



Exonerated Death Row inmate speaks at BC

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Contributing Writer

Glen Edward Chapman spoke to a crowd of about 100 students, faculty, and community members in the RDR Monday night. Chapman spent 15 years in prison for crimes he did not commit: The murder of two women in Catawba County, North Carolina. He was arrested at the age of 24 in 1992 and put on Death Row in 1994.

This mistake was due to ineffective legal representation and the police systematically withholding exculpatory evidence, poorly investigating the case, and ignoring evidence against other suspects. It was later discovered that one of the women was not even murdered; she had overdosed on drugs. The murder of the other woman has not been pursued since. While in prison, Chapman kept his mind active through reading, drawing, writing poetry, and studying his case for anything

he could use to prove his innocence. He warned the crowd, "Lose all hope and your soul will die." Chapman met UNCA psychology professor Pam Laughon (also present) in 2002, and with her help Chapman was able win a new trial based on ineffective legal representation in late 2007. The new trial ended up being declined, but Chapman was exonerated and released in April 2008. However, this meant he was not acquitted, so he received no statement of innocence or financial reimbursement. He now lives in Asheville.

If you would like to help Chapman receive a pardon, write to or email:
Governor Beverly Perdue
Executive Clemency Office
4294 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4294
clemency@nc.gov



Chapman shows the map he drew from jail showing where the murder scenes are located. In jail, he never had paper large enough so he drew the map section by section and then taped it together.

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