

Have you noticed the local headlines this past week have been, sensational, sad, and at some point, merging with national news? <sup>heroic</sup>

First off, I notice that March madness has begun, and my Rotary club is once again using the NCAA tournament as a fundraiser. But before you basketball fans get too carried away, my take on college basketball is that the money raised by any service club is likely to be more important than the tournament itself. Service Clubs <sup>charities</sup> raise real money for people with tangible needs. On the other hand, watching Basketball is pretty non-utilitarian: unless you just like screaming your head off when your favorite team wins or loses, and deeming it psychologically cathartic. In my view, sports should tease out our participation. For example, We would all benefit from going out and shooting a few hoops, even if we aren't Michael Jordan—it would give us exercise, burn calories, and unless we take ourselves too seriously, create camaraderie with other players.

I also notice that while money does gain notoriety and perhaps envy, it does *not* make you a good person. The sordid story of real estate heir, Robert Durst has been turned into an HBO series called "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths' of Robert Durst." Durst's story, and countless others, prove that while having money does not always make you popular, it *does* increase your chances of hiring fancy lawyers and being acquitted. This guy seems to have a habit of making ex-wives, neighbors and key witnesses disappear or turn up dead. He is once again being charged with murder, and this time it seems his lawyers will have to do a lot of legal gymnastics to get him acquitted as they did last time, when he admitted to shooting and dismembering an <sup>elderly</sup> neighbor—self defense—he said. Would it not be ironic, and a bit satisfying, if he was convicted, and was ultimately tracked down with the end result of bringing justice to Karen Mitchell and her family. Time will tell, but I'd like to hear what you think about any lawyers who would defend such a miscreant. I know, I know, it's legally necessary to defend such a monster, but that which is legal is not necessarily moral.

Finally, I'll close with a story that might be characterized as a eu-catastrophe: a catastrophe that produces ultimate good. I was saddened to hear about the father from Montana, who died rescuing his son from the surf at Black Sands Beach near Shelter Cove. Apparently his son was swept off a rock into the ocean, and the father made a successful attempt to rescue his son from drowning, by pushing him up and out to safety; but in the end, the dad surrendered his own life to the sea. Sad, yes, but not ultimately catastrophic. It's a good catastrophe because any normal parent would gladly exchange their own life for that of their child. 'Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for <sup>his</sup> friends.' How much more, for one's own son.

This had been Dan Price for Community Comment