

# Death

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Some other facts are: The death penalty is racially biased. The death penalty is a poor man's punishment. (Imagine Donald Trump being executed for committing the same crimes as Woomer.) The death penalty costs an average of \$1.3 million, while 35 years in prison costs \$850,000.

These are but a few of the facts. Now here are some facts about the "other countries in the affluent world."

Western Europe doesn't have the death penalty, yet Western Europe doesn't have the rate of violent crime busting through the roof as it is here in the United States. Europe does have gun control. European law has life imprisonment without parole. Europe has curbed violence in T.V., films, and other forms of entertainment. (What does senseless violence like on *Hunter* do for our society?)

Lastly, who is really to blame? The National Rifle Association fights for the 2nd amendment, yet I don't see handguns in their organization title. Then why do they fight so ardently for criminals' main tool: handguns. Fact: 80 percent of the persons who own handguns and are attacked by a criminal either shoot an innocent bystander, shoot themselves, or the

criminal takes the gun and shoots the gun's owner. Fact: Over 60 percent of handguns used in crimes are stolen from the everyday citizen, us. We are supplying the weapons that render us the victims of violent crime in the United States. Plus, we have religious groups who say it's wrong to have an abortion and yet it's okay to execute someone. I thought Christ died for our sins. Do these people not trust their God, so they're going to make sure? If they can't forgive something that didn't happen to them imagine what they would do if they were the victims, even victims of a lesser crime. But I also thought that you are not supposed to kill, and you are supposed to turn the other cheek. (I do recognize that there is only so far one can be pushed but that line can only be drawn when all other alternatives have been exhausted.)

Nevertheless these groups that are so blatantly hypocritical are followed blindly by the masses. Finally, to execute someone doesn't bring the victims back and the idea of revenge is not worth the cost to carry out this punishment. For a country under God, we as a society are a sorry state. Wake-up, look hard, don't use emotions and "traditional rights" (amendments written for a people in the 1700s), for these arguments are not logical, and they lead to rash actions that are usually regretted and extremely costly in the end. If a punishment is not universally applicable, then the punishment should not be carried out.

Carl Maas  
Biology freshman

# Students miss letter's point

To the editor:

Well! Well! Well! It seems that everyone seems to know what Mr. Abraham meant by his letter but neither one of these blind people stopped to ask. "What do I care about angering you!" Farakahn, I'm going to stick by what I said because I know there wasn't an ounce of violence in my letter.

You Mr. Ray, who seem to know me so well, prove my point all the more. When you first read my letter, you probably thought "Listen to this violent n--ga." It's because of your people's labelization that has you thinking like that. Whenever a black person shows positivity, he/she is automatically labeled a radical. Who gives you the right to call me radical, you don't even know me.

As for you Mr. Cooper, if you are a minority, then it was not you I was addressing. And as for the African point you had, because my ancestors were African and I'm an American that makes me an African-American. If you don't like it, keep it to yourself because that's my choice (Look that up in the Constitution).

Now on to you Mr. Kennedy. I liked your letter. I was waiting for a black person to respond, but you make two mistakes. First I called no one a name but simply gave my point of view. Secondly, you misspelled my name.

Next I would like to thank

Johnny Lowery for the letter. You seem to understand and that probably is because you are a personal friend.

Finally I would like to address all the African-Americans on the campus. Most of you claim to be solid blacks, but not one of you came in aid of my letter. You listen to P.E. (Public Enemy) and some support Louis Farakahn. Where do you think I got my views from. You yell sell out when people didn't come to the aid of P.E., but who really is the sell out. People ask me why I don't join the N.A.A.C.P. or AFRO. Well, a lot of people join it because it's the in thing to do or to lengthen their resume. I don't need a club to show I'm proud of being black, you can see that by the way I hold my head.

There were some who liked what I wrote and some who didn't, but I have one question: Where were those so-called black advocates when my letter was being ripped to shreds. Who really is the sell out? If there isn't anyone brave enough to stand up, then I guess the sales of P.E.'s new tape will decline. One more thing, when did I ever say that I didn't want equality between the races?

Since you, Mr. Ray, seem to be so smart, you should have known that was the purpose of my letter. "Black power 1990 is a collective means of self defense against the worldwide conspiracy to destroy the black race. It's a movement

that only puts fear in those that have a vested interest in the conspiracy, or that think that it's something other than what it actually is..." (P.E.) Mr. Ray, it's a black thing, and you gotta understand. Mr. Lowery is already there. You, however, have got a long way to go.

Jason B. Abraham  
Hotel, restaurant and tourism  
freshman

# Writer shows blind views

To the editor:

There is nothing "objective and reasonable" in prejudice. Wes Bales, your letter (April 13) was one of the most shocking articles I have ever read.

For far too long, people who do not fit the WASP model this country is based upon have been viewed as morally wrong or mentally inferior. There is still the belief that blacks are merely animals and women are so weak that they have to depend upon men. This is nonsense and both groups will deny that these views are true. But according to you, denials like these are a feature of mental illness.

You say that another characteristic is a "behavioral component that will be repulsive to established societal norms." But which soci-

ety? Cultures greatly differ and what may be acceptable here could be unacceptable elsewhere. In fact, Mr. Bales, you are going against the "established societal norms." America is supposedly based upon the principle that everyone should be able to enjoy liberty without oppression.

You also label homosexuality a "contagious mental illness." A person's choice of sexuality is determined by their emotions; they do not catch it like a cold. Homosexual teachers should not be subject to your sexual Nuremberg Laws. In fact their experience of people such as you makes them ideal teachers of what you lack — tolerance.

While other countries are opening themselves up, you want to turn America on itself. This country faces some major problems but instead of introducing radical solutions, you would rather find a scapegoat to blame. McCarthy used the Communists, you want to use the homosexuals. I suggest that you read 'Mein Kampf', you'll enjoy it.

I pity you but you disgust me, and your blind views are even more frightening if they are a product of three years at this university. Homosexuals may feel insecure but it is because they have to face the hatred of people like you.

Jeremy Barraud  
History exchange student

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