

WINDOWS ON *DEATH ROW*

ART FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PRISON WALLS

DESCRIPTION

POLITICAL CARTOONS

INMATE ART

MULTIMEDIA

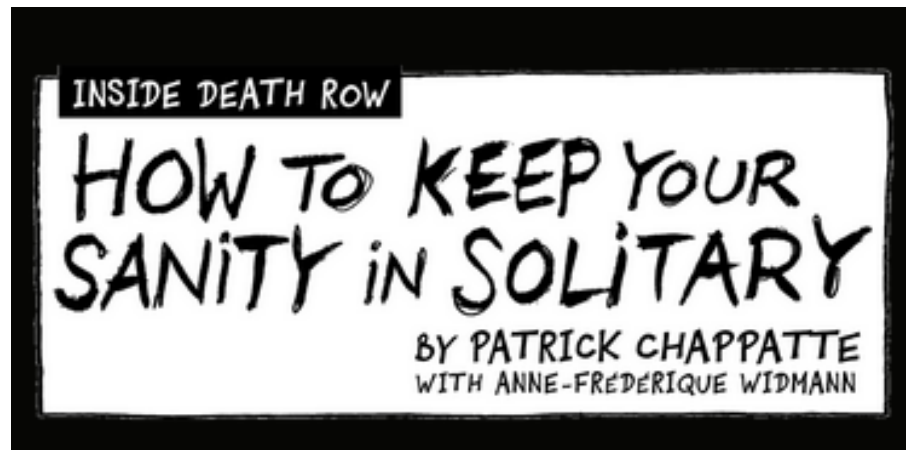
VISIT

PARTNERS

MEDIA

CONTACT

<http://www.windowsondeathrow.com>



LIVINGSTON,
TEX., ALLAN B.
POLUNSKY UNIT

"Don't
mess with
Texas,"
they say.

This is where the state
houses most of its
death row inmates.





You'll recognize their cell block from the high windows: These cells are the only ones with almost no view of the outside.

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS MADE TO BREAK YOU DOWN EMOTIONALLY AND MENTALLY

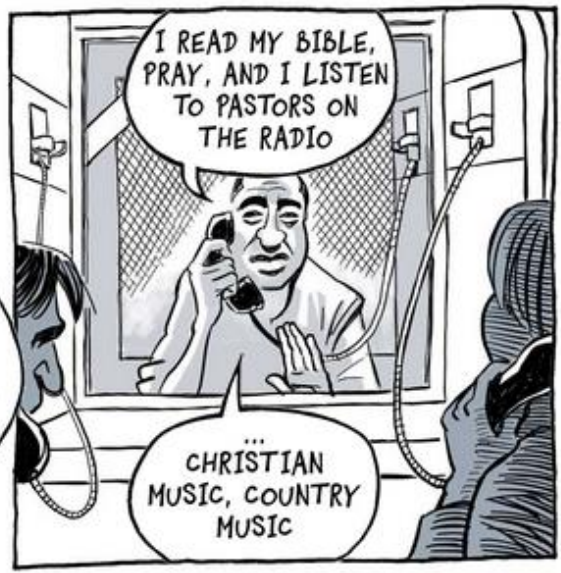


Abel Ochoa, 43, in isolation since 2003.



IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR MIND WORKING YOU'LL LOSE YOUR SANITY

I DO THE SAME THINGS EVERY DAY



I READ MY BIBLE, PRAY, AND I LISTEN TO PASTORS ON THE RADIO

... CHRISTIAN MUSIC, COUNTRY MUSIC



EVERY DAY IS A NEW BEGINNING. I'M NOT BORED

IT'S VERY LONELY. I DON'T GET A LOT OF VISITS. MY BROTHER, ONCE A YEAR. MY PARENTS EVERY 4 MONTHS. A CHRISTIAN SISTER COMES EVERY MONTH. SHE'S 91.

PEOPLE LIKE HER GIVE US STRENGTH NOT TO GIVE UP.

NOT TO COMMIT SUICIDE.



