

VP nominee's daughter's pregnancy shouldn't matter

by Chris Dixon
Contributor

If you have watched any news station, read any newspaper or even glanced around your Facebook you have seen that Republican Vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin's 17-year old daughter, Bristol, is pregnant.

Now I know she is not married and is having a child out of wedlock, but she is keeping the child, and she is marrying the father. Many say that Sarah should drop off the Republican ticket because of this situation. Why? That would, if anything, show weakness of Mrs. Palin and from what I can see she is anything but

weak. She has five children and supports them to the fullest. Now I don't know how you all feel but any woman that has five children is a pretty strong woman. Now certainly, just because she has five children doesn't qualify her to be the Vice President of this country, but it is certainly a very admirable quality. So to

answer the question in the title of this article... NO! It does not in anyway matter in the upcoming presidential election. Are we voting for John McCain and Sarah Palin's daughter or John McCain and Sarah Palin?? Exactly, we are voting for the latter on their stance on political issues not their stance on their family issues.

Does Palin's daughter's pregnancy matter?

by Travis Wireback
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In many ways, my liberal arts education informs my position on politics. However, as someone staunchly anti-Barack Obama throughout the Democratic Primaries, I was undecided about who to vote for in November, and even contemplated voting for John McCain.

That is, until the two Vice Presidential nominees were announced. Since then, I have been questioning both John McCain and Sarah Palin's judgment in her becoming the Vice Presidential candidate.

The announcement that her 17-year old daughter is pregnant amidst rumors that Sarah Palin's youngest daughter was also her 17-year-old's child is evidence of the turmoil in her family's personal lives. And yet, she still accepted the nomination, knowing that her daughter's pregnancy would be thrust into the national spotlight.

Not only has her daughter's private life been revealed to the nation, but her pregnancy has become a political tool. In an effort to define her 'family values,' Palin uses her daughter as an example of her stance on abortion. Its passing unnoticed that Palin's daughter

is 17 years old, not even an adult under legal terms, and that Palin's political viability depends upon her daughter not obtaining an abortion.

Instead of being a boon to Palin's political career, this pregnancy should be considered a disaster. Palin is a proponent of abstinence-only sex education, and her daughter is living proof that this type of sex education is a failure.

Furthermore, this is a ridiculous issue to be discussing on the national stage: the fact that a 17-year-old's sex life is in any way a qualifying factor of someone's credentials to be second in command of our nation seems to detail the sharp decline in the quality of political discourse this nation is experiencing.

However, instead of pundits discussing Palin's pregnant child, we should be discussing her political history, and her actual credentials to be in the White House. We should not be focusing on how she raised her daughters to have morals, but rather on her record; including her having flip-flopped on the money trap that was the Bridge To Nowhere.

This debacle was a project to build a bridge in Alaska which she originally supported and fought to get funding for, then

denounced once the Senate began investigating where our tax money was going, only to find that the bridge was literally going nowhere.

Another issue we should investigate further is her lack of leadership experience. Many people discredit Barack Obama as being inexperienced in foreign policy and with many other administrative duties, rightly in my opinion.

However that inexperience is balanced by his extremely experienced running mate, Joe Biden. Because of Obama's Vice Presidential choice, I have the utmost confidence in his ability to run the nation, and in the event of a tragedy, the competence of Joe Biden to take over.

On the Republican side, the very real threat that McCain will not live to see the end of his presidency means that Sarah Palin has a good shot at becoming president.

While I supported McCain over George Bush in 2000, believing him to be a moderate Republican, his stances have become more and more radical. Until now, I believed this was simply politics at work, trying to attract the voters whom he isolated and disenfranchised in his 2000 bid.

However, by choosing Palin as his V.P., he was ascribing to the win-at-all-costs tactics of

the Karl Rove brand of campaign politics. McCain is misguided if he thinks he can draw women voters simply by choosing a woman as his running mate.

Anyone who truly listens to Palin's speeches will realize that she is against women's rights, evidenced by her stance on abortion. McCain must have a very low opinion of women to assume that women will compromise their values simply to see a woman in the White House.

As we get into the heat of the election season, we should all give this election the attention it deserves. I hope that we will watch the debates with an open mind and look at the real issues, rather than Rove-ian distractions.

Vote on their foreign policy, their fiscal policy, their sustainable energy plan, the issues that affect the nation as a whole, and affect our country's international standing. Rather than foolishly attempting to keep us safe from outside threats by gutting the Bill of Rights and surrendering our freedoms, keep us safe from outside threats by increasing our international standing. To paraphrase Ben Franklin, those who are willing to surrender necessary freedoms for temporary security deserve neither security nor freedom.