

MCADP NEWS

Winter 2001

Massachusetts Citizens Against the Death Penalty, Inc.

Illustration: Detail of Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco from the cartoon of a mural by Ben Shahn. © Estate of Ben Shahn, licensed by VAGA, NY, NY.

Co-chairs' Column **Glimmers of Hope, and Heightened Activism**

Nona Walker & Marty Rosenthal

Having been involved with MCADP for many years, the two of us have watched the death penalty issue move from relative obscurity to the front page of the newspaper in the last three years. In Massachusetts, before 1997 the issue was of only occasional concern, primarily to grandstanding politicians who actually did little to effect passage of a bill, and to the many of us who worked quietly to ensure the bills' defeats. Then Jeffrey Curley's terrible murder in 1997 triggered a surge of pro-death penalty emotion; a handful of legislators switched their positions; and a bill passed the House by one vote. Suddenly the issue was front-page news. Then, Rep. John Slattery (D., Peabody) gained state-wide fame by changing his vote from "yes" to "no," and the bill failed on a 80-80 tie. In 1999, after again losing the vote in the state Senate, our House margin defeating the bill improved to 80-73.

Nationally, in November 1998, at a highly publicized conference on wrongful convictions at Northwestern University, thirty of the seventy-five people who had then been released from U.S. death rows came and spoke to a huge audience. Anti-death penalty luminaries, from Prof. Anthony Amsterdam to actor Mike Farrell, invigorated activists, many predicting that the tide was turning. Prof. David Protess, whose journalism class effectuated the release of several men from Illinois' death row, bore witness to the tremendous impact that non-lawyers can have in this struggle.

Since January, 2000, when Illinois' Republican, pro-death penalty Gov. George Ryan imposed a moratorium on executions, many events have given abolitionists more hope. National polls now show support for the death penalty dropping almost 15%; and majority support is growing both for life in prison without parole and for a moratorium

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Committing To Conscience: Building a Unified Strategy to End the Death Penalty

Marty Rosenthal

"There's been an awakening in the American people," Sr. Helen Prejean told approximately 1,000 anti-death-penalty activists at San Francisco's 4-day November conference: *Committing to Conscience: Building a Unified Strategy to End the Death Penalty*. Co-sponsoring the event were AFSC, Death Penalty Focus, NCADP, and the Sant'Egidio Community (a Catholic movement from Rome that recently presented over 3.2 million signatures supporting a moratorium to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan); other participating groups included ACLU, Amnesty International, Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation (MVFR), and Religious Organizing Against the Death Penalty.

Although executions continue nationwide at an obscene pace, and although many of the participants were taking a brief respite from unimaginable daily struggles against actual

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Hugo Bedau, Recipient of the NCADP Lifetime Achievement Award, Addressing the assembly in San Francisco.

**State House Hearings on New Death Penalty Bills
Held February 20, 2001
Be sure YOUR VOICE is heard!
Contact your local legislators before the vote!**

RENEW NOW!

Please take time to join or to renew your membership. Our strength depends on our numbers. You are the power that makes us effective. Members help us in electing anti-death penalty candidates as well as persuading elected officials to vote with us.

Use the form on the back page or go to WWW.MCADP.ORG on the Web.

Massachusetts Citizens Against
the Death Penalty, Inc.

PO Box 1920
Boston, MA 02205

DNA AND INNOCENCE IN CAPITAL CASES

by James P. Rooney, MCADP Board Member

When young American scientist James Watson and his British colleague Francis Crick were working in their Cambridge University lab trying to figure out the structure of DNA, they knew they were on to something big. If they could prove that DNA could replicate itself, they would have discovered the then unknown means by which human beings and other living creatures passed on characteristics to their offspring. In 1953, they published a simple two page paper in *Nature* that proposed a double helical structure of DNA with "novel features of considerable biological interest." This paper won them the Nobel prize, laid the

foundation for modern genetics, and has had major implications in a number of areas including criminal law and the death penalty.

The question with most crimes is, "Who done it?" DNA, because it is unique to each

person, offered the possibility of an answer if tests could be developed that could distinguish one person's DNA from another's. By 1987, DNA testing had advanced sufficiently to support a conviction of rape of a man in England.

But though DNA tests were developed with the idea that they would prove useful in obtaining convictions, from the beginning they have also served to free the innocent. The very same year, a man who had confessed to two rape-murders in the English Midlands was exonerated by a DNA test.

