

The Times-News

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Murder victims are likely to be women

The recent murder of Marilyn Jean Arbaugh seems to be one of a continuing series of male violence against women in the Magic Valley in which the female victims have been killed.

In the past year, seven such incidents have occurred locally. In the same period, no women have been charged with killing men. For the record, here are the female victims in our valley community in the past year.

• Faye Ostler, a 67-year-old Hazelton woman, was beaten to death with a baseball bat and her house set on fire. Cory Sellers, 17, has been charged with her murder. The motive is unestablished.

• Carlene Gillespie, a 27-year-old deaf mute, was beaten to death. Boyfriend Jerry Pennell was charged with first degree "torture" murder, and convicted of voluntary manslaughter. The maximum sentence is 10 years, but it usually translates to three or four years in prison.

• Ranae Liddy, a 38-year-old Jackpot woman, was killed with a shotgun. Doug Roberts has been charged with murder. The trial is set for Aug. 6.

• Maria Teresa Velasquez, a 25-year-old Buhl woman, was shot in her home. Demetrio Beltran Cabrera, a 27-year-old illegal alien who worked with her at a Buhl processing plant, has been charged with first degree murder. No trial date has been set.

• Cynthia Griffith, a 24-year-old Jerome woman, was killed with a shotgun. Thomas Franklin Guthrie was charged with first degree murder, but pleaded to a second degree murder charge, which carries a maximum 15 year sentence.

• Cathy Alice Gittel, a 30-year-old Buhl woman, was shot in her home along with Michael Wayne Lee. Her former boyfriend, Keith "Rose" Rosencrantz, was charged with two counts of first degree murder. A jury returned manslaughter convictions in both deaths.

• Marilyn Jean Arbaugh, a 36-year-old Jerome woman, was shot 15 times with a rifle. Her former husband, Jamie Charboneau, 24, is charged with the murder.

Of course, it may be coincidence that all these victims are women. But from what we know of the way in which women have often been treated in American society, we think otherwise.

In the Arbaugh case, the victim repeatedly sought intervention by the authorities. They refused, claiming she was in a relationship of "mutual combativeness," to quote Jerome County Prosecutor Dan Adamson.

Does fear for one's safety or life require a potential victim to show imminent danger before the authorities can step in? If it does, maybe laws need changing.

Beyond that, these cases raise disturbing questions about the way in which violence is often visited upon women victims. Crime does not follow demographics. It chooses more commonly from among the poor, the young and the female.

Women must wonder if this country has passed much beyond the time when brute strength was what counted.

Some may argue that the men were provoked to these acts. Nonsense. When do words justify assault, rape or murder?

There is no excuse for these acts and, in our view, the law should deal heavily with those who perpetrate them. Mild sentences merely signal that it is all right to assault, rape and kill if the victim is a woman.

A society which values life, whether it is a man's or a woman's, should look at the inequity which these sentences and these incidents suggest.

July not a good season for snowballs

BOSTON — If you'd never seen a snowball in July, consider the case of Geraldine Ferraro. On Tuesday, the representative from Queens newly rolled into her Minnesota interview with Walter F. Mondale, backed by Tip O'Neill, endorsed by three congresswomen and carrying favorite daughter wishes from the weekend convention of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

At times it wasn't clear whether Ferraro was in control of this growing snowball, or running to catch up with it. But even the normally cautious Ann Lewis, political director of the Democratic National Committee, enthused: "She is our Sally Ride. She's carrying into that meeting the hopes of so many women."

Well, the day-after analysis of the chemistry between Mondale and Ferraro ranged from "okay" to "pretty good." The meeting between past and hopeful vice presidents was given a 7 on a scale of 1 to 10.

Whatever their personal relationship, it appeared that the very "pressure" for a woman vice president had begun to melt the snowball a bit around the edges.

The campaign for a woman vice president seems to have run into a classic double blind that often ensnarls women pursuing power: If women sit around waiting for their sex to be promoted, appointed, or called, they often lose because they're ignored. If they make noise, organize and confront, they often lose because they're considered too rashly.

It's tricky enough to regulate the pressure valves that can make these changes in the business world, or in mainstream politics. But it takes a particularly delicate touch to influence a man who is essentially making his choice for the post of junior partner.

The president of NOW, Judy Goldsmith, is one who fell into both the passive and aggressive traps this political season. In two easy lessons of what not to do, NOW went from taking a trust walk with Mondale to calling for a confrontation.