I HAVE A PEN PAL IN SWITZERLAND, NATASCHA. SEEMS LIKE A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. SO MUCH BEAUTY OUT THERE AROUND THE WORLD



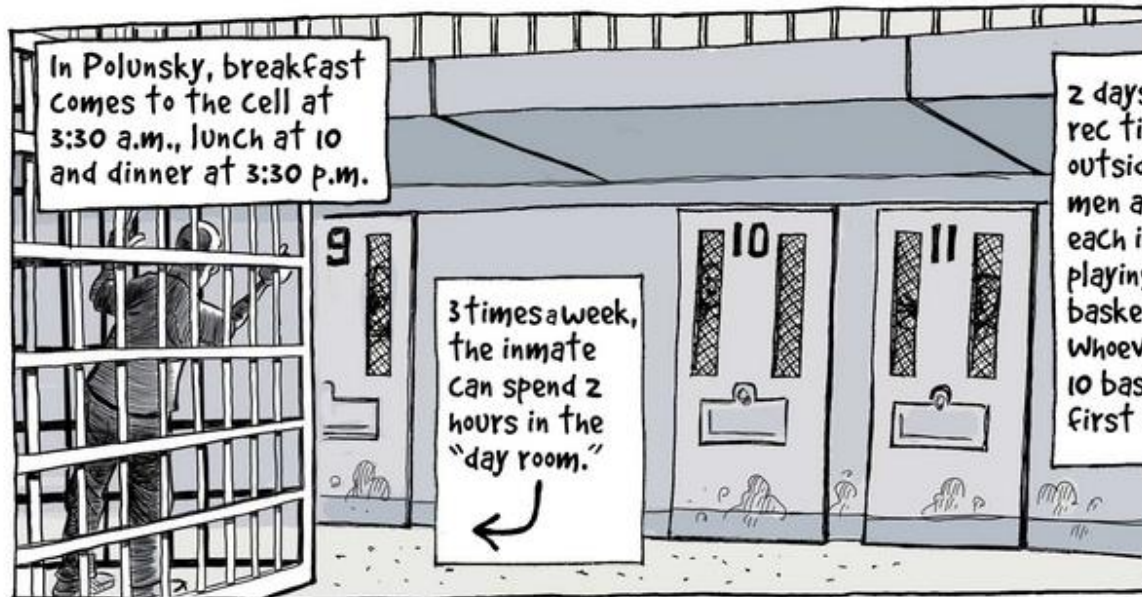
Polunsky Unit to Huntsville, where executions take place, is a 50-minute drive that goes across the Trinity, a wide, golden river.



The last scenery the condemned will see.



Huntsville has the largest prison cemetery in the U.S. with some 3,000 graves. Unclaimed bodies are buried by fellow inmates. Gravestones of the executed are inscribed with the letters X, or EX.



Even in solitary with no physical contact, you'd better watch yourself.

BE CAREFUL. TREAT EVERYBODY WITH RESPECT

WHEN YOU GO BY THEIR DOOR, INMATES CAN THROW HOT WATER ON YOU



OR A PENCIL CAN BE A WEAPON ...

... IN PRISON, ANYTHING CAN BE A WEAPON

"OFFICERS KNOW THEY HAVE TO RESPECT US TOO. IN THE DAY ROOM, AN INMATE CAN GRAB AN OFFICER BY THE COLLAR.

THERE'VE BEEN A FEW ASSAULTS..."



Misbehaving prisoners are taken to Level 3: no electric kettle, no radio, only one monthly visit. You go crazy.

