise, the process of applying and receiving welfare seems depressing to them. It makes them pity themselves.

Clearly, our results indicate that no one enjoys receiving any type of welfare service. People, who receive welfare, claim that they will abandon using it as soon as they both find a job and can establish themselves financially. Most clients complain about the long waiting period it takes to receive cash and the uncompassionate services given by the employees at the social services office. They would like the employees to feel more empathy for the people want to apply for welfare aid. Some people don't want to fall dependent upon welfare because it could possibly never allow you to become independent. The majority of the clients do find welfare services helpful in essence because it does bring in some income. Whether it is for the use of paying bills or putting food on the table, it does help.

Summary and Conclusion

After gathering all our research and conducting client interviews, it is time we summarize and come to a conclusion with our findings. When accumulating all of the results, we were quite appalled because we didn't expect the city of Long Beach to do so poorly as it did. The lack of cooperation from the staff of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services and their wide spread of negativity throughout the people can show us just how bad the system actually operates. After all, the Department of Public Social Services is a community office; not a private one so there should not be any reason for them to keep information hidden from the public. They should openly discuss their issues whether they are positive or negative with all its community members. In fact, it should be considered a violation of peoples' rights and against the law if Social Services Department their information private from its citizens.

Through our extensive research, we have determined to give Long Beach a grade of D+ on how well the services of welfare operate within the city. Our clients we interviewed all disliked the kind of individual service that was given at the office. They thought the staff were rude and felt that they should ought to have a bit more and courtesy and empathy as well for the people who obtain their services. Besides behavior, our clients told us that the process for applying for individual aid is a long and tedious process. With our own experience of visiting the office and not being able to talk to anyone without getting written consent, proves how little cooperation we had from the staff. It was as if they did not want us to be there and were trying to avoid any questions we may have for them. Maybe they thought that we were a "threat" towards the work

they do and we might be able to expose what really goes behind the closed doors of the public office.

Suggested Further Research

To the next team that continues to further our research within the welfare services topic, we ask that you try and make a more revealing attempt into getting to know what really goes behind the closed doors of the public office. We need some basic information that might be able to determine why they act the way they do and for what reason do they not allow to disclose any information about their work to the publicly to the people. If you still can not get in touch with any “secret” kept information from the office, then try and make attempts to contact city officials and ask them to help resolve the situation. Possibly, making an attempt to contact an official about the situation and explaining to him/her the problem might just be able to allow further information to be released to the public. Cooperation is a main consideration. If everyone in the city were to work together, and if ultimately people were more willing to talk about being on welfare there would hardly be any problems doing this project. This project is a great way to find out how well our city is running its welfare programs and whether or not the services being provided are actually helping the people that are receiving them.

Appendix A.

“Intimate partner violence and use of welfare services among California women”
Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, Dec, 2004 by Rachel Kimerling, Nikki Baumrind.

This article talks of how welfare services have successfully moved many individuals from welfare to work. This leaves a welfare population comprised primarily of women caring for children who experience more serious barriers to employment. It also suggests that particularly intimate partner violence against women is associated not only with poverty, but more with welfare.

WELFARE TO WORK

February 14, 2005

TV Channel: PBS

A report by Paul Solman of WGBH-Boston about families, especially single mothers, trying to get off welfare and into the work force in part one of a two-part series.

“Welfare and Poverty Trends in California.” Public Policy Institute of California.

This written manual talks about the welfare caseloads in California in comparison with that of the whole nation. It talks of which regions in California have the highest amount of caseloads and what type of families are most likely and least likely to receive welfare services. The charts presented in this manual are interesting and very insightful.

“Department of Public Social Services Strategic Plan” LA DPSS website written by Bryce Yokomizo, Director. October 2002

This is a breakdown of the LA DPSS core areas, goals and objectives for their strategic plan 2001-2005. For every goal the department has developed objectives to better direct and clarify what the goals are. While supporting the departments mission and the County vision the five core areas, underlying goals and objectives are meant to help better serve the community.

“Population Data and Trends” LA DPSS prepared by Michael Bono, Ph.D. Release date November 9, 2004.

