

The testimony of Bonny Lee Michaelson not heard 2/23/09

Since Nathan Dunlap was convicted I have been trying to understand my own thoughts on the death penalty.

I began to question many people on their thoughts. I came across a mixed political message.

I found often people who believed man is just another animal were against the death penalty.

I found often people who believed man was above the animals were for the death penalty.

I have asked anthropologists who also study animal behaviors if they have ever seen the death penalty in nature. I have been answered yes. Then I ask if they have ever seen life imprisonment in animal societies. I have been answered no, only temporary imprisonment.

Thus by behavior if man is just another animal we should do death penalties and if we are different, perhaps above, we should be doing life imprisonment. Mixed from how political pattern usually falls.

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When is the law going to learn all perspectives need to be heard for the sake of many justices. You need to know they are not all heard.

One moment you hear a crash and from that moment your life's path is changed. That happen to me as I was shopping in Wild Oats. The store wall shook and I walked out to learn of a failure in the legal system. I saw youth and a police officer. Usually when I see this scene, I was raised by my Mother, to be sure the kids are ok, parents called. But this time the officer looked like he needed comforting. He did and he explained to me his frustration of only having a ticket to give this kid that needed more help to understand how to deal with his trauma of having been fired. As I left I watched, what I later learned was Nathan Dunlap, walking towards Chuck E. Cheese with his girlfriend by his side trying to play psychiatrist. She was saying, "Don't worry we will just handle this ticket like the others, no big deal." He wasn't really there to hear her. His focus was on Chuck E. Cheese. His mind totally engaged in some image he was creating. I thought of going over, introduce myself when I felt an energy of danger. I felt this once before when my father had shot at me. I could not go near Nathan Dunlap. That night was the murders at Chuck E. Cheese. There was no question in my mind who did it. His murderous thoughts may have been what froze me so.

When the court case occurred I finally found a lawyer involved to call. A newspaper article had given me the prosecuting attorney. I asked him for Nathan Dunlap's lawyer. He took my story and then gave me the information I requested. The defense attorney kept yelling and questioning me for talking to the prosecutor first. I kept telling him that I was on neither side. I was sure Nathan Dunlap was guilty. I was sure the system had failed by not having a training to even try to reach a troubled youth.

The defense would not want me at the case I am a witness to it probably being him. The prosecution would not want me. I am a witness to the system failing. The city government does not want the public to know they had warnings and no safety net. Of course neither lawyer called me to testify during the case. Then the case was over. Nathan Dunlap was found guilty and the jury was to decide on the death penalty.

This was where I believed my story may be important to a jury member. I am not a witness to the crime. I am a witness to the domino, the ticket, that lead to the crime happening that night. Again I talked to the lawyers. Neither was going to call me in. I was not surprised by the prosecutor but the defense attorney just yelled nonsense at me. I saw my own attorney and discovered I had no recourse. I could not walk myself in. The reasoning I was given was that if they open death penalty decisions to anyone wanting to make a statement everyone with a problem with death penalty will come in and the case will take days and days. But I had information about this particular case a juror might need to hear before making their decision. It didn't matter. I was essentially gagged from the jury. I had been gagged from court once before when I was nine and it caused me great trauma, even to this day.

When is the law going to learn all perspectives need to be heard for the sake of many justices. At least now you have heard my story fast so you can weigh or cast it aside for your decision.