



# SEXUAL POLITICS

**Women Control  
Code Name: Pro-life**

by Gypsy Perry

Since January 2001, President Bush has led a steady attack on freedom of choice for women. Through legislation, executive action and appointments, he has left no stone unturned in this war on freedom. The Religious Right, Bush's base, claims it is "pro-life", and wants to outlaw abortion to save the unborn. However, if it was truly interested in saving lives and reducing abortions, it would work to prevent unintended pregnancies. Bush's policies however, do exactly the opposite.

Ideology, not science, has been driving the recent response to teen pregnancy. Funding for "abstinence only" programs, which prohibit teaching about the use of condoms and birth control, has been dramatically increasing. This huge investment of taxpayer funds in ideologically based programs conflicts with scientific research. These programs have never been proven effective and even worse many include false information. Responsible sex education programs

have demonstrated positive results, such as delayed initiation of sex, reduced frequency of sex and increased contraception use. It is not difficult to conclude that fact based sex education would reduce the rate of unintended pregnancies, and therefore reduce the rate of abortion.

The administration is also preventing access to birth control for women. Emergency contraception, (Plan B), if taken within 72 hours of sex is highly effective in *preventing* pregnancies. The FDA's own expert advisory panel voted 23-4 to recommend emergency contraception to be sold without a prescription. After a lengthy three year delay, Plan B has finally been approved. There are many other examples of attacks on birth control. Eighteen states are considering measures, or have measures in place allowing pharmacists to refuse filling women's prescriptions for birth control. Anti-choice senate leaders are trying to pass legislation that would permit insurance companies to NOT cover birth control. (They will still cover Viagra.) Does it make sense to deny women birth control if your true intention is to reduce abortions?

The Religious Right's attack on abortion has nothing to do with protecting human life. Its goal is to control women. The only responsible and humane way to reduce abortion is to provide accurate sex education and ensure access to birth control. Forced childbirth is the basic form of sexual repression used against women to keep the patriarchy in power.

## The Traveling Bohemians!

### Eclectic Open Mic

**2nd Wednesday of every month**  
Sue's Java Cafe, 1712 Churn Creek  
Redding, California  
7pm to 9pm

We welcome presenters of original poetry, poetry with music/dance, favorite poems and poets, storytellers, song writers, and all those who like to listen!

### More Than Just An Open Mic

Open Floor, for dancers, musicians, actors, etc., *and audience!* Short works, up to 20 minutes. Sound reinforcement, lighting, and open floor space!

### **3rd Friday of every month**

7:30 pm, sign-up at 7:00  
Old City Hall Center for Arts  
1313 Market Street, Redding  
Donations Accepted  
Contact Nadia Hava-Robbins  
(530) 229-7818

## Living in a Rape Culture

by Suzy Coffee

Rape doesn't happen in nature. Rape only happens in the human race.

Sadly, and tragically, rape boils down to one simple thing: muscle mass. Which the male of the species has more of than the female. In short, the human male rapes the human female, because he can.

At some point in the history of humankind, the male of the species began sexually invading the female of the species, through the use of physical force. From that point on, by using the male reproductive organ as a weapon against women, men have been able to keep the female in a state of constant fear, and consequent subjugation.

Rape is the very cornerstone of *the father's house*. Because of the continual threat of rape, men historically needed to protect their "mates" from forceful sexual invasion by another man, or men. A woman was man's first piece of *real estate* to hoard and protect, and rape against that estate was equivalent to a crime against it. Concepts of hierarchy, private property, marriage, production and female monogamy and chastity are firmly rooted in this "protector" role of man, which over time led to the consolidation of pure male power still in place today: the Patriarchy. The forceful extension of male boundaries into a woman's body was the first war, the first *invasion* from which all other invasions issued.

Rape of women is such a fundamental, ancient working principle of patriarchal culture and society that modern people do not even question the fact that a woman in America today is raped every other minute. For all the "protection" a woman was supposed to have received from patriarchal society, in fact, father rule exists *because* of rape, and that crime against women will remain in place as long as patriarchal society and patriarchal *consciousness* remain in place.

The fundamentalists; the stern, unyielding, women hating, religious fathers that George W. Bush calls his *base*, even now are trying to

legalize rape and incest in South Dakota -through the back door- by making childbirth legally mandatory, even if a fetus is conceived through these criminal acts. Incest and rape, the stock sexual weapons traditionally used to subjugate females, are needed to be kept in place for the misogynous society of men that is today's powerful patriarchy.

In 2006, the Bush Administration is the living embodiment of the *father's house*. In fact, it is the father's *mansion*, his greatest holding yet. It is the top of the hierarchy, the obscenely wealthy, and correspondingly powerful corporate upper, upper crust. Through Bush's governance corporations heartlessly rape, plunder and kill; people, nations and the environment, in the name of eradicating terrorism. Yet Bush, like all other influential men throughout "civilized" time remains utterly silent about the indigenous terrorism in America that every female is daily born into.

At its pinnacle, this male *guided muscle* now manifests as today's actual *guided missile*. Inva-

sion of women by force has also devolved into the hideous creation of the false corporate body; the father's favored son, whereby *real* men can forcefully invade all boundaries; human, male, female and the earth, *without liability*. It is pure unbridled male power.

Of all the men I know today, not one of them would entertain the thought of rape. Yet forceful invasion by a dominant male society seems to be the ticket of the day, seems to be the constant winner.

How do we stop it? How do we grab it by the shoulders, and flip it upside down?

First by being human, by being in connection. And then we change our thinking, and we understand that rape is *inhuman*, anti-connection, unnatural to the human state. It is not just the females of the race that are being raped by the dominator consciousness of today, but men, nations, cultures and the earth are all being forcefully and unwillingly invaded and violently used.

Throughout time women, the primary target, have fought back. They have kicked, hit, scratched, screamed and given their lives resisting rape through the centuries, but ultimately they have been unable to stop it. It is about muscle mass after all, and about pushing it around unjustly.

Rape is a consciousness, a way of thinking that is killing every one of us. It's about winning and losing and power-over, and it is not just hurting females anymore. Certainly a male-ruled society dependent on the rape and fear of women, will never cure terrorism, bring an end to war, or heal the environment. Nor will it ever want to.