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Subject: Dead Wrong - Robert Bryce's "George W. Bush and the Death Penalty"
To: bob@voxcap.com, andy@voxcap.com, andyolivastro@juno.com,
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To: IntellectualCapital.com

RE: Errors within "George W. Bush and the Death Penalty" by
Robert Bryce, IntellectualCapital.com, 3/2/2000 at
<http://intellectualcapital.com/issues/issue351/item8421.asp>

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JFA is a Texas based criminal justice reform organization

Date: March 8, 2000

NOTE: This was previously sent without attribution. My apologies.

Robert Bryce's article is quite inaccurate. ("George W. Bush and the Death
Penalty" by Robert Bryce, IntellectualCapital.com, 3/2/2000
at
<http://intellectualcapital.com/issues/issue351/item8421.asp>

Regarding Betty Lou Beets, it was 7 days before her execution that she first
claimed that she was abused by Mr. Beets, one of the men she murdered and
that case she received a death sentence for. Up until that time, she had
nothing but glorious things to say about him. It appears that Mr. Bryce was,
somehow, unaware of this fact.

Let's see, Betty Lou was divorced 5 times, tried to murder 3 husbands,
succeeded in murdering 2, tried blaming the two murders on two of her own
innocent children, claims the basis for the murders was abuse by the husband
she had nothing but great memories of - that is until 7 days prior to her
execution.

Yep, I can see why Bryce would try to find an excuse for her actions.

Oh, and how can Betty Lou say abuse was the basis for the murders? Didn't her
children commit the murders? Oh, that's right she also said a now deceased
husband committed one of the murders? It's all so confusing.

I wonder if Betty Lou was a sociopathic abuser of husbands and children? What
do you think? Don't forget, Betty Lou's forging

- (1) life insurance documents,
- (2) title to real property and
- (3) felony insurance fraud

all directly related to the murder. And, oh, there is that potential little
arson thing, too. Not to muddy the waters.

It appears that, in speaking of Beets and Karla Fay Tucker, that Bryce would

suggest Bush use sexism, fraud, serial lying, multiple felonies, including multiple murders, and alleged conversions as the basis for commuting death cases. The Governor appears unlikely to use such as the basis for his decisions. But, hey, if Bryce wishes to make a suggestion, possibly someone in the Governor's office will bring it to his attention. On second thought.

Bryce is angry that Governor Bush didn't listen to Austin's Bishop John McCarthy's refrain regarding his assertion that defense counsel that don't care about their capital defendant clients, citing the 13 innocent Illinois death row inmates released by DNA evidence. Mr. Bryce, as the Bishop is totally inaccurate on his Illinois claim, we shouldn't wonder too hard that his ignorant refrain had little effect on the Governor. Not to mention, ineffective assistance of counsel claims are quite common in capital cases and are commonly dismissed as so much blather. But if you can cite an example, where the courts overlooked such a case, wherein the Texas inmate was executed, we are all ears.

Bryce, for some reason, jumps from innocents sentenced to death to the fact that "Bush is convinced that no innocent people have been executed in the Lone Star State". Well, Mr. Bryce, do you have any reason to believe otherwise? Even Barry Scheck, defense attorney for OJ Simpson, co-founder of the Innocence Project, and featured speaker at the Wrongfully Convicted on Death Row Conference in Chicago (11/13-15/98), stated that there was no proof of an innocent executed (in the US). Your point, Mr. Bryce?

Mr. Bryce also seems a bit confused about the Vienna Convention and its effect on foreign nationals and in the US courts. The states are required to tell arrested nationals that they can contact their countries representatives. If Texas didn't do so, then the foreign detainee must raise that issue on appeal in a timely manner. If they don't, they lose the ability to use such as a basis for overturning any conviction. In other words, it is like all cases in the US.

Foreign complaints on this issue are often valid, but appear to be crocodile tears. First, death penalty defendants and those convicted have, in the US, the highest level of criminal due process in the world. I think that safely includes Mexico. Secondly, we may see what benefit Mexican nationals, who commit capital crimes in Texas, see from their country in the future. I strongly suspect that the case results will be identical. But we will have to see.

And, finally, regarding the status of Texas death row inmate Calvin Burdine, a case where Burdine's defense counsel allegedly slept through part of the capital trial. I suggest Bryce look at how the case works its way through the appellate courts, at both the state and federal level. If Bryce does not like the outcome, possibly his criticisms ought to fall on the US Supreme Court. I believe they are the final arbiter for the criminal case.

Bush will have no impact on the legal workings of the case. If Bush ever sees this case, it will be only if the current ruling of the Federal District Court is overturned. Otherwise, it will never be before the Governor.

Mr. Bryce, your article deserves no reprieve. Thumbs down.

JUSTICE FOR ALL websites.

<http://www.jfa.net/>
<http://www.prodeathpenalty.com/>
<http://www.murdervictims.com/>