The increasing impact of DNA on efforts to free the innocent from death row can be seen by compar-

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Introducing:

The New England Innocence Project (NEIP)

This newly formed group, co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, is part of a national network of lawyers, academics, and others working to identify and exonerate, through DNA testing, persons who have been wrongfully convicted and imprisoned.

NEIP is currently reviewing and taking cases from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont and Connecticut.

Attorneys with Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, LLP are coordinating the intake and screening process. They are very interested in forming close relationships with law schools, lawyers and organizations in the other New England states.

To the extent that you are aware of cases that may be appropriate for N.E.I.P., feel free to call Kristin (617) 248-7444. If you or your group are interested in handling post-conviction cases through our network, or otherwise getting involved, please send your contact information to:

N.E.I.P., Coordinator Kristin Cronin
Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, LLP, 125 High Street, Boston, MA 02110

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on executions. Major religious groups, with the notable exception of the Southern Baptists, have heightened their opposition to the death penalty. In November alone: the National Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a strong statement renewing their "strong and principled opposition to the death penalty"; a new and prestigious group, "Citizens for a Moratorium on Federal Executions," urged President Clinton to declare a moratorium on federal executions; and death row inmates in North Carolina and Virginia had sentences commuted, two in Illinois and one in Florida had sentences overturned, and one in Texas got a stay from the U. S. Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, the number of death penalty skeptics and/or moratorium supporters has steadily increased, and it now includes Pat Robertson, George Will, and Bruce Fein. The Republican-controlled New Hampshire legislature passed an abolition bill, later vetoed by Gov. Shaheen. The Nebraska legislature has moved towards a moratorium. International human rights criticism is mounting. Murder Victims for Families Reconciliation, based in Massachusetts, is expanding. And federal bills, including one

sponsored by Massachusetts Congressman Bill Delahunt, propose moratoria and/or "innocence protection" measures.

Thus the death penalty is not only out of the shadows and in the spotlight, but also may be in its "death throes." Does that mean that we at MCADP can relax? NO! We are horrified by the federal death penalty prosecution underway in Springfield, the Gilbert case, in which the defendant is represented by, among others, our former Chair, David Hoose, and where our stellar Hampden County chapter has been conducting regular vigils. At the statehouse, since 2000 was the second year of the legislative session, we had no bill to fight. Instead we focussed on building membership, creating new chapters, and getting out the word on the state elections. The results of those elections are promising, as our Executive Director Martina Jackson points out in her own column; indeed, we are further encouraged that the death penalty was hardly an issue in the legislative races. However, as Martina also notes, new bills have been filed already, and we will have yet another life-or-death battle this year. As we learned in 1997, no margin is safe — especially if, or when,

another horrible murder happens.

In sum, while the media attention of the last three years has, on balance, given us renewed hope, our situation in Massachusetts is numerically no more secure than it was in 1997.

We still need your help!

Complacency and apathy have always been our toughest opponents. First, please renew your membership; second, please visit our web-site (www.mcadp.org). Also we commend to you a website collecting websites for many abolitionist groups in the Commonwealth (www.nodp.org); and further consider joining Charles Wilton's MADPEN (at www.nodp.org/madpen), an e-mail list for organizations and individuals working to keep the death penalty out of Massachusetts.

Finally, please sign up all your friends as members of MCADP. Our strength is not just in your and our hard work, it is also in our numbers. Our goal remains that every single person in the Commonwealth who opposes the death penalty should be a member. Thank you for all of your efforts in the past, and keep up the good work!



ing three reports issued by the Death Penalty Information Center in the 1990s. The first, listing inmates who had gained release from death row between 1973 and 1993 by demonstrating their innocence, mentioned only one case in which the inmate relied on DNA evidence. The second report in 1997 noted two more releases based on DNA evidence. The final update shows the pace picking up in the last three years; it mentions five more inmates who have been recently released based on DNA tests.

Though DNA testing has become more important in the efforts to free those wrongly convicted of capital crimes, it is not the be all and end all of such efforts. The eight releases based on DNA tests described in the Death Penalty Information Center's reports were only a small part of the 89 cases discussed. The reasons for release ran the gamut from witnesses recanting their testimony, to support for a prisoner's alibi, and to evidence

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Looking Ahead to 2001

Martina Jackson, Executive Director

Looking back on 2000, we have some reason for optimism as we review the election results in the Massachusetts legislature. Our victories in the House include: Mark Falzone, Saugus; Robert Spellane and James Leary, Worcester; Deborah Blumer, Framingham; Frank Smizik, Brookline; Thomas Stanley, Waltham; Stephen Buonoconti, Holyoke; Chris Asselin, Springfield; Patricia Haddad, Dartmouth; Michael Kane, Holyoke; Paul Tirone, Matthew Patrick, and Garrett Bradley. We are also happy to count newly elected Senator Robert O'Leary from the Cape and Islands.

