

HOW MUCH TIME IS ENOUGH?

11/23/14: 4:30pm: LISTENING TO: MY CURSE; BY: KILLSWITCH ENGAGE

IT'S BEEN A LITTLE BIT SINCE MY LAST POST. WITH MY MOMS CANCER & MY LIFE JUST FALLING APART AROUND ME, THERE HASN'T BEEN MUCH TO SAY. I WAS READING THE PHILA DAILY NEWS PAPER & CAME ACROSS A STORY. I'VE SEEN ALOT OF MURDERERS. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVEN'T SEEN IN ALL OF THOSE CONVICTED MURDERERS? I HAVE MET HUNDREDS & I HAVE NEVER MET ONE WHO IS WEALTHY. & I DO KNOW THAT THERE ARE SOME WEALTHY ONES BUT I HAVE NEVER MET ONE. EVERY WEEK ON THE LOCAL NEWS I SEE WOMEN & MEN KILL THEIR KIDS. MAYBE 5 OUT OF 10 GET ALOT OF TIME, OUT OF THAT 5, 1 OR 2 GET LIFE. BUT I READ THIS STORY & THIS IS A STORY OF A WEALTHY MAN WHO BOUGHT HIS WAY OUT OF A LIFE SENTENCE. HE BEAT HIS WIFE TO DEATH WITH A PIECE OF EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, STAGED THE SCENE, PRETENDED IT WAS A BURGLARY GONE WRONG & THE PROSECUTION OFFERED HIM A DEAL OF 5-10 YEARS. PA PRISONS ARE SO OVERCROWDED & THE STATE HAS BEGUN CLOSING SCHOOLS, CUTTING THE EDUCATION BUDGET, JUST SO THEY CAN BUILD MORE PRISONS. WHAT PA SHOULD BE DOING IS TRYING TO STOP THIS PATTERN OF VIOLENCE & CRIME BEFORE IT EVEN BEGINS. PHILADELPHIA ALONE HAS OVER 1.5 MILLION RESIDENTS. & I'M TOLD THATS THE LARGEST POPULATION FOR A CITY IN PA. BUT THEY CONTINUE TO CLOSE MORE SCHOOLS BUT THEY HIRE MORE COPS. PENNSYLVANIA IS NOT FIXING THE PROBLEM. IT'S LIKE IN PRISON. WHEN YOU GET HURT OR SICK OR HAVE A DISEASE OR WHATEVER THE CAUSE FOR YOU TO GO TO THE MEDICAL DEPT., THEY DON'T FIX THE PROBLEM. THEY ONLY TREAT SYMPTOMS. THEY'LL TELL YOU, UNLESS YOUR PROBLEM IS LIFE THREATENING OR IT STOPS YOU FROM DOING DAILY ROUTINES, THEN YOU WILL NOT BE TREATED. THEY WILL ONLY TREAT THE SYMPTOMS. I KNOW A GUY WHO HAS A HERNIA, THE LPN TOLD HIM HE HAS TO ACTUALLY BE IN WORSE SHAPE FOR THEM TO APPROVE SURGERY TO FIX THE HERNIA. PENNSYLVANIA IS NOT FIXING THE PROBLEMS. WHAT KIND OF GOVERNOR IS WOLF GOING TO BE? WILL HE BE "TOUGH ON CRIME" OR WILL HE TRY TO HAVE PROGRAMS & PEOPLE TO HELP? WILL SCHOOLS BE REOPENED OR WILL MORE CLOSE? 2 MORE STATE PRISONS ARE SLATED TO BE OPENED NEXT YEAR. THATS OVER 5,000 MORE BEDS. THE PA D.O.C. CLAIMS THEY ARE GOING TO CLOSE DOWN SCI GRATERFORD BUT WE ALL THEY WONT. THOSE 2 PRISONS COST 5-600 MILLION BUCKS TO BUILD. THAT MONEY COULD HAVE WENT INTO REOPENING SCHOOLS. HELPING KIDS STAY OFF THE STREET CORNERS, OUT OF GANGS, AWAY FROM TROUBLE. WHEN YOU PACK 40+ KIDS INTO A CLASSROOM, THE CLASS, THE TEACHING BECOMES LESS EFFECTIVE. KIDS WHO NEED HELP WONT GET IT FROM JUST 1 TEACHER IN A CLASS OF THAT SIZE. A FRIEND OF MINE NAMED BOBBY HAS BEEN HERE 40 YEARS. I DON'T KNOW HIS CRIME BUT HE DOES HAVE A LIFE SENTENCE. IN 40 YEARS BOBBY GOT MARRIED, HAD A FAMILY, HIS WIFE

