

1996 to 136 in 2004. With the Supreme Court ruling there is a "national consensus" that the execution of alleged murder suspects younger than 18 at the time of the crime is cruel and unusual punishment, 20 state laws were invalidated and 70 juveniles had their death sentences lifted nationwide, including Texas which had 28 of them. This is a long overdue step towards preventing further murder. The fact that 117 people were falsely sentenced to death before their exoneration, and hundreds more are waiting to have their evidence of innocence heard, there can be no doubt that the states have murdered many innocent people like Cameron Willingham. Cameron was murdered last year for an arson that never occurred. "We cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing. We cannot defend life by taking life," Cardinal Theodore McCarrick told a Washington news conference. It is time for everyone to step up and begin practicing what they preach.

### **CHARGING INTO BATTLE?**

by Timothy J. Muise

When displaying our proud American flag there are protocols one must observe to show it proper respect. One of the main protocols is that any time a flag is displayed the field of stars should be to the visual left of the image. This is a hard and fast rule.

The United States Marine Corp, one of our proudest branches of the armed services, petitioned the Department of the Navy to be allowed to display the United States flag patch on their uniforms with the field of stars to the right. This request was made as the honorable Marine Corp, being the first soldiers to "Charge Into Battle," thought it would offer a more accurate depiction of the stars and stripes on a pole while being carried by a charging Marine. The Department of the Navy approved the request and the Marines of today wear our flag in such a manner as they "Charge Into Battle."

A few years ago, the corrections officers here in the fine state (Massachusetts) changed their uniform style from the typical police style they had worn for many years, to a "combat fatigue-paramilitary" style. A suit to fit their attitude, if I may. Although they petitioned no one for the right, they also chose to display a flag patch with the field of stars facing the right. No doubt they now equate themselves with Marines and are themselves "Charging Into Battle." The sad part of this fact is that the war they are waging consists of abuse and mistreatment of the weak and less fortunate, and their uniform and flag display choice are indicative of the seriously flawed attitude the guards "Charge" into work with each day. Their job description is for care, custody and control, not battle. Caring for our Commonwealth's prisoners is not a war, but a duty which must be carried out with care, diligence and thought toward the fact that the men and women who occupy our state's correctional facilities will, in 95% of the cases, be returning to the streets of our cities and towns. The focus of the guards must be on playing a major role in ensuring successful reintegrations and effective public safety.

We cannot tolerate the "Charging Into Battle" mentality. Caging a man, torturing him and then unleashing him upon an unsuspecting populace is surely not the way to operate. The new Commissioner of Corrections has swept away a bit of the deadwood, and I pray her quasi-house cleaning continues, but we as convicts must do our part to make certain the abuses hidden behind prison walls are revealed and that the long-term ramifications of these abuses upon public safety are realized.

We prisoners cannot display flags but we can "Charge Into Battle!"

### **WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS?**

by Timothy Fletcher

I think it would be a pretty safe bet that the founders of our country had no idea the country would turn out the way it has.

The brilliant minds that wrote the Constitution must be spinning in their graves at what the government has become. The Constitution was written with a series of checks and balances in order to keep any one branch of the government from gaining too much power. Somehow, I don't think the founders of this country thought about the consequences of all the branches of government gaining too much power.

The Federal system of government was supposed to be, and designed to be, a system with minimal governmental intervention into the lives of it's private citizens. Our duly elected officials have gone way off the beaten track in this respect.

Little by little, our freedoms that we've enjoyed for decades are slowly being taken away. Almost imperceptibly, so we don't really notice at first, but when we wish to do something, it is suddenly against the law. This trend will continue as long as nobody cries foul about it.

We now have the office of "Homeland Security." Do we really need this? This new department of government is nothing more than yet another horrendous waste of tax dollars that could be put to much better use elsewhere.

Homeland Security is especially hard on ex-prisoners, because of the ridiculously extensive background checks that can now be done for "employment" purposes. These background checks directly defy the ideology of a "Federal" system of self-government with minimal government intervention in our lives.

The Office of Homeland Security was set up "to protect the citizens of the United States from terrorists." What happens when our government is the threat of terror to its citizens?

