

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,
I, like most people, never gave much thought to the death penalty. About a year ago, however, I started reading in prestigious publications about the death penalty and some of the horrors associated with it. Now I am asking myself, "Why is it necessary?" Don't get me wrong: People who commit crime must receive appropriate sentencing. But the death penalty is not the answer, nor is it a deterrent to violent crime.

Capital punishment is cruel and immoral. Of course, I know that the hardened murderer is also cruel and immoral, but if we stop to think in terms of his punishment, we have become morally corrupted.

Especially I think of those who may be innocent of the crime of which they have been convicted. The vast majority of those on death row are the

poor and people of color. There can be no doubt that some innocent people have died because they had insufficient defense. Eighteen states that have death penalty laws do not have state-wide public defender organizations. Where public defender organizations do exist, they are frequently so under-funded that lawyers are assigned heavy case loads making it impossible for them to devote time to prepare for adequate defense. Thus, the accused is given the shaft.

In 1999, eight people on death row in the United States were found innocent of the crimes for which they had been convicted. Since 1973, eighty-four people have been exonerated after they had spent an average of 7.5 years on death row. How can these people and their loved ones be compensated for such gross injustice?

The severity of punishment for the same offensive varies considerably from one locality to another. The South accounts for 80% of the executions carried out in this country. In 1999, Kansas had two people on death row while Texas had the country with 443.

Senator Finegold recently remarked, "We are a nation that prides itself on the fundamental principles of justice, liberty, equality and due process. We are one of the first nations to speak out against torture and killings by foreign governments. It is time for us to look in the mirror." Leaders of the European Community have asked this proud nation to stop the practice of the death penalty.

Our politicians like to appear to be "tough on crime," each party trying to look a little more tougher than the other, so we wind up with a system of injustice. It is time for a change.

We must expand our thinking on this matter and modify our behavior in approaching a more equitable and

humane method of punishment. We Kentuckians now have a unique opportunity to do something about this horrible state of affairs. Our law makers in Frankfort will be considering the abolition of the death penalty during this session of the legislature. I plan to call my representatives in Frankfort and ask them to vote out this monster called the Death Penalty. I hope that you who read this newspaper will do the same. You may call 1-800-372-7181 and leave a message for your Senator and Representative. Ask them to vote to abolish the death penalty.

If you would like more information please note: Mr. Carl Wedekind will chair a discussion of the subject at the Union Church in Berea at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, February 12, 2000.

Sincerely,
Cameron Bartlett
Mt. Vernon, KY

Dear Editor & Mr. Thomas Welch,
Last year, you contacted me about the treatment and benefits of our active military personnel, and I wanted to update you on this situation.

Congress realized our soldiers needed our help, and we took steps to improve the quality of life for our men and women in the service. As you may have heard, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000, S. 1059. This legislation included a 4.8% pay increase for our soldiers effective January 1, 2000, made several improvements to the military's health care system, and reformed the military's retirement system, also called Redux. You will be happy to know that the President signed this legislation into law on September 5. I voted for the bill.

Also, Congress provided \$267.8 billion for the Department of Defense (DoD) in the fiscal year 2000 spending bill. This figure represents a 1.7% increase over the President's initial request of \$263.2 billion and a 4% increase over DoD funding for 1999. This bill was signed into law by the President on October 25.

During my years in Congress, I have been a strong supporter of the military and have worked to ensure that American soldiers are prepared and capable of facing any challenge. You can be sure I will continue to do what I can to support our troops.

Best personal regards,
Jim Bunning
United States Senator

Letter to the Editor:

The Project Graduation Committee would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their contributions to a great cause. We always appreciate the support our community gives toward Project Graduation.

We are making great plans for the Class of 2000 and would like to ask everyone to join us in the fun.

If you would like to make a donation please contact Myrna Childress

at 256-2125 or Rockcastle County High School 256-4816.

Those who have donated are Town & Country Chevron, Russell & Norma oak, Jeffrey T. Burdette, Mt. Vernon Signal, James & Dec Ann Miller, Mary Mathis, Lonnie & Teresa Yanzant, Mt. Vernon Scrap, Rose's One Stop/Parsons Gas, Wm. F. Stewart, Steven Comely, Broadhead Lion's Club, R&J Printing, Jenny Sweet.

