

Two wrongs don't make right in abortion fight

William Bolen
Commentary Editor

"Usually, terrible things that are done with the excuse that progress requires them are not really progress at all, but just terrible things."
- Russell Baker, New York Times nationally syndicated columnist from 1962 to 1998

On the morning of July 29, 1994, Paul Hill killed Dr. John Bayard Britton, 69, Britton's escort, retired Air Force Lt. Col. James H. Barrett, 74, and wounded Barrett's wife, June. For that reason, Paul Hill should be executed by the state of Florida.

Britton was killed because he performed abortions and Barrett was killed because he believed in a woman's right to choose.

Hill later confessed that he was prepared to kill the police officer assigned to guard the clinic as well, simply because he was there. Had the officer not arrived late that morning, he would probably be dead as well.

Hill believes that killing in order to protect the unborn is justified.

But the issue isn't the morality of abortion. It's the cold-blooded murder of two men on a Friday morning in July 1994.

Some believe Hill's execution will inspire more violence against abortion clinics. They suggest executing Hill could make him a martyr to the more extreme elements of the anti-abortion movement. When he signed Hill's death warrant in July, Gov. Jeb Bush dismissed the suggestion that Hill's supporters might see him as a martyr.

"He's a murderer and he was sentenced to death and I have the duty to carry out that sentence," said Bush, who opposes abortion.

The possibility of violence exists. The recent death threats to local Circuit Judge Frank Bell, Corrections Secretary James Crosby, Prison Warden Joe Thompson and Attorney General Charlie Crist seems to support that point.

But Paul Hill is not a rational man and those who would be inspired by

Hill's actions in July 1994 or by his execution in September are not rational either. He killed the two men with a shotgun as they drove to the Community HealthCare Center of Pensacola on Ninth Avenue, or as it was known in 1994, The Ladies Center. During his trial, Hill acted as his own counsel.

Other than brief opening and closing statements that centered on his feelings about abortion, he gave no defense.

After Hill was convicted and sentenced to death in December 1994, he said he looked forward to his fate because he believed it would prevent abortions by inciting further violence against abortion providers. He also said he was inspired to his crimes by the actions of Michael Griffin, a Pensacola resident who shot and killed another doctor in Pensacola in 1993.

Irrational people do irrational things. Violence may occur whether Hill is executed or not. But the crime is too heinous to go unpunished. He did not act in self-defense. He did not

act in a fit of uncontrolled rage. He committed a premeditated murder and he's without remorse.

But the actions of one do not represent the whole. Mainstream anti-abortion groups condemn clinic violence. Most groups distanced themselves from Hill long ago.

"The movement has changed an awful lot," said Joe Scheidler, founder and director of the Chicago-based Pro-Life Action League. "We see the babies as martyrs, but not Paul Hill."

And what has Paul Hill accomplished?

Nothing. Abortions still take place. It remains one of the most heated issues in America. There are those within his movement that have cast Hill as extremist and support his execution.

Paul Hill gave up his right-to-life when he took those lives nine years ago. He was tried and convicted. He was given his due process. That's more than he gave John Britton and James Barrett.

First impressions mean everything

Carmen Reynolds
Editor-in-Chief

Welcome back. And for the new students, welcome to a great University where the professors will actually know your names — what a wonderful opportunity that not everyone gets.

Inevitably, no matter how successful, we all must answer to someone, whether it is our parents, spouses, professors or bosses. The impressions we make along the journey are indelible. People make assumptions about us, based on what they observe the very first time. Whether it be a potential friend, a grocery clerk, a professor or an employer. Start now by putting your best foot forward.

The University campus is a city unto itself. Just about everything you need is located here if you know where to look. The Voyager staff is determined to highlight as many of these resources as we can in our weekly issues. And this month, we plan to field the first online newspaper supplement we promised. So standby for voluminous amounts of "happening" news in our academic city. We are eternally grateful to the Marketing and Economics Department for our online site.

