

From: EDITED - Letter to the Press Association of Jamaica

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Message:

I know my beloved Jamaicans are sometimes thin-skinned, but how can I say it for people to say, "I do agree with you, Peter Tosh". All three people; Whyte, Farr and Gray were in the wrong. What Gray did was despicable and what Farr and Whyte did was idiotic, foolish, criminal and uncalled for.

We try to promote family values in Jamaica and yet we seem to glorify what Gray did because she was shot. Does she ever apologise for her behaviour in this love triangle publicly ?

We cannot build a decent society when we are glorifying one despicable behaviour and then condemned another despicable behaviour.

As for Whyte, the sentence is too short because what he did to his wife and kids and to Gray was awful. People like Whyte I don't cry for. Ok, you made a stupid mistake and instead of trying to correct that mistake, you invited another person to make even a bigger mistake. How foolish can one person be?

Farr is even worse than Whyte and Gray. This man is not a Rastaman, because the Rastafarian organisation deal with "livivity" and not "deadivity". The Rastafarian group fire bun such practice and we must not associate this long hair brute with the Rastafarian community. If a person comes to a Rastafarian with such proposal, the reasoning ability that the Rastafarian group possess would surely lead that long hair brute from Satan into the loving arms of Jah, Rastafari, Selassie I live.

So in conclusion, I despise what all three people did for wrecking so many lives and bringing the Rastafarian community, good marriage and children into disrepute.

"Equal Rights and Justice" is all I ask for. Is that too much to ask for?

This is why Jamaica is where it is. Journalists in Jamaica don't have

the courage and guts to rebuke Jody Ann Gray for her despicable behaviour in this love triangle, who helped destroyed a marriage, helped to leave three children fatherless for 14 years and it seems she was never interviewed about her behaviour. How can we build a decent society with this kind of journalism?

Both of these guys are in the journalism business and both of them did wrong, yet fellow journalists ignored one wrong and wrote only about the other because it sells paper. I wrote a comment earlier, and to be frank, I didn't expect to see it in this space. The hard fact is not what Journalists in Jamaica believe in. Gossip is their number one priority. It is very sad.

Does anyone ever think about the wife and the two children? I think not.

COMMENTS

I feel your pain.... is it pain?

I can only say that I have accepted that we are all a bunch of hypocrites in my beloved country. I am in no position to cast stones.

But... we love to cast stones... you are correct.. The offended party engaged in a relationship with a married man... that was wrong!!!!

I am doing a mental check-off from my 20s to now and I can't think of any party among the scores of married people I know (including my family members, ministers of religion, politicians, teachers etc.) who have not had an affairs outside their unions at some point...in quite a number of cases, there were sometimes up to three other affairs on the side.

So. I agree with you on that score, we were all guilty of turning the spotlight on one third of this triangle while projecting one as the victim in every way. My biggest concern now is for that little girl who did not ask to be a product of the messy business. I hope this scenario is never repeated BUT I will do my part to seek to be fair.

PS: Hope you never have/had an affair outside of marriage (if u r married).
Have a peaceful day

Barbara Naedene Ellington

Hi,

I think the writer's assertions regarding Gray maybe inappropriate given the facts as I know them.

It is my understanding that Gray was led to believe that Whyte's marriage had failed and he had separated.

As a consequence, Whyte was seeking to start anew.

If the writer is arguing that Gray should not have engaged in a relationship until Whyte had divorced, it is an entirely different thing.

But even so, it raises the question as to the practicality and social acceptance versus the morality of such argument.

Indeed, we have seen hundreds of intimate relationships developed by people who have separated.

If the facts of the case are as I have pointed out, then I think the media would have done a fair job in reporting the matter.

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DM

WOW, is my first response. Salient points made here. The task, I believe is to monitor our lives as a group of professionals who report on the lives of others. It forces us to look within ourselves and wonder if we really do have what my manager often says is "the moral authority to report on anyone". Ethics and morals as pointed out in this letter are tested on two fronts that of professional ethics and Christian ethics. as an important part, the question should be asked are we being balanced and fair or are we extending professional courtesy to our own prejudices.