In addition, we congratulate our incumbent supporters who have returned to vote against the death penalty yet again.

Representative Francis Marini, the Republican Minority Leader, and Senator

newspapers and attorneys funding investigations into the innocence of those currently on death row — and even some already executed.

In Massachusetts, we are currently dealing with a death penalty case in Springfield, where Veterans Administration Hospital nurse Kristin Gilbert is on trial for capital murder under the federal statute. It appears likely that the Bush Justice Department will ask for the death penalty in a broad range of cases, particularly in non-death penalty venues such as Massachusetts. At the same time, I would like to express enthusiastic and heartfelt gratitude to the Hampden County MCADP chapter for its vigorous election efforts and its dedicated demonstrations against the death penalty at the Gilbert trial.

Rev. Susan Lee and the Bristol County chapter, as well as Ron Madnick and the Worcester County group were particularly aggressive and successful in the November election cycle. Congratulations to you all.

The Hampden, Worcester and Bristol County chapters' success illustrates the importance of local chapters as a crucial factor in elections as well as in educating the public. In this new millennium year, we are hoping to form more chapters statewide. Many thanks to Representatives Jay Kaufman, Anne Paulson, Michael Festa, Mark Carron and, of course John Slattery, who have been so very helpful in our chapter-building initiatives. Please contact me at 617-523-3951 — our new office number — if you'd like to help organize a chapter in your area.

Another word of congratulations to former Secretary of Health and Human Services Phil Johnston on his unanimous election to the chairmanship of the State Democratic Party. As a state representative, Phil voiced vigorous opposition to the death penalty, and has vowed to retain the anti-death penalty plank in the state party's platform.

Looking forward to an active new year, we ask you to renew your membership. Your political and financial support keep us strong. You make the difference between our success or failure. Please consider an additional contribution this year, as well as assistance in signing up new members.

Thank you for your commitment and concern!



"Healing the Wounds of Murder"

**The 1st National Gathering of Murder Victims' Family Members
Opposed to the Death Penalty**

June 7-9, 2001

Hosted by Boston College — Featured guest speakers include

Sister Helen Prejean

**for more information, call 617-868-0007 or 617-552-0985
or visit the web sites at: www.mvfr.org and www.bc.edu/healing**

demonstrating that a victim's death was accidental. As many or more inmates were released when the state withheld exculpatory evidence, the conviction was based on perjured testimony, or for sheer lack of evidence, than gained their release through DNA testing. Twice as many inmates were released when their advocates managed to find the real killer or get him to confess.

The relatively small number of cases so far in which inmates have relied on DNA evidence to escape death row is due, in part, to the newness of the technology and the difficulty of applying it to old cases. To have a hope that DNA testing will prove conclusive, there must at least have been some evidence preserved that contains testable

James Jajuga have filed death penalty legislation in the current session. As Marini told a Northeastern University audience last spring, in a debate with MCADP board member Carlo Obligato, "this isn't about facts and figures. It's about your heart and your gut." Needless to say, we will once again be mounting an all out effort to oppose their bills.

On the national front, with George Bush as president, the death penalty is likely to emerge as a topic of more public national debate, since, as governor of Texas, Mr. Bush set a record for state-mandated executions. Clearly, however, there seems to be increasing support for a moratorium, particularly with

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genetic material. Not surprisingly, seven of the eight DNA testing cases listed by the Death Penalty Information Center involved rape-murders where semen evidence was preserved and was testable.

Even when DNA results are clear, their impact on a given case is not necessarily so clear. Compare Kirk Bloodworth's case with those of Rolando Cruz and Alejandro Hernandez. Bloodworth was convicted of the rape-murder of a nine year old girl whose body was found in a wooded area in Baltimore, Maryland. On the day of the killing, a number of witnesses claimed to have seen him with the girl and he told an acquaintance he had done something "terrible" that would affect his marriage, by which he later said that he meant that he had failed to pick up a taco salad he had promised his wife. Subsequent DNA tests of semen on the victim's underwear showed that Bloodworth could not have been the source. Prosecutors joined a petition to pardon him, which the governor granted after Bloodworth had spent nine years in prison, two of them on death row.

