



LETTER to the Editor

I've never lost anyone close to me. I don't know anyone who has been murdered or killed or anything. I have read your newspaper and I was touched. I'm a writer and I'm working on my first book, but I wanted to take time out to write to your newspaper to commend you on the wonderful job you guys are doing.

People should be more informed on the lives that have been lost; it will make them feel closer to the situation. Then maybe, just maybe, they'll feel more obligated to pick up the phone when they recognize a criminal or see something happening, instead of just sitting back and letting it happen. In the future I'll keep a more watchful eye.

My heart goes out to those who have lost loved ones; I'm sorry, and may God be with you. To those who continue to commit crimes, if you want to live your life that way, then that's up to you, but you should know that [justice] will eventually catch up with you - it's just a matter of time.

There is another issue I'd like to address: every night on television we tune into shows like CSI and Law and Order. I'm not excluding myself, because I love CSI: Miami just as much as the next person. I'm aware that, whether or not we watch these shows, murders will still happen, but are we feeding into the concept? Are we giving people who commit homicides fresh ideas?

Most of the cases portrayed on the shows come from real live cases in the media, but is it possible that we are creating a habitual circle? It has almost gotten out of control with mothers killing their children and husbands slaying their wives. I don't put the blame on the shows; I just think it is time we as people take full responsibility for our actions. ...On the shows the excuses for murder are "I snapped" or "I'm PMSing" or (my prime example) "I saw it on television."

I love this country. It was founded on love, the love for people, and that's what makes it so great. If we keep killing each other, there won't be anyone left, and I'm pretty sure we can all get along better than we have been. As I look at the faces of the murder victims, I don't get sad - I just get angry and upset. I have empathy for their friends and family members.

Let's stop the violence because, who knows, it could be one of us on that cold slab wearing a toe tag one day.

- China Boynton (19-year old pre-college student)

The Justice Coalition fully supports the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in having enough staff to properly arrest criminals and the State Attorney's Office to properly prosecute criminals. To help make Jacksonville a safer place to live, we ask the Florida State Legislature to provide adequate funding for the SAO and the Jacksonville City Council to provide adequate funding for the JSO.

Let your voice be heard; call or write your state representative or city council member today.

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THE SECRET WORD

Hidden in the text of the Victims' Advocate is the **SECRET WORD** for the month of **February**. The rules are simple:

1. Find the word.
2. Telephone the Justice Coalition office 783-6312.
3. The first person who telephones the correct Secret Word wins a Gift Certificate to Sonny's Real Pit Barbeque Restaurant.
4. You can only win once in a twelve month period.

SO START SEARCHING!

Exclusions: no persons employed by the Justice Coalition, Sonny's, nor their families are eligible.



It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

-Psalm 118:8

The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117, the longest is Psalm 119, and Psalm 118, verse 8, is the exact center of the Bible. Does this verse say something significant to us about being in the center of God's perfect will for our lives?

Faith Corner


The Faith Community holds the key to true Restorative Justice for all mankind. Many churches and businesses support this concept.

The Justice Coalition wishes to thank the following for their support in our quest for this goal of compassion and understanding:

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If your business or church would like to appear in this section, please contact us at 783-6312.

I N G O D W E T R U S T !