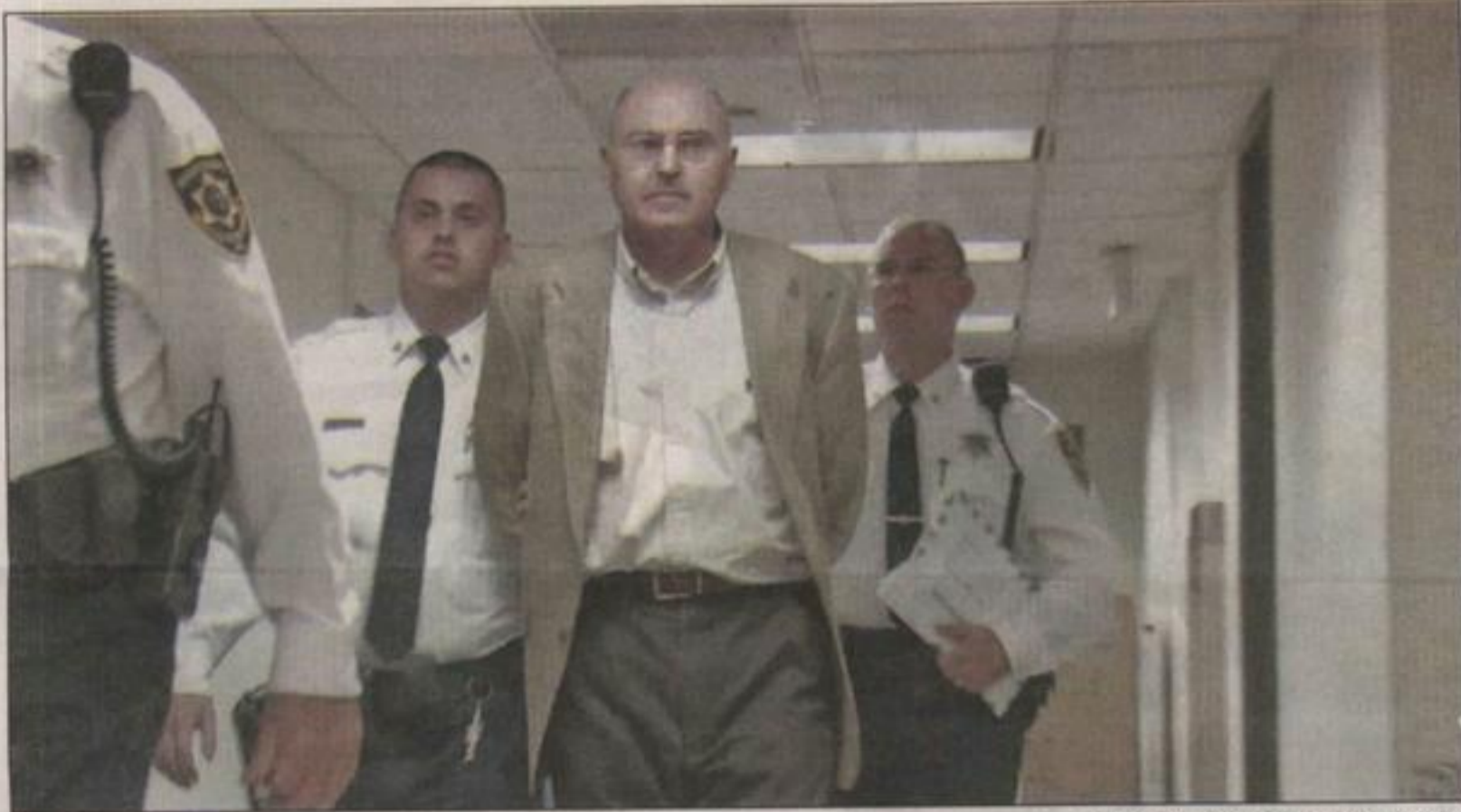
MOVED TO THIS AREA TO BE CLOSER TO HIM SO SHE COULD VISIT EVERY WEEK. BOBBY HAS NEVER BEEN IN TROUBLE, NEVER HAD A MISCONDUCT (THAT'S THEY WRITE ON YOU IF YOU DO SOMETHING WRONG) & BOBBY HAS HELD A STEADY JOB IN HERE FOR 35 YEARS. HE MAKES 42¢ PER HOUR WORKING. HE IS IN HIS LATE 60'S. TODAY HE JUST FILLED OUT HIS CLEMENCY PAPERS IN THE LAW LIBRARY. I TOLD HIM THAT IF ANYONE DESERVED, HE DOES. HE IS A MODEL PRISONER & WILL HELP ANYONE, STAFF OR PRISONER, WITH A PROBLEM IF HE CAN HELP. HE'S AN OLD MAN WHO WANTS TO DIE AT HOME WITH HIS FAMILY. IN MY 11 YEARS HERE, I HAVE NEVER EVEN HEARD THE MAN CURSE. BUT PENNSYLVANIA DOESN'T NORMALLY GIVE CLEMENCY TO PRISONERS. IT'S ALMOST ALWAYS DENIED. SO INSTEAD OF GIVING SOMEONE LIKE BOBBY A CHANCE, THEY WOULD RATHER BE TOUGH ON CRIME (THEY WANT WHAT THEY SAY) & KEEP HIM HERE UNTIL HE DIES. BOBBY COSTS THE TAXPAYERS ABOUT \$65,000 PER YEAR TO KEEP HIM HERE. WOULDN'T THAT MONEY BE BETTER USED HELPING KIDS NOT TURN INTO WHO BOBBY WAS 40 YEARS AGO? IF PA IS SO TOUGH ON CRIME, WHY DID THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OFFER THIS MAN A PLEA DEAL OF 5-10 YEARS FOR BEATING HIS WIFE TO DEATH & THEN TRYING TO COVER UP THE CRIME? THEY'RE TOUGH ON THE POOR BUT NOT THE RICH, & SADLY, BOBBY IS NOT RICH & SINCE HE DOESN'T HAVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, HE'LL PROBABLY BE DENIED CLEMENCY. WELL I'LL BE PRAYING FOR BOBBY TO BE ABLE TO GO HOME & BE WITH HIS WIFE & CHILDREN & WATCH HIS GRANDCHILDREN GROW UP.