The Project Graduation Committee

The Family Room

By Dr. Don Whitehead

Where Will We Get the Money to Pay the Bills?

Norm had come for counseling because his wife Vera insisted. (All characters are fictitious.) In fact, Vera had come with him for his first session "to make sure he tells the whole story," she proclaimed.

Vera quickly proceeded to tell me what was wrong with Norm. "He worries about money constantly," she said emphatically. "All I ever hear from him is 'how can we pay the bill?'"

Norm readily admitted that Vera was right. "I try not to worry, but I can't seem to stop," he told me. "It's like a tape recorder gets turned on in my head, and I can't turn it off. I know I bug Vera to death about how much she spends, and truthfully, she doesn't waste money. But that doesn't keep me from griping about it."

Vera continued to tell her story: "I just found out that when Norm retires he will have almost \$1,000,000 in retirement funds. A million dollars! Now that should take care of his worries, right? But it doesn't! The other day we went grocery shopping together, and he tried to get me to buy the cheap apple jelly rather than the good strawberry jam that our kids like. He said that was too much to pay for it. It only cost a dollar more! Please, Doc, you've got to fix it. I don't know how much more of this I can take."

Norm again agreed readily with Vera's story. "I know I worry about silly things like the cost of jam," he admitted, "but I also worry about the big things too. We have two kids in high school and both of them want to go to a private college. That costs \$20,000 per year per child! Where in

the world will we get that kind of money?"

"We can take it out of your retirement fund," Vera suggested.

"But then how will we afford to retire?" Norm asked. "I don't want to work my whole life!"

"See, no matter what I suggest, he finds some other way to worry," Vera said sadly. "He would enjoy life so much more if he could just stop worrying about money."

At first I thought Vera was just a meddling busybody who was trying to run her husband's life. We counselors see that sometimes. The more I listened though, the more I realized that she really loved Norm and wanted him to be happy. She was frustrated because she could not get through to him. For his part, Norm readily agreed

he had a problem that was making him unhappy. Acknowledging the problem is the first and most crucial step to getting better, so Norm was ahead of the game at this point.

One thing I did was to refer Norm to a psychiatrist for a medication consult. The doctor diagnosed Norm with an anxiety disorder and prescribed an anti-anxiety medication. While Norm did not like the idea of taking medication, he agreed to try. After two weeks he reported that his anxiety was less. "It's not the first thing I think of in the morning nor

Project Graduation News

The committee has begun to make plans for the Class of 2000 Project Graduation celebration. There will be a dance at the RCHS following the boys basketball game (which will also be senior night). Each student may bring one escort or companion (high school or older) by purchasing a ticket at school during lunch February 23, 24, 25. Admission \$3 single or \$5 couple.

Be sure to purchase a ticket for the April 1, 2000 drawing on a 1999 Mother's Day Special Longaberger Basket with \$10 gift certificate included.

Don't miss us at the Rocket Ball-games for "Split the Cash" tickets. You may be a lucky winner of half the proceeds of "Split the Cash" for the night.

For more information or questions, please contact Myrna Childress at 256-2125.

Next Project Graduation meeting Feb. 22, 2000, in RCHS library at 6:00 p.m. Everyone welcome.



Happy Birthday

The day has finally come, so I can say good-bye to my 30 years old today. I won't tell you her name. But from the three who loves her the most, wants to wish her a very Happy Birthday and I want to welcome her to the 30's Club. Ha! Ha! Guess Who!! P.S. You better show up on color for your hair, because the gray hair will start showing even more. Her initials are C.M.B. and loves to cut hair in Brodhead.

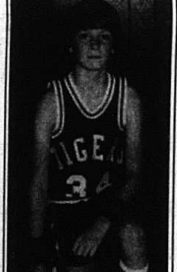
Again, Good Gosh Gerdie Look Who's 30!



