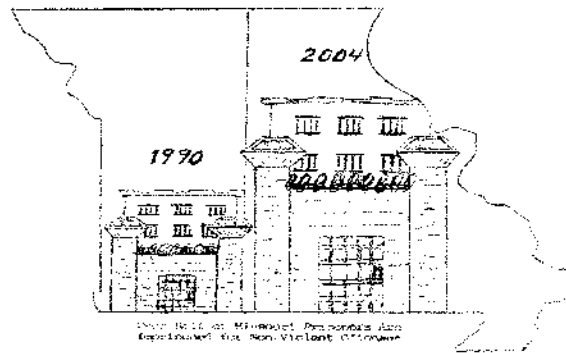


ing the woman looked nothing like her description, the man complained to prison officials that he had been conned.

The department's decision to cut off Internet pen-pal postings comes more than a year after Attorney General Jay Nixon asked a court in November 2005 to seize the assets of 33 female inmates who solicited money from pen pals they met over the Internet.

Since 1990 the State's Prison Population has Doubled



Today, one out of twenty white Missourians are under some form of correctional control

SLAMMER STATE

by Jon Marc Taylor #503273
CRCC, Cameron, MO.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice's, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Missouri now has the eighth highest imprisonment rate, while ranking fifteenth in state populations, in a country that has the highest imprisonment rate in the world. Reeves additionally pointed out that since 1990 the state's prison population had more than doubled, and that one out of 20 adult males (5%) are in prison, jail, or on probation or parole. This computes to over 100,000 Missourians under some form of correctional control.

A telling comparison

that was not mentioned in this widely discussed article was that there are more black males incarcerated in Missouri prisons than are enrolled on the state's college and university campuses, and as a national average this disgraceful ratio also holds true. Consequently more African-American men earn G.E.D.s in prison than receive university degrees. Except that is in Missouri, where even this minimally necessary education has been curtailed with the closing of schools in the state's largest prisons.

Reeves went on to point out that once incarcerated, non-violent offenders in Missouri serve more time, for an average of 31 months, than the national average of 28 months. This disparity may not seem like much, but it adds up to over 3,900 years of additional prison time that non-violent offenders currently serve. This in turn needlessly cost the taxpayers an extra \$50,000,000 in prolonged incarceration expenses beyond the national average.

While focusing on the undue costs of excessive and extended incarceration of non-

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