

socializing. True, there were other proactive things they could do, but incremental change is received (and maintained) better than sweeping overhauls. Once the program was not in jeopardy anymore, we could start exploring all of the things I would *like* to see change.

Let's apply this same principle of reinforcement to drug dealers. What are the benefits to drug dealing? For most, the money is really not that good, so that is probably not it. Many dealers are popular, powerful, needed, feared, cunning and adrenaline junkies. Most dealer's self-esteem is wrapped up in feeling like nobody can tell them what to do, that they are important and...for lack of a better term "all that." The notion that you are going to get a dealer to stop dealing is usually pure fantasy. You might, however, get dealers to talk in an interview or become an informant. If you find something you can use against him/her that is more powerful than the popularity, power etc., you can use it to your advantage. For many women, their children are their Achilles

heel. For many minorities that are raised in a matriarchal culture, their mother's and grandmother's opinion is a huge pawn you can use. You can also try to find ways to make working with you fulfill those same needs. Your goal is to make it more rewarding to work with you instead of against you. In counseling, we call it motivational interviewing.

One detective we know starts out her interrogations by just getting to know the person, who the important people are in his/her life etc... Then she uses that knowledge to help the offender see how he is sabotaging or hurting those things that mean the most to him.

In sum, try to make your environment a positive one. Encourage positive behaviors by rewarding them and the negative behaviors will disappear. After all, I cannot screw off and excel at my job all at the same time. Supervising, parenting and interrogating by reinforcement work much better (most of the time) than punishment. ●

**Hurry up and execute me!**



Believe it or not, many death row inmates are actually encouraging the state to speed up the process of their executions.

While executions in America as a whole continue to decline, according to state and federal records, there is one trend that's holding steady. About one out of every eight death row inmates "volunteer" to die by abandoning their legal appeals, according to **Richard Willing**, a reporter for *USA Today*.

He writes that the Death Penalty Information Center, a Washington D.C. group that opposes the death penalty, has collected data that reveals that death row volunteers account for 123 of the 1,041 executions carried out since capital punishment was reinstated in 1977.

**J.C. Oleson** is the author of a 2006 law journal article about volunteers.

"Why do they do it?" Oleson asks. "And how should the legal system regard someone who just doesn't want to participate? It raises real questions."

According to national figures, five of the 37 murderers put to death in the last year were volunteers. Two of the remaining 14 prisoners scheduled for execution in 2006 have asked to die.

Many convicted murderers say they'd rather die than face the guilt and anxiety they feel as the result of their crimes.

**Michael Ross**, a murderer of four Connecticut women who was executed last year, said continuing his appeals would prolong the "living hell" of reliving his "absolute worst deed."

*Reprinted courtesy of American Police Beat, October 2006 issue.*

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