

Fetus defense attacks choice



Ben Maras
OPINION EDITOR

Everyone wave goodbye to a woman's right to chose, because it looks like Bush and his religious "right" cronies are at it again, and this time they may just have gained the foothold they need to topple the institution of choice known as "abortion."

They already passed a bill banning late-term abortions, something which was more or less accepted by conservatives and "liberals" alike, due to the special circumstances involving late-term abortions. But this new law makes attacking a pregnant woman two counts of assault (or murder or whatever the charge may be).

Let me take a moment to promise that I will not mention the war in this piece. But if I did, I might just mention the

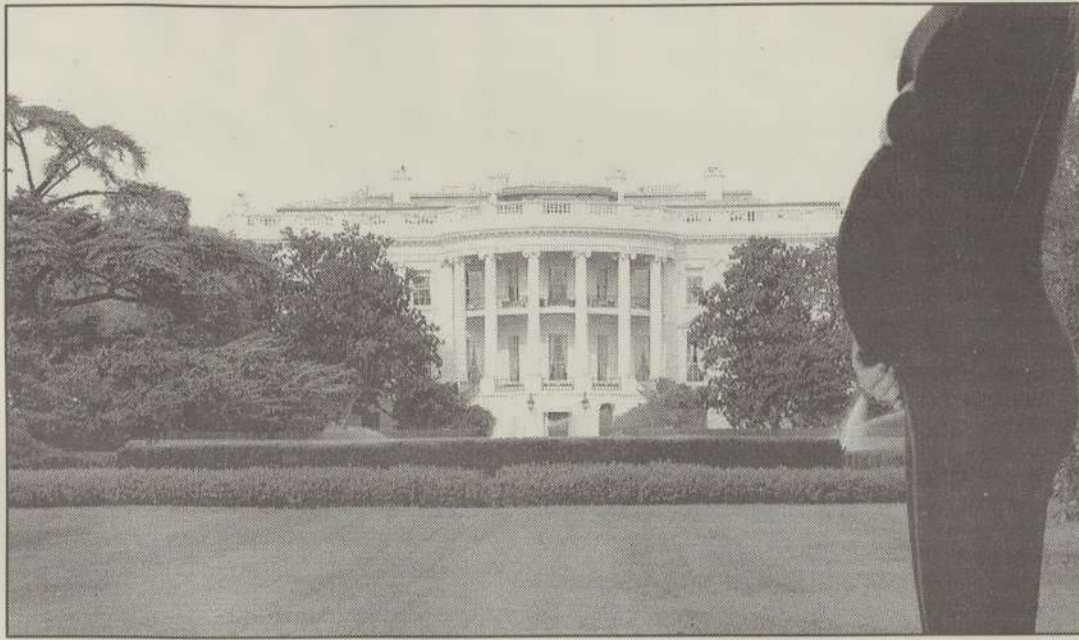


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mass hypocrisy in the fact that el Presidente is trying to protect some fetuses while sending the fully-grown fetuses of this

storming up the road.

She isn't 18; she's not of consensual age to have an abortion. Therefore, the abortion can be considered an act of assault (and murder) and the doctor gets strung up before the court and tried with this new law. This can easily be extended to other technicalities, too.

Sound farfetched? One of the few things that both those supporting and those opposing abortion have ever agreed on is that this new law is just step one in a sweeping movement to ban all abortions.

No more Roe vs. Wade, and if that happens ... well, we will have a bit of a mess on our hands, as open season starts for religious fundamentalists to start a crusade against choice and start dragging up doctors and treating them as murderers. Do we really want to return to the world of back alley "coat-hanger" abortions?

With all that said and done, it

is not an outright terrible idea to make attacking a pregnant woman a more serious charge, but considering an attack two counts of the same crime is not the correct way to go about it. What if a woman on fertility drugs, pregnant with five fetuses, gets assaulted (or heaven forbid, killed)? Should her assailant receive six counts of the crime for only one action?

What about just adding a lesser charge such as involuntary manslaughter? Or making a whole new charge for attacking a pregnant woman? This simple answer just goes to show the hidden anti-choice agenda of those who created this bill.

We can not let our basic freedoms that make America what it is be pushed aside and trampled on by fundamentalist beliefs. What a woman does to her own body is the choice of the experts: a woman, her partner (if applicable) and her doctor—not George Dubya's flying circus.



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President Bush signs in the new bill. But many wonder, is it defense of the unborn or an assault on choice?

country to their deaths in Iraq—but I won't.