The only thing Americans truly need protection from is their own government!

### **Thousand Wrongly Convicted Because of Poverty!**

by Hope Yen, Associated Press

Thousands of suspects unable to afford lawyers are wrongly convicted each year because they are pressured to accept guilty pleas or have incompetent attorneys, says the American Bar Association in a report.

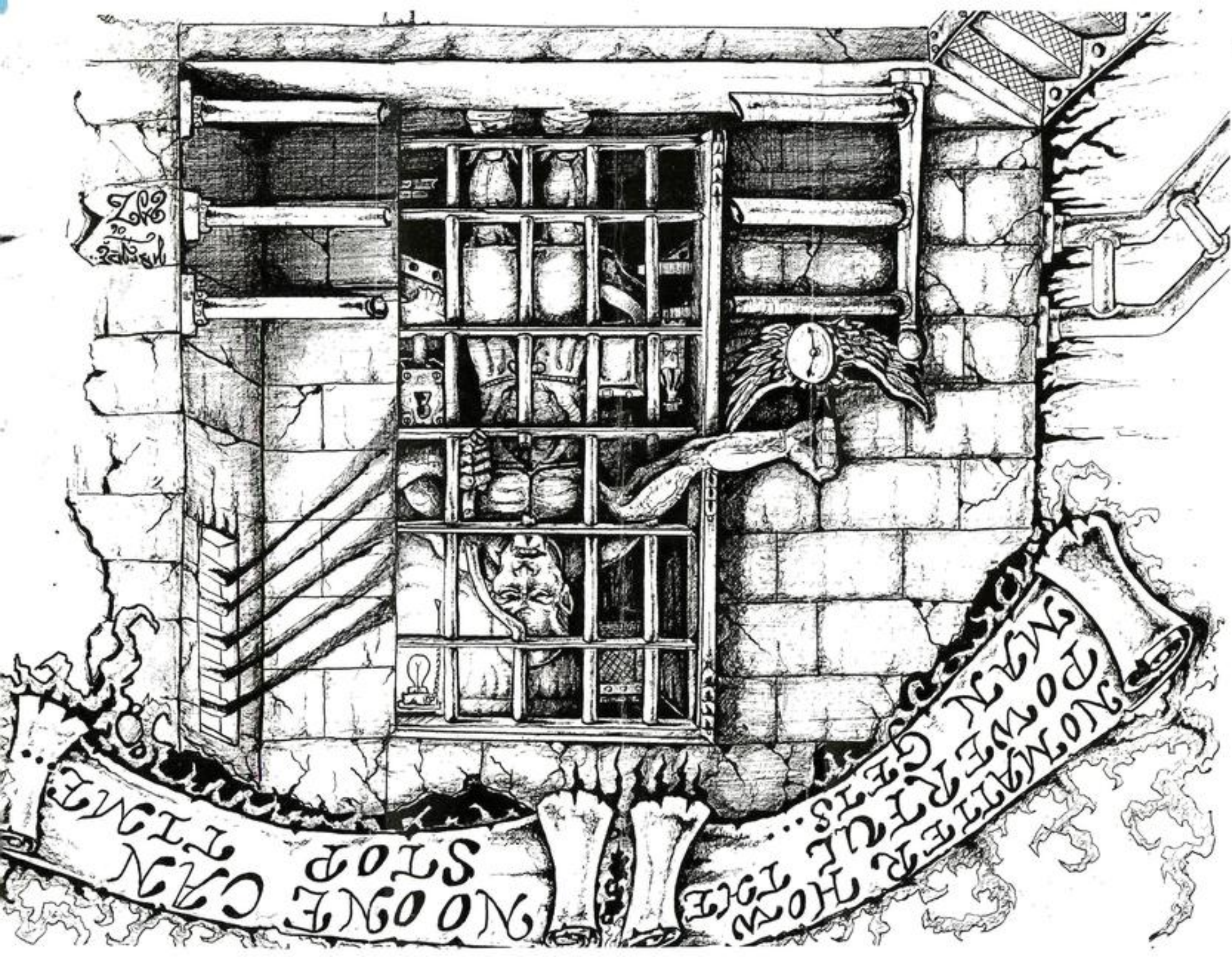
The study by a committee of the nation's largest lawyers' group says that legal representation of indigents is in "a state of crisis." These defendants are at constant risk of wrongful conviction and unjust punishment, including the death penalty, according to the study released February 12, 2005.

