

# OPINION

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EDITORIAL

## Crocodile tears

Barney's remorse difficult to believe

Scott Barney can't forget what happened to Candice Harms on the night of Sept. 22, 1992. That wouldn't be right, he said.

On that Tuesday night, Harms was brutally raped and killed. We know the story all too well. Intimate details of mutilation, strangulation and torture have been published, broadcast and discussed.

No one living in the Lincoln area will forget. That, too, wouldn't be right. But we must move on.

However, Barney, who is serving a life sentence, doesn't seem prepared to leave the media spotlight he has reveled in for the past 24 months.

The feeding frenzy, which has been fueled from all sides by sympathetic confessions, dramatic testimony and gory evidence, began again this week when Barney began granting interviews to news reporters for the first time.

"It's a struggle day to day just to live with what happened and knowing that I could have stopped it and didn't do so," Barney told one newspaper.

"I know an apology in this case means almost nothing compared to what's happened. But I am very sorry for what happened," he told another newspaper.

Quiet frankly, we have heard enough.

During Barney's sentencing hearing June 21, he spoke of nightmares.

"The night of September 22, 1992 was a nightmare for Candi Harms, and it was also a nightmare for me," he said.

Before pleading guilty to the first-degree murder of Harms on March 3, he mentioned regret.

"I wish to express my sorrow for the pain caused Miss Candice Harms. Though she is not here to personally address, I deeply regret having hurt an innocent young lady," he said.

Barney stressed Tuesday in his interviews with local media that his feelings were genuine and sincere.

This is a difficult notion to swallow.

Throughout the case, Barney seems to have been primarily concerned with one person — himself. His apparent insincerity in the courtroom is representative of who we see as the true Scott Alan Barney.

The Rev. Jeff Slosson, an Assemblies of God minister, has been soliciting the media to interview Barney for months. Slosson, who has counseled Barney since his arrest, repeatedly asked the Daily Nebraskan to interview Barney before the convicted murderer got too busy with requests from national tabloid broadcast shows. We declined.

Slosson is promoting Barney's propaganda. This round of interviews perhaps is the first step in a myriad of public statements Barney will make in an effort to have his life sentence reduced.

There will be more stories and interviews. As the years pass, Barney is likely to become even more penitent. And he will reiterate the fact that he would switch places with Candi Harms if he could.

To refresh your minds: Candi now would be 20 years old. And she likely would be a junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

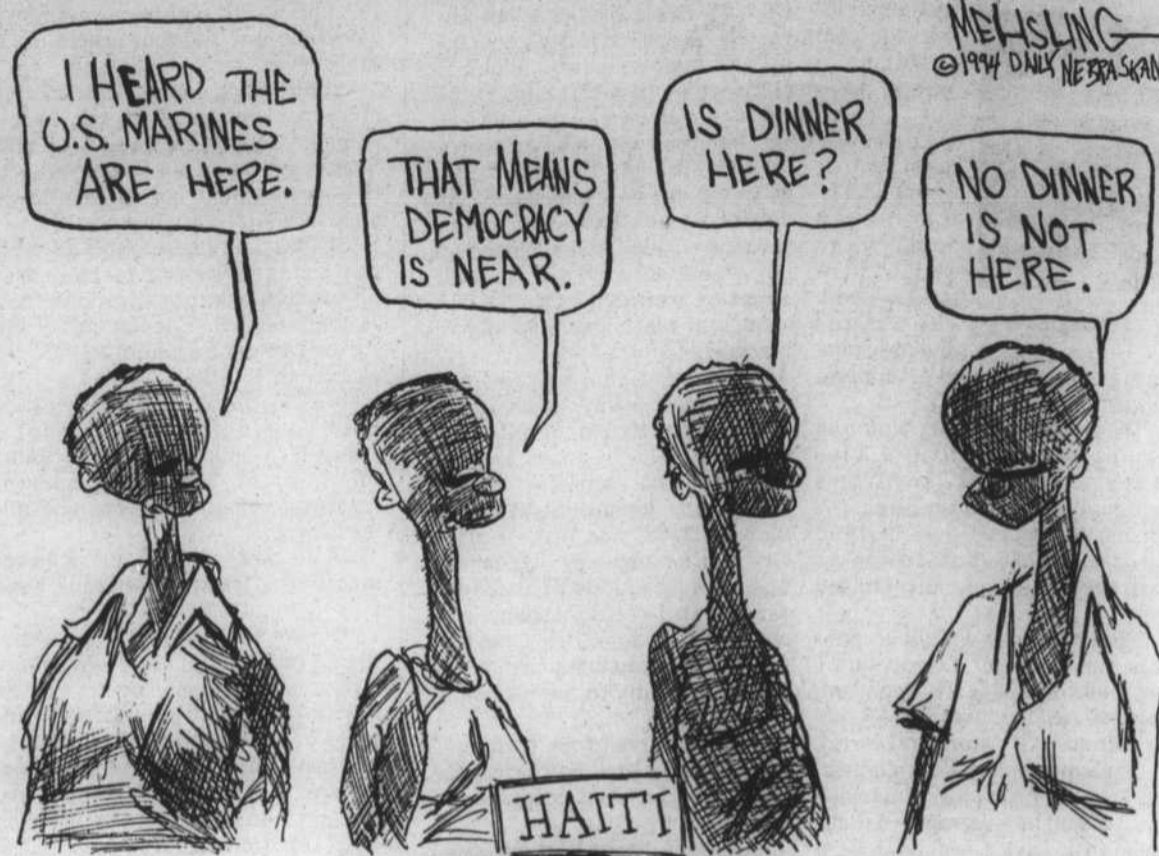
It wouldn't be right to forget that part of the story.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Greed is motive

Over the past week, I have been following the argument in the Daily Nebraskan regarding abortion initiated by Shane Tucker's column (DN, Sept. 20, 1994).

