

*Friend on camera*

The abortion fight has heated up in your state capitol due to discussions of funding allocations. The pro-life group holds a rally in the morning, followed by a pro-choice rally in the afternoon. While working the rally, you meet an old buddy, Charlie, who is in a strong contention for head of a production crew for CNN. This pro-life group has continually charged severe media bias against them in the coverage of their “rescues” on clinics and under-reporting on their rallies. At the end of the speeches for the pro-choice group, with most of the pool journalists gone to beat deadlines, a group of journalists put down their equipment, lock arms with pro-choice demonstrators and walk up the steps of the capital. You get them on film, and Charlie is in the group. He “checks” to make sure you are not going to send that part uplink to your station. He says he made a bad decision. Do you send that part of the tape?

From Westbrook, T. (1994). Tracking the moral development of journalists: A look at them and their work. In J.R. Rest & D.F. Narvaez (Eds) *Moral development in the professions: Psychology and applied ethics*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

*Janet*

Janet, a county commissioner, has been raped. The afternoon paper and evening TV news reported she was hospitalized following an assault, but do not indicate it was a sexual attack. Your paper normally does not print the names of sexual assault victims.

A conservative and anti-feminist, she has blocked spending funds for a rape crisis center at the county hospital. This has been the center of a much-publicized controversy for the last six months. She now tells you she plans to rethink her position on the crisis center. She also makes clear the deep personal trauma she is suffering because of the assault and asks that you not say she was raped.

What do you do? Do you report she was raped? How would you report her decision to now fund the crisis center?

*Harvey and Alice*

While investigating a series of tips on abuses in some retirement centers, Alice met Harvey posing as the niece of another resident. A good reporter, Alice had Harvey telling stories of his life in his first visit. By their third visit, Harvey had really opened up and begun to talk of the abuses and de-humanizing effects of the center. He thanked Alice for being such a good friend.

Abruptly, he changed the subject. Harvey told Alice he was to help his neighbor commit suicide that night. They believed that it would bring the public's attention to the center's abuses and force some changes. Besides, the neighbor had Alzheimer's in an advanced stage. He had abandoned hope of recovery. Alice believed that Harvey was bluffing. He showed her a syringe and the poison.

What are you going to do? Who would you call first?

*The Photo*

Derek Wilson is wanted for armed robbery. He is black and has a long list of prior convictions for assault and robbery. He was recently furloughed from prison in the governor's new plan to keep from building jails.

After a tip following a crime-stopper segment, Derek is trapped by police at the house of his former girlfriend, Yolanda. He takes the woman and her two children hostage, forces them into his car and makes a dash for freedom. Chased by police, he is finally stopped at a roadblock. Before he surrenders to police, he shoots and kills Yolanda. Your photographer is at the scene and is able to get one photo before being pushed out of range by police.

In the photo, she is half slumped out of the car with her two children crying over her, with Derek up against the car being handcuffed.

Would you run the photo?

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