



ILLUSTRATION BY CODY COX

Prison means punishment, not playtime

BY PHIL MAIORANO

I'd like to address the topic of our justice system. It is painfully obvious that dangerous, violent felons are being released from prison without serving much more than a fraction of their original sentence.

There is actually a system in use right now by many states that allows a convict to subtract an day from his/her sentence for every day that he displays good behavior. That cuts the sentence in half before any of the other incentive programs are taken into consideration by the parole board. I can see the parole hearing now.

"Let's see. He raped his girlfriend's six-month-old infant two years ago, but he didn't kill anyone in the prison within the past 24 months. He is obviously rehabilitated. Set him free." You may laugh at that scenario, but there is documented fact that this happens almost on a daily basis. It is unbelievable that convicts now get rewarded for not slaying any of their fellow inmates.

The main argument in favor of this early-release program is the fact that prisons are overcrowded. Well, God forbid if prisons are uncomfortable. Excuse me, but isn't that the purpose of serving time? To make it unpleasant in order to deter criminals from making a career out of crime?

I know. It is also supposed to rehabilitate the criminal and teach him/her how to co-exist with the rest of society. I thought that is what the parents and teachers tried to do before these incorrigible hoodlums decided to rape and rob the decent people of society.

In 1987, the state of Massachusetts released a convicted murderer by the name of Willie Horton on a furlough program to visit his family. Horton was in prison for murdering a man and stuffing his genitals in his mouth. During his furlough, Horton tied up a man and made him watch while Horton raped the man's wife.

Do you really think that the quick jerk of the rope from around Willie Horton's neck would have been as cruel and as unusual of a punishment as what that couple was going through, helplessly enduring this animal's attack? For his punishment, the cops should have tied up Horton and untied the husband.

It is absolutely ludicrous that the convicts of the Riker's Island jail in New York receive such comforts of home such as cable television, telephone privacy and individual climate control (heat and air conditioning) for each cell. Our public schools cannot afford new books each year and many senior citizens, who have worked hard all of their lives, are barely getting by on social security. Do the individual states and the federal government worry about them?

Obviously those facets of government are more concerned that convicted murderers and rapists are comfortable in their cells than they are about the future generations or the past generations who through their years of hard work have forged this nation into what it is today.

Am I in favor of the death penalty? You bet I am. A majority of the people on death row are living 10 times better than they did before they became incarcerated. For the many years before they are actually put to death

often in upward of 25 years these criminals receive hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of food, shelter, guard service, health benefits, and legal counseling.

It seems ironic to me that individuals on death row receive full medical benefits. The main reason for all of this time in between the sentencing and the execution is because of the multiple appeals the criminal can file for.

The convicted murderer, Robert Alton Harris, who was recently executed is a perfect example of this. In short, he stole two teenagers' car with them in it and proceeded to shoot them both. When one boy pleaded for his life, he told him to "stop crying and die like a man." After 14 years of appeals, he was executed in the California gas chamber. It is true that this man ultimately paid for his crime with his life, but it is also true that he experienced 14 more years of life than either of the boys he brutally murdered.

There is a way to end all of this red tape. Allow the convict one and only one appeal. After that has been denied, he/she should be dead by the end of the week—no questions asked. For those of you liberals who are outraged by capital punishment, I have one thing to say: You can tell me how terrible the death penalty is only after it is your mother, sister or child who is viciously raped and killed.

Liberals think two wrongs don't make a right and the death penalty doesn't discourage other crimes from being committed. Well, it will certainly discourage the felon who is dead. Let's start with him and worry about the others as they come.

not unusual. What is more poignant, however, is that so many Africans with so few resources refused to give in and never stopped fighting the racist machine.

In this month designated for Black History, I believe it's important for Africans to reflect on the indomitable spirit that has brought us through some of the worst times in documented history. We must continue to cling to that spirit the ancestors have bequeathed to us. We must never stop fighting back, for if we do then we are nothing more than 20th-century slaves. Get the picture?

Notes from the School of Afrikan Philosophy

handcuffs—once you resign yourself to the fact that those restraints are permanent—then you become my prisoner or my slave.