The Cruz and Hernandez cases began similarly with the death of a ten year old girl in Chicago, who was sexually assaulted and whose body was left in the woods. Several

witnesses claimed that the two men had intimate knowledge of the crime and police testified that they had made incriminating statements. Another man subsequently confessed, but this won Cruz only a new trial. Later DNA tests demonstrated that neither Cruz nor Hernandez was the source of semen found at the crime scene, but the prosecution did not give up. The state contended that the tests showed simply that the men were not rapists, but insisted they could have participated in the crime given their knowledge of it. The state tried Cruz again (for the fourth time), but this time the trial judge directed a verdict acquitting him after a police witness recanted earlier testimony that had corroborated statements about visions of the murder Cruz purportedly experienced. Hernandez' case was dismissed thereafter. Both men served eleven years on death row.

Though proving innocence through DNA testing may not be easy, it at least offers an opportunity. The cruel irony is that when the state has no physical evidence implicating a defendant, it can be harder to come up with the kind of concrete proof of innocence that DNA testing can provide. David Protess, the Northwestern University journalism professor who has helped free a number of men from Illinois's death row, failed in an effort to free

Girvies Davis. Davis was sentenced to death largely on the basis of a confession he had signed that he claimed was extracted at gunpoint. Though he was then illiterate, he had also signed confessions to other murders, including three Protess was able to demonstrate he could not have committed. There were no witnesses or physical evidence linking Davis to the crime, but the governor remained convinced that Davis was the killer, and so denied him clemency. Girvies Davis was executed on May 16, 1995.

The Death Penalty Information Center's reports are available at its website: www.deathpenaltyinfo.org. The National Institute of Justice also prepared a report in 1996 entitled "Convicted by Juries, Exonerated by Science: Case Studies in the Use of DNA Evidence to Establish Innocence After Trial." It and a recent follow-up report, "Postconviction DNA Testing: Recommendations for Handling Requests" are available at the National Institute of Justice's website: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij. Protess and Rob Warden wrote a book called "A Promise of Justice" (Hyperion 1998) that briefly describes the Davis case before turning to a far more successful effort to free four men erroneously convicted of murder.



executions, the air was filled with astounding enthusiasm and, dare I say it, cautious optimism. The crowd was uplifted by discussions of many recent events, e.g. polls showing the death penalty's declining popularity; the Illinois moratorium; escalating pressure from international leaders; expanding religious opponents; energized civil rights groups, celebrities, conservatives, former supporters; etc.

Several Massachusetts stalwarts were spotted in the crowd, including: Hugo Bedau, who gave a talk on Massachusetts' abolitionist history and strategies, and co-author Constance Putnam; Northeastern's Bill Bowers and sons; MVFR's Renny Cushing, Rev. Renee Wormack Keels, Kate Lowenstein, Susannah Sheffer, John Katchen, and Liz Coleman; Amnesty's Charlie Wilton, editor of the MADPEN e-letter; AFSC's Marguerite Helen; and former Mass. activist, Sam Sheppard, who sends fond regards to all and is in good spirits in spite of his battles with the state of Ohio over his father's wrongful imprisonment.

Showing the breadth and depth of the movement were workshops including: Grassroots Activism and Litigation, Pushing for Moratorium, Effective Organizing, Handling Hard Questions, Labor and the Death Penalty, and sessions on organizing Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender communities, Communities of Color, Feminists, Victims' Families, and more.

A major undercurrent, and occasional overcurrent, was the issue of the various groups working independently, seen as both a strength and a weakness. My view, reinforced and expressed at the conference, is that independence is valuable; but one umbrella coordinating group is sorely needed. As the major national group fighting the death penalty, NCADP must start living up to the "Coalition" in its title — both with other groups and with local affiliates, and the other groups need to give it far more support than they now give.

For many, the conference apogee was the Awards Dinner, M/C'd with enthusiasm by abolitionist activist (MASH's) Mike Farrell.

Honorees included Ill. Gov. George Ryan and our own (and former NCADP President) Hugo Bedau, getting a Lifetime Achievement Award. MCADP owes so much to Hugo, not only for being the leading nationwide abolitionist expert for four decades, but also for lending us his wisdom as an MCADP Board member. It was especially heartwarming to hear him, in his ever-gracious acceptance speech, express thanks for all the wonderful abolitionists he's worked with, specifically mentioning MCADP folks here.

