



Letters to the Editor

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

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Death penalty

JOHN POYNER (Jan. 4 Viewpoint) argued for the death penalty with false statements that hurt victims like me.

He claimed that the death penalty brings peace and safety to victims.

As the spokeswoman for California Crime Victims for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, I can say that hundreds of murder victims' family members across California disagree: The death penalty does not make us feel better or safer.

Poyner said that if the death penalty were

administered faster, it would have saved Byron Schletewitz whose murder was arranged by Clarence Ray Allen from prison.

But Allen was not awaiting execution when Schletewitz was murdered. Speeding up executions would have made no difference.

We put a price on victims' lives every day when we allow a few token monsters to be charged with capital murder while tens of thousands of murders go unsolved.

Speeding up the death penalty will only take us closer to executing an innocent person while wasting hundreds of millions.

We can't afford to fix capital punishment. We can, like most civilized countries in the world, live safely without the death penalty.

Judy Kerr

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