

Babies in babeland



If lesbians had any feel for the absurd, they'd see how ludicrous it is that so many of them are conscientious vegetarians as well as rabid abortion "rights" advocates. Moreover, if they were true liberal-minded multiculturalists, they'd call off the mannish inquisition and stop treating anyone who disagrees with them like the infidel.

Last year I dated a woman who, like every other lesbian robot I know, is staunchly pro-choice. When I told her that I wasn't, she nearly disowned me on the spot. But, after a few days' brooding, she overcame her qualms about my turpitude and invited me to dinner. We decided on a fancy French place downtown. After we had been seated a few minutes, menus in hand, she asked me what I was having. "I'm thinking about the lamb," I said. She clenched her jaw. "Please don't eat a lamb in front of me," she said. I'd known she was a vegetarian of sorts, but I also knew she ate fish, so I hadn't thought she was a conscientious vegetarian. I said, "Oh, sorry. How do you feel about the rabbit?" Waving her hand at me dismissively, she spat, "Well, if you can bring yourself to eat a rabbit, then go ahead." Now, this I took for what it was—another indictment of my moral sense. It pissed me off. So I cleared my throat, and with as much equanimity as I could muster, I said: "Could you explain to me how it is that you think it's immoral under any circumstances to kill a rabbit, which is, by the way, a rodent, but it's permissible under any circumstances to kill a fetus?"

"Are you calling me a baby killer?" she hissed. At the time I simply said a meek no, but in retrospect I wish I had said something that really would have poached her egg, something like: "Well, it seems to me that if you're going to kill a perfectly

good fetus, you should at least have the decency to eat it." But I didn't. I was, after all, trying to have a rational conversation.

But rational conversations about abortion aren't really possible anymore. In fact, pro-choice



organizations, like some of the extremist pro-life groups (not the murderous ones—they are too odious to warrant consideration) aren't even trying to be rational anymore. Witness the posters that appeared all over New York City's subways and buses in 1998. One poster showed a group of middle-aged men in business suits, frowning. Beneath them the text read, "77% of anti-abortion leaders are men. 100% of them will never be pregnant."

Clearly this is not an argument. By this reasoning you might say that

probably 77% of the most outspoken pro-abortion leaders are lesbians, most of whom will also never be pregnant. Does this mean that their arguments should go unheard? Of course not. A similar argument was used against lesbians a few weeks ago in this very magazine by gay men who, in response to lesbian condemnation of "barebacking," said that since lesbians don't know squat about gay sex, who cares what they think about barebacking. Well, guys, murder is still murder no matter who terms it such. Likewise, the argument that abortion is murder warrants a fair hearing whether it's made by a monk or a mother of ten.

We can't agree on the abortion question because it has no easy answer. That's obvious. So why do so many lesbians assume that anyone who isn't pro-choice is a duped misogynist or a traitor? I can't respect self-righteous seafood-eating conscientious vegetarians, not simply because they are members of what I like to call PETCA (People for the

Ethical Treatment of Cuddly Animals) but because they are arrogant enough to think that their inverted moral universe is beyond reproach and that mine is contemptible. I wonder, though, how is it contemptible to think that a fetus is an incipient human life? Furthermore, how is it contemptible to think that ending a human life is murder and that murder is not something a civilized society countenances except as a last resort? Most of all, in what kind of world does a rodent matter more than a person? ■

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