A Modest Proposal

by Howard Roark and Hank Reardon

(This editorial is reprinted from The New York Times on Nov. 16, 1991. Howard Roark and Hank Reardon are no one special, but we felt that if it's good enough for The Times, it's good enough for us. We tried calling The Times for permission, but they had never heard of us, which we figure means they won't be able to sue us, either.)

Back in the good old days, men were men, women were wives, and criminals were treated like the scum that they have always been. Unlike today, many countries levied just punishments that fit the crime. Thieves had their hands cut off and murderers lost their lives. Often, executions were public, where the community could observe and the rogue could serve as a warning to others. This wise practice protected moral men and women from the lowlife and just practiced restraint. This wise practice protected moral men and women from the lowlife and just practiced restraint. We tried calling The Times for permission, but they had never heard of us, which we figure means they won't be able to sue us, either.

Public hangings were common in the United States before liberals corrupted our justice system. Now, left-wing judges give criminals more rights than their victims. If thugs fail to gain acquittal due to technicalities, they are sentenced to prisons that seem more like summer camps. After only a couple of years of watching soap operas and enjoying homosexual couples in the showers, these hooligans are frequently released back to the streets. The results are obvious: our country has by far the highest murder and violent crime rate in the world. The police no longer have any authority, as liberal schmucks whine every time they beat some hooligan senseless on the street.

A murderer currently has nothing to fear from the justice system. This must be changed. He must know that punishment will be swift, severe and vigilante-like. The only way to do that is to strike at what he values most: his selfish hide. Fear will keep him in check. Moreover, he must know the consequences of his actions before he makes the decision to commit his crime. The only way to ensure this deterrence is universal public execution for all convicted murderers. No appeals. No paroles. No bullshit. Defendents are welcome to plead insanity, but that will guarantee automatic execution. We need terror on society.

The principle of effective deterrence should be applied throughout our justice system. Punishments will strike fear in the hearts of all potential criminals. Thieves will know that they will lose limbs; rapists will cringe upon realizing that their penises will be chopped off. In addition, every first time felon (other than murderers) will repay his sins against God and man by serving his prison term at hard labor. This policy will allow these laggards to do something constructive for society. It will provide ample time to reflect upon their transgressions and will give each of them a work ethic. The only exception will be really, really rich white people who make a few mistakes in banking transactions, who will continue their stays in Club Fed locations around the country. The lengths of current prison terms will also remain the same under the new system. However, criminals will act very few sentences rather than getting on parole. The current problem of skyrocketing costs resulting from keeping convicts in prison will no longer be a consideration, since criminals will pay for themselves through their hard labor. They will rebuild highways, clean up toxic waste dumps, and serve as the proletarians for low-skilled manufacturing. For example, who better to remove asbestos from older buildings than criminals? And think of what we'll save by not having to pay those expensive prosecution suits for the workers.

If a hoodlum's first prison term does not serve as a lesson, he obviously cannot be rehabilitated. A felon convicted of a second crime will be automatically executed. As mentioned before, murderers will also be summarily executed. The manner of execution will be determined by the severity of the crime and community standards. For unpremeditated murders not coupled with other felonies or drugs, painless forms of execution like lethal injection will suffice. Slightly more severe crimes (as defined by community standards) will result in hanging, the firing squad, or electrocution. For example, thugs who rape and then murder their victims will be drawn and quartered and filled.

Even more severe murders could involve more than one victim, police officers, and/or drugs. Those crimes will be dealt with harshly. Possible methods of execution include burning, beheading, death, defenestration (throwing off of tall buildings), repeated laceration followed by boiling in salt water, and throwing into a pit of hungry wolves. As defining a democracy, a referendum will allow each community to determine which punishments will be commonly used in their localities.

Our reformed justice system will ensure that children learn right from wrong. Mandatory field trips to nearby executions will be a critical component of every child's education. Before the execution, teachers will ensure that each child understands what will happen.

Hairy Comment

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