

# Penalty is discussed

Amnesty International hosts speaker to discuss the use of the death penalty, present in Missouri

BY NATALIE CARBERY  
Staff Reporter

Amnesty International hosted Sister Helen Prejean Jan. 15 at the Baldwin Auditorium. She is famous for her book, "Dead Man Walking," which is about her experience with death row inmates. According to sisterhelen.org, Prejean is one of many people to advocate for the end of the death penalty. She has devoted her life since 1984 to interviewing and documenting the lives of death row inmates, as well as advocating for their rights.

In Missouri, lethal injection and lethal gas are the only legal options for the death penalty, according to deathpenaltyinfo.org, although there is a bill in the state legislature to potentially add the firing squad method. The state currently is running out of the drug because pharmaceutical companies are distancing themselves from the drug for political reasons. Because of this, the state is facing an upcoming decision to find an alternative to the lethal injection, said junior Natalia Albanese, Vice President of Truman's Amnesty International.

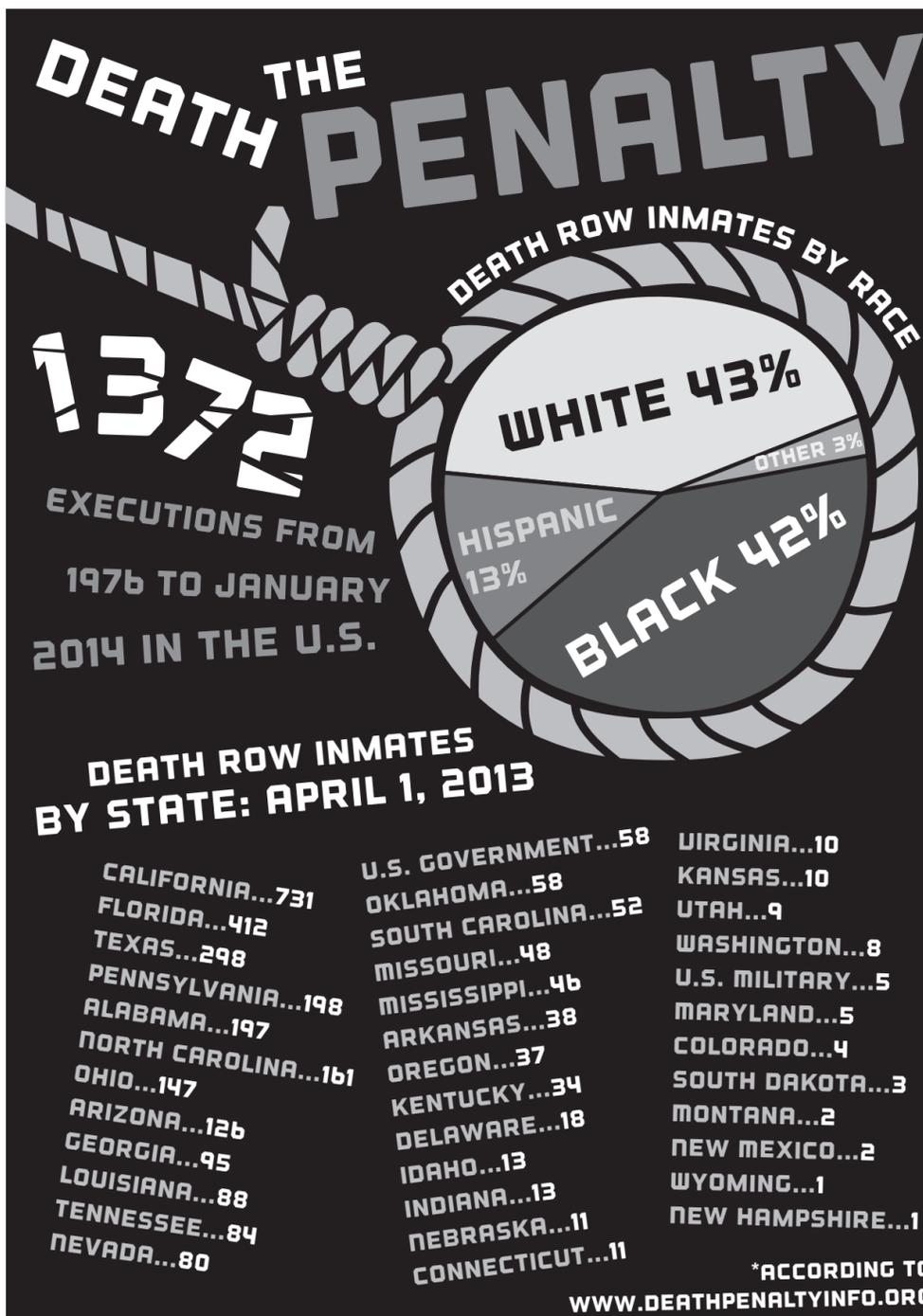
"It is such a crucial time for Missouri," Albanese said. Senior Rae Doyle, President of Amnesty International, is just as invested.

