

Just finishing watching the film *Final Cut* made me feel overwhelmed. There are many ethical issues with this idea of recording lives and going through them as if it were the cutter's own to satisfy the *needs of memory* of people. Beyond all that though, there is a psychological, and I will dare to say, a spiritual problem. Allen, the best cutter sought after did his job because he could not forgive himself for "being the reason another boy died." With fixing everybody else's "sins" and deleting their worse of their lives, he felt he was doing the right thing because he "understood" their shame. He himself was in their same shoes – or so he thought. There came a moment when he could not bear the weight of other people's sins anymore and he was so tormented spiritually and psychologically. When I say spiritually I am not necessarily talking about bad spirits but *his* own spirit, or mind, could not take all the responsibility anymore. He was taking "sinners and making them saints." I know this is not Religion class, but the problem with this is that we are all sinners – or if that makes anyone uncomfortable – we all make mistakes, and because of that, this is a huge issue. No one wants the worse to be seen of us. What we have done is in the past, what we remember is who we are. I feel that if memories change as we remember them, we would also change. For example, the brother of the man that died that remembered the boat being one color all his life when in reality it was another – he almost felt betrayed by his memory. Beyond all this, the biggest thing to confront is interpretation. In my final paper I wrote that media editing to me was composing a visual, or audio message that was *intended* to be portrayed, by using the different media-editing devices. The cutter, being a media editor would do the same. Allen says in the movie; "I don't care about the dead but the living," and "my job is to satisfy people's memories." Media editing, and for that same reason, a cutter's job is this, to satisfy what people want to see.

Above all the ethical problems and the things that could go wrong with filming lives, I stressed with the cutter in some scenes when he was in the middle of his job. Just to think about the job itself – even if there was nothing unethical or emotional about it, the great load of time and work that it takes is amazing! I stressed because there was only three screens, I felt sometimes that he should not be going out or wasting time researching other people, "he should be going through more clips," I would think. I feel that it is almost impossible to see *all* of someone's life, therefore I would be scared to have this job because I would be afraid to leave out five amazing minutes of a person's life. If I were a cutter, how would I know if I just saw five minutes that to me meant nothing but to the owner of this life meant the world?

Like Aisling said in class that someone said, a job in high tech would be the best job in the world after being a chocolate-taster, yet I think a cutter in particular would be a job that only the strongest of the strong could take. I kind of think of this job as that of a pastor of a church, but with a weight of hundred times fold – a pastor who really cares, of course . Many people come to them and tell them of their lives exactly as they are, their burdens, yet even then some stories might be composed prettier so the person does not sound like such a bad person after all...

I have to finish off with what I started: this film is overwhelming, and for the conclusion I must add that it would be inaccurate, even if the cutter did care to bring out the exact truth, simply because of we all have different connotation interpretation. In class there were at least twenty cutters of a few months of the life of Daragh, and each project was radically different. Who is right? All? None? Who chooses who is right? Daragh? In the end, there is this window in life that we learn in Communication classes; the window where people know things about you that you do not know about yourself. Where would that fit in someone's edited life through their eyes?