

WARPD



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Study indicates Blacks comprise large percentage on Death Row

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid a congressional debate on how to impose the death penalty, the Justice Department reported Sunday that blacks still make up a much larger share of Death Row inmates than of the nation's population.

The department's Bureau of Justice Statistics said that as of Dec. 31, 1990, blacks comprised 40 percent of prisoners awaiting death penalties. The 1990 census found the U.S. population is 12.1 percent black.

The study did not calculate what percentage of the overall U.S. federal and state prison system population is comprised of black people.

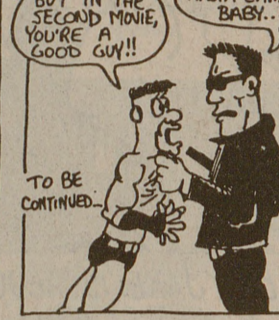
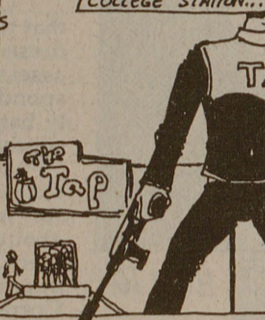
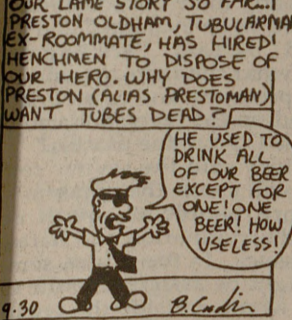
In 1987, the Supreme Court ruled that statistical evidence of discrimination is insufficient to render death penalty statutes unconstitutional.

That ruling came in the case of Warren McCleskey, a black man who was executed last Wednesday in the Georgia electric chair for the killing of a white Atlanta policeman during a 1978 furniture store robbery.

Last week, the House Judiciary Committee approved and sent to the House floor a bill allowing legal challenges to death sentences based on statistical showings of race discrimination. The Senate rejected a similar provision last summer.

Under prodding from the Bush administration, both House and Senate crime bills would greatly expand the federal death penalty — to cover some 50 new crimes.

Tubularman



by Boomer Cardinale

Spade Phillips, P.I.



by Matt Kowlaski

Central Asians rediscover religion

DUSHANBE, U.S.S.R. (AP) — On Sunday, the word came from a gilt Bible held aloft by a bearded priest. Saturday morning, it was a Torah, 300 years old, carried around a synagogue. Friday, it was Korans by the score.

As Central Asians slam shut the works of Karl Marx, they are flocking back to the classic mosaic of scriptures that shaped their lives over the centuries, and nurtured them in secret during three generations of communism.

In stirring scenes of devotion, God is praised in Arabic, Hebrew and old Russian.

"Now we hear about religion, and we are curious," Yuri Kuzeniy, 32, who makes amplifiers for a new crop of musicians, said in a Russian Orthodox cathedral packed solid for Sunday prayers.

"A few years ago, maybe one in 10 of my friends went to the mosque," said Haiderkhon Khudzuhaye, a young Koran student in a village near Dushanbe. "Now it is five out of 10 and growing."

Near a newly rebuilt synagogue with plush red folding seats, Rabbi Eliov Ben Efraim is starting a large school for Jewish

children, even though many of the 12,000 Tadzshik Jews plan to move to Israel.

A religious revival began cautiously across the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, part of Mikhail S. Gorbachev's perestroika. In the republics of Central Asia, however, it has grown into an unsettling social drama.

Young people are reviving the faiths of their grandparents, some so fervently that leaders fear underlying tensions may flare into ethnic violence in a mostly Islamic region shared by dozens of minorities.

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