

Stockton Record

May 16, 2009

Death penalty debated

Congratulations on your bold stand and persuasively argued editorial on the debilitating costs of the death penalty in California.

Apart from the moral question, our economic situation, which we are still a long way from resolving, demands a new look at the steep costs of crime and punishment. The spiralling cost of keeping death row in operation instead of a safe, sane alternative like life imprisonment (criminals safely off the streets) is the second-best reason I've heard for abolishing and finding alternatives to the death penalty.

Tom McMahon

Richmond

Thanks for your fine editorial May 7; very timely with the child murder in Tracy coming into the justice system.

I'll quote your profound statement, "There is little justice surrounding the death penalty. It is always delayed and delayed and delayed, condemning the victim's family to twist in a sort of penalty purgatory".

Paying for the crime by a lifetime without freedom is a lot more revenge for the victim's family and all of society.

Then as you pointed out, there are the shocking costs.

Rita Kresha

Oakland

Thank you very much for your editorial pointing out the horrendous cost of carrying out the death penalty and the fact that it does not deter crime. I agree that California cannot afford to keep pouring out tens of millions of dollars to continue capital punishment.

Esther Mohler Ho

Hayward