

Dennis Rader

Name

Institution

Dennis Rader

Because of the attention accorded to the Dennis Rader case by the media, it is evident that the case is interesting. One of the factors for the claim is because it is the media that aided the generation of varying facets of the case in regard to the murderer (Capps & Dobkins, 2007). Rader as a murderer who adopted three methods of killing. He used to torture, bind, and kill his victims which consequently earned him the title of BTK (Bind, Torture, and Kill). To comprehend the criminal viewpoint, it is critical to work on the understanding of the crimes hypothesis. It necessitates the joining of the cases' which are available to provide logical and organized facts. The essay assesses the case Dennis Rader.

The Summary of the Case and the Outcomes

The murderer, Lynn Dennis Rader, is famous for the way he conveyed very provocative messages to the enforcement departments and the newspapers as well. The initial messages and letters can be found in the Wichita Public Library to show how the Otero people were murdered in 1974. There was a television station that went ahead and sent notes that held the murderer accountable of his crimes to the Bright and Fox stations among others. However, the police kept on receiving the letters from the murderer. Over the years, the police did not tire from investigating the case until there was a breakthrough in the year 2004.

The success to the case's breakthrough can be highly attributed to the fact that the provincial media facilitated the information conveyance regarding the murderer (Parker, 2013). A supply from an anonymous person using a return address was obtained by the Wichita Eagle. In 2004, the return address denoted Thomas Killman. In the note, the message was that Vicki Wegerle had been killed by BTK. The complainant provides pictures of the location of the felony

in the allegation of the assassination of September 16, 1986, photo of the assassinated driving license, both taken in the middle of the moment the offence was committed. Before the letter was sent, it was clear that BTKK had murdered Wegerle. A letter was sent to the Fox TV containing crucial information that pointed to the whereabouts for the murderer. He was also known to the head of Christ Lutheran Church council and information was established that he owned the Jeep Cherokee that was packed outside his apartment.

The proof was, therefore, substantial and assisted the law enforcement officers to undertake the DNA that could be linked on the BTK case. As a result, the investigative police established that the murder, Dennis, was indeed the BTK. Among multiple crimes, he was accused of murders which he went ahead and confessed even though had initially pleaded as not guilty. He was later charged with 10 counts of murder and slapped with life imprisonment.

What factors lead to the victim's criminality?

Judging from a psychological perspective, BTK could be argued to be having many psychological issues that could have compelled him commit the crimes he committed. In his thinking, he developed fantasies that could only be satisfied by taking other people's lives. The struggles began to destroy him while he was still schooling. According to many sources, the urge to commit the crimes were as a movie that he felt that he should produce as soon as he could. From the behavioral dimension, BTK capacity to remain normal and cool even after committing tremendous crimes such as killing is behavioral and helped him live long without being detected by the law enforcement departments for a long time. Additionally, BTK was able to appeal to the people relaxed while covering his character something demonstrated by him becoming a member of a church council. In comparison, BTK had a regular family, and not

primarily like most typical serial killers. It is unlikely to accuse him as a killer with these behavioral attributes of possessing a normal life and actions.

Nonetheless, a case could be made for the BTK murders that he could be having detrimental emotional gaps such as loneliness which accounted for his psychological shortcomings. He was just trying to seek an audience that would be there to give him company in the journey. The audience became the police and the media. He was terrified and had the fear of himself, thus, ended up releasing the tension through killings. From the environment perspective atmosphere, the environment of BTK encouraged his successful killing attempts. Getting, for example, a military history given by his surroundings fitted him with the skills. In addition, bravery formed by cruelty in battles to which he was subjected (Giannangelo, 2012). A bad transition from becoming an army member to suffering from insomnia found it impossible to retain jobs. BTK certainly had to conduct his inner dreams in this light. In comparison, possessing a military past meant that the crimes of BTK were untraceable by obtaining all the incriminating information during the offensive undertakings. Besides, he was an average learner whilst in his school years. He was also not a very settling student. He was always disruptive and often engaged other students in vulgar conversations among other shenanigans. He had been involved earlier in cases of break-ins, forced entries as well as petty theft for items that had little significance such as clothing which explain the behaviour that BTK developed in the adulthood stage. Some theories were adopted to explain the BTK case.

Theories for Evaluating the BTK case

The Social Learning Theory

In this perspective, there are individuals who portray completely different traits as compared to others. The traits become persistent over time and the situations escalate from bad to worse, which affects a person's capacity to reason like other individuals. As in the case of BTK, he had consistent and persistent traits that made him different from the other people. The fantasies, for example, were so unforgiving and persistent that they compelled BTK into committing murders without any form of remorse.

Psychoanalytical Theory

The proponents of this theory affirmed that there are inflection unconscious spruce of motivation that clashes with other motive to develop the anxiety that compels a person to behave in a certain way. BTK harbored various fantasies in his head which went ahead and created the motives so that they could be executed. He became a serial killer from these latent hallucinations that involved fetish impulses and urges for violence. In addition, motivating forces constitute id, superego, and ego, according to psychoanalytical theory. Starting with id, it constitutes the psychic strength and biological powers that work through the norm of enjoyment that seeks fulfillment and stress reduction. On the other hand, ego is the ulterior motive, in fact, to seek logical solutions. Finally, as socialized by ancestors, Superego stands for virtues and can even be considered consciousness. Superego and Id are constantly in conflict, while ego works to mediate the disputes. From this facet, the conflict that exists between the superego and the id is an explanation for the isolation of the reality which is considered to facilitate the irrational behaviour expressed by some individuals such as BTK. In his case, the id defeated the superego while the ego failed to mediate between the two. He became unreasonable, thus, became the murder he was.

