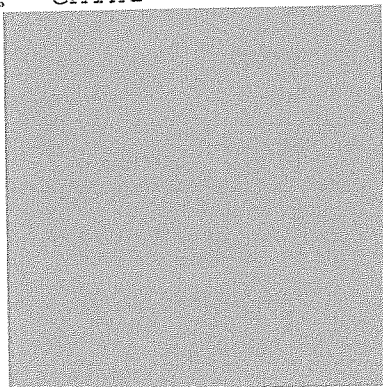


ESSAY CONTEST

SUBJECT: LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE INSTEAD OF
DEATH PENALTY

BELLOW COLLEGE LEVEL

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THE UNITED STATES HOUSES MORE WOMEN CONDEMNED TO DIE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD USUALLY WE REMAIN INVISIBLE TO SOCIETY UNTIL WE HAVE OUR EXECUTION DATE SET. I BELIEVE ITS BECAUSE SOCIETY DOES NOT WANT TO FACE THE REALITY THAT THEY WILL BE KILLING MOTHERS, GRANDMOTHERS, DAUGHTERS, AND SISTERS.

IF YOU TAKE A LOOK BACK IN THE UNITED STATES HISTORY FIVE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN LEGAL EXECUTIONS WERE PERFORMED. THE OLDEST BEING SIXTY FIVE AND THE YOUNGEST BEING ONLY TWELVE YEARS OF AGE. ITS APPARENT AGE HAS NO BEARING ON OUR BARBARIC SOCIETY.

EXECUTIONS IN THE EARLY EIGHTEEN HUNDREDS WERE PUBLIC CARNIVALS HELD IN THE CENTER OF THE TOWN IMMEDIATELY AFTER SENTENCINGS. WOMEN WERE NOT ALLOWED TO ATTEND. THE WOMAN WOULD BE PLACED ON SCAFFOLDS AND HUMILIATED BEFORE CROWDS OF MEN WHO CHEERED. MUCH LIKE TODAY, THEY STILL HAVE A CHEERING SECTION.

WOMEN SENTENCED TO DEATH ARE USUALLY FIRST TIME OFFENDERS. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THESE WOMEN COME FROM ABUSIVE FAMILIES AND FALL PREY TO ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS. THERE'S A BOOK CALLED A FORGOTTEN POPULATION, THE AUTHOR SHOWS ALMOST HALF OF THE LADIES ON DEATH ROW HAVE A HISTORY OF ABUSE AND ARE THERE FOR THE MURDER OF AN ABUSIVE SPOUSE OR LOVER. WHEN A WOMAN STRIKES BACK AT HER ABUSER AND KILLS HER PARTNER THEY ARE GIVEN LONGER AND MORE SEVERE PRISON SENTENCES THAN MEN.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO MANY WOMEN WHO WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH GOT REVERSALS AND SENTENCE MODIFICATION TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE UPON APPEAL. A MAN WHO BRUTALLY ABUSES A WOMAN AND FINALLY GOES TOO FAR WITH THE ABUSE AND KILLS HER WILL GET A MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE THAT CARRIES A FIFTEEN YEAR SENTENCE, GETTING OUT AT HALF OF THE TIME SERVED. OBVIOUSLY WOMEN ARE NOT SENTENCED ACCORDING TO GUIDELINES.

WHEN YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE OVERALL POPULATION OF THE WOMEN'S PRISONS IN CALIFORNIA THERE ARE LESS HEINOUS CRIMES THAT RECEIVED THE DEATH PENALTY IN LIEU OF A LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE SENTENCE. ITS NOT THE CRIME THAT CARRIES THE STIGMA OF THE WORSE OF THE WORSE BUT THE DEATH SENTENCE.

THERE HAS TO BE A STOP PUT TO OUR BOUNTY HUNTING BARBARIC POLITICIANS USING THE DEATH PENALTY AS A CONVENIENT TOOL TO GET ELECTED AND PUSH THE ATTENTION AWAY FROM THEIR INABILITY TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS THAT CONTINUALLY CONTRIBUTE TO CRIME.

FALSE IMPRESSIONS ARE BEING GIVEN THAT WITH SUCH TOUGH MEASURES BEING TAKEN THERE WILL SOON BE NO CRIME IN OUR SOCIETY BECAUSE OF THE SO CALLED NUMBER ONE DETERENT. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE DEATH PENALTY IS A MORE EFFECTIVE DETERENT THAN LONG PRISON TERMS. NON DEATH PENALTY STATES HOMICIDAL CRIME RATES ARE NO LOWER THAN DEATH PENALTY STATES OVER ALL.

AS A PRODUCTIVE CITIZEN OF SOCIETY I VOTED AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY. I HAVE NEVER FELT SOCIETY SHOULD DECIDE ON A PERSONS DEATH. OUR SOCIETY IS VERY MUCH CONFUSED. THEY WILL SAY THEY ARE AGAINST ABORTIONS BECAUSE ITS MURDER, DENYING LIFE TO AN UNBORN CHILD IS WRONG. WHEN ON THE OTHER HAND THEY SUPPORT THE DEATH PENALTY. IN MY HEART I FEEL GOD NUMBERED ALL OF OUR DAYS ON EARTH AND DID NOT GIVE MAN THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THAT.

TO HEAR SOMEONE SAY TO KILL A MURDERER BY THE DEATH PENALTY BRINGS CLOSURE FOR A VICTIMS FAMILY IS ABSURD. NOTHING WILL BRING CLOSURE TO THAT. WHAT ABOUT THE FAMILY OF THE MURDERER? ARE THEY NOT VICTIMS OF THE STATE? ITS JUST A VISCIOUS CIRCLE.

IF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT SENDS A MESSAGE TO SOCIETY, THE MESSAGE IS ON THE DECLINING VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE.

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