“Prison Overcrowding”

Satiric Essay

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The issue of prison overcrowding has been present for many years but a working solution has never been implemented. Although many have been proposed, none have met the standards of the federal or even state governments for that matter. A viable solution that could very well do the job may not even loosely resemble some of the more traditional proposed solutions.

Quite contrary to the normal ‘incentive programs’ such as work release and community service that are thought to decrease crowding in our state and federal prisons, the new trend in controlling prison population could be SUPERCROWDING! While the super-population in the early stages of this program would only be temporary, the soon-effective results would be lasting.

If half of the prisons in the fine country were closed, forcing two times as many prisoners into one building, I think one might find the results very beneficial. First and foremost, closing those prisons would enable the government to cut taxes because not as many American tax-dollars would be required to run the system. The large portion of unneeded taxes being kept within the American public would boost the economy and we could possibly overcome this recession everyone is worried about.
The old prison buildings would be put to good use also. The conversion of the old buildings into community centers, public storage facilities or even daycares would also boost the feeling of community. What kid wouldn't want to hang out in a nice, creepy jail?

Of course this all raises the question: What about the dense population of prisoners? At first the prisons would be very crowded, cramped, and more than likely uncomfortable for the inmates. Isn’t that the true purpose of prison- for the cells to be stuffy and crowded? The penal system has really lost its true origins.

Nowadays prisoners live in with no worries. No wonder prisons are overcrowded. If the current punishment for robbery, for example, is three free meals a day, a recreation facility, and a library, then who wouldn’t want to live in a secure, modern-day castle? At the current time there is no down-side to being in prison.

If weapons were placed in strategic places in the vicinity of the more violent inmates, they may very well kill off some of the inmates that are clogging the cells and blocks of our prisons. I’d bet my last dollar that prison population would drop within the first week of this plan being implemented.

If, after all the revisions to the penal system, the population was still too outrageously high, some of the prisoners could work in a factory where only they would work. “Where
would we get the factory though?,’ some may ask. There are numerous factories that are
currently being worked by illegal immigrants. If the government ever figures out that problem,
the inmates could provide cheaper labor and would work longer hours.

If put into action, this method could do wonders for our penal system. It would be
cheap to implement and it wouldn’t take a large portion of the American tax dollars we are so
worried about wasting.