

MCCA

April 1994

Happenings

Minnesota Community Corrections Association

P.O. Turned Mayor



Sharon Sayles Belton

Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton was the keynote speaker for the 1994 MCCA Winter Conference. Although Sayles Belton comes to her position with impeccable credentials, her real credibility with the group she addressed on February 10, 1994 is her history as a parole officer for the State of Minnesota. Mayor Sayles Belton says the Department of Corrections "got me going in the field of politics."

Ms. Sayles Belton said she was involved with community corrections before the "Act". As a student at McAllister College, she took a writing class at Stillwater prison. She was astounded, even then, at the significant number of black inmates. They told her how hard it was to get the parole Board to understand how difficult it was to get adequate and appropriate

services to address their needs in the community. Mayor Sayles Belton said she wanted to provide African American inmates with a positive connection on the outside, since there were less than a handful of Black professionals working in corrections at the time. Sayles Belton observed that there was no connection between what was going on in the joint and on the streets.

Shortly after that, the Community Corrections Act came into being. Mayor Sayles Belton reminded us that 80% of offenders are monitored in the community. Since she was a parole officer, many new programs are used routinely in the community, such as electronic home monitoring, day reporting and intensive community supervision.

Community Corrections asks us how the community can prevent crime and create an environment that supports a crime free life. Prevention is the key, and more focus must be made here. We must start with children and programs like Head Start and Early Child Family Education. We must create strong and healthy foundations. We must educate parents about child development and on violent methods of discipline. Mayor Sayles Belton said, "Our kids are not born disrespectful or violent. They learned it."

A community that is opposed to crime must provide positive

activities for kids, such as scouting, sports, and before and after school programs. These are not "frills" but they have lost funding, and those funds now go to therapeutic interventions of those 'at risk.' Community Corrections needs to be involved in developing the network that prevents children from turning to crime. Why do we turn our backs on these kids? Because of their race, socioeconomic status, gender, neighborhood? Truancy is a early call for help. Forty percent of truants under the age of fourteen end up in the criminal justice system. Schools, police, community organizations and parents must work together.

In the metro area, mostly it is children of color who fall through the cracks. We must intervene early. There is a relationship between crime, poverty and those who end up in the system. Institutional racism is flourishing and the answer is economic equality.

In the 'fortress' model, we take the person and lock them up, believing we will also lock up the problem. Community Corrections is to take us beyond that to a therapeutic model that deals with individuals and the community. We must be able to distinguish between criminal behavior and different behavior. And we MUST understand cultural differences.

We must look at our own workforce and see how well it

matches our client base. These workers have connections in communities that our clientele come from. We must put community corrections back in the hands of the community. This must begin in the inner circle of corrections and widen out to organizations, foundations, schools and the public at large. Mayor Sayles Belton supports community oriented policing. She suggests corrections get involved in education. We must create schools and organizations such as parks and gyms that are family friendly in order to build a community.

Mayor Sayles Belton also talked about the ability to examine mental health issues in our clients. Where depression is the issue, adults "act in" while children "act out". Do we have staff available who can look past the observable behavior to examine the mental health issue? Sayles Belton also discussed concern about the juvenile female who is often overlooked or ignored in our system. Because adolescent females offend less often, and often less violently, they don't receive the resources that young males receive. But they are becoming the mothers and primary caretakers of the next generation, and their needs must also be addressed.

Mayor Sayles Belton closed by saying that we as corrections professionals must know where the money and resources are and go after them. We must have a voice in the legislature. We must have a public dialogue with those we serve, with the community, the Boys and Girls club, parents and elected officials. "Be proactive about what you are doing," she counseled. "You have the power to make change. Change the environment to create a positive community. Let us know what you need to do your job well."

Training tid bits...



1994 MCCA Training Committee members from L to R: Mary Scully-Whitaker, MN Department of Corrections; Michel Plantz, Reentry Metro; Susanne Lambert (Chair), Reentry Metro; Kelly Whalen, Reentry Metro; Debra Spindler, Hennepin County Adult Probation. Not pictured: Joe Mayer, Ramsey County Community Corrections; Norb Gerness, Hennepin County Juvenile Detention

We would like to remind all of you of the training opportunities offered each month through MCCA. On the third Wednesday of each month MCCA provides a training event at the Wilder Community Assistance Program, 650 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul, MN from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The training is at no cost to individual members of MCCA, \$5 for program sponsors (members), and \$10 for non-members.

