

A Few minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

How's that death penalty thing going?

In the last issue of the *MAP Rap Sheet*, I wrote an extensive essay on the **Death Penalty Blues**. Just some thoughts at the time while we waited for its eventual demise.

Demise it did when our governor, parroting the mantra that “the system is broken,” signed the law expelling the death sentence of the murderous bastards in our midst.

No more will the needle exist in our fine state. That “last mile” for the immediate future will not be traversed. No more death watches, burning candles, singing and last meal reports of the double cheese Whopper, chips, and Pepsi (no coke) by a frenzied media to look forward to.

So the child killers, woman killers, cop killers, robbery victims who are shot, stabbed, abducted with their bodies dumped will not have to face the execution team.

The convicted murderer who has slaughtered someone in a most vile manner while raping a child or their mother, or maybe both of them, or someone who cut up a pregnant woman to “steal a baby” or who executes an officer of the law, who burglarizes a home and assaults a lady or whole family and then decides they cannot live, or a domestic partner killing, or a robbery where no witnesses are left, or some other random act of “unkindness” will no longer find justice for the victim or family by the use of lethal injections. Really too bad.

No, they shall be spared to a life of torment in a prison cell with other like devils forever—maybe. Or at least that's the theory. Imprisonment is worse than death. Yeah, sure, that's why all prisons are so full because nobody would ever want to go there.

Recent newspaper articles tout how some murdered victim's families have forgiven the murderer. That's fine and I buy into that. If they can do this, I will not question their feelings. They are closer to it than we are. But I have read that some have transferred their anger to God and I say why—He had nothing to do with it. And He wasn't there.

Murderers kill because they want to and they can. God is not in the equation. Sort of misplaced anger, but again, I will not judge the good nature of a victim's family or their souls or their beliefs.

But there is a very large contingent of folks who are victim's family members and people in general who do not forgive. They are still pissed and just might want their worst nightmare to meet Mr. Three-Tier Cocktail. You know, Sodium Thiopental, which is an anesthetic, which puts the murderer to sleep, then Pancuronium Bromide, which is released and paralyzes the muscular system and stops breathing, and then finally, flows Potassium Chloride, which stops the heart.

Death occurs from respiratory and cardiac arrest while the inmate is literally unconscious. I personally would subject them to a little Yanni music before they drop off to make them suffer just a little more.

Oh, I shouldn't joke about this, should I? Nothing funny about death but I'll bet the murder victims were not laughing either. Terrorized maybe, but not laughing. Sorry, but my sympathy genes do not take over for the Ted Bundys or other similar monsters of the world running amok in our society.

In Illinois, the murders have not stopped. In fact, one guy allegedly researched the repeal of the death penalty before he drove down from Canada and shot his ex-girlfriend to death. More murders have occurred. Drug deals, robberies, gang warfare—just like usual. Prison just doesn't seem to be a deterrent, either, for the new killings. Now what?

Yes, I know that “many” murder victims' families support the abolishment of lethal cocktails, but how many is “many?” And what of those who are disgusted that some of these killers will not meet their maker by the triple whammy of death? Are their feelings of justice and revenge wrong? No, they are just ignored.

I've read a few quotes of some family members who are upset and feel cheated that our general assembly and governor revoked this law and commuted the sentences of some of the most vicious citizens to life. Because that is what they have—life. I think the system is really broken for these victims' families.

Columnists here and there in major papers still rant on how studies show that the death penalty does not deter. And I say, oh really? Studies are skewed. They very rarely can consider intangibles. The biggest intangible is that you can never possibly know who decided not to kill someone **because** of the death penalty, simply because they aren't talking. Talking could, you know, possibly incriminate you and then you could go to jail. And as I've said before, there is no evidence that anyone who was innocent was actually put to death in the U.S.—ever.

But alas, for now we shall accept the law knowing that in our spendthrift state we are saving money and are now as civilized as, say, California. Anyway, why don't we just put this up to a referendum vote? Instead of our disingenuous politicians voting on these important societal issues, let the people vote.

Most of us can abide by a majority vote one way or the other. It would be interesting to see the results of that vote, because then you can show the people the true story of why some people need to meet the needle.

It could be a graphic, distasteful dialogue as to what really, really happens at a murder scene, CSI be damned. But a murder scene is graphic and truly distasteful, as many of you reading this can attest.

So for now, we are a kinder and gentler populace, at least to the killers in our midst. Stay safe. Vita e Bella