Humanist and interactionist theories

This school of thinking assume that individuals possess the right, inherent right, to fulfill their capacities and also assume that there are powers beyond the contemplation of human beings that affect and control human beings. According to the proponents of the theory, the reasons why people behave the way they is do is because they have the liberty of self-actualization. Thus, it could be argued that BTK committed all the murders and the heinous crimes to fulfil the pressure of self-actualization or putting to test his potentials in the life. In the end of it all, the pressure led to BTK taking away the life of so many innocent people.

The Crimes Committed by BTK

BTK committed a series of crimes for almost three decades that included sexual fetishism and murder as well. Even though he was accused of committing other multiple crimes, Dennis was sorely charged for the ten counts of murder he was found guilty of committing. There was ideal and substantial evidence in the crimes and scenes and other evidence that could have proved that he was guilty of sexual fetishism. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for each of the ten counts of murder anyway.

The Personality

To try and assess the BTK case from a personality perspective, he could be having issues with his personality. He could be suffering from a personality disorder. According to Greene and Wrightsman (2013), it is normal for human beings to exhibit a certain form of reaction while in anguish or when experienced with agitating circumstances. The complexity of the BTK case arises from the fact that he was able to have a family despite being so dangerous. Since human beings are deemed incapable of having two personality, it remains a mystery how BTK's actions

could not be contemplated and unraveled for almost three decades. To make the matter even worse, he was even a member in the church council. Sexual fetishism is an example of other signs of personality disorder. The actions had him seriously arrested for breaking and entering. He stole women's clothing, particularly the inner products he was able to wear at times. In comparison, at tender ages, his personality appeared to be fractured as he tortured puppies. As an adult, BTK baselessly euthanized a neighbor's puppy. The fact that BTK has not been able to continue for a long time from one job is related to the question of insomnia and the lack of appropriate socialization skills that posit a problem of personality. Both these personal behaviour by BTK prove that he was suffering from a personality disorder.

Are Mentally Disturbed Offenders Protected by Law?

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a United States legislation that was passed in 1990 with an objective to protect law-offender who have various forms of limitation such as mental disturbance. Such problems include PTSD, mental distress among other mental-associated problems that could be suffered by offenders such as BTK. In respect to the Act, there is a particular manner through which the testimony or proof is collected, assessed and presented in the courtrooms. Moreover, the Act has with time proved to be critical in determining the offenders who can be allowed to stand trial and those that must be guided and represented by the insanity defense.

Evaluation of the Trial

In the famous BTK trial, the court was conceived that Dennis was indeed guilty of the offense he had been accused of including the ten counts of murder. He was taken through the mental assessment procedures and considered fit to stand trial. He was even aware of the dates

that he was planning to execute murder on his suspects. Thus, it was ruled out that he could be freed from the charges on the basis that he could not have been mentally stable while committing the acts. He committed the murders in an orderly and properly mediated manner that the court deemed him capable of standing trial. He was accorded a standard trial because he had previously acquired the military training he used to execute the murder and barring any kind of evidence that could be used to incarcerate him.

Ethical issues surrounding the case

BTK case instigated heated debates regarding the ethical concerns on the case. When the media was accused of unethical conduct in the case, it retaliated by arguing that it was an independent tool that was responsible for releasing the information that was only accurate and fit for the consumption by the public. Moreover, there were numerous accusations that the media could be working for or behalf of the government and the police. Thus, the ethical scope in which the media acted on the case jeopardized its credibility on the case and afterwards. Even though it is an independent tool, it is their duty to cooperate with the authorities.

The case was handled in an ethical manner by the court. Typically, offenders are required to have an attorney to represent them in courts, and so did Dennis. Consequently, an attorney was provided to him by court. The court, therefore, acted within the ethical requirements. It should be noted however, the public defense attorney in BTK's case was focused on getting the appropriate jail terms for the client rather than trying to facilitate his exoneration. Today, he is behind bars and has to spend his time watching the televisions. Day in day out.

The police did not use unjust means in the entirety of BTK's case. They went ahead to seek warrants where necessary and utilized them in a manner directed by the court. This is an

indicator that there was ethical consideration by the police department in the way the case was handled by the police. There was no invasion of Dennis' privacy without the ideal, documented, and signed permissions from the authority. In the process of acquiring the DNA samples, there were the relevant permissions. The ethical consideration can also be seen in the case where BTK was isolated in the correction facility because it could be dangerous putting him in the same confinement with other criminals. He could end up being murdered. He was mentally assessed to endure that he was fit to stand trial. The case, thus, was ethically conducted from investigations to sentencing.

To conclude, Dennis Rader's case is same to the other serial killings that have been witnessed. However, BTK appeared before the court through video conferencing. The move was taken to ensure that the murderer was protected from potential mob attacks that could have endangered his life in the hands of the state. His case appeared to be one of its kind because of how could have had two personalities in one. Beforehand, it was argued that a person could not have two personalities. However, BTK was able to be a serial killer and facilitate a good family as well. He was eventually arrested and sentenced, underscoring the critical role played by the authorities to defend the public from such people. Also, it is key to undertake such cases in an ethical approach.

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