There is no possible way to get bored with all the activities available. Whether it's a guest speaker, a play, Student Government Association activities, the many fraternities and sororities, the special entertainment Student Activities has cooked up or membership in one of the more than 40 student groups, there is always something happening.

Preparing ourselves well for the competitive world and garnering a job, or a better job is normally the goal while here. Competition abounds. The July unemployment rate for 20 to 24-year-olds was the highest in six years — a whopping 10.3 percent.

What will differentiate you from the rest of the job-seeking pack? Harvard University says one's attitude is actually more important than one's aptitude.

Wanna know a big secret? Employers appreciate courtesy and manners, too. It's considered an anomaly. Compare a prospective employee who puts his feet on the boss' desk during the interview with one who smiles, looks the boss in the eye when shaking hands and responds with a "Yes," instead of a "Yea." Start practicing now:

Smile. A big smile opens doors. That's a good place to start when meeting someone or seeing someone on campus. A smile reflects that you are comfortable with yourself, confident and ready to interact.

Motivation is key. Gotta have it to excel. Employers would rather hear: "Is there anything else I can do?" Not: "I've worked 20 minutes past my normal hours and I am missing a party with my friends." The Associated Press reported that some employees work 80-100 hours per week, and are still seeking degrees in their spare time. Now that's motivation — and your competition.

Initiative. Which one of the three are you? The person who makes things happen, watches things happen or wonders what happened? You get to choose.

Learn all that you can about everything that you can whenever you can. Knowledge is power. Even if you've been there, done that, you can still learn more. Key word? Listen. Know-it-all attitudes aren't welcome anywhere.

Enthusiasm. People around you pick up your vibes. Don't just go through the motions, put yourself into it with vigor and commitment. But if you are feeling down and want to talk to someone, the Counseling Center can help.

Keep things in perspective when you feel defeated. Think of Tyler Hamilton in the recent Tour de France, riding more than 2,000 miles with a collarbone cracked in two places, and winning his first stage. Or Lance Armstrong's bike crash that prompted his determination to win the Tour de France for the fifth time.

The real-world lessons get expensive after graduation. If we fail to turn in a project, meet deadline or smart off, businesses don't allow us to just 'withdraw.' Bills and the rent don't get paid if you lose your job. Practice makes perfect.

And that's our intent at TheVoyager. We are here as watchdogs for our public — you: to listen to your concerns and story ideas, and to get the information out.

Send us an e-mail, a fax, write us or simply drop by Building 36, Room 120. We are the pulse of the city and you are our raison d'être. We are humble, dedicated and here to serve you with fair and accurate reporting. As Arnold would say, we hope you are getting 'pumped up,' because we sure are. Remember to SMILE.

You may be an ambassador to England or France
You might like to gamble, you might like to dance
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world
You might be a socialite with a long string of pearls
But you're gonna have to serve somebody. Yes, indeed.

Bob Dylan
From "Gotta Serve Somebody"

Reality shows take over and it's not a good thing

Megan Martinez
Staff Writer

Reality shows have taken over the television. America has become obsessed with the exploitation and humiliation of people in the name of entertainment. Manipulating people into outrageous situations and videotaping them doesn't qualify as entertainment.

Since the birth of reality television, stations from NBC to PBS have begun creating shows that test the limits of ridiculousness in the name of ratings. Catering to man's "Lord of the Flies" fascination with the struggle of man vs. nature, "Survivor" and "The Amazing Race" showcase people in advanced stages of physical distress and starvation as they struggle to win a monetary prize.

"The Bachelor" and "Joe Millionaire" have revealed popular interest in one man's struggles to find his true love, from amid a group of women

whose romantic hearts are tinged with the hopes of fame and in money. Marrying someone openly for his or her money hasn't been acceptable since arranged marriages, ignoring the exception of Anna Nicole Smith.

