

Feminist fringe on abortion panel

On November 5, Utah State University lent its prestige to a program entitled "Women's Perspectives on Abortion." All three of the panelists who participated in the forum were drawn from Utah's feminist fringe. Karrie Galloway was present to speak on behalf of Planned Parenthood; Karen Miller and Prof. Deborah Thredy (who is associated with the ACLU) represented the University of Utah. None of the panelists was representative of the majority of Utah women.

The rhetoric that issued from the panel was as familiar as it was feculent. Space doesn't permit an exhaustive review, but we can skim some particularly disgusting samples of flotsam for examination.

Miller, an Ob/Gyn, informed the college-age females in the audience that carrying a child to term was 10 times as dangerous as an early abortion. She also pandered to the insecurities of the young women by describing all of the terrible things that childbirth supposedly does to the female body.

Thredy informed the audience that "If a mother doesn't want a child, it doesn't have a right to life." Thredy's remarks left the impression that she believes the Supreme Court exists to codify feminist assumptions. She and Galloway indulged in a bidding war to see who could offer the most repulsive contribution to the discussion.

Here is Galloway's response to a question about adoption: "We get the argument that people want children. That's



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true. People want white, healthy children. But we have loads of children languishing in state hospitals."

This remark left the implication that those who urge adoption rather than abortion are bigoted hypocrites. Galloway may not know better: her thinking is limited by her available supply of catch-phrases. But her canard is easily refuted.

The Oct. 21 issue of Time noted that "Every day, an average of 20 American couples adopts babies from overseas." This is because "The number of babies available for adoption in the U.S. ... has declined as birthrates have shrunk and legal abortion was expanded." Many white people are quite willing to adopt black children, but "opposition by black ... political organizations has made it difficult to place the babies with white families."

Writing in the Summer 1989 issue of Policy Review, Charlotte Allen observed that there are 2,000,000 childless couples on adoption waiting lists. "Special needs" children, generally older children with handicaps who are more difficult to adopt,

number 36,000. Galloway's logic — such as it is — would lead us to abort greater numbers of non-white, handicapped children. This is compatible with the eugenicist vision of Planned Parenthood's founder. Is it representative of "women's perspectives" on abortion?

Thredy embellished Galloway's anti-adoption argument. "The concept of having a child and placing it in a basket of bullrushes and sending it down the river, which is what adoption feels like ... I may not be able to live with that choice ... It would be better not to give the child life at all than to give it a life that might include abuse and all the other things that might happen in the world."

The adopted child who was transported in the basket of bullrushes made out all right. Although most adopted children enjoy less spectacular lives; they almost always find themselves blessed by parents of exemplary generosity — Thredy's indolent slander notwithstanding.

One of the rhetorical dodges favored by the Nazis was the inversion of pity (which is analyzed quite thoroughly in "Eichmann in Jerusalem"). The Nazi elite persuaded those who administered the genocidal policies that they should pity themselves rather than those who were killed: after all, it's tough to silence one's humanitarian instincts. Thredy's objection to adoption partakes of a similar sensibility. It is, as the late Walker Percy once warned us, the type of "tender-heartedness" that leads to the gas chambers.

The public's discontent continues to grow

WASHINGTON — For 60 years, this has been a watchdog column that has supported the voiceless over the dominant, the helpless against their exploiters, the small enterprise above the octopus.

Its role was established by the late Drew Pearson, who became the champion of the downtrodden during the Great Depression. Millions lived vicariously through him as he rooted out the scandals of his day and plagued the scoundrels haughty the



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hard to avoid the conclusion that the nation's health-care system is breaking down.

There are constant complaints, too, about the government's clamor for more revenue and its refusal to stop wasteful spending; the daily hours lost in gridlock traffic; the poor performance of our schools; and dozens of other frustrations and aggravations.

We've tried to be an advocate for the

larger than any team, and was the result of history's natural selection of good ideas over bad ones, of an economic system that worked over one that didn't.

under contract, but they may ultimately have lost the struggle to survive. The timber is too expensive to cut. The mill was forced to shut down.

With religious zealotry, war has been declared on this country by so-called environmental groups. These groups hope to cripple industrial society by destroying the businesses we depend on for survival. Their motivation is social engineering, control, and power. Whoever controls the land controls the people. Food, shelter and warmth are basic necessities of human life. The ranching industry in the West provides almost 50 percent of the calf crop of beef we need every year. The lumber industry provides us shelter, the oil, gas, and coal industries supply us with warmth, and the manufacturing industries provide us with goods that increase our quality of our lives. The so-called environmental groups are virulently attacking these industries with junk science, voodoo biology, and false claims of environmental degradation.

William Patric from the Utah Wilderness Coalition wrote "our sympathies are with the people of Escalante for hardships they may face ... it seems unfortunate to continue debating when they are having troubles." I can imagine members of the coalition like SUWA, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, et al. trying to discourage debates since they are holding the smoking gun.

With every lay-off or shut-down because of so-called environmental groups, we are left with hundreds of people out of work and a growing dependance on foreign goods. It is carnage we tolerate because these groups hold up the banners "Environmentally Sensitive" and "Politically Correct," and we fall for it. We've got to get smart before these groups are allowed to dismantle our society.

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