

When the violence goes too far

Kathleen Ortiz
Contributing 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 15 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 one-third of the men counseled for battery are professional 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 direct 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 percent of victim cases, they still find themselves victims.

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 than 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, you can call FavorHouse at 434- 1177 or the National Hotline for Domestic Violence at 1-800-799-7233.

WTO helps those who are unable to 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 DVDs 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 lasts 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 compromised to give other international firms, who have copied its products, a real chance to compete against the industry.

But the issue is bigger than just profits and lobbyists. It’s about giving people in poor countries a chance to live past their 50s, have an improved quality of life, and give their nation a chance to grow and be a part of the global economy. After all, nobody is asking these huge firms to sell a pill for less of what it costs them to produce. Maybe if their prices were not so high in some developing nations, the initiative proposed by these countries would not have made it through the WTO.

Can we expect a country like Swaziland, where, according to a U.S. government report, 34 percent of the population has AIDS and HIV, to be able to provide \$10,000 in treatments per year to its people when the size of its economy is not even that of the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer?

Is the First Amendment dead — for conservatives?

Ron Besser
Photo Editor

“We’ve heard a great deal about Republican ‘fat cats,’ and how the Republicans are the party of big contributions. I’ve never been able to understand why a Republican contributor is a ‘fat cat’ and a Democratic contributor of the same amount of money is a ‘public-spirited philanthropist.’”

—Ronald Reagan

The left-leaning socialist media had multiple orgasms the past two weeks. They think they’ve brought down their archenemy 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 entered 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 Rukeysser’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 Voyager

Clinton’s own words

“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 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 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 (Sept. 24, 2003) 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

Illegal music copying costly
I would like to add to the recent Voyager article “The RIAA has taken



it too far.” It’s true the music industry has lost 30 percent of sales in three years.

There are reasons beyond peer-to-peer downloading that have affected this decline though, most notably radio consolidation. Former President Clinton signed the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which deregulated the radio industry and changed the entire creative landscape.

Literally overnight, large stations such as Clear Channel and Viacom gobbled up the little ones. Ever wonder why songs repeat themselves and you hear the same thing on every station? Well, radio sells advertising

time slots based on demographics and new material is heavily tested while less is actually put to airwaves, so as to protect their ad revenues. Simply put, radio is in the business of advertising and the music industry’s business is selling records.

This corporate-consolidated mentality limits creativity and bottlenecks the entire diversity of the music industry. I saw the effects of illegitimate downloading and radio consolidation at an internship earlier this year in the Nashville music business. “For Sale and Lease” signs run up and down the famed Music Row.

Yes, downloading and corporate consolidation hurt artists and record companies, but it also affects publishers, songwriters, accountants, attorneys, marketing people and retail stores. So the point I’m getting at is this — the next time you download a song or turn on the radio, remember an artist or an employee in the music industry just got handed a pink slip.

Clint Bailly
Student

VOYAGER

The *Voyager* is produced weekly by students of the University of West Florida and is partially funded by Student Activities and Services fees with assistance from the Office of Student Affairs. This public document was promulgated by the president of the University at an annual cost of \$275 per copy. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of UWF, the *Voyager* or its staff.

Advertiser and advertising agency will indemnify and hold harmless The *Voyager*, and its staff, for all contents supplied to publisher, including text, representation and illustrations of advertisements printed, and for any claims arising from contents including, but not limited to defamation, invasion of privacy, copyright infringement, plagiarism, and in the case of a pre-printed insert, deficient postage.

The *Voyager* is printed by the Press Gazette, in accordance with Florida Law. The above information is presented in compliance Section 283.27 of Florida Statutes. All contents © 2003 *Voyager*.

FALL 2003

STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Carmen Reynolds

NEWS EDITOR
Kris Thoma

FEATURES EDITOR
Jessica Leigh Jones

ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR
Christina Tilton

SPORTS EDITOR
Andrew Kilgo

PHOTO EDITOR
Ron Besser

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Jeff Meffert
Greg Miller
Mark Lane

COMMENTARY EDITOR
William Bolen

COPY EDITOR
Katherine Goldsberry

ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR
Justin Hooks

PRODUCTION
Tammy Leytham
Marcus Ditty

STAFF
Merit Celaire
Melissa Cook
Travis Huisken
Josephine Rios
Rayna Kapec
Amber Gay
Mae Humiston
Mara McDermott
Rebecca Warren
Chris Louie
Bethanne Sevcech
Geoff Watts
Edward King
Megan Martinez
Luis Ferreiro
Christina Tilton

BUSINESS MANAGER
Beverly Kelly

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Randy Schilling

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Reynaldo Soares

FACULTY ADVISOR
Gary Ghioto

ONLINE EDITION
Marcus Ditty-Webmaster
Dan Kettinger
Phyllis Wells

POLICY

Letters to the Editor must be signed and include the author’s address and telephone number for verification purposes. Letters must be less than 250 words and are published as space allows. Letters to the editor do not necessarily represent the views of the *Voyager* staff. The Editor reserves the right to edit letters or to refuse to publish letters. Deadline for letters is noon Friday before the date of publication. Guest commentary is also welcome and follows the same guidelines.

YOU CAN E-MAIL ALL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AT
voyager@uwf.edu
ATTN: EDITORIAL
or drop them by Bldg. 36,
Room 120