

OPINION

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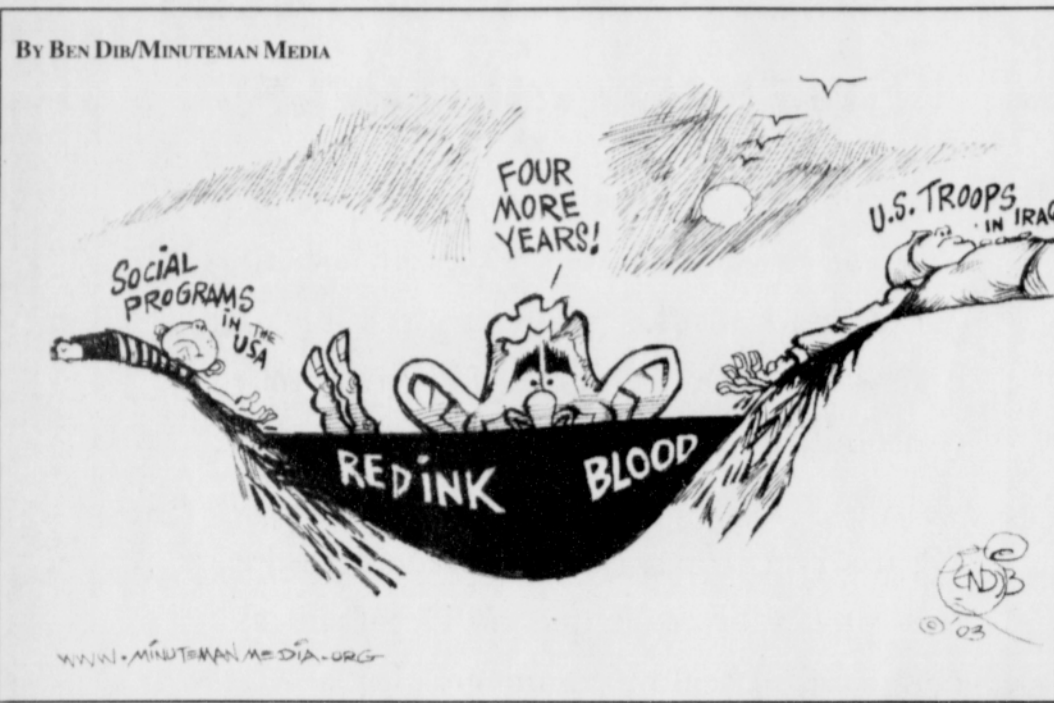
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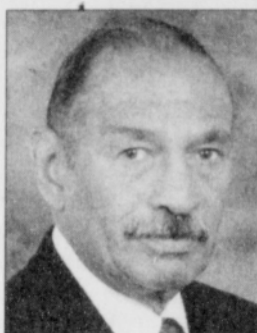
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Protect the Rights of All Americans We need judges who uphold the laws of Congress

BY U.S. REP. JOHN CONYERS JR.
Just as the Congress passes laws that affect our daily lives in many ways, our federal courts affect our lives by interpreting and applying those laws.



Their decisions impact the lives of all Americans. They affect the safety of the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and the planes we fly.

not fully enforce the protection and benefits provided by federal law. The Senate, and not the House of Representatives, has the duty to review the president's judicial nominations, and then approve or reject them.

But the Congressional Black Caucus has made our voice heard, loud and clear, on objectionable nominations. They protect citizens' liberty and privacy from overreaching government officials. Say that Congress enacts a law to protect your civil rights, your child's education, or your retirement benefits, but then there's a lawsuit over how to apply it to a particular group of people.

If a very conservative judge, with views outside the mainstream, interprets that law too narrowly, millions of African Americans, and others, will be denied the protection that Congress intended.

More importantly, it is not up to the president alone who will become federal judges. The Constitution makes the Senate a full partner in the process, not a rubber stamp. Its role does not end merely because the nominee is a practicing attorney or sitting judge and has no criminal record. On the contrary, that is when the

'We oppose judicial nominees whose appointment would threaten the rights and benefits of African Americans and other constituents.'

Our struggle to pass the law will have been ineffective. A judge who would deny the full protection of our Constitution is even worse. So it's important for you and your family that we reject judges who would

strongly we oppose judicial nominees whose appointment would threaten the rights and benefits of African Americans and other constituents. The news now is full of complaints that the Senate is unfairly blocking some of the President's nominations, including some minority nominees.