Same hair cut but not the same age. Happy Birthday! Love, Wife & Kids



She cuts, curls, and colors our hair, to make us purry, now Celena Michele is turning thirty



Happy 30th Birthday Coach??? Love, from your family & friends

Hi, my name is Nathan Scott Lee Renner. I was born in the snow storm January 19, 2000. I weighed 6 lbs. 4.5 ozs and was 18 3/4 inches long. My parents are Scott and Renee Renner. They wanted to have me at the hospital but I didn't give them any time. I was born in my daddy's Geo Tracker in the front seat on that cold and snowy night. Everything is all right and it was really cold that night, but I thought I would give them the thrill of their lives that night. They thought I was a beautiful precious sight now that the chill and thrill is over. My mommy and daddy are alright and so am I because my daddy had to be my doctor that night and deliver me at Randall and Doris Durham's Tax Service in Aunt Doris' yard.

Doris, I really appreciated the towels you wrapped around me because my daddy was getting pretty sick about that time. I sure was getting cold. I want everyone to know I really appreciate everyone's help that night, especially my dad Doc Renner. You earned the doctor's name that night. Thanks to my Mamaw Martha Renner, I got stuck with the name Little Geo Tracker and that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

I was also welcomed home by my big brother, Austin Renner. My grandparents are Martha and Larry Renner of Chestnut Ridge and Bud and Connie Brewer of Sand Hill.

DO YOU WANT THE 10 COMMANDMENTS BACK IN PUBLIC PLACES AND OUR SCHOOLS????

PRAY & ATTEND THE FEBRUARY 15TH "10 COMMANDMENTS RALLY" CAPITOL BUILDING -- FRANKFORT, KY (12:30 pm EST) between the Capitol and Annex)

As you may know, Judge Executive David L. Bowers (Palmer) Cal, James Gross (McCreary) Cal and Superintendent Don Mauderlin (Helen Cal) have been told to ACLU for posting the 10 Commandments in public buildings and schools.

BRING CHURCH BUSES AND/OR VANS. FULL OF AMERICANS WHO WANT GOD'S LAWS TO BE PRESERVED AS HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

KENTUCKY JOINT RESOLUTION SJRS7 (which supports the KY statute KRS 15A.195) IS SCHEDULED TO BE BROUGHT UP FOR A VOTE TO PASS BEFORE THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 15, 2000 (EST). This Senate Resolution 57 puts the Ten Commandments, the precedent legal code of Kentucky and America, back in public buildings in their rightful "Historic" place. The 30-member Senate has 33 co-sponsors for Senator Robinson's Resolution. Many Senators volunteered, but if you want this passed, call your State Representative at 1-800-372-7181 and encourage him/her to pass this important Resolution.

YOUR PRESENCE AND YOUR CALLS WILL INFLUENCE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO VOTE "YES" TO SJRS7!

A convoy of buses, vans and cars will be heading to Frankfort, Kentucky NEED A RIDE? Contact the following numbers for a pick-up place in your locality Corbin - 606-523-9424; Somerset - 606-679-3442; Mt. Vernon - 606-256-0502; Albany - 606-387-3946; Whitley City/McCreary Co. - 606-376-2413 For information and locations of other transportation - call 1-800-486-8888

INTRODUCING



DR. P. SUNDARAM AMERICAN BOARD CERTIFIED FAMILY PRACTICE

Now in ADDITION to the Brodhead office we will be opening in February, 2000 a new location in Dr. Stewart's old office.

Accepting Medicare, Medicaid, and most other insurances.

All old patients of Dr. Stewart's are welcome and new patients are encouraged to visit our offices

For Information or to Schedule an Appointment Call 985-8200 or 758-4340

Attention

Medicaid Nurse Aide Training

The Rockcastle Area Technology Center will be conducting a Medicaid Nurse Aide Training.

If you are interested in this training to complete admission requirements for a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse Program or if you're just interested in working in this area, you may pick up a packet at the Rockcastle Area Technology Center.

The cost for the 75 hour training will be \$317.00. This price excludes liability insurance which you will be responsible for.

If interested please bring completed packet to the area center on Feb. 15, 2000 at 6 p.m. We will discuss class schedule and requirements at this time.

Rhonda Childress, Instructor
Phone 256-4346

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