In the fall, NOW prematurely endorsed Mondale. The largest feminist organization in the country began sounding like the National Organization for Mondale Women. Then at the annual convention, Goldsmith warned of "thunderstorms" and convention walkouts if Mondale didn't choose "a woman."

Until very recently, the idea of a nominating a woman to be vice president was part of a risk strategy. Mondale is way down in the polls. A few precincts here and there aren't going to make the difference. If he wants to show some glitter, some



Ellen Goodman

imagination, some "newness," the argument ran, he should go for a woman.

Now it is being said that choosing a woman would look like he is trying to avoid risk, the risk of a walkout or a floor fight. Instead of standing up for women, could Mondale be accused of caving in to women?

The charge is, on the face of it, absurd. "People are reacting," says Ann Lewis, "as if it were a keenly orchestrated campaign to put a woman in. It's not as if half-a-dozen strategists got in a back room and said, 'It's time to increase the pressure.' The issue achieved momentum from the grassroots. It's a genuine grassroots movement."

But deep in the public subconscious and, for all we know, in Mondale's subconscious, lurks the fear of pushy brats and wimpy men. Even Mondale's adviser Anne Wexler, who has been excited about the possibility of Ferraro, drove to work one day

last week wondering, "Have we pushed too hard? Have we blown it?"

Wexler is well aware of the double blind of women and power: "It's a position we've always been in. It's like walking through a mine field. Part of the political game is understanding how to play it." Women, and certainly Geraldine Ferraro, began this election year as the V.P. longshot because there was no pressure, no constituency, no lobbying. It would be ironic if they fell back to a long shot because the pressure, the constituency, the lobbying became so intense.

Long experience in double binds suggests that they are used by people looking for any tool to obstruct change. Nobody is worried about the Hart lobby. The people who seem most concerned about the negative effect of pressure are those who, deep down, don't believe that Mondale will choose Ferraro, or any other woman.

My guess is that Mondale will simply choose someone with whom he is personally comfortable. Vice president was his old job and he thinks he was pretty good at it. He'll look for a vice president who will be to him as he was to Jimmy Carter. But then, July was never a very good season for snowballs.

Ellen Goodman writes for The Boston Globe.

Letters

Good ideas, but may not work

Well now, somebody gonna spend \$700,000 this year, an' another \$2.2 million of my an' my money thru 1986. On outhouses?

Jess' wait a minute, wait a minute. I ain't agin sun place, besides the sage brush an' wild flowers, etc., or get a cuppa coffee, to keep from goin' asleep at thuh wheel. Heck, I drove truck for a lotta miles. Over one million miles of 'em. I know about coffee, an' the need for a hunk of sage brush an' a lil' privacy.

Now those there vendin' machines? Help the Idaho Commission for the Blind, that there is a right smart an' good thing. Planting wild flowers, etc., somebody got sum good ideas. The heck it is, somebody got their brains in the seat of their pants. It just won't work, no more n' a pick with a broken handle. Yuh don't have to believe me, even the I

know more about "outhouses" (modern ones, called "public restrooms"), than most folks.

An' I can prove that. I was in charge of maintenance of 80 schools in Las Vegas (for a short time, drove me bananas). Also, closer to some of you, the cleaning of Giacobbi Square, both of Atkin's markets, Chateau Drug, and more than I care to remember. Neighbors of mine, took care of the rest stop, (very much used, and appreciated), Highway 75 and 20 intersection.

The above represents one heck of a lot of "outhouse" experience. All bad. I could tell you of my and other's experience, of which is disgustingly worse, men or women. You might get one heck of a shock at that. Don't have to believe me, ask anyone who's cleaning up after these animals, really few, slobs. No, not animals, birds don't even mess in their nest. Dogs don't even "do it" in their yard. I know, they "do it" in mine.

Letters

Consider covering coulee

Before the proposed swimming pool, if and when, is placed at the high school site, not only the planners of the pool, but the parents of the innocent little ones who would be using the pool, should take a good, hard look at the treacherous coulee on the east side of the high school.

We are surrounded by coulees in the north part of town, but this one is treacherous. I am also hoping that maybe the coulee might be covered with a road, finishing off Madison St. N. and relieve some of the traffic in the surrounding areas created by the many activities that are already taking place.

JEAN GARRISON
Twin Falls

No words from wage earners

The press did a bang-up job covering the Republican convention at Sun Valley. It quoted

bankers, realtors, large property owners, and a variety of rich, who wanted more. Not one word about any wage earner, or small farmer having their say. Is it any wonder that a convention of wheeler and dealers would endorse a convicted felon?

