

Within days of the bomb explosion at the Olympics in Atlanta, print and broadcast media throughout the United States prominently reported that Mr. Richard Jewell, the security guard who alerted police to a suspicious package, that turned out to be the bomb, was considered a suspect in the case. Usually television stations and newspapers do not identify persons linked with a crime, at least until the authorities have issued a public statement to that effect, which they had not done in Mr. Jewell's case. Commenting upon the decision of the Boston Globe to publish a front page story about Mr. Jewell, Jim Concannon, the Globe's national editor said: "If this were a local story that wasn't available everywhere in the nation immediately, we would have handled it differently, --- [but] we're kidding ourselves when we step far back from a story that anyone can get with click of a television remote or a tap of a computer mouse."

Assuming the circumstances were as Mr. Concannon described them was it morally justifiable for the Boston Globe to publish a front page story about Mr. Jewell? If so, why? If not, why not?

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