I come at the abortion debate as a person who has many roles: I am a family physician; I am a mother; I am a woman.

Though no one could call me a radical feminist, I certainly believe in equality for women and have worked to achieve my personal goals in a very male-dominated field.

Speaking as a woman, I am absolutely offended by anyone who accepts the idea that a surgical procedure (i.e. abortion) is "essential to woman's equality with man." Actually, what abortion has served to do since the establishment of its legality 21 years ago is to further objectify women — make us objects, able to be used for pleasure at the whim of men with the assurance that no negative consequence will come of their action as long as this surgical procedure is readily available.

And, after 21 years of this "liberalizing" procedure being legal, women are certainly no better off economically than they formerly were. Neither are children. As a matter of fact, the only people who are better off financially with abortion being legal are those involved in the industry itself.

Anyone who thinks that the fight to preserve the legality of abortion is not, at least in part, fueled by greed is pretty naive as to the motives of people when it comes to a multimillion-dollar industry.

Don't kid yourself — physicians and the people with ownership in the abortion industry are not going to take the economic loss produced by banning abortion lying down. I know from my involvement in medicine that, sadly, medicine is a field where greed influences many who practice it.

Part of my job as a family doctor is delivering babies — babies who, five minutes prior to delivery, are known as "fetuses." According to present law, a baby is entitled to all the protection that I am; a fetus is not.

Each time I deliver an infant, I am absolutely amazed. There I hold a whole new human being whose genetic makeup makes him or her completely different than any

human who has come before him or her or anyone who will come after. That genetically unique human was



Bret Gottshall/DN

the same being five minutes prior to delivery, 24 hours prior to delivery, nine months prior to delivery, as he or she is at the moment of delivery.

From the moment of his or her conception on, "this bundle of genetic material" (i.e. fetus or baby) has all he or she needs to "graduate" to "personhood," except time.

Issues introduced into the abortion debate by pro-abortion groups, such as the trauma of labor to women, the social problem of men who duck child support, the pain of relinquishing a child to adoption, incest, rape, the world problem of population control, etc., also are concerns of mine. However, they are not part of the abortion question at all; they are all background issues that need to be addressed in a different forum.

The real abortion question is this: Is it right to keep a surgical procedure, the purpose of which is to destroy human life, legal? I cannot, nor can anyone, define a time during the approximately 40 weeks of human pregnancy when one could say that before that time a life does not exist, but after that time it does; therefore, it seems logical that protection should be conferred on a person at the time of his or her conception.

When debates over abortion arise, I could argue as a physician, as a mother, as a woman. I choose to argue as a human, speaking out for those humans who have no voice and who unfortunately never will have a voice: the unborn.

Until abortion is recognized as the insult to women's dignity that it is, women will continue to be objectified through it, babies will

continue to die because of it, and the abortion industry will continue to profit from it.

Jo Witter, M.D.  
David City

### Life

In response to Melanie Chin's letter (DN, Sept. 22, 1994):

I am sorry you are so misinformed. Abortion is not about "the woman's right to decide whether she wants to bring a fetus to life." The fetus is already alive. He or she is already a living human being.

Abortion is an issue of biology and science. The fact is, when the mother's 23 chromosomes join with the father's 23 chromosomes, a new human life begins. Period. It's not theoretical and it's not theological. It's not even scientifically debatable. It's the simple biological truth. So the "unknown" issue is not when life begins, but at what point we are going to protect it.

Life IS a beautiful choice, because the alternative is death. So, if those commercials are too heart-wrenching for you, maybe they have a point you need to look into. You speak of pro-lifers taking away your "choice." What about the unborn baby's choice?

Men do have a very important role and say in the destiny of their child. I personally take offense to your belittling of them. You don't have to be a handicapped person to fight for the rights of handicapped people. Likewise, you don't have to be a woman to fight for, or believe in, the rights of the unborn.

Pro-life individuals believe it is a tragedy that any woman would choose to terminate her pregnancy, especially if they chose to break the law and do it illegally. Women are never forced to abort their children — it is something they choose to do. The solution to crisis pregnancies is not to kill the baby but to help the mother.

I would encourage Melanie Chin, and all other confused and mistaken pro-abortion people, to look at scientific facts. It has been proven life begins at conception.

By denying logical facts, such as when life begins, you are making a mockery of your group. Why not base your beliefs on facts?

I am dedicating this letter to all the unborn babies — that they may be given the choice to live. Because life IS a beautiful choice.

Sara Schlife  
freshman  
business