

Republicans insensitive to rape survivors



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Do you remember when just saying “no” was enough to qualify as rape? Well, it’s time to wake up and get with the 21st century, folks. Just saying “no” is so 2010, and, according to Republicans, it’s really uncool to get pregnant because you were drugged and raped.

Recently, Republicans tried to pass the controversial “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act,” a bill described as the number one priority of the GOP. Unfortunately, the title “We Hate Paying for Abortions, Y’all” was shot down by the Republican Bill Naming Committee, also known as RBNC for short.

The government has always had its limits on what qualified for an abortion to receive federal assistance. Funding exemptions have always included rape, incest, and pregnancies that threaten the mother’s safety, but a provision in the new bill would only cover rape that was forced. This would mean a woman who was drugged and raped would not be funded. As for the incest exception, the bill would only allow federally-funded abortions if the woman is under 18.

“When I first heard about the bill, I did not think it was real,” **Leanne Watkins, a UNC Asheville student**, said. “I then heard more about it, and I was amazed that something like this would even be proposed.”

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Thursday due to public scrutiny, but I can only imagine exactly what House Speaker John Boehner and all of the mostly Republican 173 sponsors of the bill were thinking.

It’s almost like they were trying to be bouncers at a night club. They stand at the door, and they gradually turn away people who were not raped well enough, and, just like that, they have complete control over how an already terrible situation will play out.

To say they would not cover a pregnancy resulted from a drugging and a rape is like saying it’s the female’s fault for putting herself in the situation, or she should have immunity to flunitrazepam at this point, or she is probably a hippy liberal-stoner anyway, and she most likely just doesn’t remember agreeing to the sex in the first place.

We all know how these crazy college kids pop date rape drugs like they’re candy anytime they can get their hands on them.

But how is a woman supposed to know just how dangerous men can actually be? Not helping them in their time of need would be the equivalent of a cop refusing to help a person with an intruder in their home just because they have a nice house, and it would be crazy to think you would not get robbed in something as extravagant as that.

See ladies, it’s apparently your fault for always looking so damn seductive.

So, this bill will now go to the Hall of Fame of Great Ideas That Certain People Thought Were Good but the Majority of the Public Strongly and Rightly Disagreed with This Assumption. It will long be forgotten with other inductees such as Egg Push Pops, Fox’s broadcast of “The Tick,” George W. Bush, the DeLorean and “Battlefield Earth.”

“It’s no surprise that it came from the GOP side,” **Drew Glover, a UNCA student**, said. “For Republicans who constantly criticize the president if he so much as mentions something that is off-topic from the matter at hand, it makes it even more ridiculous. I hate generalizing, but it’s just what’s common.”

Touché to the Republican Party and all they have done.

You have made this country and your party proud with your out-of-the-box thinking about ways to make yourselves seem even more inhumane.

Seriously, you guys are the Kanye West of politics. Let’s hope they continue with more of these landmark ideas, and they finally find a place to park their Death Star.

Joe’s Parking Garage is tired of them never paying their parking tickets.

Cuts threaten quality

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If only money grew on trees.

With recent news from the UNC Asheville administration that a 10 percent budget cut for

the 2011-2012 school year will be inadequate, 29 staff positions were eliminated last week in order to prepare for a further incision of about 5 percent from the budget.

On Dec. 17, Governor Bev Purdue sent a memorandum to all state departments estimating a \$3.5 billion deficit as the state of North Carolina enters the next two years.

“Because we have already absorbed deep and permanent cuts in recent years, these new budget decisions have inevitably affected people’s jobs, a move we were hoping to avoid,” wrote **Chancellor Anne Ponder** in an e-mail to the UNCA campus community.

According to the email, there will likely be an increase in class sizes, and a decrease in the frequency of some courses offered, which may stall students’ efforts to graduate in their planned timeframe.

“If UNCA prevents its students from graduating on time there may be larger repercussions than just financial ones,” **SGA Sophomore Senator Keller Berry** said.

Berry is a psychology student, with a double minor in biology and neuroscience, and finds it difficult enough to register for classes. If classes are taken away it will only be harder.

According to Kiplinger’s 2010-2011 rankings of public colleges, UNCA ranks 58th because of its affordability, small student-to-faculty ratio and high graduation rate. All of these

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Religion must evolve as divorce increases



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In a world that is always changing and moving, religion might be standing still.

A church in Tennessee recently made the news when its pastor refused

to baptize a baby, unless the parents got married. According to a news release by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4 in 10 births in the United States in 2007 were to unmarried mothers. The U.S. is not alone. The same press release also said the high percentage of births to unmarried mothers in the U.S. fell in the middle range compared to several other

countries.

Less than half a century ago, birth to an unmarried woman would have been frowned upon in society. Today, it is almost normal. Religious leaders would have to turn down 40 percent of the children in the U.S. if they refused to baptize or christen any babies born to unwed parents.

The tension between religion and society extends past unmarried parents. Religious traditions condemn divorce as well.

“(My mom) was married once before she married my dad and, when you’re Catholic, if you get divorced you have to go through a process to get it annulled by the church. For my mom it didn’t really count since she wasn’t married in the church,” said **Ashley Junk, a junior at UNC Asheville**. “If she had been married in the

church and then not had her first marriage annulled, the church wouldn’t recognize her marriage now.”

An annulment by the Catholic Church requires a church tribunal, similar to a judicial court, to decide if the marriage was valid or not. If the annulment is not granted, they are not able to marry again in the church.

Today divorce is an easy fix to marital problems. It’s not often that people honestly try to work through their issues. Instead, they divorce and try again. According to the CDC, half of all marriages in the U.S. end in divorce.

As popular as divorce is, it is difficult to imagine many people would go through the process of having a marriage ended

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