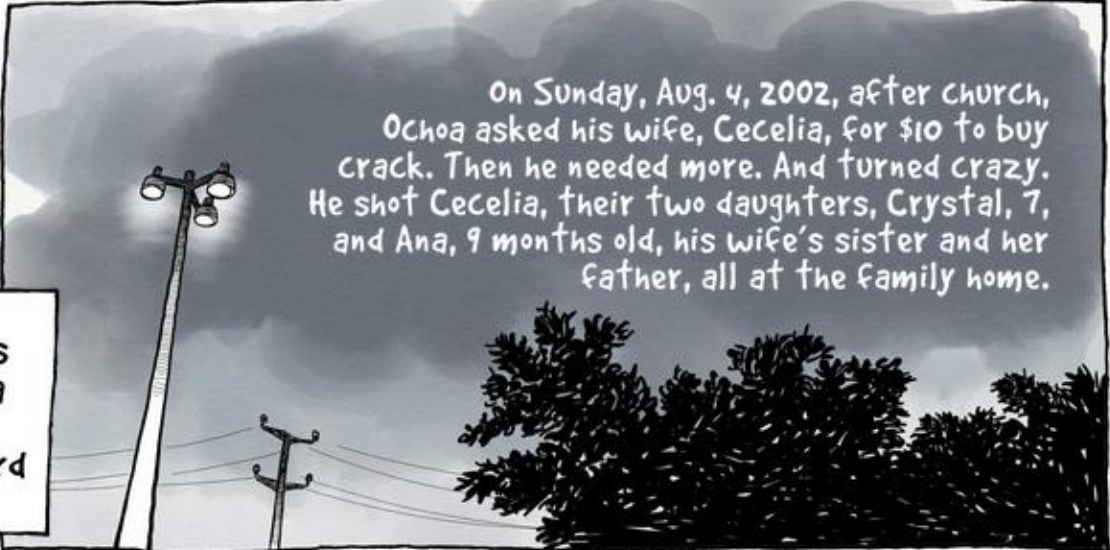


Ochoa was born in Mexico in 1973. He came to Texas around the age of 3. Graduated, worked at a steel mill, got married, had kids.



Then things took a turn toward hell.

On Sunday, Aug. 4, 2002, after church, Ochoa asked his wife, Cecelia, for \$10 to buy crack. Then he needed more. And turned crazy. He shot Cecelia, their two daughters, Crystal, 7, and Ana, 9 months old, his wife's sister and her father, all at the family home.



YOU KNOW ANYBODY ON DRUGS? TELL THEM TO GET AWAY FROM IT. IT'LL MESS UP THEIR MIND



DO YOU ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY?

YOU HAVE TO. IT'S NOT AN EXCUSE, TO SAY THAT I WAS ON DRUGS. IT'S TO GET PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES



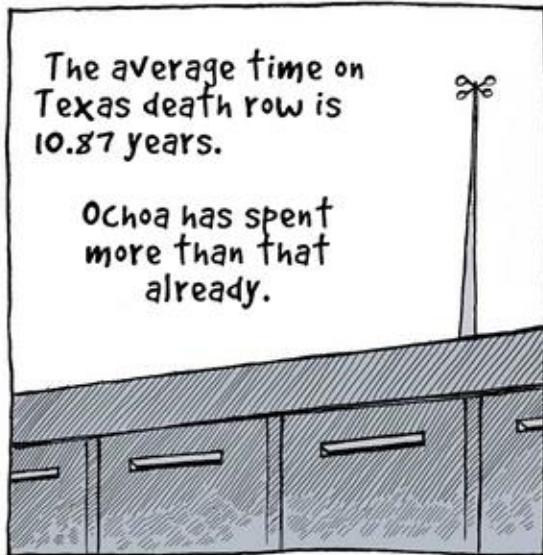
LYING GOES AGAINST MY CHRISTIAN VALUES

THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

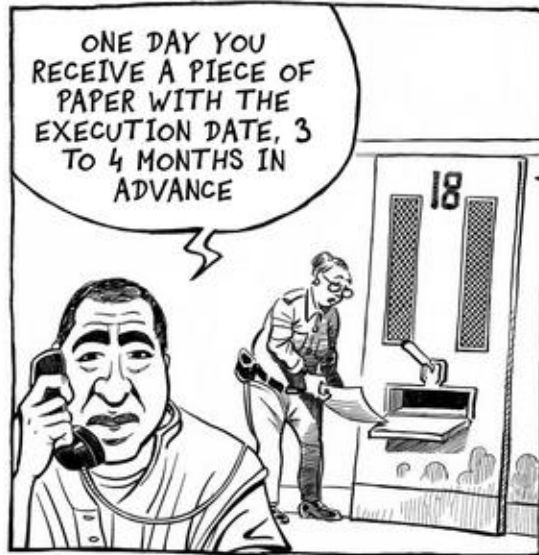


The average time on Texas death row is 10.87 years.

Ochoa has spent more than that already.