ROBERT JOHNSON
Twin Falls

Leave Bradley family alone

Come on Times-News, enough is enough. Leave Richard Bradley in peace.

He won't be reading all the family calling, hate-filled articles you're reprinting anyway, so why make his poor mother and other family members who love him suffer. It serves no purpose. I'm sure this boy's family have been through enough hurt and sorrow to last a lifetime.

JERI BERLIN
Twin Falls

Jackson the latest example of good fortune for Reagan

WASHINGTON — Jesse Jackson shows no symptoms of shyness. He is frequently and piercingly audible about almost everything, and is especially bolterous when expressing scathing disapproval of social arrangements.

Thus it is an occasion for astonishment when his indignation flags, as it did in Cuba and Nicaragua.

Jackson — him with the red-hot impetuosity for human rights — got "good vibrations" from Fidel Castro, who gave him a few political prisoners as campaign props. (Castro has a bountiful supply of such prisoners.) Jackson, whose moral grandeur is a subject introduced by him with indefatigable energy, found in Nicaragua a regime he considers a flower of creation. The regime has never permitted an election, boasts of exporting war to El Salvador and has concentration camps for persons who are unrecruited to it. Jackson praised it for "marching toward" democracy, peace and reconciliation.

Jackson's consistency for historical parallels is always entertaining, and never more so than when, on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley," he explained that Nicaragua's Sandinista dictators are doing better than America's Founding Fathers did. The Sandinistas have wielded dictatorial power for only five years, whereas "the gap between American independence, a revolution from Britain in 1776, and a President being elected in 1789 was 13 years." For America, as for the Sandinistas, "the transition between coming



George Will

into power militarily and moving toward full-scale democracy" was a "slow process."

Even if you assume, as Jackson does, that independence was achieved, not just declared, in 1776 (what does he think happened at Yorktown in 1781?), it is peculiar to think, as he does, that there was a military dictatorship until 1789. Actually, the Constitutional Convention of 1787 was called because there was too little central authority over the 13 robust constitutional democracies that were loosely linked under the Articles of Confederation.

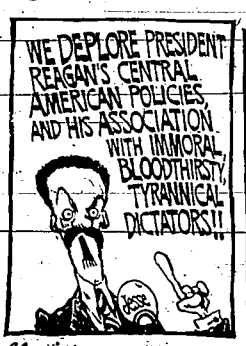
What is interesting about Jackson's argument is not that it is stupid but that it is willfully, almost painstakingly, so. Obviously he and his deepest thinkers sat down and asked: How can we conceit an apology for Sandinista tyranny? So the problem is not that Jackson is as insane as is any child whose supply of convictions is disproportionate to his supply of information. The problem is that he seems to relish the challenge of defending the indefensible for the benefit of leftist dictators. Jackson was asked whether he told Castro that a quarter of a century dictatorship should suffice and that it is time for an

election. His answer — no — came swaddled in philosophic babble: "I had to respect the sovereignty of his nation, his territorial integrity, and the right of their government to operate as they see fit." When you hear from Jackson such unwelcome deference toward authority, you can be sure that he is enjoying the hospitality of a communist or Arab tyrant.

But never before have American taxpayers helped fund such a pilgrimage for a politician. If America is, as Jackson seems to think, a nation that esteems people in proportion to their ability to create telegraphic upstarts, then the public may come to endorse Jackson's immense appreciation of himself.

Since the 1968 convention and the 1972 McGovern-Mohr takeover, the Democratic Party has been trying to expunge the taint of extremism. That taint is gone reason for the steady defection of the moderate Democrats who gave Ronald Reagan his margin of victory. Jackson is the latest example of Reagan luck.

Jackson's collaboration with dictators who loathe his country has given some Democrats the following nightmare. In October Republicans ran a television commercial with no spoken words, only six photographs (fashed on the screen): Jackson hugging the terrorist Arafat, Jackson grinning with Syria's Assad, killer of Marines, Jackson fawning over Castro, Jackson being jolly with Ortega, leader of the Sandinistas; whose anthem refers to the United States as "the enemy of humanity." Jackson hugging the anti-Semite



Farrakhan. ("I respect him very much," says Jackson.) And Jackson hugging a nervously grinning Mondale. Does Mondale have anything — anything at all — to say about Jackson's travels?

Last Sunday found Jackson on the Mexican border, leading a demonstration that, naturally enough, featured detestation of what



Jackson calls U.S. "arrogance." When some of his fans burst in on one hand and a club in the other, Jackson said of his campaign, "That's not what we're about." Oh yes it is.

George Will writes for Newsweek.