

Letters to the Editor: 09.30.09

By Staff Reports

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Shameful relic

The horrific trials about systemic organized abuse at the Corpus Christi State School are insidious. What is worse is the fact that the strategic approach towards fixing it is not effective. State schools cannot be fixed by changing their names or installing Web cams. It is as though we are smothering our conscience.

I used to try to fix the problems at facilities. Now, I realize that one of the only ways to improve them is to consolidate and right-size them. Institutions are a shameful relic of failed public policy and a misuse of government spending. They are storage facilities that segregate individuals with disabilities from the rest of society. Community and home-based services are a more efficient, cost effective and moral solution, offering independence for individuals with disabilities.

For over 20 years, I have been developing employment and housing supports for individuals with disabilities and I have witnessed firsthand people who have thrived after leaving an institution. They become active members of their community who are gainfully employed. We must learn from past tragedies and the violations of human rights and recognize the potential of each individual to live and thrive in the community.

Robert Stack

Innocent

Re: The Caller-Times editorial ("Texas justice system has major flaws," Sept. 13). I know this all too well. I was wrongfully convicted in 1983 for a murder I did not commit. What's rather remarkable about my case is that the former prosecuting attorney has publicly proclaimed that he convicted an innocent man. Dennis Cadra wrote an eight-page letter in 1991 to then-Gov. Ann Richards saying, "Despite my 16 years as a prosecutor, I came to the firm conclusion that it was physically impossible for Mr. Reyos to have committed the crime ..."

Prosecutor Cadra was telling the truth when he publicly asserted that he convicted an innocent man. It's very rare for a prosecuting attorney to try to see that justice is served. Having ascertained, after trial, that he convicted an innocent man, Mr. Cadra wanted to right a miscarriage of justice. He is to be commended for stepping forward and advocating justice for a truly innocent man.

The editorial stated that, "At least 38 men in Texas spent decades in prison based on

wrongful convictions . . ." I must say that there are more than 38 people in Texas prisons who are truly innocent of their crimes. You are reading a letter from another innocent man — the 39th — even though I have not been officially exonerated.

James Harry Reyos, Gatesville

It's not racism

Enough is enough. Every time any criticism is made of Obama, his supporters claim his race, his color, is the reason people are against him. Well, all the people I know do not care if he's black, purple, green or red. It's his proposals, ideas, and agendas that bring thousands of people who oppose his plans to the "tea parties" and town hall meetings.

For example, it's his implication that citizens with no health insurance do not get health care. Another is his argument that lawsuit abuse has no bearing on the cost of medical care. He also would have us believe all this spending and expanded government giveaways won't increase our national debt or raise our taxes.

Really, Mr. President, our citizens are not dumb. Stop your allies from using racism as an excuse and come up with a practical and believable solution to our problems.

Mary Taylor, Rockport

Scare tactic

Proportionally fewer people will likely become demented. The headlines are just a political scare tactic to get people to want Obamacare and other disasters now that human-caused climate change is seen for the fraud it is. It'll be something else in a few months.

John W. Dean

Five-percent law

It's amazing that there has been no reaction to the Caller-Times article on the new law passed but the Legislature in May which guarantees a five percent return for members of the Texas Municipal Retirement System. I would like a five percent return on my retirement investments and would appreciate the taxpayer for kicking in an amount to cover the difference when there is a shortfall.

In addition, city employees probably will not see any cut in the city two-for-one match of their retirement contributions as long as the city taxpayers remain silent and continue to go along with it. Joe McComb raised this issue back a few years ago, but it went nowhere when city employees complained and senior staff buried it.

David C. Morrow



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