ONE DAY YOU RECEIVE A PIECE OF PAPER WITH THE EXECUTION DATE, 3 TO 4 MONTHS IN ADVANCE



THEN THEY MOVE YOU IN A CELL WITH CAMERAS

WATCHING YOU 24/7

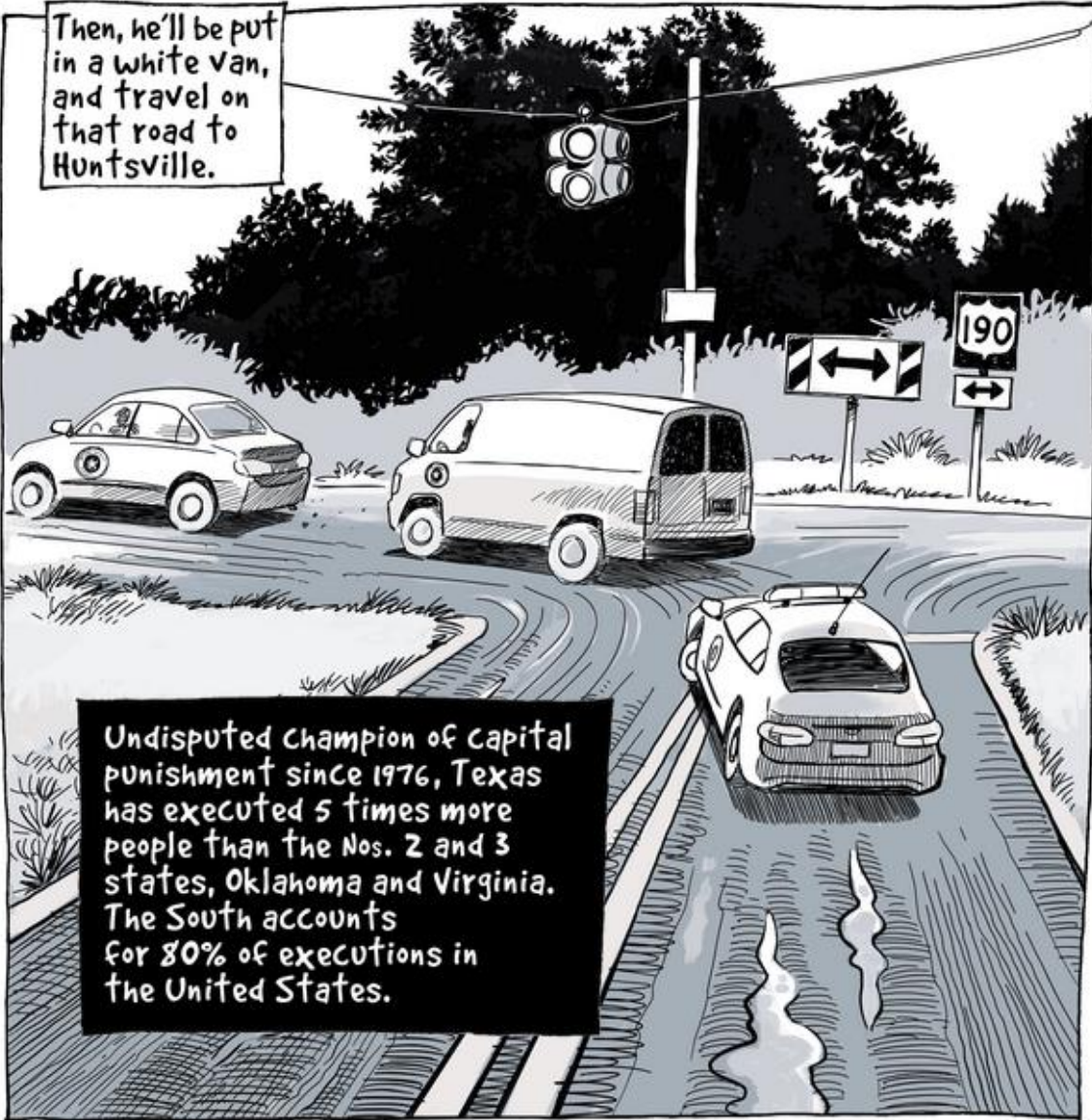
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On the last day, ochoa will have the right to family visits. No contact: Last words will be exchanged through a glass panel.



Then, he'll be put
in a white van,
and travel on
that road to
Huntsville.



Undisputed champion of capital punishment since 1976, Texas has executed 5 times more people than the Nos. 2 and 3 states, Oklahoma and Virginia. The South accounts for 80% of executions in the United States.



CHAPPATTE