

## When the violence goes too far

**Kathleen Ortiz**  
Staff Writer

*"Mom always taught me never to hit a girl."*

A phrase said by many guys yet unfortunately not always followed.

Domestic Violence is a growing problem within our nation with victims being beaten daily. Every fifteen seconds, there is a woman within the United States who is beaten by a husband or boyfriend. This is a disturbing figure leading us to conclude that there are millions of women subjected to this violence every day. Unfortunately, the number of children who witness this also grows every day.

Many think that only women in crumpled households or of 'lower stature' are victims of domestic violence. The truth is, approximately 1/3 of the men counseled for battery are profes-



sional men with well respected jobs such as doctors, psychologists, lawyers, ministers, and business executives.

Approximately 8 percent of women in the United States report being victims of Domestic Violence every year. It is estimated that in actuality, about 25 percent of women are victims, but do not come forward or press charges. Domestic violence comes in various forms: Verbal abuse, physical abuse, psychological abuse, and sexual abuse.

Many people are victims of domestic violence and don't even know it. It could be something as

a slap or something as complex as a loved one telling you what to wear, who you can be friends with, and what you are and aren't allowed to do. If your significant other constantly abuses or degrades you, you are a victim of domestic violence.

A common misconception is that women and children are the only victims of domestic violence. Although men make up a mere 5% of victim cases, they are still victims to this. It is incomprehensible for some to think that a man can be abused by a woman, but this abuse can and does happen. More often then not the man tries to defend himself and in turn gets the blame for beating the woman when in fact the woman was at fault.

The month of October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Originally started in 1981 by the Coalition Against

Domestic Violence, the goal was to get the word out to put a stop to domestic violence. Many National, State, and even local organizations hold events to advocate Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

If you feel you have been a victim of domestic violence, or have more questions on it, you can call the National Hotline for Domestic Violence at 1-800-799-7233.

## WTO helps those who can't help themselves

**Luis Ferreiro**  
Staff Writer

In August, the World Trade Organization reached a deal on giving some of the world's poorest countries access to cheaper prescription drugs. The decision was approved by all 146 members and may be one of the most important decisions ever made by the organization. The biggest hurdle faced by the members was to balance the commercial interests of patent holding pharmaceutical companies with the needs of impoverished nations. The generic drugs would be produced by companies in developing countries like Brazil and India, putting American and European companies in a vulnerable position.

Under the agreement, a country needing to import a drug would have to ask the government of a country that produces a



generic version of it to authorize one of its manufacturers to export it without needing the patent holder's permission. The requests would have to be made "in good faith" and "for no commercial gain," and the generic drugs would have to be packaged and labeled distinctively to prevent the importing countries from re-exporting them at a profit. For many, the decision is outrageous since it takes away profitability from pharmaceuticals and reduces the industry's incentives for spending millions in development of new drugs by giving others the chance to copy and profit from their effort. For some of us however, the measure will greatly benefit not only the producers of generic drugs like Brazil and India, but also African countries that are dependent on expensive patented drugs. Epidemics like AIDS and malaria have kept the life expectancy rate below 55 years in countries such as Kenya and Swaziland.

The concerns facing the pharmaceutical industry are well founded. Can the WTO or the governments really keep those generic drugs from being re-imported back to the United States? How much of a hit are these companies going to take on their profits from losing this business to generic producers? This is somewhat similar to the problem facing the music and movie industry today. Everyday, people burn CDs and DVD and sell them for a profit around the world. Yet in this situation, we are talking about medicines and treatments that save lives, currently costing patients more than \$10,000 per year that would become available to developing nations for about \$500 per year. Unlike music or movies, these medicines will make a difference in many lives.

Pharmaceutical firms spend hundreds of millions in the research and development of a new drug. Under United States law, a patent for a drug last 17 years after being approved by the Food and Drug Administration. By the time the drug actually hits the market, an average patent may have eight to 14 years left. Consequently, the producers of this new drug that cost millions in research and development can now sell at whatever price the consumer is willing to pay. In other words, the cost of the first pill is astronomical, while the cost of the rest is minimal. Therefore, pharmaceutical firms charge high prices and try to recover the high initial costs as quickly as possible. Needless to say, the deal reached by the WTO has raised concerns for this industry.

