



ACLU of NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES
IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1934

Shasta, Tehama and Trinity County Chapter

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June 25, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I saw the play **Lucasville: The Untold Story of a Prison Uprising** by Gary Anderson at Shasta College in Redding, CA. This play is based upon events from a prison take-over by inmates at the maximum security Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in rural Lucasville in 1993. It was the longest prison siege in U.S. history.

The play is extremely engaging. I sat riveted on the edge of my seat throughout the presentation. **Lucasville** is a fascinating and powerful exposé of the United States' penal system's failure to provide equal application of the law. It also covers the issues of wrongful convictions, death penalty and the presentation of evidence by the state that is knowingly false and coerced in order to obtain convictions. The lack of equal justice for racial minorities and the poor is vividly emphasized in the play.

The American Civil Liberties Union has long been aware of U. S. penal inequities and the other issues mentioned above, and welcomes efforts such as Gary Anderson's fine play that make the public aware of the necessity for immediate and fundamental systemic reform.

I recommend this play without reservation. It would be an exceptional tool to raise public consciousness, especially in areas of the United States where the fairness of capital punishment is being considered.

Sincerely,

Donald Yost,
Chair
Shasta, Tehama and Trinity County Chapter
ACLU-NC