IT WAS RECENTLY POINTED OUT TO ME THAT I DON'T DO PARAGRAPHS, I TEND TO RUN ON & ON MAKING MY WRITINGS 1 HUGE PARAGRAPH. I APOLOGIZE FOR THIS & I WILL TRY TO DO BETTER.

ON A FINAL NOTE, I MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER PRISON THIS WEEK. THE PA D.O.C. STAFF, NOT ALL BUT A LOT, THEY TREAT MENTALLY ILL PRISONERS VERY BADLY. & AFTER MANY LAWSUITS, THEY ARE BEING FORCED TO DO BETTER, TO TREAT THEM BETTER. SO MANY MENTALLY ILL PRISONERS FROM OTHER PRISONS ARE BEING SENT HERE & A LOT OF PRISONERS FROM HERE ARE BEING SENT TO OTHER PRISONS. SO WITH MY MOM FIGHTING CANCER, NOW I HAVE ANOTHER HEADACHE TO WORRY ABOUT. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE SENT EVEN FURTHER FROM MY FAMILY. I REALLY DON'T GET MANY VISITS ANYMORE AS IT IS BUT BEING 6+ HOURS FROM HOME, I WOULD GET EVEN LESS.

WELL I GUESS THAT'S ALL FOR THIS WEEK. TAKE CARE, GET READY FOR WINTER, & I HOPE EVERYONE HAS A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON. I'LL BE 38 IN 7 MORE DAYS. IT'S BEEN A VERY LONG 17 YEARS. GOD BLESS, CIAO.

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DAVID SWANSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former Penn professor Rafael Robb is serving a prison sentence for his wife's death, but her relatives want to be sure he can't live the good life on his many assets upon his release.

Civil case vs. killer prof proceeds

Slain wife's family ready to jump all over his assets

BY JENNY DeHUFF

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HIS CASE never went to trial, but suburban wife-killer Rafael Robb has another chance to make his case before a judge — this time in defending his assets.

The civil-jury trial in the estate of Ellen Gregory Robb v. Rafael Robb, the ex-Penn professor who bludgeoned his wife to death in 2006, begins today in Montgomery County Court. Robb will be hauled in from state prison to defend himself. Their only daughter, Olivia, also is expected to testify.

Lawyers for Ellen Robb are seeking "substantial" compensatory and punitive damages from Robb under the state's Wrongful Death and Survival Act. He reportedly has considerable assets and investments at stake.

"This is to make sure that Rafael

Robb, who controlled people with money his whole life, can't do that anymore," said Robert J. Mongeluzzi, who's representing Ellen Robb's estate in the suit.

"The family has always wanted Rafael Robb on the stand to be cross-examined and [to] account for what he did," Mongeluzzi said.



Ellen Robb

The case gained national attention in 2006 when Robb, a University of Pennsylvania economics professor, clubbed his wife to death with an exercise bar in their King of Prussia home just

two days before Christmas. She had been wrapping presents in the kitchen when the couple began arguing over what to do with their 12-year-old daughter over the holiday in the midst of their divorce.

Robb staged the scene to appear like a burglary to account for the killing. Police later said that Ellen's face and body had been beaten beyond recognition.

Robb pleaded guilty to manslaughter and is serving a five-to-10-year sentence. The civil suit seeks to recover what it can from Robb before he is released.

Mongeluzzi said he would try to show that the woman's death and botched coverup were "so brutal, so heinous, it is beyond human comprehension."

Opening statements are scheduled for this morning before Judge Thomas M. Del Ricci. ■

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