Upcoming Events:

March 16, 1994- Innovative Services For The Female Offender
April 18 - 20, 1994- Managing Community Corrections Programs, co-sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), the International Association of Residential and Community Alternative (IARCA), and hosted by the Minnesota Community Corrections Association (MCCA). The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn East, St. Paul, MN. If you have not received a brochure or need additional information, contact Susanne Lambert at (612) 644-1951.

April 20, 1994- Services To Clients Through Culturally-Specific Programming

May 18, 1994- A panel of guests will provide information on employment for the offender

June 1994- (date and location yet to be determined) A day long training event which will focus on COPING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE: complaint management, dealing with manipulation, and keeping your cool under fire.

Watch your mail for the MCCA training event fliers!

Great fishing!

On 3/4/94, the 2nd annual MCCA Ice Fishing Tournament took place at Rush Lake. The weather was a fantastic sunny 50 degrees. Forty eager participants registered at Lakeview Resort for a day of fishing. Most fish caught were taken from about 25 feet of water. At 4:00 p.m., the following individuals were awarded trophies for the ten largest fish: Wayne Eggleston 9 oz., Lee Barabash 8 oz., Ken Jones 8 oz., Bruce Anderson 6 oz., Jerry Soma 6 oz., Fran Binstock 6 oz., Bruce Clendenen 5.5 oz., Brad Belair 5 oz., Rick Pung 4 oz., and Steve Ayers 3.5 oz. Also given away were some nice door prizes. Special thanks to the Anoka County gang for helping make this possible.

If you like fishing in open water, the 11th Annual MCCA Crappie Tournament will be May 6, 1994, on Rush Lake at Lakeview Resort. For more info call: Jerry Soma, 323-5844; Bruce Anderson, 422-0955; Ricki Tufte, 292-7352; or Rick Pung, 870-7227.

MCCA Board of Directors

Sharen Southard
President
Parole & Victim Services
348-3974

Kris Clendenen
Vice President
EXCEL
659-9166

David Conde
Secretary
Ramsey Co. Comm. Corr.
292-7348

Ricki Tuft
Treasurer
Ramsey Co. Comm. Corr.
292-7352

Bruce Clendenen
Reentry Services

William Guelker
MN Department of Corrections

Bob Hanson
Ramsey County

Susanne Lambert
Reentry Metro

David Loftness
Carver Co. Court Svcs.

Lucius Luther
Hennepin County

Deb Moses
Genesis II for Women

William Nelson
VOA

Mike Nichols
Parole & Victim Services

David Pettiford
IBCA

Kay Pranis
MN Citizen's Council

Rick Pung
180 Degrees, Inc.

Iary Scully-Whitaker
MN Department of Correction

Louise Wolfgramm
AMICUS

President's Update



Sharen Southard

I want to welcome the new members of the MCCA Board of Directors and invite you to congratulate them. They are Bob Hanson of Ramsey County, Lucius Luther of Hennepin County, Deb Moses of Genesis II for Women, and David Pettiford of IBCA. We are very pleased these four join us for two year terms. We also need to thank the four members who have finished their terms on the Board: Pete Batterman, David Conde, John McLagan and Helen Trickey. We are going to miss them and appreciate the contributions they made to our organization.

MCCA has been involved in several activities recently. The most visible was the Winter Conference which is well discussed in this issue. It was again a very

successful event this year. Perhaps more behind the scenes, was a packet of materials which was sent to all of the state legislators and the governor from the MCCA Public Education Committee. This packet presented information on violence, crime, treatment effectiveness, the public's opinion, and information about "The Vision". In a cover letter, we introduced the MCCA organization and attached a brochure so the recipients would have more information about us. The Public Education Committee will be following up on this mailing. If you are interested in this information, call Bruce Clendenen at (612) 659-9420.

March is the month we do our planning for 1994-95. We will be setting goals and budgets for the year, and Board Members will be selecting committees to chair. (Most of this information will be in the next Happenings issue.) We will also be looking for volunteers to staff the committees and I would like to invite you to join us. Everything MCCA does is without paid staff. Without our volunteers we would not exist, much less function at the level we do. If you have ever thought of volunteering, now would be a good time to choose a committee or interest area. If you want any further information, please call me at 348-3974.