"I would like to see it be something that is voted on," Doyle said. "It should be a platform position."

Doyle said she sees the presence of Amnesty International's anti-death penalty presence on campus as a way to get voters thinking about the death penalty early in their political lives. She said Americans seem to accept the death penalty because it seems more medicinal. She said she think the American justice system is too flawed to be making these decisions, because there is always a chance of innocent victims wrongfully put to death.

"Healing can't come from more death," Fister said. "Sister Helen talks about that, about how even after an inmate is executed, the families of his victims don't feel any relief."

According to missourideathrow.com, Missouri Rep. Paul Wieland (R-112) attempted to have the death penalty repealed in Missouri during March 2013 with House Bill 644. However, it remains legal during 2014.



# Art exhibit curated to reflect on apocalypse

BY ANNA SELLE  
Staff Reporter

Opening at the University Art Gallery Jan. 22 is an exhibit curated by gallery director Aaron Fine, displaying a variety of artworks referencing the apocalypse in various forms. *Apocalyptic Art* features a collection of works from various media by a number of different artists, as well as a Post Apocalyptic exhibit by Truman State alumna Lori Nix in the side gallery.

**Anna Selle: What is the job of a curator?**

Aaron Fine: Basically, the curator is the person who selects the artwork for the show. Often, they also decide the arrangement and the layout. Both of those responsibilities give the curator a lot of power over the meaning of the show, because you can really shape the message that viewers get from an artwork by what you place it next to. That's kind of a big responsibility, deciding how things are going to get viewed and realizing that's going to affect what people will get from the work.

**AS: What can students expect to see in the exhibit?**

AF: You'll see a lot of different media, a fair amount of photography, but also drawing, painting, digital art and sculpture. There's a core, the contemplation of a real apocalypse, which is artwork by members of the Atomic Photographers Guild. There's also sort of every kind of fictional, mythological and biblical apocalypse represented.



Anna Selle/Index

Curator Aaron Fine sets up the Apocalyptic Art exhibit in the University Art Gallery. The exhibit lasts until Feb. 21.

**AS: Where did the concept for the show originate?**

AF: The show is inspired in part by the fact that half the movies we see today are about this subject matter. There's a very serious core, but the show is still a lot of fun.

**AS: How did you find the work being displayed in this exhibit?**

AF: It started with conversations with [English Professor] Bob Mielke. I was inter-

ested in the way some of his own collection commented on the apocalypse, and then that grew because it turned out that he knew some artists and he connected me to artists. It grew out of me thinking about his research and the culture of the bomb and his own art collection. Through Bob, we curated in a very conscious way by asking the artist. After that we didn't have quite enough work and not enough diversity to me so we posted on an online resource for artists looking for submissions.

English professor Bob Mielke has been interested in nuclear warfare and the threat of a nuclear apocalypse since his childhood during the Cold War era. Several of the pieces in *Apocalyptic* are from Mielke's collection or were created by artists Mielke has been in contact with.

**AS: What influenced your interest in nuclear weaponry?**

Bob Mielke: I was scared growing up in Milwaukee, Wisc. I really thought that I would die from a nuclear war for a long time and during my formative years. During the 1980s, when Ronald Reagan heated up the Cold War, I got involved in North Carolina in anti-nuclear activism. I gradually moved from being an activist to being a cultural historian about it. I started studying about it instead of worrying about it.

**AS: How did you come across the art you're lending to the collection?**

BM: Some of them are paintings by a former Truman student named Audrey Byron. She painted an atomic test, which I bought from Costa Rican café. I have work from another artist, Paul Shambroom, who had unprecedented access to photographing nuclear weaponry. Another artist, Jill Waterhouse, has a mixed media piece that's considered fission-fusion-fashion that uses a gas mask.

The show is open to the public Jan. 22 until Feb. 21.

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