We must change tone on right to choose

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believing that Dear targeted Planned Parenthood because of their abortion services. In an interview with an investigator he reportedly claimed, “No more baby parts.”

Planned Parenthood and abortion has become an increasingly heated topic as the 2016 election approaches. Does that harm political rhetoric against Planned Parenthood contribute to anti-abortion violence? Dawn Lagunes, the executive vice president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said in a statement that “It’s offensive and outrageous that some politicians are now claiming this tragedy has nothing to do with the toxic environment they helped create. One of the lessons of this tragedy is that words matter, and hateful rhetoric fuels violence. It’s not enough to simply acknowledge the tragedy without also denouncing the poisonous rhetoric that fueled it.”

In July of this year, The Center for Medical Progress released a video of a Planned Parenthood official discussing the profits supposedly made from fetal tissue donations. Selling fetal tissue in the United States is illegal. However, Planned Parenthood was donating tissue and accepting donations to offset the costs, which is illegal. Planned Parenthood was well within its legal rights, but the GOP justification to slash federal funding was to bash the nonprofit organization.

In the Senate in August, the movement to defund Planned Parenthood began. The legislation to slash federal funding was shot down by Democrats in the Senate. In September, Congress held hearings that were meant to investigate the legality of Planned Parenthood’s practices. Instead, it was a firestorm of dramatic accusations and false information.

In the second Republican presidential debate, when asked about the Planned Parenthood videos, Carly Fiorina began her answer by saying, “I’ve NEVER been in the polls after she implored the audience to “watch a fully intact heart, its beating, its legs kicking while someone says we have to keep it alive to harvest its brain.”

Experts concluded that the undercover videos of Planned Parenthood were heavily edited and misleading. And the clip that Fiorina referred to does not exist in Planned Parenthood videos, according to the organization and other experts. However, this does not stop leaders of the GOP from using these lies to inflame voters and gain favor with pro-lifers. Presidential candidates and politicians are entrusted to represent the people of the United States and to set the agenda for our nation.

No matter your view on abortion, we should all be able to agree that we expect our representatives to be truthful, to base their policy and stances on fact.

On “This Week” with George Stephanopoulos, Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson responded to the attack. Unfortunately, there’s a lot of extremism coming from all areas, he said. “It’s one of the biggest problems that I think is threatening to tear our country apart. We get into our separate corners and we hate each other. We want to destroy those with whom we disagree.

And while Carson did not link the anti-abortion rhetoric to the attack, he did argue that public discourse is toxic, saying, “The way we talk about issues needs to change for the better. If we can get rid of the rhetoric from either side and actually talk about the facts, I think that’s what we begin to make progress,” he said. “And, you know, a lot of people, when they don’t have facts, when they don’t have a good backup, that’s when the rhetoric starts. That’s when the name-calling starts.”

Carson makes a point that everyone, no matter their ideological leanings or religious beliefs, should be able to agree with.

In the United States and many other countries, women have the right to terminate their pregnancies. Political rhetoric and public discourse should not be so extreme that it creates a climate where women feel unsafe or that limits women’s—and men’s—access to health care.

As a nation, we need to reconsider the tone we use when discussing women’s reproductive rights. There is no doubt that abortion is one of the most controversial and divisive issues of our time. However, the climate in which we discuss women’s reproductive rights must change, and it must change now. The extreme way we discuss a woman’s right to choose is poisonous to individuals, communities and the entire nation.

Counselor protests failure to reinstate Chicano Studies

VANESSA LUIS
Editor-in-chief

Counselor and Professor Maria Ramirez and some Latino students rallied Nov. 18 at the Board of Trustees meeting to express their disapproval of President Gari Browning’s denial of the full-time reinstatement of the Chicano Studies position.

From the beginning of Ohlone College, the Chicano Studies position had been there—almost 30 years,” Ramirez said. “This is a disservice to Chicana/os and Chicana/os... if you look at our Newark district, over half of the students in the district are Chicano/Latino.”

Browning announced this month that the college will hire 16 full-time faculty members. For next year. Six faculty members will fill positions vacated by retirement and resignation, and the remaining will fill new positions to help Ohlone meet its staffing goals. Faculty will be hired for accounting, biology, chemistry, computer science, CNET, English (2 positions), geology, history, interpreter preparation (IPP), physics/astronomy (2 positions), nursing and respiratory therapy.

“The results cannot please everyone, but please know that I have done my utmost to make the right choices for Ohlone for this point in time,” Browning said in the announcement.

Ramirez appeared on 89.3 KOHL on Tuesday to invite the local community to attend a “vigil” and take a stand for equity for the next board meeting on Wednesday.

Kim’s meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in Room 7101, Building 7, on the Fremont campus.

HR offers self-defense training

The Human Resources Department will offer self-defense training from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday. The training session, which will provide information about basic self-defense and gun-defense techniques, will be in Building 19, HR Conference Room B on the Fremont campus.

To RSVP, go to www.sanfrancisco.edu/hr/ MFWVY37.

Board to meet Wednesday

The Board of Trustees will meet Wednesday night in Building 7 on the Fremont campus.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in Room 7101, and is open to the public.

Board meetings also can be viewed on ONTV Cable Channel 28 at 7 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. Friday, or streamed online by going to www.ohlone.edu/org/board. An agenda also will be available online by Friday.

Panelists will include former Costa Mesa police chief, a member of the police department, a former detective, and a former police officer. The meeting will begin at 2 and 8 p.m. Dec. 13 in the Jackson Center on the Fremont campus.

The Dec. 13 performance will include live music by the Fremont Opera Orchestra.


The second pair of performances, with Berkeley City Ballet, will be at 1 and 5 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Jackson Theater. Tickets cost $25 for general admission, $20 for students and seniors, and $15 for children.

Or to reserve your seat, call 916.847.4235 or kathy@kathydana.com.

Address: 9640 Chris Drive, Granite Bay, CA 95746
Phone: 916.847.4235
Fax: 916.847.9235
Email: kathy@kathydana.com
Website: www.kathydana.com

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