

Famous Quote from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive."



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The
LONG BEACH CHAPTER
of **FACTS** meets at 2:30 P.M.
on the 2ND Saturday of each month
at St. Luke's Church
525 East 7th St.
(Corner of Atlantic Ave. & 7th Street)
(562) 537-1743

Quote from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

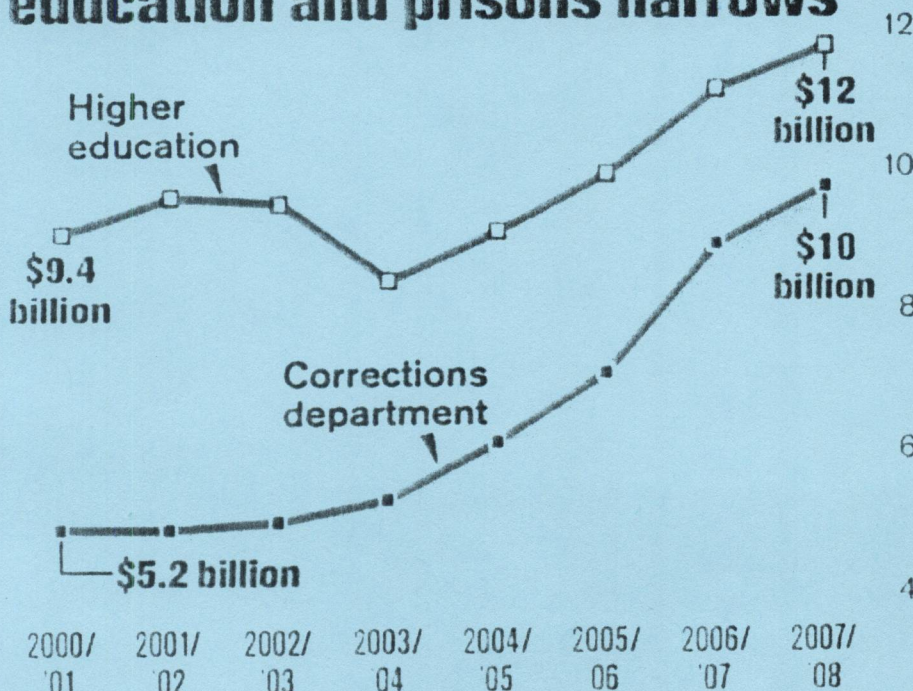
"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.
We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality,
tied in a single garment of destiny.
Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."



Chronicle / Michael Macor Inmates sleep in

three-high bunks in a gymnasium due to overcrowding at the Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga, one the most overcrowded prisons in California. Chronicle photo, 2006, by Michael Macor

Spending gap between higher education and prisons narrows



Source: State of California

The Chronicle

Prisons' budget to trump colleges'

No other big state spends as much to incarcerate compared with higher education funding

Monday May 21 2007

James Sternsoid, Chronicle Staff Writer

Are blacks treated equally under the Three Strikes Law and in the criminal justice system?

A few statistics say no.

- Blacks are under 7% of the population in California, yet they comprise 45% of the Third Strike population
- Whites are close to 50% of the state's population, yet comprise 25% of the Third Strikers.

Is that because Blacks commit more crimes, or is it because they are punished at a greater and harsher rate? According to the arrest statistics:

- Blacks are 22% of the felony arrests
- Whites are 37% of the felony arrests.

But, it's after the arrest that things change.

- There are **seven (7) times more whites** in the state than blacks. They (whites) are 28% of the prison population.
- Blacks, with less than 7% of the state's population, are **30%** of the prison population.

As cases move through the process into progressively harsher punishment, the proportion of whites diminishes while the proportion of blacks increases!

Let's begin to challenge these injustices by reforming the barbaric Three Strikes Law. Call **562.338.3021** and get involved. Join the Long Beach **Families to Amend California's Three Strikes - FACTS** chapter. **We meet the 2nd Saturday of every month at 2:30 pm at St Luke's Church - Atlantic and 7th.** Call the State office at **213.746.4844**

**Resolution to Assist in
Efforts to Amend California's Three Strikes Law**

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Long Beach with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has legislated and initiated a Three Strikes law which allows nonviolent and non-serious offenders to receive 25 years-to-life sentences or greater in prison; and

WHEREAS, such sentences are cruel and unjust, in violation of the 8th amendment to the constitution which requires proportionality in sentencing; and

WHEREAS, such sentences are increasing the State of California's tax burden by billions of dollars for a growing prison industrial complex when spending in other areas such as education are in desperate need of increased funding at a time when state and local governments are in crisis; and

WHEREAS, such sentences are upheld primarily against the poor and minorities, causing families to be destroyed, tax bases undermined and social services greatly affected; and

WHEREAS, drug addiction is the overwhelming cause of nonviolent crimes and drug addiction is a treatable sickness; and

WHEREAS, the Council must work towards improving the quality of life for all and enhance public safety in Long Beach by improving the City's ability to care for all its residents,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Long Beach City Council will assist in efforts to amend California's Three Strikes law so it is not applicable to nonviolent or non-serious offenses;

AND, THEREFORE, BE IT ULTIMATELY RESOLVED that our city will support some form of legislation or an initiative, which seeks to amend California's Three Strikes law so it is not applicable to nonviolent or non-serious offenses.

Long Beach City Council

**CALIFORNIA NEEDS BETTER SCHOOLS
SO WE WILL NOT NEED MORE PRISONS**

**ADOPT THE FEDERAL JUDGES RULING TO
REDUCE PRISON POPULATION BY
57,000
AND USE THE
\$2.5 BILLION
SAVINGS FOR
HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES**

**STOP PRISON EXPANSION BILL
AB 900**

**PROTEST CUTS IN EDUCATION AND
HEALTH CARE TO BUILD MORE PRISONS!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
FACTS OR **CURB**
(213) 746-4844 (323) 951-0436
www.facts1.net www.curbprisonspending.org

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- Become a member
- Call us for a membership form
- Join a chapter
- Call us for a location near you
- Form a chapter
- We will help
- Collect signatures on a petition
- Raise funds by selling tickets to freedom
- Contact your church or other organization
- We will send you a form
- Invite us to speak to your church or organization
- Call and give us your ideas

**For Information Call:
(213) 746-4844**

