

A Few Minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

The death penalty in 2016

It's leap year. So what better way to celebrate our every four-year event of adding one day to our lives but by talking about death?

Yes, I know, talking about the death penalty again is like talking about Hillary Clinton's email scandal. But a few interesting things have occurred as we entered into the new year.

As you all pick up your newspapers or watch the news, murder, more murder, and heinous murder is an everyday experience. You become numb to it and wonder how anyone can be safe anywhere.

So as our fellow humans destroy each other in numerous manners, we can take some solace in the fact that mankind has been trying to destroy each other from the beginning of time. Let us count the ways.

But it is the sheer inhumanity that exists and the failure of our judicial system to punish these killers appropriately that stands out. And to me the long touted liberal talking point that the death penalty is costly and it's cheaper that murderers receive life because life is life and they ain't getting out is disingenuous.

There is also the "compassion" issue, the system is broken issue, and the innocent person issue. All hokey, bunk, and without merit.

Case in point: Recently in Florida the newspaper headline reads: "Death Row fates at risk." The story? Florida's death penalty fell under a huge cloud of confusion when the US Supreme Court ruled the state's death sentencing system as unconstitutional.

Florida, which has the second largest death row population, is throwing out over 100 cases all due to the court's ruling that all sentences that were imposed by judges were unconstitutional. The court basically ruled that juries must impose sentences and not judges. Judges in some cases would overrule prison or life sentences by juries in the past. That is a no-no. So now Florida is trying to figure out what to do and if this is going to be retroactive.

I say really? Seems to diminish the authority of judges who go by the rules of law and not because juries feel compassion, religious reasons, or are afraid of cold-blooded killers.

It also is appalling that here in good old Illinois, the high court that commuted murderers sentenced as teenagers to life without parole are now assured that their sentences will be reviewed. And that is retroactive and means many killer teens will get a chance at re-sentencing.

See what this means? Like I've always said, nose bleeds will get murderers out. Life no longer means life.

I personally do not care about their tender youthful indiscretions, like slitting someone's throat while 15 years old. Life should mean life — or put the needle to them. Oh, I'm sorry I offended someone. Forget about the victims.

And finally, Governor Paul Le Page of Maine wants legislation to sentence murderers and drug traffickers to the guillotine. He is apparently tired of lenient sentences and criminals getting out of prison early for their crimes. Yes, the guillotine should prevent that.

All I can say is “Viva Le LePage!”

Vita é bella