

# Bad news.

## Wanted, unborn children aren't recognized by state

Sunny Side Up  
with Jessica Flanagan



Under Nebraska law, if an act of violence against a pregnant woman results in the death of the baby, the perpetrator cannot be charged with the death of the unborn child.

Nebraska Legislative Bill 111 would allow for criminal prosecution for injury or death at all stages of pregnancy.

Nebraska Right to Life is lobbying for the bill because "it is a step toward recognizing the humanity of an unborn child," Julie Schmidt-Albin, executive director, said to Citizen Magazine.

Pro-abortion rights groups, including the ACLU of Nebraska, oppose such bills as "back door attempts" to overturn Roe v. Wade.

But Nebraska's fetal-protection bill explicitly provides that the legis-

"Your baby is dying tonight," one of three masked men said to Shawana Pace of Arkansas before they brutally beat her.

She lived, but her unborn daughter, entering her ninth month of life, did not. Shawana named her daughter Heaven.

Her boyfriend, Erik, was present during the attack and had hired the three brothers to kill Heaven.

All four men currently face the death penalty in Arkansas for the attack.

Had this occurred in Nebraska, Shawana and her daughter would not have been afforded the same protection under the law.

In Nebraska, the men could not be prosecuted for murder.

No, Nebraska's laws for such crimes are like the laws in

California.

Last month in Santa Ana, a judge ruled that a drunken driver was innocent of vehicular manslaughter even though an accident he caused resulted in the death of Olivia Taylor Garcia, who was eight months along in her mother's womb.

Olivia was delivered by Caesarean section. She had two minor seizures and spent an hour or so gasping for breath before she finally died.

San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge Mary Fuller said Olivia did not meet the definition of a viable human being.

The same thing happened in Nebraska three years ago this holiday season.

In December 1996, a drunken driver killed a Nebraska woman who was nine months pregnant. The woman died instantly, and her son, Zachary, was delivered by emergency Caesarean section.

Zachary died nine hours later. The family was horrified to learn that the drunken driver could not be charged with Zachary's death because he had not yet been born at the time of the accident.

This next legislative session, the Legislature will have a chance to place unborn children under the protection of state homicide statutes with LB 111.

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## Double standard evident in coverage of gay men being charged with rape, murder



GAY MEN CHARGED WITH RAPE AND MURDER OF 13-YEAR-OLD BOY

Chances are you never saw that headline.

Chances are you've never heard of Jesse Dirkhising.

Don't worry, you're not alone.

On Sept. 26, in Rogers, Ark., 13-year-old Dirkhising was sexually brutalized and murdered by two homosexual men.

According to police, Davis Carpenter Jr., 38, and Joshua Brown, 22, drugged and blindfolded the boy, gagged him with his own underwear and strapped him

Rescue personnel responded, notified police and tried to resuscitate Dirkhising.

Thirty minutes later, the youth was pronounced dead of positional asphyxiation.

Notes found in Carpenter and Brown's apartment indicate this was a premeditated crime, planned by both perpetrators. At the crime scene, investigators said they found notes from Carpenter to Brown, instructing him how to bind and sedate a child.

Prosecuting attorney Brad Butler said there is evidence Dirkhising was drugged. A quantity of sedatives, other drugs, items commonly used in sexual bondage, notes making reference to various sex acts, pills and duct tape were found in the apartment.

Notes entered into evidence are said to include handwritten instructions and a diagram of how to position the boy.

Carpenter and Brown were each charged with one count of capital murder and six counts of rape. Both pleaded not guilty and were jailed without bail for trial in April.

Their lawyers unsuccessfully sought a gag order and have said little about their line of defense.

prime-time news spots years after the fact.

And who can forget Matthew Shepard? The murder of the 21-year-old gay man last year ignited a media firestorm, resulting in thousands (literally) of stories and a number of national news magazine cover stories. But national coverage of the Dirkhising killing was virtually nonexistent.

The Associated Press hadn't moved the Dirkhising story nationally a month after it happened.

A spokeswoman for NBC's "Nightly News" said the show didn't cover the story because of limited broadcast time. Neither "Today" nor "Dateline NBC" made mention of Jesse Dirkhising.

A spokeswoman for CNN said the all-news network had an affiliate station in Atlanta tracking the story but couldn't say for sure if anything had been reported or not.

Christopher D. Plumlee, deputy prosecuting attorney for Benton County, Ark., who investigated Jesse's death, told reporters he was a "little surprised" at the limited coverage this "horrible crime against a child" received.

A little surprised? The question is this: Why in the world couldn't anyone in the national news media find the time or the interest to tell Dirkhising's story?

I think conservative commentator Brent Bozell, in an article titled "No Media Memorial for Jesse Dirkhising," is on the right track when he writes:

"Had Jesse Dirkhising been openly gay and his attackers heterosexual, the crime would have led all the networks. But no liberal media outlet would dare be first to tell a grisly murder story, which has as its villains two gay men."

Jesse Dirkhising's story was never told because it was politically incorrect to tell it. The boy was killed by homosexuals, and homosexuals, according to some apparent unwritten rule among the liberal mainstream media, are untouchable when it comes to negative news coverage.

Homosexuals, it seems, cannot be responsible for any of the evil in this world - heterosexual, white males have a monopoly.

And what would coverage of Dirkhising's murder accomplish for progressive-minded journalists?

Nothing. In fact, reporting of a story such as this would be detrimental to a news media that strives to mainstream and legitimize homosexual behavior.

While the actions of Carpenter and Brown can in no way be seen to represent the behavior of all homosexuals, the mere casting of any members of the homosexual community in a negative light is disallowed in the mainstream press corps.

Unlike the murder of Matthew Shepard, who was a gay man killed by two heterosexuals, the killing of Jesse Dirkhising could not be exploited as political leverage in the debate for federal hate crimes legislation.

So the liberal mainstream news media had no use for this story.

None whatsoever. And that's why you'd never heard of Jesse Dirkhising.

And that's a shame.

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