

The Price Of Life, Death And Justice

by Patrick Lalley Sept 16-29, 1992 P. 5

Two weeks ago Donald Moeller was sentenced to death by a jury of his peers in Yankton.

Moeller had just been convicted of the rape and murder of nine year old Rebecca O'Connell outside Sioux Falls in Lincoln County.

These are pretty much the bare facts. The murder was gruesome and revolting, of this there is little question. But there is still a basic query that must be addressed. Can we as a state, as a social entity, take the life of Donald Moeller by lethal injection? This is a decision that many will say has already been made but given the grave consequences that are involved it necessary to look at it again and again. Indeed, state law requires that the Supreme Court of South Dakota review the case. It is far from over.

Can the government take a life? The United States Supreme Court said yes and since that decision convicted criminals have been executed in states like Texas, Florida and Louisiana. But not in South Dakota. It has been 25 years since our last public bloodletting. Previous to that South Dakota had executed only a handful of men.

Proponents of the death penalty contend that the threat of execution is a deterrent to violent crime. This concept has never been proven. In fact, since the reinstigation of the death penalty in July of 1976, violent crime and murder have been on the increase. There are several factors that lead to this increase but certainly one issue that hasn't been proven is that capital punishment is any type of real deterrent.

Repulsive violent crime is a result of

the intricate factors of environment and our society. It is not simple. It is always emotional. The purpose of the jury system is to try and maintain some objectivity and minimize the emotion. However monumental, that is the task.

Proponents also exclaim that to kill the criminal will save the good taxpayers of this state the money that would otherwise be spent on maintaining the criminal in a penal institution. That is simply not the case. Just the act of killing the criminal will run upwards of \$100,000 not to mention the cost to the taxpayer of a long drawn out capital prosecution. Just ask the taxpayers of Lincoln county how happy they are to be footing the bill for State's Attorney Jeff Masten's case against Moeller.

Add in the cost for the extensive appeal process involved with the death penalty and you're looking at a tidy little sum. Maintaining a prisoner runs about \$12,000 per year. The cost of justice is admittedly going to be high. But the cost of death is higher.

Ultimately, I think the jury learned to hate Donald Moeller. It is understandable why. Revenge is a natural byproduct of hate and Moeller is like so many others waiting on death row. He is different. He seems to lack emotion. He seems to lack human qualities. He is easy to kill.

Those twelve jurors made a decision for the state as a whole and I don't agree with it. So I am asking the State Supreme Court to remove the emotion which is inherent in a crime such as this.

Please don't kill Donald Moeller. ☹

OF CHAM

One of the most popular and unique September 25, 26, & 27 in Brandon and Sioi Ethanol Race of Champions will highlight Races sponsored by the South Dakota Cor Speedway. The Ethanol Race of Champion auto race in the country that requires all ethanol in their fuel formulas.

Let me give you a brief rundown of w ante racing since the first Ethanol Race of Ch of all, the race was a huge success and won b using 34% ethanol with 66% methanol. In N Corn Utilization Council started negotiatio circuit to legalize and sanction the use of World of Outlaws announced in a press c would be legalized and sanctioned by thei since the Outlaw circuit was formed some

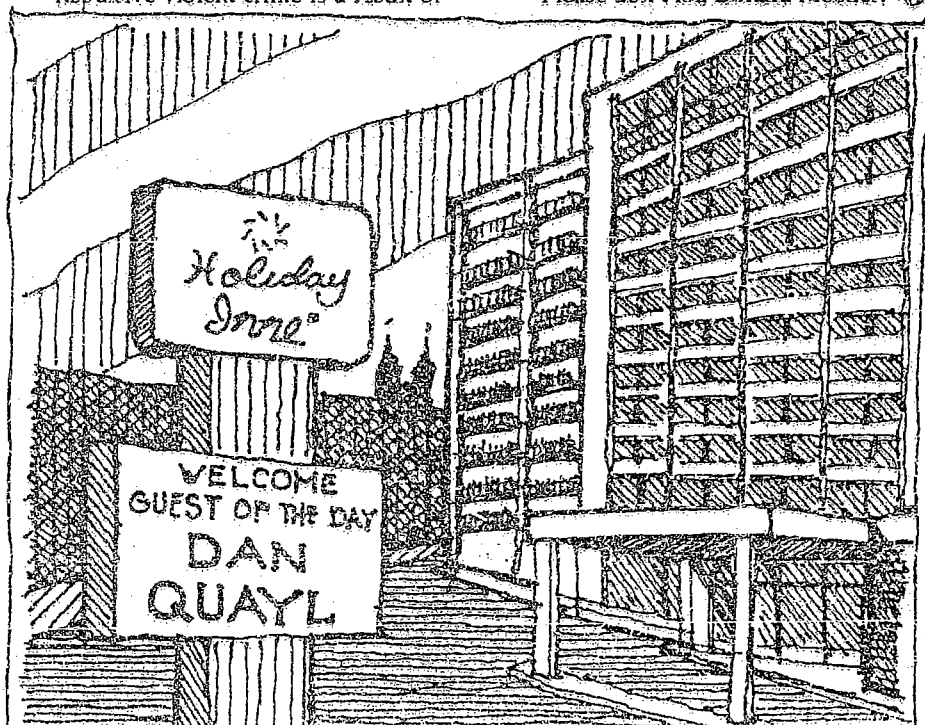
Now, seven months after that annou and racing association in this country a legalized ethanol including the National World Pullers International, IHRA, and of CART, and NASCAR on the national level. and ethanol is banned, but now the pres

To think it all started on a little dir Hats off to some of the ethanol racing hero use and development of ethanol as a racin Marlin Winters, Gary Zitterich, Larry D Steve Rubin, and the reigning national Lincoln, Nebraska.

To top everything off, IMCA notifie they are declaring the Ethanol Race of Cha an annual basis. What a tremendous boi Sioux Falls. The Outlaws have a Grand I IMCA sprinters have one to call their ow

Don't miss this historical event. The Champions will be held September 25 & 2 feature race on Sunday the 27th at the W.I

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