



What The Babies Would Say

BY BILL O'REILLY
Creators Syndicate

It is one of life's great mysteries that so many liberal people are so callous when it comes to aborting fetuses. I mean, the Democratic convention last summer was almost a pro-abortion pep rally, as a variety of pro-choice speakers, including the self-proclaimed "Catholic woman" Caroline Kennedy, knelt at the altar of "reproductive rights."

Recently, another woman who calls herself a Catholic, Mary Elizabeth Williams, wrote a shocking article for Salon. Entitled "So What if Abortion Ends Life?" Williams starkly states: "I believe that life starts at conception. And it's never stopped me from being pro-choice."

In the body of the article, Williams says this about her own pregnancies: "I never wavered for a moment in the belief that I was carrying a human life inside of me."

And she continues, "Here's the complicated reality in which we live: All life is not equal. That's a difficult thing for liberals like me to talk about... (A) fetus can be a human life without having the same rights as the woman in whose body it resides. She's the boss. Her life and what is right for her circumstances and her health should automatically trump the rights of the non-autonomous entity inside of her. Always."

So now a developing fetus or viable baby ingesting in the womb is a "non-autonomous entity." Good grief! The measure of a decent human being is how he or she treats the defenseless. The philosophy of Williams echoes past tyranny: Might makes right! What gives Williams the right to determine that her life is better than the baby she carries? Who appointed Williams the arbiter of who lives and who dies? Always, Williams? Abortion is acceptable always?

We are not talking about life endangerment or cata-



Bill O'REILLY

strophic damage to the mother here. No. What Williams believes, and she's not alone, is that a woman can execute her fetus simply because "she's the boss."

You may remember the late-term abortion doctor George Tiller. For \$5,000, Tiller would drill a hole into the skull of a baby anytime up until birth. Tiller had an assistant in his Kansas clinic, Dr. Ann Kristin Neuhaus, whose assignment was to put on paper a reason for the late termination. Pretty much any reason would do, including "anxiety."

On May 31, 2009, Tiller was shot through the eye while attending a church service. His killer, Scott Roeder, is serving life in prison. The murder made national headlines, and in many press dispatches, Tiller was portrayed as a martyr. People like me who had criticized Tiller before the vicious crime were accused by far-left loons of encouraging the assassination.

On June 22, 2012, Neuhaus was informed that Kansas authorities had revoked her medical license. A judge ruled that she did not perform adequate mental health examinations of 11 abortion patients. The prosecution said that Neuhaus was a "threat to any future patients she might have."

Not to mention the babies she helped Tiller abort. There comes a time when a human being has to either face evil or admit to allowing it. Abortion is legal in the United States, but it should not be celebrated or used as a political tool. Viable babies are human beings. If they could talk, they would tell Williams and other pro-choice zealots that their lives should not be marginalized by someone who thinks she's the boss. That's what the babies would say.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."

Calling Out The Revisionists

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
Tribune Media Services

Rush Limbaugh thinks John Lewis should have been armed.

"If a lot of African-Americans back in the '60s had guns and the legal right to use them for self-defense, you think they would have needed Selma?" Limbaugh said recently on his radio show, referencing the 1965 voting rights campaign in which Lewis, now a congressman from Georgia, had his skull fractured by Alabama state troopers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. "If John Lewis had had a gun, would he have been beat upside the head on the bridge?"

Right. Because a shootout between protesters and state troopers would have done so much more to secure the right to vote.

Incredibly, that's not the stupidest thing anyone has said recently about the Civil Rights Movement.

No, that distinction goes to one Larry Ward, who claimed in an appearance on CNN that Martin Luther King would have supported Ward's call for a Gun Appreciation Day "if he were alive today." In other words, the premiere American pacifist of the 20th century would be singing the praises of guns, except that he was shot in the face with one 45 years ago.

Thus do social conservatives continue to rewrite the inconvenient truths of African-American history, repurposing that tale of incandescent triumph and inconsolable woe to make it useful within the crabbed corners of their failed and discredited dogma. This seems an especially appropriate moment to call them on it. Not simply because Friday was the first day of Black History Month, but because Monday is the centenary of a signal event within that history.

Rosa Louise McCauley was born a hundred years ago. You know her better by her married name — Rosa Parks, the quiet, unassuming 42-year-old seamstress from Montgomery, Ala., who ignited the Civil Rights Movement in December 1955 when bus driver J.F. Blake ordered her to give up her seat for a white man and she refused.

