

Castration no way to deal with rape

As usual, lawmakers don't know which end is up. A Houston, Texas man recently won approval of his request to face castration instead of a jail sentence for his February 1991 sexual assault of a 13-year-old girl.

Should Steve Allen Butler go through with the operation, it will be the first time in recent years that a sex offender undergoes castration instead of spending time in the pen.

State District Judge Mike McSpadden's decision could be the beginning of the end. His ruling sets a new standard of ignorance within the legal system.

For one thing, the agreement addresses the issue of rape as if it were a crime of passion or an act of sexual prowess. It's not. It's a violent, degrading act against women having nothing to do with sex drive.

Butler's genitals don't need the renovation; his head does. A male who sexually offends a girl or woman has serious problems stemming from mental dysfunction. These problems manifest physically through an act like rape.

If we're seriously talking about deals to stay out of prison, and it looks like we are, perhaps Butler should be forced to undergo some form of counseling for the next 20 years rather than castration. It would be much more effective.

Back to the operation. Another reason it's a bad idea: It won't work.

The operation he will undergo is orchiectomy, the removal of both testicles. The sexual drive is lowered with the operation, since the male hormone testosterone is produced in the testicles, but not squelched completely; the man is still capable of an erection, still able to rape.

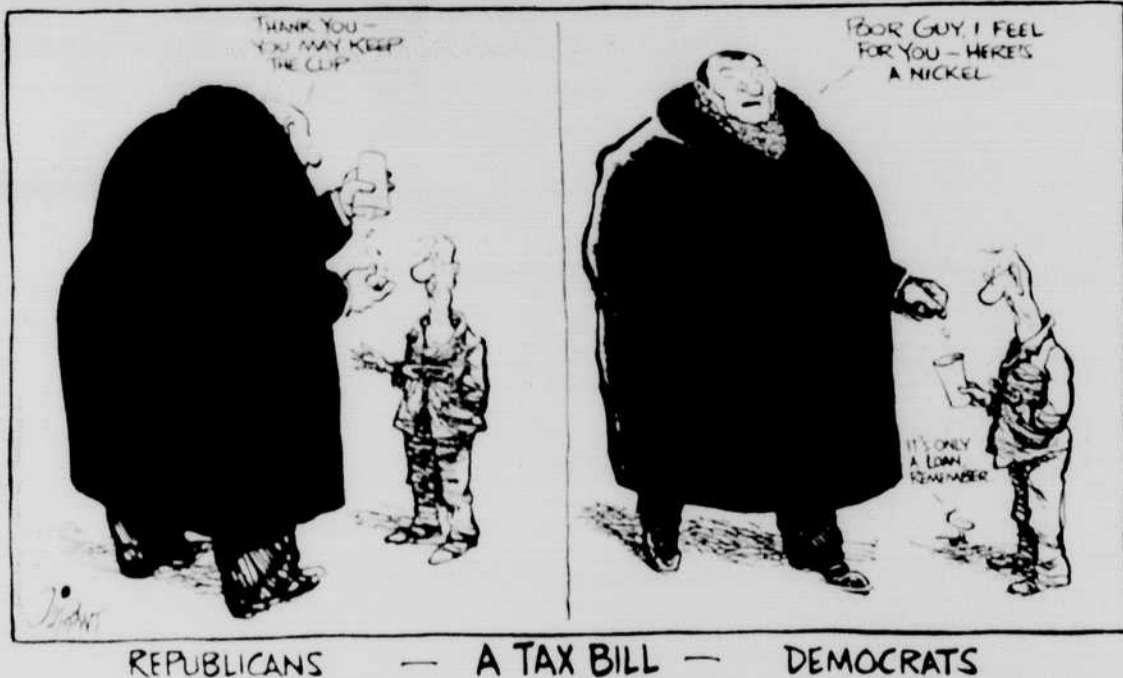
Not that an erection is necessary in a rape. The act isn't about sex, but about hurting and degrading women; a rapist wouldn't have to be sexually able. There are other "tools" like bottles and broomsticks. Sick, right? But true. Leaving men like Butler on the streets with only castration as punishment doesn't stop the problem of rape.

The saddest part is that the victim's family agreed to the operation deal mainly so the girl would not have to publicly testify.

What does this say about the legal system's treatment of rape survivors in this country? Why don't more feel secure in coming forward to face their attackers in America's courts?

And what does this say about this country's general attitude toward rape victims? Why is this girl and her family holed up in their home, afraid to confront Butler? Is it fear? Shame? Doubt?

This agreement is a bad deal — for all of us.



COMMENTARY

'PC' professors censor students

By Ryan Blacketter

Teachers of the New Left orthodoxy have graced classroom pulpits at colleges across the nation, advancing political agendas via the legitimizing vehicle of professorship.

