

Monologue

Idle Hands

By J. Dana Haynes

There's a reason why they're called "board" meetings.

Last week, in a spasm of efficiency, I decided to attend the monthly Clackamas Community College Board of Education meeting. I'd never been to one before, though I've been here for going-on-three years now. And the rumor was that someone was going to discuss something that would cause a stir.

So I dusted off my suit, bade Peggy au revoir, and made an appearance at the Holly Farm Mall, the sight of the festivities.

Sure enough, after about an hour and a half of Robert's Rules of Order, one of the Board members brought up the big item. The audience, mostly elderly citizens of the county and students, started to get excited. Here was the big issue.

Should there be a policy excluding alcohol from the campus.

Ta da.

Now I have to admit that I was confused. For the past few years, I had been under the impression that the College did, indeed, have such a policy already. Many's the time I was asked by an editor to cover an Associated Student Government meeting, and the vision of a martini so dry the olive was parched would flash through my head. But no, I'd tell myself; this is, after all, an institute of higher education. Surely there are rules about such things.

If, in fact I had been covering the ASG sober for better than two years, when no rule existed to keep me from attending with note pad, pen and highball, then something was definitely wrong.

I put these thoughts aside then for the audience was clamoring for attention. Ralph Groener, chairperson of the board, acknowledged the first speaker who stood, introduced himself, and began a tirade on the evils of liquor. After a hefty summation, Groener recognized the next citizen who stood, introduced herself, and repeated the first guy's speech about booze on our nation's campuses.

Ralph pointed to the third speaker. He stood. I'd himself, and the dance resumed.

Ad infinitum, ad nauseam.

About this time, I was getting a tad confused. After all, *The Print* had been trying to keep abreast of all the pertinent issues at the College, and to the best of my memory students attending class while sloshed were uncommon. Nor, for that matter, were professors showing up loaded to the gills, as far as we knew.

So I raised my hand, was acknowledged by Mr. Groener, and asked the board if there had been a great deal of problems, vis a vis intoxication, of late.

"No. Not really," one of the members responded. "But the College's lawyer felt that we need a cohesive written policy."

Hadn't we always had such a policy?

"Well, yes. But it applied only to students and staff, not to visitors. We needed a more comprehensive policy."

Is the school within the purview of the Oregon City Police Department?

"Yes, it is."

Then is it safe to say that there is now, and always has been a rule against liquor on campus?

Just about then, one of the distinguished members of the audience leaned toward me and said, "But we don't want no booze at the College!"

Logic like that is hard to argue with. The motion was passed, unanimously.

Pro-choice

Don't ignore rights of living

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Tracy M. Sumner's editorial, "Abortion Equal to Murder."

Mr. Sumner has been grossly misinformed by the same scare tactics that are used by anti-choice groups. Most abortions are performed when the fetus is less than three months old. A three-month-old fetus is about the size of a marble, so it is of course absolutely false that one can see a "grossly twisted and contorted face." The whole procedure takes less than five minutes and is much safer than carrying a child to full term.

The fact that a woman chooses to terminate her pregnancy in abortion isn't

necessarily the result of a libertine society that he suggests. For many women and men, going through pregnancy to full term would create physical and emotional devastation. What is responsible about having an unwanted child? Even properly used birth control fails. Choosing to have an abortion is a responsible decision!

Thank God we live in an advanced civilization where the rights of the living female are taken into consideration and safe, legal abortions are available. Too many women have died from back-alley abortions. Returning abortions to criminal status won't eliminate them: it will simply make safe abortions the prerogative of the wealthy few

and send middle-class women back to the alleys and dirty spoons.

If the rights of individual Americans are of utmost importance to Mr. Sumner, I'm curious to know how many unwanted children he is taking care of.

Fortunately, the majority of citizens in the United States believe that abortion is and should be a personal decision. Recent history shows that it is people in the minority who are resorting to pressure tactics. Mr. Sumner's incorrect facts, unfounded opinions and bombastic style are simply an example of these tactics.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Sinclair

Pro-life

Don't fund with public taxes

To the Editor:

This is to address Ms. Joette L. Rose's letter to the editor in last week's *The Print*.

First, I would like to commend Mr. Tracy M. Sumner for taking a stand on abortion. This was, for me, a reversal of chauvanistic roles; me being the chauvanist and thinking men wouldn't care one way or the other.

Now to address Ms. Rose:

She maintains she wants independence and a career; and she's obviously not wanting to lose this "freedom" by becoming pregnant. Is she defending her right to promiscuity? I'm not questioning her morals, and no one is forcing an unwanted pregnancy on her. I just don't want to pay for her or others' abortions, as I don't believe in killing. Ms. Rose refers more than once to "therapeutic abortions." That is a contradiction. Webster's defines therapeutic as "to attend or treat." An abortion is certainly not therapeutic to the child, and it must not be therapeutic to the woman when Ms. Rose describes abortion as "expensive, degrading, and physiologically upsetting." Being realistic; the word therapeutic is thrown in to soften the harshness of the word (abortion).

Women have always had a choice. But we haven't always had Uncle Sam willing to pay for our choice. Ms. Rose states that women have the right to exercise control over their lives and bodies. That's fine--however, it is not just their

life that is affected. This is truly a matter of life or death for a baby. Not just something that will temporarily interfere with their career, or isn't convenient.

Oregon's former governor Tom L. McCall stated recently that his mother had to perform several abortions, as a pregnancy could not be afforded financially; therefore, another child was not wanted. What if Mr. McCall had been the unwanted child? This would have changed history. What if Mary hadn't wanted Jesus? Pregnancy was not convenient to her either!

Ms. Rose asks what's the difference if a child dies of an abortion, or is killed (in the name of a country's pride or power) in a war? The difference is a human can change others' lives for the better (or worse for that matter), just by being. In other words, a child

some mother might have chosen to abort could change the world.

I believe Mr. Sumner's point of view has been missed. He stressed tax dollars being the main support for abortion. He conceded to the fact that abortion at times is justifiable. He was speaking out against unrestricted abortions being publically funded.

I personally am astounded by abortions being scheduled through schools and being performed on minors without parents knowledge or consent. As a parent, my rights to advise or counsel are potentially violated. And, doctors who normally wouldn't perform surgery without parental consent are going behind our backs, and figure what we don't know won't hurt us.

Very sincerely,

Gladys F. Hannaford

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