Doubtless, Limbaugh thinks she should have shot



Leonard PITTS

Blake instead, but she did not. She only waited quietly for police to come arrest her. Thus began the 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Though legend would have it that Parks, who died in 2005, refused because her feet were tired, the truth, she always said, was that it was not her body that was fatigued. "The only tired I was, was tired of giving in" to a system that judged her, as a black woman, unworthy of a seat on a public bus.

Years later, Martin Luther King Jr., the young preacher who led the boycott, would phrase that philosophy of refusal in terms of rhetorical elegance: "Noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good."

Mrs. Parks put it more simply that day in 1955: "No," she said.

The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich., which counts Rosa Parks' bus among its holdings, has persuaded the Senate to designate Monday a "National Day of Courage" in her honor. Full disclosure: I gave a compensated speech for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at the Museum last month. While there, I had the distinct privilege of climbing onto that bus.

Sitting in that sacred space, it is easy to imagine yourself transported back to that fateful moment of decision. Fifty-eight years later, those of us who are guardians — and beneficiaries — of African-American history, who live in a world transformed by the decisions of Rosa, Martin, Fannie Lou, Malcolm, Frederick, W.E.B., Booker T. and a million others whose names history did not record, now have decisions of our own to make. One of them is this:

What shall we say to conservatives who seem hell-bent on rewriting, disrespecting and arrogating that history? Many sharp rebukes come to mind, but none of them improves on the brave thing said by a tired woman born a hundred years ago this week.

No.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

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knew several of his staff. He is the man to lead the Defense Department.

Also I would encourage Congress to introduce legislation to provide federal funding for our county [or parish in southern states] veteran service officers who do so much to help our veterans transition to civilian life. They have saved many lives and made life more bearable for many veterans and their families in our state.

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

President Must Act On Pipeline

CAPITAL JOURNAL, Pierre (Jan. 22): South Dakota's Sen. John Thune reacted Tuesday to news that Gov. Dave Heineman — a Republican, like Thune — has approved a new route through Nebraska for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, which would also run through South Dakota. That could pave the way for the State Department and President Obama to approve the presidential permit required for the project.

"The ball is now squarely in the president's court," Thune said in a statement. "Now that TransCanada has worked with the state of Nebraska to reroute the pipeline around the Nebraska Sandhills, the president is running out of excuses for delaying this job-creating, domestic energy-producing project. It is time for the president to decide between job creation and energy production or political expediency. I call on the president to immediately lend his support to this bipartisan project so that we can begin investing in America's energy future."

Minus some of the rhetoric, we agree with Sen. Thune. In his second inaugural address Monday, President Barack Obama said America must lead the transition to sustainable energy sources; no disagreement here. But part of the transition means using the energy sources we have now while working on something better for the future.

Anyone who loves the environment should be glad to have the Canadians lining up to ship their oil sands down to the United States - especially considering the fact that Canada has mused in the past about sending that petroleum overseas to China instead.

Those who oppose the Keystone XL pipeline on environmental grounds should think about that, and China's notorious status now as a polluter. Far better for the health of the planet would be to bring that petroleum to the U.S. and process it and use it according to the rules we've put in place to try to use our energy responsibly while taking care of the country we love.

Crop Insurance Draws Scorn

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR (Jan. 24): If there is any doubt about the generosity of the safety net provided for farmers with the help of the nation's taxpayers, consider this:

Despite a record nationwide payout of perhaps \$15 billion because of drought and other crop losses last year, premiums for crop insurance actually will decrease next year for many farmers.

That's according to the administrator of the Risk Management Agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

William Murphy said that in Nebraska, for example, the statewide average decrease in premiums for corn insurance will be about 6 percent.

The decline is due to new rate-making methodology recommended by Sumeria Systems Inc.

While the drop in premiums is excellent news for Nebraska farmers in the short-term, there's also a downside.

The news that premiums are going down for some farmers may add new voices to the chorus that is complaining about the crop insurance program. *The Washington Post*, for example, this week opined that "federally backed crop insurance has long since evolved into yet another form of corporate welfare, whose direct costs and perverse unintended consequences outweigh its purported public benefits."

Strident critics can be found even in the Corn Belt. As we noted in an earlier editorial, Iowa State ag economic Professor Bruce Babcock called crop insurance "Obamacare for corn" on the Stephen Colbert show.

Other critics include the conservative Heritage Foundation and a faction of Republicans in the House of Representatives that identifies with the tea party.

While one reason for the drop in 2013 premiums for some farmers is the new actuarial study, another reason is that rates generally are set on the basis of crop production averages over a period of decades. One single bad year doesn't carry that much weight.