MCCA Board of Directors from L to R: D. Loftness, R. Pung, D. Pettiford, M. Nichols, S. Southard, L. Luther, K. Clendenen, B. Nelson, D. Moses, R. Tuft, K. Pranis, B. Clendenen, M. Scully Whitaker, L. Wolfgramm, S. Lambert & B. Hanson

New MCCA members

Greg Fletcher	Steve Holmquist
Ed Racky	Sue Eck-Maahs
Mike Selbitshka	Athena Mihas
Farris Glover	Lucius Luther
Margaret Moore	Robert A. Hanson
Kenneth A. Jones	James Reinke
Amy Carter	Junauld Presley
Deb Hennen	Heather Pipes
Beth Smale	Nina Swanson
Heidi Halstrom	Marcie Johnson
Steve Ann Myers	Kimberly Hartert
Dave Sathre	Carol Bergh
Glenn Hall	Lee Trelstad
Jerry Dieffenbach	Rick Ricker
Mary Kaye Malone	Daniel J. Cole
Kelly Whalen	Charles Decker
Cheri Regner	Dennis Avery
Kathy Vetter	Dale D. Moselle
Dwight Close	Nancy Bettein
Pete Pedersen	Gladys E. Spenny
Darlene Alsop	Kimberly Luoma
Steve Brasseur	Carol J. Clarke
Barbara Kommers	Robin Martinson
Kate Reilly	Kellie Ludescher
James H. Hayes	Justine Phillips
Paul Wilberg	Brent Erickson
Odell Wilson	Jean A. Schultz
Donna Woltering	Eric Johnson
Mark Wallace	David Johnson
Mike Kenney	
Patricia Pfannenstern	

Since 1988 Pranis has served as director of research services for the Minnesota Citizens Council on Crime and Justice in Minneapolis. She has done extensive work nationally and locally in public policy research and advocacy in the area of criminal justice. Previously she served as a community volunteer and was a school board member for nine years, actively promoting educational reform.

"The implementation of restorative justice in Minnesota is a key focus for our department for the 1990s and beyond. We are very fortunate to have Kay Pranis in this position with her strong background in work with the community and the criminal justice system," Commissioner Wood said.

Pranis' appointment is effective February 2, 1994. She will be located in the department's central office in St. Paul.

Award recipients



Ray Ward and Nina Swanson

The 1993 MCCA Board of Director's Award was presented to Mr. Ray Ward. Ray served on the Board of Directors for over nine years — one of the longest terms in the history of MCCA. He was the Association's treasurer for many of those years and was responsible for writing all the checks and keeping the accounts. He rarely missed a board meeting and spent countless hours volunteering for MCCA. Congratulations, Ray!

This year's Robbie Robinson Award winner was Nina Swanson of the EXCEL program. Nina is someone who has demonstrated excellence, creativity, and commitment to the field of community corrections in her work with women offenders. Nina conducts pre-release classes at MCF-Shakopee, and then works with the women when they are released. Other professionals wrote to describe how Nina is always willing to go "above and beyond" the call of duty on behalf of her clients — and on behalf of other professionals that need her assistance.

For the past four years, Nina has organized a Secret Santa program, that provides new Christmas gifts to the children of offenders in our programs. The program is designed to allow the parents to give the gifts to their children themselves — with no knowledge from the child that the gifts are not from the parents. Over 650 children have received new toys as a result of this program. This is just one of the examples of how Nina's work and dedication have translated into meaningful assistance for her clients.

Congratulations, Nina!!

New appointment for Kay Pranis

State Corrections Commissioner Frank W. Wood announced the appointment of Kay Pranis of St. Paul as restorative justice planner for the Minnesota Department of Corrections, Community Services Division. In this newly created position, Pranis will be working with interested counties, assisting them in development of a restorative justice correctional system.