AMW

With all due respect, this is Jamaica and it has long been an accepted open secret that every man has his wife and a woman on the side. I am not saying it is right, but no one has made much ado about it. Whether Whyte approached Gray or vice versa and they started a relationship, the fact is that that relationship would have ended without any bloodshed or loss of life had Whyte not done what he did.

I personally see nothing wrong with their relationship as I have come to accept that in Jamaica, whether you want to believe it, "every man have a nex' woman and every woman have a nex' man". I say this to say that, the issue, for me, is that a life was lost and another was almost lost. I bet if no attempt had been made on the young lady's life, then the matter wouldn't have drawn the attention it has.

Sir, you say both parties did wrong..I agree with you there, but only one party disrespected the laws of the land and almost ended up taking two lives. That same party is the reason why three children are without a father as had he not broken the law, he would have still been a free man today and could see/have his kids whenever he wanted.

There are consequences for every wrong things we do.

Now are you telling me that Mr Whyte's children would still be without a father had he not broken the law? Had he allowed the relationship to die a natural death? If you are, maybe you have the gift of seeing into the future but what I have here and what I see, is that a man used serious violence to take the life of what should have been his own child. Thats the issue sir, not that they did wrong by having a relationship.

As far as I see it, no one, at least not in the press, is blaming Mr Whyte or Miss Gray for cheating because cheating is not against the law. Shooting and murder are though, and you can bet your money, had Miss Gray broken the law also, the press would have also be focussing on her.

Street Reporter

Hi,

That letter is garbage. Why would journalists begin taking sides and assigning blame? As far as I'm concerned the media have focused on the crime itself and on the subsequent court case. Jody-Ann, who is the victim here, did not wish to be in the media and has been overseas since the incident. Are we going to become like the US media which puts victims on trial, help them to wash dirty laundry in public and become chief gossip mongers? While it would be great for us to hear Jody's side of the story, if she doesn't wish to tell, it I don't see the importance of going to all lengths to get it. We should now go to his children's school to interview them in the interest of getting the 'full' story, shouldn't we?

For the record, no one else is to be blamed for what Whyte and Farr did but them. While people will have their own opinions of Jody's morals, we must remember, she did not commit a crime. It's funny the writer describes her actions as 'despicable' while the attempted murder by Whyte and Farr is a ' foolish mistake'. Jody-Ann was not the one who stood at an altar and then signed papers to remain committed to her partner, Whyte did. It was wholly up to him to keep his marriage vows.

Also, for the record, Jody has given evidence to the DPP that Whyte told her the marriage was over. How can we automatically cast blame on Jody-Ann for 'destroying' a marriage? What factual basis can we go on?

Debbie-Ann

Hi,

I am a bit reluctant to comment on this issue, but this i will say. A marriage is sacred and should be preserved at all cost. It is wrong to cheat on your wife\husband and then go home and smile. It is also wrong for a woman\man to get involved with someone, who is already married. How can an individual destroy a marriage with children and feel happy about it? How can one cheat and face their partner and still say i love you? How can you plot a murder (pre-meditated) against a woman that you have slept with- and feel secure? Every aspect of this "soap opera" is wrong. But like you said 14 years is too short. My love and sympathy goes out to the mother (wife) and children.

Gareth Davis Sr.

Hi

It's very difficult to say that "what Miss Gray did was despicable" without knowing the facts of the relationship between herself and White. For instance we do not know what White said about his marriage or what she agreed to. I do not believe that engaging in an extra marital affair means she and her unborn infant should be shot dead. The relationship may be considered immoral but murder or attempted murder is criminal. The onus to honour the sanctity of marriage, the marriage vows and the family unit is first and foremost the responsibility of the married person. If according to the facts revealed in court Miss Gray refused to have an abortion does that mean she should be killed? It's her body so in my opinion she reserves the right to choose. Considering that it was also revealed in court that she and White did not speak for seven months suggest to me that she did not present a threat to his marriage. Too often we believe that murder is the way

Out of the problems and predicaments that we have put ourselves into. It seems White did not want to father a child out of wedlock but was content with being a murderer. White a married man and father had options open to him firstly not to engage in an extra-marital affair, having engaged in the affair not to get his girlfriend pregnant and having gotten her pregnant also had options about how that "crisis" would be dealt with going forward. To plot and attempt to execute someone's murder is inexcusable and criminal act that White attempted to use to cover his indiscretions.

