

**Capital Punishment**

Capital punishment shows the utmost respect for human life. Capital punishment's aim is to preserve human life.

There are people in this world capable of murder. By humanely executing someone that has shown a horrific lack of respect for human life, you accomplish two things: some form of closure for the victim's loved ones and a deterrent to other "would be" violent offenders and murderers.

In order to get "the chair," a person must not simply kill another individual. One must kill and kill again, be caught, tried by one's peers, found guilty, sentenced to death by those peers, appeal, appeal again, continue appealing to the courts and petitioning the governor for the many years one sits on death row.

It is not a simple or frivolous process. It is the last straw and is carried out sparingly. It may be true that we do not know if capital punishment is an effective deterrent to criminal minds. It is also true, though, that even though we have the death penalty in many states, it is rarely used. When was the last time a murderer on death row was executed in Oregon? Because it is not used very often, capital pun-

ishment is sometimes said to be an ineffective deterrent to crime.

The courts give more of a chance to murderers than the murderers give to their victims. While we condemn them for murder, we show them undeserved respect, mercy and an opportunity to show remorse.

Capital punishment is not barbaric. On the contrary, it is the most civilized option we have when dealing with this kind of evil.

Josh Horton  
Psychology

**Minimum Improvement**

Recently, not only concerned groups here such as Fair Share and ESSN are working to raise the minimum wage, but also both sides of Congress. We may actually get the long-overdue raise! But then what? Minimum wage still leaves most people on the poverty level, requiring either food stamps or an additional job to survive. When the raise finally does come through, everyone in government will relax because they have done their duty as Americans to help other Americans. It's sick! Don't expect another raise again for years to come. How can workers survive on such a pittance, and how can they ever become the consumers that Republican planners desire? The difference

between workers' salaries and CEOs' salaries is appalling and very American. CEOs make 500 to 700 times more than their workers. How long will this difference be sustained? Are they superior beings who deserve such high salaries? Whether they are good people or not, they are nothing without their workers and they better start to take care of them! Unions need to organize with more strength to break the backs of corporations and corporate welfare. That fight has begun very positively, but the minimum wage raise is weak.

Hilde K. Cherry  
Eugene

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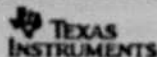
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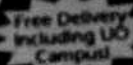
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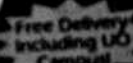
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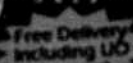
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