

## Could vague laws conflict with legalized abortion?

I happened to pick up the sports page the other day, a somewhat rare event for me, but a small boy with glasses was reading the Living Section. Somehow I didn't think it would be appropriate to knock him over in order to read the comics.

On the front page was the story about a former NFL player found guilty of conspiracy to kill his pregnant girlfriend. In the article, one tiny little paragraph caught my eye and stopped my heart. It said that along with conspiracy to

commit murder, he was also found guilty of using an instrument with intent to kill an unborn child.

This paragraph made

### Take a stand!!



Corinne Rupp  
Opinion Editor

my blood run cold. I didn't know such a law existed, and frankly, as a pro-choice woman, the fact that it does worries me more than a little bit. It seems so broad, so general, so sweep-

ing. What is classified as an "instrument"? Could a physician that provides safe, legal abortions someday be prosecuted under this law?

Perhaps I am becoming paranoid, what with the incoming Republican administration and the probability of a far-right wing conservative serving as attorney general. When confirmed, Attorney General Ashcroft could bend such vague laws like a pretzel, circumventing

Roe vs. Wade without actually taking it off the books. But sometimes, as Kurt Cobain sang, "Just because you're paranoid don't mean they're not after you." Maintaining the hard-earned

right to a safe abortion requires constant vigilance.

I am happy to report that the baby survived the attack, although, regrettably the mother didn't. I do believe that someone who attacks a pregnant woman should be held liable for the baby as well as the mother. However, this law still scares me with its open-ended ambiguity. Stumbling upon it serves as a reminder that we cannot become complacent in our fight for our rights. For now, let us take some comfort in first lady Laura Bush's statement that she does not believe abortion should be outlawed. Still, let us not get too comfortable. The fight isn't over yet.

## Student Poll Will you be watching the superbowl?



"I have no clue. My Dad will probably want to watch the game."

Ashley Bellomo



"I'm just sleeping."

Shin Sato



"I'm working that morning, so probably not."

Andre Moore



"I'm probably going to watch it. Where I watch it at I dunno. It's not a huge, huge exciting thing that I look forward to."

Eric Burriss



"The whole family gets together at somebody's house to watch the Superbowl. I definitely watch it for the game, but the commercials are a bonus."

Jeremy Gibboney

## Back Talk

Welcome to a new column here in The Print. *BackTalk* is a student discussion forum. Each week a question will be asked for our readers to respond to. Replies can either be e-mailed to us at [ccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us](mailto:ccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us) or dropped by The Print office in B104. Please include your name to be considered for publication.

### Question

Do you believe that one's personal beliefs should be taken into account when applying for a job? For example, former Senator John Ashcroft is awaiting confirmation for the position of U.S attorney general, a position requiring him to maintain laws such as abortion rights and affirmative action he has fought against for years in his home state of Missouri. The senate has scrutinized his record heavily during his confirmation hearings. Is this fair? Should it be legal? What do you think?



# Happy Chinese New Year

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