Accentuate the positives!

KM, MA, BA (Hons)

Hi,

No matter what Gray did, Whyte could have walked away and saved his marriage. He is a weakling that is why he opted for killing Gray. He could have gone to his wife and explained that he had a relationship which resulted in a pregnancy. Most Jamaican women are aware that our men have more than one woman in their lives. His option was too drastic.

May he serve his time in prison reflecting on his mistakes.

Janet Silvera

Hi,

I agree that there are spineless journalists but spinlessness is in all professions.

The people who hide under non de plumes and attack journalists are just as spineless.

To the substantive matter of the crime against Jodie Gray, I have to right to make any judgement call where consenting adults are involved.

Since I was never party to any deliberations between the two, I am not qualified to interfere.

On the specific issue of the crime, I don't care against who the crime was committed. The prosecution should have gone for attempted murder which would have carried a longer sentence. That's just my opinion, but I am cognizant that the DPP went for what she could get a sure conviction.

Did miss Gray commit a crime? If she did then I expect she will be charged.

Jamaica is not ruled by Sharia Laws. And we must be careful that were are not wanting and expecting of people what we are unprepared to do ourselves. prepared

EV.

Hi,

First of all, the duty of journalists is to report the facts. Having reported the fact of the attempted murder and that one party was (reportedly) impregnated by the other, and further that the man involved was a married father, what next were journalists expected to do? I certainly don't believe moralising is one of the duties of the journalist! Media provide lots of space for moral crusaders (including, presumably, the writer of this complaint) to state their arguments. As for who is a journalist, I'm not sure that either Mr. Whyte or Miss Gray fits the definition.

EAM

Hi,

What utter nonsense!!!

It's not even worthy on a response.!

MW

Dear Letter Writer,,

It is with a breath of fresh air that I read the article submitted by the writer. I totally agree with most, if not all of his points raised.

I too had been and still is wondering where, and or what is Jody-Ann's side of the story. Or better yet, what is the real and undiluted 'truth' in the story behind this story.

As journalists we have always been told that there are three sides to every story: your's, mine and the truth. There are so many unanswered questions in that story from day one to this, the finish line.

It is Jody's right to determine the life of her child. I strongly believe in life and would have agreed for her to let God's being into this world.

The wise thing Whyte should have done was to go to his wife before anyone else did, be honest with her and tell her, when he saw the tell signs of disaster coming, beg her and 'bawl' like a baby or a bwoy and beg for forgiveness. If that did not work, go to Jody and try work things out, if she would have been willing.

He was STUPID to have tried to kill her and Farr was a bigger fool. But what really drove him to that action?

As a journalist myself, I have been asked a lot of questions by persons on the streets about this matter, but I'm afraid, I never had any answers...honestly. Even last night I was asked questions. I, and I'm sure the reading public at large would love to see or hear the other side(s) to this story.

Noel Thompson

Hi,

If Jody Ann Gray knew that Wayne Whyte was married and chose to have a relationship with him then I agree with the writer that it was immoral.

However, it's really a personal decision. One should also remember that many of us are not privy to the details of the Gray/Whyte relationship.

That aside, the question stemming from the letter is should journalists have commented on that aspect of the story?

It depends. If the journalist is perhaps a pastor and has a column addressing that issue or if matters relating to family values were the topic of an editorial, then perhaps the writer could use her situation as an example..

However, Jody's situation came to national prominence after she was shot and almost killed based on orders from a man who was about to become her unborn child's father. The fact that he is a married man pales in comparison to the act committed. That despicable criminal act was the basis of the story. Hence it would be out of order and borders on ridiculous to rebuke Jody Ann.

I do not think Jamaican journalists are spine less jelly fish. I think this discussion should center around what is the story and the placement of comments. Perhaps, one should reflect on this question, Is it a journalist's job to report on morality/immorality?

Lady Reporter