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'Three-Strikes' Will Make Things Worse

Editor — Rand's new study on "three-strikes" (Chronicle, September 22) reinforces what we all know and need to pay attention to: that "three-strikes" will bankrupt the state and make things worse instead of better. Consider the fact that the L.A. district attorney estimates that three-fourths of all people sent to jail on a "third-strike" conviction will not be there for a violent or serious felony.

According to Rand, over the next 25 years implementing "three-strikes" will cost the state an outrageous \$5.5 billion a year. I would rather see that money spent on after-school programs, safe parks, more libraries, computers in schools and jobs for youth that provide real opportunity — not just paper-hat fast-food stints.

Crime and violence are devastating our state emotionally and financially. We must take the situation seriously and apply solutions that will work to prevent crime and violence in the first place. Fortunately, I think the California voters are smarter than the California politicians, and will defeat Proposition 184 in November.

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