If shows focusing on the 'what happens if' scenario weren't enough, enter the 'searching for' show. The airwaves have become saturated with the search for, finding and showcasing of an enormous list of people. Among the sought after are: the most talented kid, a playboy centerfold, and maybe the easiest to locate—someone who wants to date a Hooters girl.

For the teen crowd, the tried and true formula of star search is reincarnated in the form of shows such as "American Idol" and "Popstars" whose progeny are guaranteed the attention of the mass media upon winning. Why are these people hidden in the first place? Could there be a reason why nobody had previously heard of Kelli Clarkson?

Throughout history, television has served as a mirror for societal values and important issues. The Korean War and the Civil Rights Movement of the 50s and 60s were reasons enough for the American viewer to look for a simpler ideal. Thus, TV was all about the nuclear family, and the value of a home cooked meal.

In the 70s, the world was in turmoil over class, gender and racial disputes. TV responded with an introduction to the working woman in "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "The Jeffersons."

By the 80s, television had broadened to accommodate a more diverse audience. "McGyver" and MTV contributed to American culture, the mullet and music.

The 90s resurrected the sitcom by updating it with the alternative family values of modern America. The TV guide of today reflects an abundance of reality television programs, a response to 9/11 and the war on terror-

ism. Both events have put Americans face to face with the reality of their vulnerability and mortality.

To avoid dealing with this frightening reality, Americans are drawn to shows where events are controlled in an experimental atmosphere unreachable by terrorism. Despite television's best efforts, terrorism is still a real threat, and reality TV only serves to mainstream amoral behavior, voyeurism and bad music.

Isn't it time to say, as television viewers, that the contrived posturing of others in ridiculous situations doesn't amuse us? That the icons and celebrities of our generation are not to be generated by contests, and that idol worship isn't the product of a popularity contest?

Shouldn't we save our respect and approval for those individuals who are talented and are morally inspiring? Remember, it's not whether you win or lose, it's whether you are actually choosing to play their game.

Letters to the Editor

UWF soldiers homesick, hot

Dear UWF,

Enclosed is a picture of the UWF students deployed with the 3rd Infantry Division. All is well over here (Iraq), but it is very hot. It was 113 degrees today and there is no shade because we are in the middle of the desert.

We can't wait to be home soon. We don't know when we will return to the United States. The soldiers in the photo are from 18-30 years old and more than half have served on active duty.

There is joy waiting to be found in every moment of life — including war.

Sgt. Jason D. Crawford
B. Co. 3rd-124th Inf
c/o (1-1 ADA) 912916
APO AE 09302-1296

(These UWF students were called to active duty Dec. 27, mobilized to Fort Stewart, Ga., and deployed to Kuwait on Apr. 4 for the move into Iraq. The infantry company is attached to the 1-1 Air Defense Artillery Battalion out of Fort Bliss, Texas. They



Pictured left to right: 1st Row: Spc. Larry Hackney and Sgt. Jason Crawford; 2nd Row: Pfc. Aaron Kurtz, Spc. Thomas Vaughn, Spc. Abel Thompsons, Spc. Brian Threet, Pfc. Zachary Peterson, Spc. Mark Telhiard, Spc. Henry Curry, Sgt. Nathaniel Madaris, and Spc. Joseph Hernandez; 3rd Row: 2Lt. Samuel Berry, SSgt. Patrick Anson, Spc. Abner Pineda, Spc. Michael Miller, Spc. Nicholar Steinlight, Spc. Phillip McQuaige, Spc. Marvin Rydberg, Pfc. Charles Chavers and Spc. Jason Barnhardt.

provided security for the Patriot missile unit to move through Iraq. The 3rd Infantry has suffered more casualties

during the war than any other unit and was given new missions in late May. Few of the more than 16,500 soldiers

assigned to the Fort Stewart-based 3rd Infantry Division have returned from deployment.)

VOYAGER

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