



JOHNNY MAHAFFEY SAYS:
"It's better to die out, than fade away!"

02.16.15

There's a lot of hype on local news here concerning the "death penalty," or rather, South Carolina's lack of follow through--due to all the red-tape concerned in killing a public citizen for the gain of the whole. Really I don't see what all the guys on death row are whining about--if the law was to change, it would just give them life without parole. Is that any less un-Constitutional, or cruel and unusual?

I support the death penalty.

Some repeat offenders, rapists, and child molesters, deserve it. Some are just beyond all hope, some deserve mental hospitalization (something this state has tried to deny; with some 20 percent of its prison population qualifying for mental health, and a separate--costly--asylum), some prisoners do, however, exhibit change. I see most that don't deserve a second chance; but there are many that do. The legal system is broken. There should be a parole system in place. Only those nonviolent offenders, or those that came to prison prior to the mid-90s have parole--everyone else does not. Life without the chance of parole is handed out to many first time offenders like myself that are wrongly convicted, innocent of the charges. It's odd, because I see crack heads flow through here like water back onto the streets, knowing they'll be right back. While those like myself, who'd never come back, are stuck. It's as if they know, they know that I'm not a criminal, so therefore by releasing me they lose money, and my noncriminal life would decrease the recidivism rate. South Carolina is deep in the game of making crime a thing of profit--using crime to justify costs of mass incarceration.

Yet, you'll find many psychologists, and criminologists agree: To fix the problem, society must attack crime--not the criminal. Society creates crime through lack of education, income inequality, and failures in providing for the poor, or mentally ill. To remove crime, society has to remove the need for it--or at least the perceived need. Do that, and they'll be a reduction in criminals. Those already buried in prison--many--can still be saved. Instead of catering to the egos of authorities, try teaching prisoners how to lead better lives; so that they can return to their family, raise their children so as not to repeat the process, to live right. We don't need more police officers--we need more good jobs. This is a rich eat poor society, and on many levels we should be ashamed of it.

Some are trying to make it better--SCDC is doing positive things. Lately some positive changes have occurred here. But those on death row, in the face of life without parole, may be better where they're at. But that's just my opinion. Mass incarceration is a sin against humanity.

And life without parole; is cruel and unusual punishment.

The U.S. will figure that out one day; that there is a better way.

A way that doesn't sustain broken home syndrome, BHS.

(A societal disease, self-inflicted.)