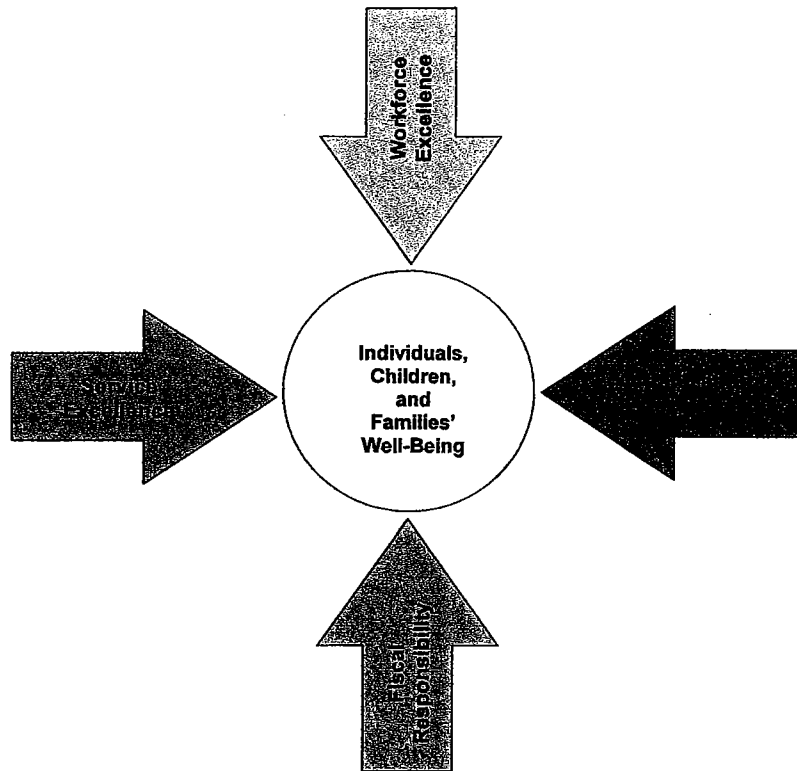
This is a summary of social and economic factors in Los Angeles County as well as the United States as a whole. The report touches on many things, such as social diversity of different areas, immigration rates, unemployment rates, job growth, poverty rates, health insurance coverage, the food stamp program and food security, as well as

housing and homelessness. This gave us a good idea of what the factors were in not only our own area but in other areas of the country as well.

“DPSS Caseload Characteristics” LA DPSS. December 2004

This was very helpful in our research, it gives all of the totals of people receiving different type of aid in the Long Beach area. Along with the number of people receiving the aid it tells you about the people, the gender, ethnicity, age, citizenship status, and primary language spoken.

Chart 17 - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLANNING DESIGN



Core Areas, Goals and Objectives

The DPSS Strategic Plan mirrors the goals and strategies in the Countywide Strategic Plan (Exhibit 1). The goals in the Countywide Plan are represented as the five core areas in the DPSS Strategic Plan. Strategies in the Countywide Plan are listed as DPSS' goals. For every DPSS goal in each core area, the Department has developed comprehensive objectives to better direct our strategies and clarify what the goals mean to the Department. The five core areas, goals, and objectives provide a holistic view of the DPSS Plan and a solid foundation for developing specific strategies that further the Department's mission while supporting the County vision. The DPSS Strategic Plan's goals, objectives, and strategies are listed in the Plan by core area. Goals and objectives for each core area are summarized below:

SERVICE EXCELLENCE (CORE AREA 1)

Develop standards for user friendly service (Goal 1.1).

- Enhance the existing customer service system and/or develop and implement a new comprehensive customer service plan by identifying and working with partners necessary to effectively meet customer needs and increase the quality of service to our participants.

Design seamless (“One County”) service delivery systems (Goal 1.2).

- Identify and prioritize services that can effectively be delivered in a seamless fashion to our customers. Refine and improve programs by identifying and working with partners necessary to deliver services to customers in a seamless fashion, including working towards a “No Wrong Door” customer policy.

Evaluate services based on results (Goal 1.3).

- Utilize performance measures and research techniques to evaluate services and assess the need for training programs that will enhance program effectiveness.

WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE (CORE AREA 2)

Recruit, develop, and retain dedicated and productive employees (Goal 2.1).

- Develop new training programs and enhance current employee training programs to provide staff with the skills and tools needed to fulfill their roles, meet employee performance measures, foster computer literacy, and accomplish the Department’s mission.

Create a positive work environment (Goal 2.2).

- Identify and enhance employee well-being, morale, commitment, and related productivity by upgrading the physical infrastructure and equipment, improving current employee communication systems, and providing employee-related services.

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS (CORE AREA 3)

Implement strategic management processes (Goal 3.1).

- Implement a Department’s Strategic Plan and management processes that effectively support the Department and County missions.

Improve internal operations (Goal 3.2).

- Streamline and refocus key Departmental support systems that will identify and improve areas of operations to enhance quality and timeliness of internal Departmental services.

Collaborate across functional and jurisdictional boundaries (Goal 3.3).

- Develop structure and systems, and establish criteria to enhance collaboration and eliminate areas of overlap and/or conflict internally within the Department and externally with other departments and agencies.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY (CORE AREA 4)

Manage effectively the resources we have (Goal 4.1).

- Strengthen fiscal processes and establish reward systems for productivity improvements.

Invest in public infrastructure (Goal 4.2).

- Invest in public infrastructure to increase the quality of service and better support fiscal responsibility.

Increase public/private partnerships (Goal 4.3).

- Develop and implement programs with public/private partners and enhance strategic partnerships to deliver cost effective services.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' WELL-BEING (CORE AREA 5)

Coordinate, collaborate and integrate services for children and families across functional and jurisdictional boundaries (Goal 5.1).

- In collaboration with necessary partners, develop and implement structures and programs to coordinate and integrate systems which realize and sustain improved outcomes for children and families in the following areas: access to services; customer service and satisfaction; data sharing; multi-agency service delivery; and funding for services.

Implement a system to measure progress towards improving the five outcomes for children and families (Goal 5.2).

- Implement systems to effectively measure progress toward meeting customer needs and increasing the quality of service consistent with the five outcome areas for children and families.

Engage individual departments in their planning efforts towards achieving the five outcomes for children and families (Goal 5.3).

- Properly identify and provide effective programs and services to families which promote responsibility, continuous growth, and economic independence consistent with the five outcome areas for children and families.

Like the Countywide Strategic Plan, the Department Strategic Plan is a five-year process that began with FFY 2001. Therefore, the FFY 2001 strategies that were developed to support the goals in the Strategic Plan are listed in each of the following sections of the Plan as achievements under the heading "**Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2001.**"

The Strategic Plan also provides a vision of where the Department wants to be five years down the road under the heading "**Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2002-2005.**" As the Plan is a living document and the Department is continually making progress towards achieving the goals, some of the strategies reflected in the Plan for FFY 2002-2005 may already have been accomplished. New strategies are developed as needed to support the Department Strategic Plan and the Department's mission.

Due to new fiscal realities, the Department must rethink a few of the strategies previously planned for goal achievement which were curtailed with the current budget reprioritization process. Therefore, for a small number of objectives presented in the Plan as part of the Department's vision, determination of appropriate strategies are still in progress. Throughout the five-year strategic plan process, the Department intends to address all aspects of each objective. Fiscal issues will continue to play a major role in the Strategic Plan.

Bibliography

"Strategic Plan FFY 2001-2005." Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services.

<http://ladpss.org/dpss/strategic_plan/Strategic_Plan_Final_102102.pdf>.

"Caseload Characteristic Report: December 2004." Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services.

<http://ladpss.org/dpss/REQAD/pdf/2004/Dec04_CaseloadCharacter_Rpt.pdf>.

Welfare Information Network Page. New York. 2002.

<http://www.financeprojectinfo.org/win/default.asp>

"How Welfare Began in the United States." June 1998. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION: Bill of Rights in Action.

<http://crf-usa.org/bria/bria14_3.html#welfare>

Kimerling, Rachel. "Intimate partner violence and use of welfare services among California women." Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare. December 2004.

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0CYZ/is_4_31/ai_n9483855

"Welfare and Poverty Trends in California." April 2002. Public Policy Institute of California. <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=190>