"The fundamental right to a lawyer that Americans assume apply to everyone accused of criminal conduct effectively does not exist in practice for countless people across the United States," the study states. "All too often, defendants plead guilty, even if they are innocent, without really understanding their legal rights."

The ABA committee wants Congress and local governments to spend more money and create oversight groups to guard against shoddy legal representation. Judges also are asked to be more vigilant in ensuring defendants have competent counsel.

It has been more than 40 years since the Supreme Court





L.B.  
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NO ONE CAN  
STOP TIME

NO MATTER HOW  
LONG WE GET...



cousins and seeing that we have the holiday season coming up, I think this just might be appropriate.

### **To a Keeper**

One day someone's husband died, and on that clear, cold morning, in the warmth of their bedroom, the wife was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. No more hugs, no more special moments to celebrate together, no more phone calls just to chat, no more "just one minute". Sometimes, what we care about the most gets all used up and goes away...never to return before we can say good-bye, say "I love you."

So while we have it, it's best we love it... and care for it and fix it when it's broken... and heal it when it's sick. This is true for marriage.. and old cars... and children with bad report cards and dogs with bad hips and aging parents and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep—like a best friend who moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make us happy, no matter what. Life is important, like people we know who are special...and so, WE keep them close!

I received this from someone who thought I was a Keeper! Then I sent it to the people I think of in the same way. Now

it's your turn to send this to all those who are Keepers in your life.

Thank you for being a special part of my life!  
You're a Keeper!

People will not always remember what you said. People will not always remember what you did. But people will always remember how you made them feel. No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Take care and may God bless you all.

I would like to thank those of you that have sent me cards over the years. Some are birthday cards, some are holiday cards, some are cards to thank me for helping with a problem and then there are some that are sent for no other reason but to send it. I have kept them all in a scrap book and when I'm feeling like I may not be doing you much good, I get that scrap book out and go through it. It lifts my spirits and brightens my day. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

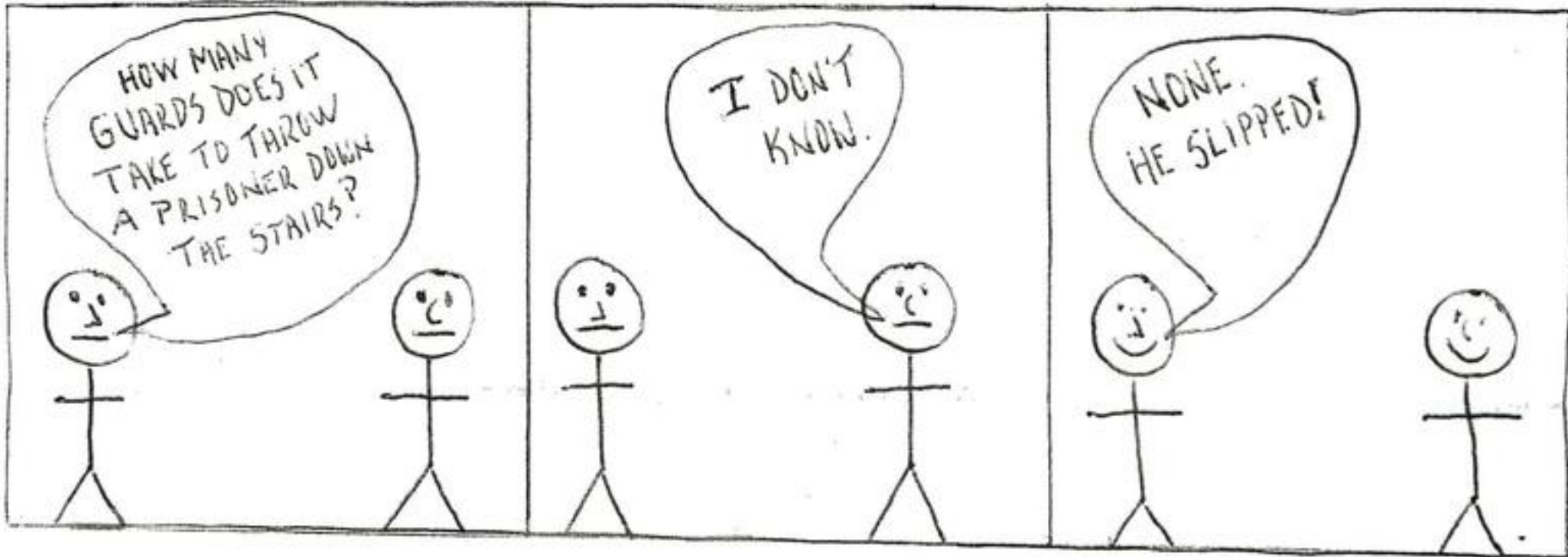
I would also like to thank those of you that have sent me suggestions for the JDC. They are appreciated and I am considering several of them for here in Mass.



