Background? Who was she before the crime?

- Her grandfather was a newspaper magnate, William Randolph Hearst
- She was 19 years old when kidnapped by Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA)
- She attended college and had a fiance
Crime Details and Who Was Accused

- Patty Hearst was kidnapped out of her apartment and her fiance was beat up
- SLA was led by Donald DeFreeze with a goal to destroy the “capitalist state”
- SLA brainwashed and abused Hearst until she agreed to comply with the terrorist group
- The SLA used her to make audiotapes demanding million of dollars in food donations
- All known members of the group were accused, but DeFreeze and 6 others died in an L.A. police shootout, but Hearst and others were caught on September 18, 1975 while on the run
Persecution Details and Media’s Role

- While the kidnapping made “front-page national news”, the case was just as invigorating for the public.
- The case was very popular because of the strange turn of events including which side Patty was on.
- The media’s position began with hopes to save Patty, but ended with the belief she was a terrorist.
Details of Case and Outcomes of SLA

- Patty Hearst was charged with bank robbery and other crimes despite the brainwashing and ultimately found guilty
- She was sentenced to 7 years in prison, but only served two years before President Carter revised her sentence
- Later Hearst was pardoned
- The rest of the SLA members were tracked down, the last member was arrested in 2002