Sen. Russell Feingold (D-Wisc.), a lifelong abolitionist, gave a buoyant keynote speech, recalling that a year ago he couldn't find a single Congressperson to merely discuss a moratorium. Now he has four Senate cosponsors, including death penalty-supporters, and insists he can foresee it becoming law in a few years. To a cheering audience he said, "I believe that we have begun the climb in Congress that will lead us to the first steps, a nationwide moratorium on executions and a thorough examination of

A First-hand Account of Death Row — Paris Carriger

James Rooney, MCADP Board Member

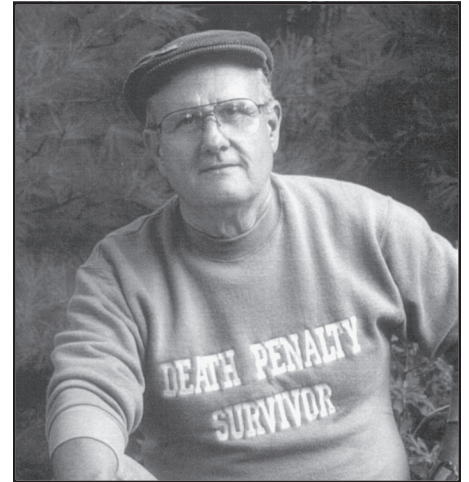
Once he came within three hours of being executed and another time six hours, but when he came to the Massachusetts Bar Association to give a speech on August 17, Paris Carriger came a free man. Middle-aged, slight, and balding, Carriger looks more like a bookkeeper than the vicious murderer that the state of Arizona sought to kill for 20 years. He was convicted in 1978 of the murder of Phoenix jewelry store owner Robert Shaw based on the testimony of a man who later admitted committing the crime himself. He was released from prison in 1999, twelve years after the real killer confessed. His is a story of personal determination to vindicate his innocence, the difficulty in getting the judicial system to listen, and proof of the oft repeated parental warning to avoid hanging out with the wrong crowd.

Of course, if you have done something to land in prison, you can't avoid the wrong crowd. And it was in prison that Carriger befriended Robert Dunbar, a career burglar and robber. When they first met, Dunbar was a frail 21 year old who survived by informing, which made him into a great off-the-cuff liar. According to Carriger, "he could frame God." When Carriger got out of prison and needed a place to stay, Dunbar allowed him to park his van on Dunbar's property and live in it.

On March 13, 1978, the day of Shaw's death, Carriger and Dunbar spent the afternoon together. Dunbar had a watch repaired at Shaw's jewelry store and bought a .22 caliber pistol. Early in the evening, while Dunbar claimed he was napping, someone robbed Shaw at his store, beat him on the head with a skillet, and strangled him with his own necktie. That evening, Dunbar told Carriger to get rid of his boots because they were "hot," leading Carriger to believe that Dunbar had committed a crime while wearing them. But the next morning, Dunbar contacted the Phoenix police and told them Carriger had killed Shaw. For a promise of immunity, he led the police to evidence of the crime. This included Carriger's discarded boots, which had blood on them and could have fit either man, and pieces of jewelry from Shaw's store, which had Dunbar's but not Carriger's fingerprints on them.

The detectives took Dunbar's story at face value because he was a long time police informant. They did not investigate whether he had participated in the crime. What they did not know was that Dunbar had a history of lying to the police and attempting to place the blame for his crimes on others. At trial, the state relied principally on Dunbar, whose truthfulness the prosecutor vouched for in terms that would make any appellate lawyer cringe. Carriger was convicted and sentenced to death.

I asked Carriger how he managed to survive on death row. He told me he knew Dunbar was a liar and he expected to get out in about seven years when his case reached the Ninth Circuit. He also said that he remained active throughout in promoting his own appeal. He did some of his own legal work and took every opportunity to contact people outside the prison, lawyers and non-lawyers alike, who might be interested in helping him. One of those individuals was Boston Globe columnist James Carroll. Carroll told me that once he heard Carriger's



Paris Carriger (photo by B. Harting)

whole thing. This led the state judge to conclude that his confession was false.