Pundits of the politically correct insist the movement doesn't exist, but has been fabricated within the quagmires of the conservative academic consciousness to discredit women and minorities. Intolerance of diversity or politicization of the curriculum? You be the judge.

David Beers, senior editor of *Mother Jones*, contends that PC critics have dealt unfair blows against campus iconoclasts: "...feminists, multiculturalists, and other challengers of entrenched power become 'McCarthyites' in the eyes of evil white patriarchal students." ("PC? B.S." *Mother Jones*, 1991) However, the real entrenched power of today's campus exists in an increasingly radical community of militant feminist and intolerant multiculturalist professors who wish to separate the campus along the lines of race, gender, and sexual orientation.

Students whose values exceed such narrow and simplistic boundaries of tribalization are perceived as "insensitive" and "oppressive," and are consequently harassed and censored.

Students at Kenyon College in Ohio can expect to take Biology of Female Sexuality as a graduation requirement, which doesn't at first glance conjure images of thought control or indoctrination. But at the beginning of class, Professor Edwards assumed full command of her students. She immediately handed out syllabi that instructed women to make "verbal contributions to discussion," yet made it clear to men that "participation means seriously listening more than contributing to discussion."

If a student has the nerve to take issue with this type of repression of ideas, he may be sent to the intellectual gas chamber of a "gender awareness" seminar. Thus, most students just acquiesce to their more politically astute professors lest they be labeled "insensitive to women" or

"homophobic." ("Sense and Sensitivity" *National Review*, 1991)

In such courses, students are ridiculed for admitting an adherence to natural law, for all good Marxists know that Christianity was created so men could "legally rape" their wives, as leading feminist Andrea Dworkin insists, but "womyn" who shave their heads and worship witches, goddesses and feminist archetypes are praised for illustrating a social bravery.

Rambo multiculturalists and feminists envision the ideal university as an intellectually lobotomized student body of cultural relativists who cease to grapple with the issues critically, but simply accept any value system on the merit of being unusual.

In another instance of intellectual repression, a student at the University of Washington took an Introduction to Women's Studies course. His professor asserted that the heterosexual nuclear family is "dysfunctional" and that lesbians and gays inevitably produce healthier children.

After class, the student politely asked his professor to substantiate her claims, and she curtly responded, "Why are you challenging me?" Disconcerted, he dropped the discussion and left. At the next lecture he was met at the doorway by campus police who forced his removal from the building. ("Sense and Sensitivity")

Students who perpetuate Martin Luther King Jr.'s wonderful dream of judging people only on the content of their character must be careful if the target is not white, for he may be charged with racism. Classroom critics of the NAACP, the Urban League, and other promoters of dependency have been duped as "bigots" and "hate mongers," even though many blacks today feel politically alienated from these groups.

The president of Smith College in Massachusetts assures students in an ideological manifesto that opposition to racial quotas, sincerity or depth of the argument notwithstanding, will be treated as a serious offense. The school has employed a full-time "Affirmative Action Officer" to monitor objection-

able political opinions uttered by students and faculty. ("The Cult of Multiculturalism" *New Republic*, 1991)

Next on the politically incorrect hit-list is the Western curriculum. Yes, Augustine used the gender-specific "man" in referring to the human race, and Odysseus was rather oppressive in his encounter with that alternative Cyclops fellow when he gouged out his beady eye with a big stick. But such "male aggression" does not compromise the wisdom and philosophical richness put forth in these books.

A professor at Wesleyan feels differently. "The classic texts of the Western tradition have been imposed on students as a form of male domination." (Ibid.) At Stanford University, a student contended that "The implicit message of Western culture is 'Nigger Go Home.'" (Ibid) Hmm ... talk about a stretch!

Leftist totalitarianism in the classroom? This characterization may seem like a stretch also, but some university administrators have nearly assumed the role of an autonomous "state," which dictates standards of appropriate behavior and punishes conduct that is otherwise illegal.

To debate ideas which question the accuracy of leftist historical revisionists can be dangerous in the classroom. A student at this university pointed out in his U.S. history course that African tribes held one another as slaves in the 1300's, and he went on to describe how linguistic and pigment differences caused misunderstandings and eventually, genocide. Before he could finish illustrating the omnipresence of insensitivity, his instructor hastened to silence him so as not to offend "people of color."

As a means of alleviating what radicals falsely identify as "oppression" and "insensitivity," the politically correct movement has threatened the sanctity of speech in the classroom. PC does exist and will continue as long as radical professors seek empowerment through silencing those who refuse to interpret the world through the distorted lens of gender, race and sexual orientation.

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