

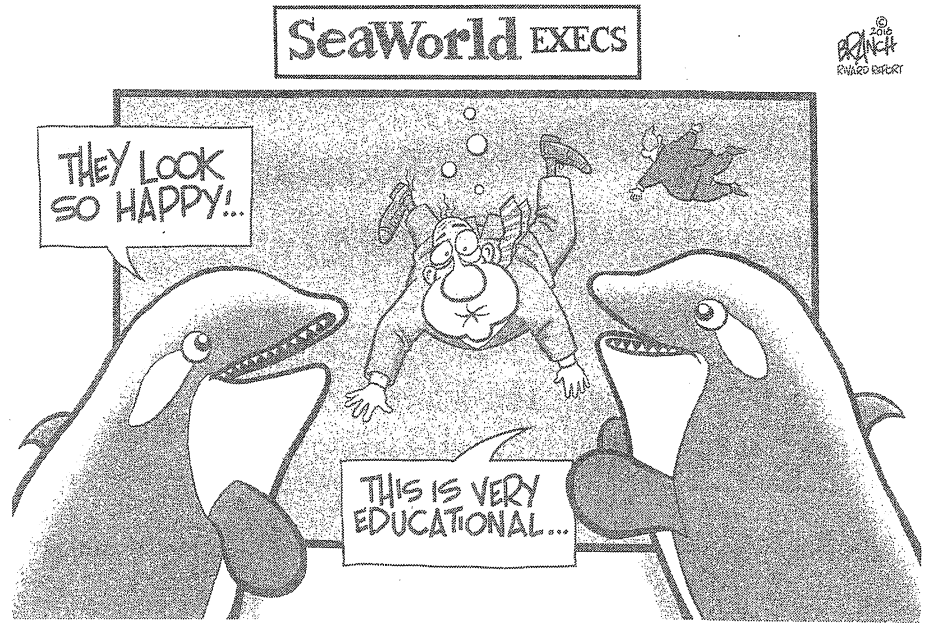
It is an interpretive grid placed over the evidence found in the earth. There are other interpretive grids one can use. To say it is the only one is to promote the propagandizing of Alabama children, not their education.

Win Johnson
Montgomery

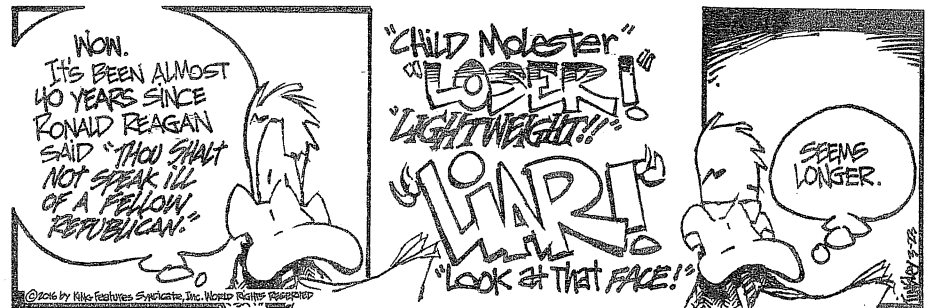
Where did the ball drop?

I am a graduating senior at Tuskegee University. During my tenure with Tuskegee's Social Work department, I was required to complete a 400-hour senior internship. I completed my internship with the Federal Defenders of the Middle District of Alabama in Montgomery. The intent of this letter is not to discuss my internship, however, the purpose is to shed light on what this experience revealed. There is an organization called Alabama Post-Conviction Relief Project (APCRP) whose mission is to raise awareness about individuals on death row and to find attorneys to work on behalf of those clients through any state appeals they may have before the client can appeal to the federal courts. APCRP works tirelessly trying to get death sentences reversed for its clients. Some of these death row clients were subjected to childhoods full of neglect, abuse and trauma; others are very likely innocent of the charges that have been brought against them. The question posed then is, "Where did the ball drop?" The answer is multidimensional but let's focus on legal representation.

There were clients whose legal team did not thoroughly search for mitigation. There were clients whose legal team did not have motions filed on time to the courts. There was also legal representation that dropped cases but never informed the clients. These individuals were not properly represented and without adequate representation, the chance for a fair trial was highly unlikely. That is what APCRP seeks to correct - an unfair death sentence by



MALLARD FILLMORE BRIAN TINSLEY



way of an inadequate defense. For many of these individuals, they are out of appeals and their only hope is that the governor will grant them clemency so they can serve a life sentence as opposed to lethal injection. We cannot rid the system of all incompetent attorneys, but we can support a program

that seeks to provide adequate defense for these individuals.

Khandi Crawford
Tuskegee

Send letters to the editor to letters@montgomeryadvertiser.com. Maximum length 250 words. Please include name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. Only the writer's name and city will be published.

Montgomery Advertiser

Pulitzer Prize winner: 1928, 1970, 1988
aper | Incorporating the Alabama Journal, 1993

Robert Granfeldt Jr. President and Publisher
Tom Clifford Executive Editor

MONTGOMERYADVERTISER.COM/OPINION

on the Opinion section, email news@record@gannett.com.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Send your letter and a profile photo to letters@montgomeryadvertiser.com

GUIDELINES

250 words maximum. Include your name and phone number. We edit for length and clarity. No profanity, racism, personal attacks or lying.

MAIL

Letters to the Editor.
425 Molton Street,
Montgomery AL 36104

FAX

334-261-1521

ONLINE

www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/section/SUBMITLETTER