We need to understand that a loss of the will to be free designates one as a slave and mind control is essential if this process is to occur. The dehumanization of Africans is the greatest atrocity ever perpetrated against man. The fact that some Africans gave in to this assault on the mind is

Letters to the Editor



Speaking engagement or family vacation?

I find it so ridiculous to hear the black community using the phrase "racism" as in the case of Yolanda King. The individuals who keep attacking the senators are racists.

They never once thought of contacting this "great" speaker to ask if she would maybe consider appearing for a lesser fee. Or perhaps they could have used all this energy to start some type of drive to raise funds which could help the senators to bring Yolanda King to campus. But, to the point of the matter, the fee that this individual is asking is not the only problem. It is somewhat acceptable. What is unacceptable is the fact that she also wants two hotel rooms with all expenses paid! Come on now, are we paying to have a world-class speaker or are we paying for the King's family vacation? I think we should start a drive and have every student who wants this speaker make a small donation and work together and see what we can do.

E. Fredenburg
criminal justice

Student elections for CSUN insiders

Isn't Student Government supposed to be composed of "students serving students?" It seems that we have yet another case of "students serving themselves." This time it is a little more serious because it will affect the whole student population for another year.

How many of you know the elections for Student Body President, Vice President and Senate President are coming up in a few weeks? I'll bet even fewer of you knew the deadline (Feb. 11) for applying has passed.

Well, it is not your fault, that is exactly the response that was desired. Is there an easier way for a president to win an election than to have his employee (in this case, the elections board director) just not announce it?

At this point, Student Body President Joel Kostman would probably say, "It was advertised!" The elections were advertised on the Student Government page on Feb. 11 and a week before that on Feb. 4." Well, he is right. I really cannot argue with that since it is factual. But what I would say is that it was not effective! And I think you, the students, would agree.

However, let's just humor Kostman. Let's suppose that one ad in two editions of *The Rebel Yell* was indeed enough. How many of you know what "executive

board filing" means? I'll bet very few. This is precisely why this wording was chosen. Nowhere on the ad does it even mention the offices of Student Body President, Vice President or Senate President.

I guess I've dealt with specifics enough. Maybe, I should say this behavior is simply typical of the way Student Government operates. It's an attitude of keeping CSUN outsiders out and CSUN insiders in. And I guess it has worked again this year.

Clarence White
senior

Recycling efforts are inadequate on campus

I have noticed during my stay at UNLV that our current recycling system seems to be non-existent.

Every day I see pounds of recyclable material thrown away in the trash bins. I have stayed in various dormitories across the country and I noticed that all of them had very efficient recycling programs for dorm residents.

It is very disturbing to me that UNLV, as a very powerful and well-known university, cannot provide an important recycling program to its students. Three simple barrels to separate the recyclable material is all it would take to efficiently acquire proper recycling material. Las Vegas already carries a recycling program and it seems to me we should also as fellow members of this desert society.

Arthur J. Delap

Litter belongs in a can not on ground

I am writing this letter because I am concerned about the litter problem on the UNLV campus.

In my opinion, there are plenty of trash cans and cigarette disposal cans, but all I see are cigarette butts all over the walkways and in the grass. Most of them are on the ground beside the can which is put there for their disposal.

I hope the students who don't care where they throw their trash aren't the same ones who are complaining about rising tuition costs. They must realize it costs money to hire people to pick up after them. What they need to realize is that it's not that hard just to keep the trash until they walk by a can and then dispose of it.

Karen Knapp Miller

Letters to the editor submitted to *The Rebel Yell* should be 250 words or less in length.

The Rebel Yell strives to publish all student submissions. However, we reserve the right to edit letters as necessary.

Please send letters to:

The Rebel Yell-STS
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy.
Las Vegas NV 89154

Or stop by MSU Room 302.

Beware, slavery is a state of mind

BY ULYSSES PALROSE

Recently, I asked a group of high school students if they believed that slaves were brought here from Africa, and, as I expected, a majority of them said yes. I was quick to point out that Africans with a will to be free were brought here, not slaves. Slaves were then molded from these free men and women.

I went on to ask, "If I put handcuffs on you, does that make you my prisoner?" Without waiting for a response, I immediately answered, "No!" It simply means that you are a free man with handcuffs on who desperately wants these restraints removed. Once you give in to those