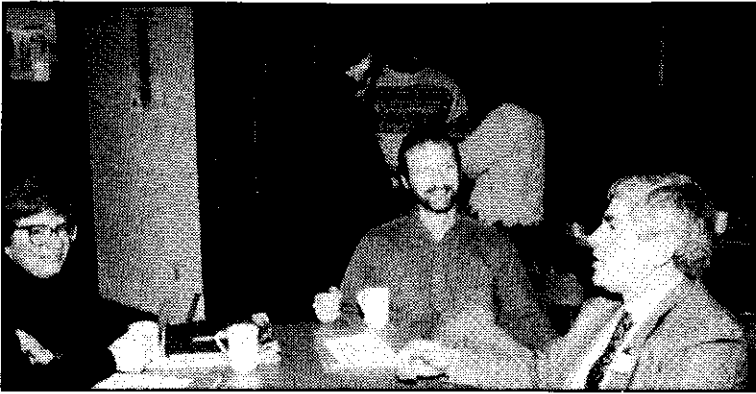
Restorative justice is a new framework for the criminal justice system which involves the community more broadly in the system. In addition to traditional offender accountability, restorative justice seeks to address victim needs, offender competencies, and community responsibility in repairing the harm done by crime.

Wanted...

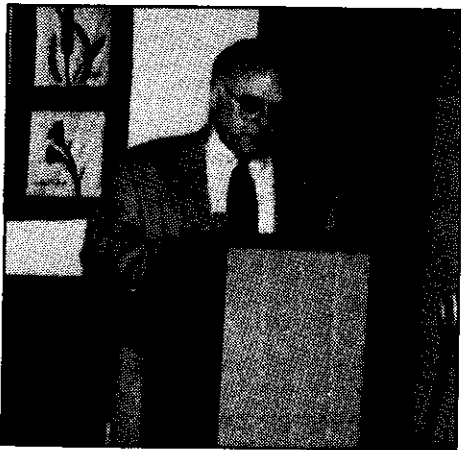
Your comments, letters, opinions, etc.

Send to Sonny Haas, Happenings Editor, 50 W. Kellogg, Ste. 510A, St. Paul, MN 55102 or call (612) 298-4932.

Winter Conference Memories



Collaborating with community partners



David A. Nasby

David A. Nasby, Director of Community Affairs for General Mills, Inc., and Vice President of the General Mills Foundation began his talk with three observations: First, corrections programs want to grow and increase what they are doing, adding more staff and a higher budget. Second, public sector resources are diminishing. Third, programs have a problem with measurable outcomes. Success will come less often, there is greater disparity between the "haves" and "have nots", and there are cultures trapped in poverty.

Although philanthropy represents a small piece of the financial action, it is possible for community corrections to get involved in corporate philanthropy. Nasby warned that corporate foundations do not jump into the middle of a political hot bed. They are responsive to collaboration with the community. He assured the audience that foundations are not going to make grants to maintain business as usual, but, "we will give money to build community." Nasby has three suggestions: First, design down. Focus on human interaction must be central. There must be a synergy with the culture being served. Second, internalize the dynamics. Get input and

investment from those being served. Third, respect and high expectations are critical. Respect is not a common experience of those who live on the margin. Respect must be balanced with high expectation.

Mr. Nasby closed by answering questions from the audience.

Exploring male issues on stage

Stephen J. O'Toole showed Winter Conference participants the many facets of his versatility as an actor and author in a performance of 5 O'Clock Shadows, a one hour revue of sketches on many experiences universal to American men. The three act play, produced by Recovery Productions, explored the feelings surrounding such issues as childhood competition, team sports, homophobia, coming of age, dating anxiety, relationships with women, intimacy and male bonding. The play also probes dark issues such as rape and other violence toward women and gently pokes fun at the sensitive male of the nineties in sketches such as "The Tofu Guy".

Steve and his partner Laura Clark co-founded Recovery Productions in 1988 acting on their belief that the theater experience can help many people break free from barriers of isolation, denial and despair. Previous works explore issues of dysfunctional families, self-esteem in adolescents, and substance abuse and sexual assault on college campuses. Recovery Productions hopes audiences watching 5 O'Clock Shadows will question their own attitudes and values about competition, success, machismo and masculinity; and consider if there is a place for pornography or eroticism in society; how objectification affects behavior; and finally, what is the responsibility of the privileged in our society.

Stephen O'Toole's performance for the MCCA Winter Conference was courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association.

Injury prevention for corrections staff



Difficult client???

Keeping ourselves safe on the job is an issue that everyone in corrections faces. Rick Faye, from the Minnesota Kali Group, presented a wonderful training again this year on "Injury Prevention Techniques for Corrections Staff". He covered a variety of areas during his presentation, such as how to position yourself safely in a room, how to sit when meeting with a client so that you are less likely to get injured, and how to observe a client's body language to determine if they are escalating. Rick also taught the group several self defense techniques, designed to subdue someone in the event of an attack.