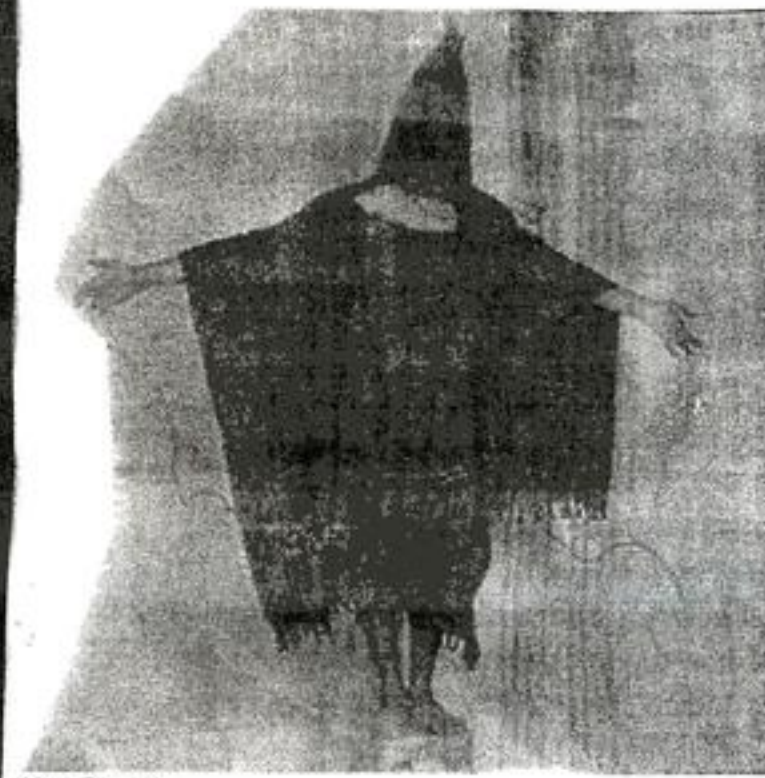
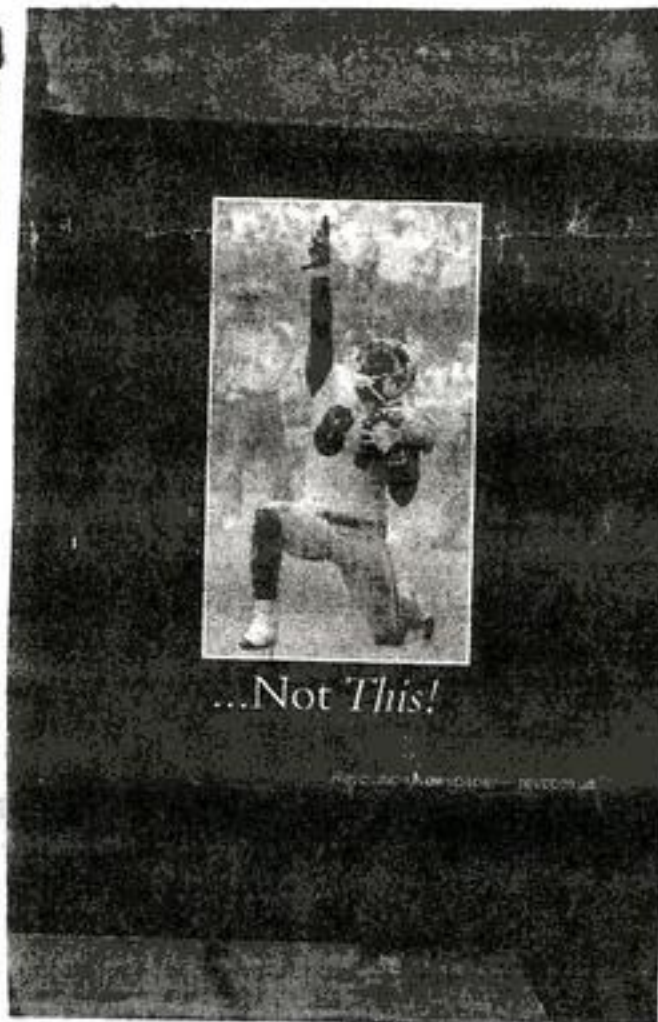
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## NO TALENT COMIX