By the time Carriger got the 9th Circuit to consider the merits of his case, most of his claims, except a claim of actual innocence, were procedurally barred by the Byzantine rules governing federal habeas corpus. The

majority that granted him a new trial found that Dunbar "was a pathological liar, with a reputation for manipulation and deceit beyond even that expected in the generally dishonest prison environment," but that wasn't the same as proof of actual innocence. Carriger v. Stewart, 132 F.3d 463, 470 (9th Cir. 1997). What would be such proof? DNA testing, which has been so useful in freeing other wrongfully convicted death row inmates, was of no use here because the meaning of "physical evidence" depended upon whether you believed Carriger or Dunbar.

Arizona wouldn't give up, though Dunbar had died from an illness. But it did offer to free Carriger if he agreed to plead no contest to reinstated murder charges. Carriger agreed rather than wait another two years for a new trial.

So the story does not have an entirely happy ending. Carriger lost 20 years of his life and remains stained by the murder conviction. His sister died while he was in prison. And it took him a while to adjust to life outside his cramped death row cell. He told me that one month after he was released, he realized he had stayed inside for the whole month. ❦❦❦

Peter Neufeld to Address Ford Hall Forum *Actual Innocence: When Justice Goes Wrong and How to Make It Right*

6:30PM Thursday March 22, 2001

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street, Boston
(Downtown Crossing at State Street Station, MBTA Orange and Blue Lines)

Peter Neufeld is a co-founder of the **Innocence Project** and co-author of **Actual Innocence** with Barry Scheck and Jim Dwyer. The program, co-sponsored by MCADP and Ford Hall Forum, is open to the public and recorded for future broadcast. Info at: www.fordhallforum.neu.edu

story from Barbara Sproul of Amnesty International, it was easy to support him.

But it was not so easy for the legal system to do so. It took seven appeals and post-conviction proceedings for the 9th Circuit to grant him a new trial, in a split decision. In 1987, he appeared to get a break. At a state court hearing, Dunbar's wife retracted the alibi she had given him and several of his friends testified that he had bragged of framing Carriger. Then Dunbar himself testified that he had killed Shaw and described details of the murder scene that would have been known only to the killer. But in his confession, he took vengeance on his wife by falsely accusing her of participating and three weeks later he recanted the

the [death penalty].... For the first time since the 1960's, there is a (public) consensus that business as usual just won't do when it comes to the death penalty." Feingold later told reporters that the Democratic Party in the past decade "retreated on this and showed a lack of courage," and predicted lawmakers would soon see "they can oppose the death penalty and still win re-election."

Gov. Ryan recounted how he put executions on hold after the court-ordered release of the 13th inmate from Illinois' death row since 1987, one more than the state's executions. He told how, as a state legislator, "I was a staunch death penalty supporter. I spoke for [it], I voted for [it], and I believed in [it]." As governor in 1999 he even signed off on an execution; and now says "This was a horrible crime ... But after the mistakes the system had made ... , I wasn't sure what to do. I agonized. I checked and double-checked and triple-checked the facts." After going through with the execution, Ryan says,

"It was the most emotional experience I have ever been through in my life." Ryan then told the moving story of Anthony Porter, the mentally retarded inmate who came within two days of execution for a murder committed 16 years earlier, got a court reprieve, then was proven innocent in 1998 by a Northwestern journalism class of Prof. David Protess. Ryan finally decided, "How on earth could we have come so close — 13 times — to putting fatal doses of poison in the veins of innocent persons?" He concluded, to the (again) cheering crowd, "With any hope, maybe I can become an abolitionist."

Nobody left San Francisco either with false hopes for the immediate future or with any illusions about the present. Aside from all the attendees from execution-crazed states, we from this Commonwealth are also painfully aware of the tenuousness of our recent hard-won legislative successes; and we all reminisced about our 8-10 vote lead evaporating after the 1997 Curley case. So

our struggle, here and across the USA, continues unabated. Yet, for a brief moment, it was amazingly uplifting to feel in the air the inevitability of our total victory. We (i.e. you) abolitionists — in San Francisco, in 50 states, and in MCADP — personify the aphorism of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Through the lens of world history, recent U.S. trends, and overwhelming factual and moral arguments on our side, we are clearly fighting for an idea whose time is coming. The only question is, When? As a Sant'Egidio Community message to the conference said: "Slavery & torture used to be normal. Now we hardly find a human being who thinks that either one is acceptable. Soon, we will hardly find a human being who accepts the death penalty. It is cruel, useless, stupid, and inhuman."

— Amen

Planning Ahead...
The Ehrmann Awards Ceremony
will be coming in May
... Watch the mail for your invitation!

Yes! MCADP can count on my Support!

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