Rick is one of the best presenters I have seen on this topic. He stresses awareness above anything else, and emphasizes the goal is to be able to walk away safely from a situation. He salts his presentations with anecdotes (gained from reading thousands of police incident reports) about situations that went badly, and how they could have been avoided. His vast experience in training police officers, bodyguards, FBI agents, and others is reflected in this knowledge of how to gear the material for the audience he's training. He kept his techniques

realistic, and did not try to teach us things that we could not use.

It was a pleasure to have Rick come back again for an entire morning this year. Anyone interested in further training or classes, can contact him at the MN Kali Group, 420 North Fifth St., #280, Minneapolis, MN 55401, (612) 339-3150.

Native American dancers

The Heart of the Earth Survival School came to the MCCA conference and demonstrated a variety of styles of traditional Native American dance. We learned about the Heart of the Earth School and its philosophy and then were privileged to watch the children dance, accompanied by traditional singing and drumming.

I was moved by the pride the children showed in their performances. The dances and ceremonial outfits are an integral part of their cultural heritage. I learned each outfit represents a different type of dancer and the dancers have their own special steps and movements. I also learned the dancers do not arbitrarily choose the type of



dancer they want to be. They are shown in a dream or vision which dancer they will become. Some will become singers and drummers instead and some will be both

singers and dancers.

I especially enjoyed the "Grass Dancer" and his ceremonial outfit. Traditionally, the role of the "Grass Dancer" came into play when the tribe moved to a different location. If the grass was too long at the new location the dancers would stomp down the area clearing the way for the tribe to set up camp.

There is so much to learn from different cultures and this years MCCA conference offered us a small piece of several ethnic backgrounds.

Restorative justice

One of the best attended workshops at this year's conference was "Restorative Justice" which was presented by Kay Pranis. Ms. Pranis outlined the differences between the current retributive model of justice and this restorative model. She emphasized how restorative justice is compatible with community corrections and more responsive to the needs of victims. Restorative justice is viewed as a much better model because it involves the community, victim and offender in the reparation or healing process. While the retributive justice model, with its emphasis on the "State" as victim and punisher, is not working all that well.

For more information about Restorative Justice, plan to attend the Second Conference on Restorative Justice in April.

Newsletter Committee

Kris Clendenen

EXCEL

(612) 659-9166

Sonny Haas

Project Remand

(612) 298-4932

Lucius Luther

Family Court Services

(612) 348-3819

Mary Malone

Reentry Metro

(612) 644-1951

Mia Olson

Katahdin

(612) 872-4701

Kay Pranis

MN DOC

(612) 642-0329

Cathy Smith

Project Remand

(612) 298-4932

The members of the Happenings Newsletter Committee welcome your suggestions and comments.

Please call any of the above members with your ideas.

Thank you

"Articles in the Happenings do not necessarily reflect the opinion of MCCA's Board of Directors."



*Think
Spring!!*

Minnesota Community Corrections Association
650 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1994
Mpls, MN

Fisher, Dale
Hennepin County
1900 Chicago Ave. So.
Mpls. MN 55404

Practitioner's Notebook

Criminal justice reform: What works! By John O. Haley; Garvey, Schubert & Barer
Professor of Law, University of Washington

By any measure our criminal justice system is a disgrace. We are caught in a seemingly unstoppable spiral of destructive failure. For decades increasing crime has produced mounting public fear and anger, ever harsher penalties, more prisoners and prisons, horrendous costs, and more crime. Today by wide margins we lead the industrial world in per capita rates of violent crime and imprisonment. Yet, instead of dispassionate examination of what we are doing wrong and how we might somehow get off this merry-go-round of crime, punishment, more crime and more punishment, with an ever increasing share of our productive wealth wasted in the black hole of prison construction and maintenance, our frustration urges us to push the throttle that makes machine go even faster toward our destructive end.