Maybe this law would not be so dangerous if it did not have such far sweeping effects. Imagine this scenario: a scared teenage mother goes to the abortion clinic. She did not know she was pregnant, and it's too late for emergency contraception (a.k.a. the "morning-after" pill). They grant her an abortion and she can get on with her life, but the Fundamentalist lynch mob comes

Wal-Mart always has low wages, always

Sara Atkeson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Wal-Mart has been called the piranha of American capitalism and to let this innocent-looking predator swim in our local fishpond will be devastating to our community.

Some might think a new Wal-Mart would create new jobs and be helpful in boosting the local

economy. I believe this is simply not true.

According to the Flagstaff Activist Network (FAN), studies have shown that the community loses three jobs for every two created by a Wal-Mart store. On their website, FAN also cites a report by the Congressional Research Service, which gave a warning to communities to evaluate the significance of job gains at big-box stores against the loss of jobs due to reduced business at competing retailers.

Furthermore, the report points out that these new jobs "provide significantly lower wages than jobs in many industries, and are often only part-time positions, seasonal opportunities or subject to extensive turnover."

Wal-Mart utilizes other common practices to keep cost of wages down, as well, such as forcing employees to work overtime without compensation—a practice that they were sued for here in Portland two years ago.

According to www.organic-consumers.org, a federal

jury in Portland found 18 Wal-Mart stores in Oregon guilty of violating federal and state laws by pressuring employees to clock out after 40 hours yet still continue working.

Moreover, a study released by Richard Drogin, a partner of the statistical consulting firm Drogin, Kakigi and Associates of Berkeley, Calif., found that a disproportionate number of women are working at lower-paid hourly positions than men, and they average less in wages at those position.

According to Drogin, about 65 percent of hourly employees are women, while only about 33 of management positions are held by women. Drogin said they also average \$0.30 an hour less for cashier positions than men doing the same job—\$8.03 an hour compared to a man's \$8.33.

"The disparities in pay are so great that it's hard to attribute it

to an accident," said Joseph Sellers, whose firm has represented the plaintiffs in suits against Wal-Mart for employee discrimination. "There is strong evidence that the company is mistreating women because they are women."

Lastly I would like to dispel the myth that Wal-Mart "always has low prices, always." A newspaper in Carroll County, Ark., conducted a test of Wal-Mart's low-price claim, surveying a list of 19 common household items over a one-month period. The survey found that Wal-Mart had the cheapest price on only two of the items.

Ultimately, Wal-Mart's legacy won't be its lower prices, but the lower living standards for its employees. This corporate monster does not belong in our community.



INTERNET PHOTO



Letters to the Editor

Debate on founding fathers religion rages on

(In response to Joe Clement's Letter to the Editor in the 4/14/04 edition of *The Clackamas Print*).

Clement makes several spurious and fallacious claims in a letter that need to be corrected a matter of fairness and clarity.

Clement refutes the statement "this country was founded on Christian fundamentals," the thesis of his letter.

Clement claims that "Many of our founding fathers were Deists." For support, he offers Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams and James Madison as Deists, and concludes by announcing therefore "America wasn't founded on Christian fundamentals; they had to find their way in."

Any first-year CCC student can easily recognize the poisonous fallacy that Clement tries to employ, which is: if some apples are bad, all are bad. He has concluded that because the founding fathers are Deist, somehow—he never explains how—Christian principles found their way into the Constitution.

I must be brief. 1) More than four men were involved in writing the U.S. Constitution. 2) All of the four men Clement mentions adopted Christian principles in the Constitution without exception. 3) John Adams, the second president of the United States, well as the others he mentions, misquoted. The misquoting Clement bases his theory on most likely this one: "This would be the best of all possible worlds if there were no religion in it."

Leftist revisionists would like you to believe that Adams was opposed to religion and was an active Deist. However, the quote is: "Twenty times in the course of my late reading have been on the point of breaking out, *this would be the best of all possible worlds, if there were no religion in it.* But in this exclamation would have been as fanatical as Bryant or Cleverly. Without religion, this would be something fit to be mentioned in polite company, I mean hell" (letter to Thomas Jefferson, dated April 1817).

Adams, as well as all founding fathers, accepted all religions as valid expressions of faith, and most certainly open to the teachings of Jesus Christ, calling Christianity "the religion of reason, equity, and love" (letter to F.A. Van der Kemp, dated December 27, 1816).

Attacks on Christianity began long before 2,000 years, it has stood many more brutal attacks than the oversimplification of Clement, and it will survive after the last person on earth flung the last rock at its principles.

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