What might change those calculations is continued drought because of climate change. Forecasts for the start of the growing season are not encouraging. More than 60 percent of the continental United States is in some stage of drought, compared to only 32 percent last year. Seventy-seven percent of Nebraska is in the most severe drought category.

For the moment, Nebraska farmers have the security of perhaps the most generous safety net they've ever had. Not only are farmers still collecting direct payments, taxpayers are paying, on average, more than 60 percent of crop insurance premiums.

The question is how long that safety net will be there. The spike in the cost of crop insurance has made it difficult to ignore.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2013. There are 330 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 4, 1913, Rosa Parks, a black woman whose 1955 refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala., city bus to a white man sparked a civil rights revolution, was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee, Ala.

On this date: In 1783, Britain's King George III proclaimed a formal cessation of hostilities in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

In 1861, delegates from six southern states that had recently seceded from the Union met in Montgomery, Ala., to form the Confederate States of America.

In 1962, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was founded in Memphis, Tenn., by entertainer Danny Thomas.

In 1972, Mariner 9, orbiting Mars, transmitted images of the red planet.

In 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was kidnapped in Berkeley, Calif., by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1976, more than 23,000 people died when a severe earthquake struck Guatemala with a magnitude of 7.5, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1983, pop singer-musician Karen Carpenter died in Downey, Calif., at age 32.

In 1987, pianist Liberace died at his Palm Springs, Calif., home at age 67.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush visited the Johnson Space Center in Houston, where he led a tribute to the lost crew of the shuttle Columbia and rededicated the nation to space travel. A rare television interview with Saddam Hussein aired in which the Iraqi leader denied that Baghdad had a relationship with al-Qaida or weapons of mass destruction. Lawmakers formally dissolved Yugoslavia and replaced it with a loose union of its remaining two republics, Serbia and Montenegro. Opera singer Jerome Hines died in New York at age 81.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush proposed a record \$3.1 trillion budget that included huge deficits. Thomas S. Monson was introduced as the 16th president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, succeeding the late Gordon B. Hinckley. Harry Richard Landis, the next-to-last surviving U.S. veteran of World War I, died near Tampa, Fla., at age 108. (The last surviving U.S. World War I vet, Frank Buckles, died in February 2011.)

One year ago: Russia and China vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution aimed at ending Syria's bloodshed. Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney cruised to a decisive victory in the Nevada caucuses. Running back Curtis Martin, the fourth-leading rusher in NFL history, and linemen Chris Doleman, Cortez Kennedy, Willie Roaf and Dermoniti Dawson were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, along with senior committee choice Jack Butler. Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers won the 2011 Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award in a landslide. Florence Green, who had served with the Women's Royal Air Force and was recognized as the last veteran of World War I, died in King's Lynn, eastern England, at age 110.

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Shipp is 91. Former Argentinian President Isabel Peron is 82. Comedian David Brenner is 77. Actor Gary Conway is 77. Movie director George A. Romero is 73. Rock musician John Steel (The Animals) is 72. Singer Florence LaRue (The Fifth Dimension) is 69. Former Vice President Dan Quayle is 66. Rock singer Alice Cooper is 65. Actor Michael Beck is 64. Actress Lisa Eichhorn is 61. Football Hall-of-Famer Lawrence Taylor is 54. Rock singer Tim Booth is 53. Rock musician Henry Bogdan is 52. Country singer Clint Black is 51. Rock musician Noodles (The Offspring) is 50. Country musician Dave Buchanan (Yankee Grey) is 47. Actress Gabrielle Anwar is 43. Actor Rob Corddry is 42. Singer David Garza is 42. Actor Michael Gorrjian is 42. Olympic gold medal boxer Oscar De La Hoya is 40. Rock musician Rick Burch (Jimmy Eat World) is 38. Singer Natalie Imbruglia is 38. Rapper Cam'ron is 37. Rock singer Gavin DeGraw is 36. Olympic gold medal gymnast-turned-singer Carly Patterson is 25.

Thought for Today: "Life is death, and faith without doubt is nothing but doubt." — Miguel de Unamuno, Spanish philosopher (1864-1936).

FROM THE BIBLE

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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YOUR LETTERS

Hagel Is Excellent Choice

Frank J. Kloucek, Scotland
Former state legislator
I am a 22-year-veteran of the South Dakota Legislature. As a supporter of not only a strong defense but also a smart one, I can think of no one better than Chuck Hagel to lead our Department of Defense. I have studied his career as Nebraska senator and