For some, the opposition from pharmaceutical companies against the deal is completely understandable. It is a huge industry and a key player in corporate America. It invests tons of money to save lives, and its great profitability should not be

## Is the First Amendment dead - for conservatives?

**Ron Besser**  
Photo Editor

The left-leaning socialist media had multiple orgasms the past two weeks. They think they've brought down their arch-enemy Rush Limbaugh. First, there were his comments on ESPN's football warm up show concerning a quarterback being an over-hyped media darling since he was black and the sport needed minority heroes. Limbaugh resigned to save his partners from too much abuse. They did not return the favor. Then, a member of his household said he used drugs illegally. Limbaugh admitted to being addicted to Oxycontin and admitted himself to a drug rehab facility.

Why is Limbaugh such an enemy? Probably because he was the first voice of truth and reason in a media world dominated by the liberals with their socialist agendas. In truth, it's because the First Amendment doesn't apply to conservatives, or anyone who disagrees with the liberal media. Anything that goes against their agenda is racist, sexist, homophobic or some other name that makes the speaker appear out of

step with the real world, or, liberal socialists.

Last week a woman who was offended by "Redneck Days" at a local high school was quoted in the Pensacola News Journal as saying rednecks were "ignorant white racists." If that's not racist stereotyping, I don't know what is. But then again, I believe in the First Amendment right of freedom of expression.

Unfortunately the liberal socialist Democrats don't believe in anything other than their "truth" deserves that right.

John Leo, who writes for US News and World Report, regularly comments on college campuses where conservative newspapers have been removed by liberal groups, or the papers have been denied funding to make their point of view available to the campus. Another article I recently received tells political science students to keep their conservative ideas quiet if they want a job teaching in a college.

Another problem is the inability of speakers who are Republicans, or perceived as conservative, not being allowed the right to speak at college commencements. All too often they are

denied the right to speak, or shouted down by ignorant students who can't stand a different point of view. The problem isn't new. The liberal socialists would like to make it appear that Rush Limbaugh and "Fox News" run "in-your-face" interviews. In truth, they are merely following the footsteps of liberal socialist Democrats who have used this tactic for years. Actually the Fox people merely correct false information and skewed facts or misquotes, which drives Democrats crazy.

In 1992, I watched Louis Rukeyser's forum give the Bush and Clinton camps a chance to explain their economic positions. Clinton's person would give their point uninterrupted, then proceed to butt in every third word when the Bush representative tried to speak, disagreeing and arguing rather than allowing the other view to be presented as theirs had been. In the 1980s Walter Williams, a black conservative economist, college professor and columnist was denied permission to speak to a black organization in Atlanta. The people who enjoy power through maintaining the status quo didn't want a successful black man who made it on his own to give his views of

working hard to build a successful life. They threatened repercussions if Williams was allowed to speak. Nope, there's no First Amendment right for a conservative.

Molly Ivins opened a recent column with the line "Arnold Schwarzenegger looks like a condom stuffed with walnuts." What wit, what insight. Then of course there are the books; Michael Moore's "Stupid White Men," or Al Franken's "True Lies and the Liars Who Tell Them," which is obviously an expose of the Clinton presidency. At least I thought that's what it was when I read that Franken was concerned his president was a liar. I don't know why. His president is no longer in office, although Hillary Clinton does have a seat in the Senate.

As they said on "The X-Files," "The truth is out there." You just won't hear it from the liberal socialist Democrats in the media. And if they have their way, there will be no alternative sources to fill the gaps. The first amendment is dead if you're a conservative or disagree with the liberal point of view.

## Letters to the Editor

"Saddam Hussein must not be allowed to threaten his neighbors or the world with nuclear arms, poison gas or biological weapons."

"I made it very clear at that time what unconditional cooperation meant based on existing U.N. resolutions and

Persian Gulf and the safety of people everywhere."

These strong and resolute words of the President of the United States of America, regarding the immediate threat posed by Iraq and the need for immediate action in dealing with the said threat, were delivered by the president in an address to the nation on Dec. 16, 1998.

For those of you keeping score, that would be President Clinton.

Ms. Jordan, your trite essay about the "questionable justification" of President Bush's actions, and blatant mistakes about why President Clinton was impeached is simply a waste of editorial space. Before you go comparing the Bush administration's so-called "deliberately lying" about Iraq to Clinton's "misrepresented...relationship" with an intern, please check your facts. President Clinton was impeached for perjury and obstruction of justice, not for lying about sex. And BOTH the Clinton and Bush administrations have taken the same position toward Iraq. So if Bush

lied about Iraq, so did Clinton. Perhaps you should put your Kool-Aid down, and read some history before you go poisoning The Voyager's editorial pages with such obviously twisted facts.

Jeff Weaver  
Student



Iraq's own commitments. I made it equally clear that if Saddam failed to cooperate fully, we would be prepared to act without delay, diplomacy or warning."

"This situation presents a clear and present danger to the stability of the

## VOYAGER

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