Death Penalty Has Been Used Against Innocents, Too

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The death penalty can only deter those who think to themselves, "Oh my God! It might happen to me!" It doesn't deter those who may oppose murder in general, but suppose killing in deterrent people from joining the army, neo-Nazi groups, inner-city gangs, or the illegal drug trade? How effective is the prospect of death in eliminating car-driving or smok- ing? Some idiots don't seem to realize that they might be killed when they play the car game of chicken, or commit stunts like lying on the road. Given these, how can one expect the death penalty, no matter how efficiently or certainly applied, to deter virtually all would-be murderers?

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