There is hope. Experience does teach some lessons. There are alternatives to our present approaches, ones that do work to prevent and contain crime. Japan, for example, is the only country in the world to have been able to reduce the incidence of almost all categories of major crime drastically during the past 40 years. Since the mid 1950s reported homicides, robberies, and rapes in Japan have decreased in number by more than half. Japan's success, I must add, is not explained by culture or economic growth. Although cultural and economic factors may have contributed to relatively low crime rates, these factors do not correlate with the dramatic reductions of crime Japan has experienced. Japanese crime rates have fallen despite higher incidence of divorce and many of the other dislocating trends of contemporary life in all industrial countries. Nor is Japan's economic miracle an adequate explanation. Despite similar postwar economic prosperity, Sweden and Germany too have experienced increases in crime, in some categories out distancing even our own.

What lessons then can be drawn from the Japanese experience. Listed below are those I believe to be the most important.

One, imprisonment—especially intermediate and long term imprisonment—contributes to crime.

All studies show that incarceration beyond a two or three year term becomes counterproductive in that offenders upon release are even more likely to commit new and often more serious offenses or repeat prior offenses more skillfully than before. Our prisons are in effect colleges for crime. Imprisonment also removes the offender from the community and social controls that provide the most effective constraints for preventing or deterring criminal behavior. However minor, the bonds of family, friends, or community may be, they are nevertheless nullified completely by incarcerating offenders for any length of time.

Prisons are also expensive and therefore require higher taxes and consequent allocation of resources from value-adding and, I should add, more effective crime-preventing uses. The capital cost per bed is today about \$100,000 and additional cost for prison personnel and minimal necessities is about \$20,000 per year per inmate. In our state today we spend more to maintain our prisons than we do to operate our system of community colleges. But prisons are costly in other less direct ways as well. Those released find it difficult to locate and maintain jobs. Most are either soon back behind bars or on welfare. Many are married and have dependent children, who through no fault of their own bear the cost of the parent's penalty and become dependent on welfare and state provided support.

The Japanese experience merely confirms the social dangers of reliance on incarceration as a primary instrument for crime control. Japanese prisons produce even more repeat offenders

than do ours. Japan does incarcerate some offenders, but generally only those who individually pose significant threats to community safety and usually only so long as that threat is real.

Two, emphasis on individual correction not punishment is essential. The Japanese success—and the success of an astonishingly large number of often neglected programs and approaches in our country as well evidences that non-punitive measures that help the offender to correct deviant behavior do work. The correction of the individual offender is the primary aim of the Japanese criminal justice system. Police, prosecutors, and judges all understand that, however differentiated their formal tasks, they each share a common objective to ensure that offenders are willing and to the extent possible able to correct their behavior.

Three, correction requires that offenders accept personal responsibility for their wrongs. Japanese law enforcement authorities understand that offenders must first accept accountability. They must acknowledge their wrongdoing and demonstrate a willingness to accept responsibility for any harm they have caused. Consequently, the first step in a correctional approach is for the offender to admit wrongdoing and to express remorse. Compensation to victims is equally essential. Unless the offender personally accepts responsibility for the harm he or she has caused to individual victims through direct contact or intermediaries, the process of correction cannot begin.

Four, denial prevents correction. Offenders must not be encouraged to deny responsibility. To blame society or others is an evasion of accountability. Because the threat of severe punishment encourages denial, harsh penalties are generally counterproductive. They fail to deter crime and tend to prevent correction.

Five, correction requires reintegrative responses. Instead of the threat of severe penalties, more effective approaches emphasize reintegrating measures. By treating the remorseful offenders leniently and restoring them to the community rather than excluding them, they are more willing to accept not only responsibility and refrain from denial but also community controls over their behavior. Victim responses are also critical. Once compensated to their satisfaction, victims are able to forgive. That forgiveness is a

critical element in the process of correction. In dealing with remorseful offenders who have been forgiven by those they have harmed, official Japanese studies show that the more lenient the formal penalty the less likely a repeated offense.

The Japanese experience is not unique. We practice similar approaches in our own families. There was a time in small town America when correction and reintegration were simply taken for granted. Today too across the country many communities have instituted programs and approaches that emphasize correction and restoration. All have had similar success. Offenders are less likely to repeat, victims are less bitter and angry. And the costs of both crime and punishment plummet.

Unfortunately, our communities remain locked in the destructive spiral of crime, punishment, and more crime. Proposals for even more stringent, across-the-board measures—such as various proposals for mandatory permanent life imprisonment of the “three strikes and you’re out” variety—represent a very heavy push on the throttle. It may be the last before we all go over the edge.