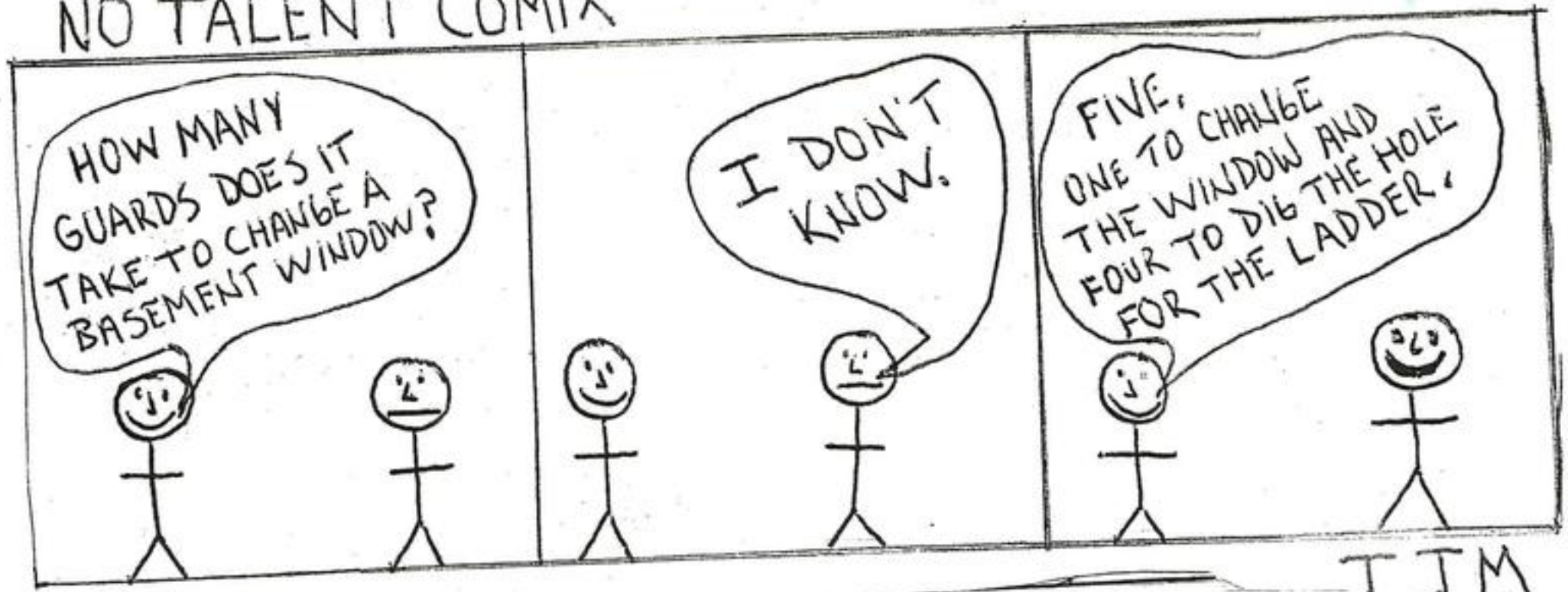
TIM



Abu Ghraib



# NO TALENT COMIX



TJM

Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

## THE WIZARD OF ID



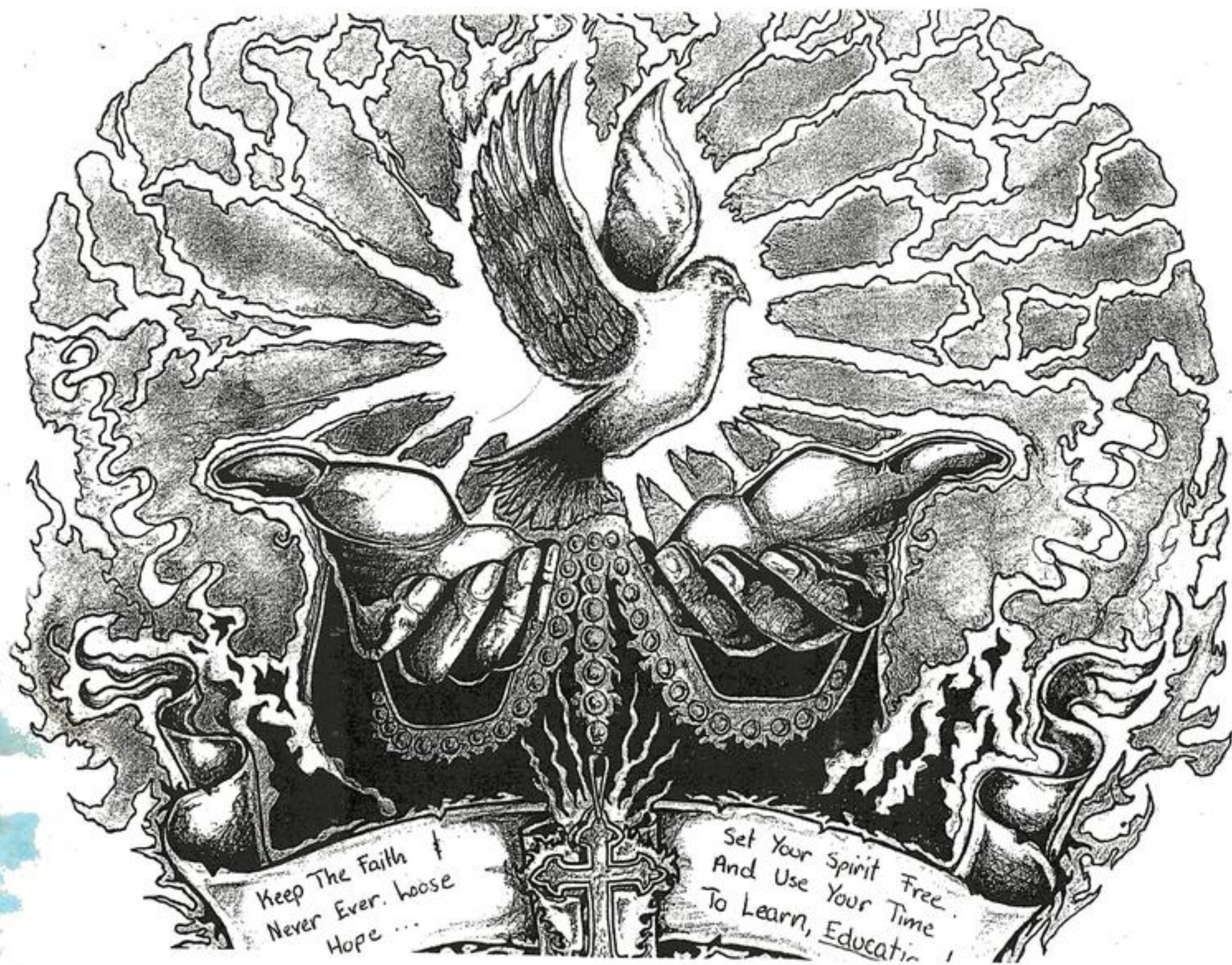
## GLEE CLUB



#58

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Keep The Faith |  
Never Ever. loose  
Hope ...

Set Your Spirit Free.  
And Use Your Time  
To Learn, Education