Those nominees are examined Senate's role begins. The Senate must explore the nominees' judicial temperament, their respect for precedent, and their fidelity to our Constitution's great guarantees of liberty and equality.

Letter to the Editor Interference is Outrageous

Please send your editorial material to news@portlandobserver.com

As a feminist and mother of four children, I am outraged and disappointed by the way the U.S. government is interfering with the right to abortion. Abortion is a necessary option for women and crucially important medical and personal decision. Abortion is a prerogative that allows women to take charge of their own bodies and control an important part of their destinies. But Congress and President Bush are hell-bent on removing this right with the "Partial Birth" Abortion Ban Act of 2003. Public officials are representing the interests of a rightwing

movement eager to eliminate women's freedom. Their message that women's lives are not their own is conveyed through various methods, such as an attack on reproductive rights, government rewards for marriage and the Supreme Court's refusal to hear the appeal of a woman convicted of homicide for drug use that led to a still birth. The increased social pressure on women to stay home, make babies, care for parents and fill-in for de-funded public services, makes it clear that the government is acting on a mandate to

subjugate women by any means necessary. I call on all women and men concerned about women's rights to raise their voices and again make abortion a prime time. Real choice means safe, free, unrestricted abortion on demand to women of all ages and abilities; free, safe birth control; an end to forced sterilization; guaranteed pre-natal care; free, 24-hour childcare and full medical coverage for all. Nancy Dahlberg Radical Women 819 N. Killingsworth

REACH

Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health
A program of the African American Health Coalition, Inc.
Sponsored by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Wellness Within REACH Activity Calendar

All classes are free of charge!

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Matt Dishman 77 NE Knott		Stretching/Body Sculpting 7-8am Lois		Stretching/Body Sculpting 7-8am Lois		African Dance 10:00-11:00am Addo
Salvation Army 5325 N Williams	Salsa 6:30 - 7:30pm Henry	Water Aerobics Contact AAHC 503-413-1850	Tai Chi 6:30 - 7:30pm Lyles	Water Aerobics Contact AAHC 503-413-1850		
Wild Oats Market 3535 NE 15th		Yoga 7:30-8:30pm O'Rourke		Yoga 7:30-8:30pm O'Rourke		Body Conditioning 9:30-10:30am Nickerson
Peninsula Park 700 N Portland		Walking Group+ 6:00-7:00pm Woods		Walking Group+ 6:00-7:00 pm Woods		Walking Group 12:30pm Woods
Mallory Avenue Christian Church (Gym) 126 NE Alberta	Aerobics 5:30-6:20pm Granville 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson		Aerobics 5:30-6:20pm Granville 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson		Aerobics 5:30 - 6:20pm Granville 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson	
Highland United Church of Christ 4635 NE 9th Ave.	Aerobics 6:00-7:00am Pierce	Aerobics 6:00-7:00pm Keller	Aerobics 6:00-7:00am Pierce	Aerobics 6:00-7:00pm Keller	Aerobics 6:00-7:00am Pierce	
Whitaker Track 42nd & Killingsworth		Wt. Management/Conditioning 9:00 - 10:00am Hasan Walk to Run 6:30pm Thorne	Wt. Management/Conditioning II 6:00 - 7:00am Hasan	Wt. Management/Conditioning 9:00 - 10:00am Hasan Walk to Run 6:30pm Thorne		
Irvington Covenant Church 4008 NE MLK Blvd				Aerobics 7:30 - 8:30pm Keller		Aerobics 8:00 - 9:00am Norris
Daniel's Memorial Church 12th & Killingsworth		Low Impact Aerobics 7:15 - 8:15pm Granville				

**Must be 21 or older to participate. Please check with AAHC before showing up to the first class 503-413-1850. Please receive approval from your doctor before beginning exercise class.
+ Walking group meets inside Lloyd Center in front of Sears

Healthy, Active Lives:

weight and diabetes

You're invited to a public forum

What can we do to fight the twin epidemics of obesity and diabetes? A researcher and a physician/diabetes expert will share what we know at this free forum.

November 5, 7 p.m.
Kaiser Permanente Tualatin Medical Office
19185 SW 90th Ave., Tualatin

November 11, 7 p.m.
Kaiser Permanente Interstate Medical Office South*
3500 N Interstate Ave., Portland

Call 503-528-3909 or 1-877-274-0824 to ensure a seat.

For more information about weight management, visit the "For Our Members" section of kaiserpermanente.org.

*A healthy physical activity will be offered for children 6 and older.

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