

Regional News

Wife says abortion was forced

By Laurie Kellman
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Lorena Bobbitt, who said she cut off her husband's penis after he raped her in June, is expected to claim in a televised interview tonight that her husband also forced her to have an abortion.

That claim was blasted last night by John Bobbitt's attorney, who accused the Manassas woman of taking "self-serving accusations" to the national media to make her case.

"Lorena's story seems to grow more outrageous with the size of her potential audience," said Greg Murphy, the attorney, in a prepared statement. "To falsely cast [the abortion] as something John 'did' to Lorena is despicable."

The ABC newsmagazine "20/20" has advertised an exclusive interview with Mrs. Bobbitt, which will air tonight at 10 p.m. on Channel 7. In it, she claims to have ended a pregnancy because her husband said she'd make a bad mother.

Mrs. Bobbitt's media agent said



John and Lorena Bobbitt

in an interview that his client is the only one telling the truth.

"The original decision for Lorena to become pregnant was Lorena's alone," said Alan Hauge.

"But when he heard about it, he became incensed and angry, and basically threatened her that if she did remain pregnant, he would leave her and she would have to raise the child alone."

But Mr. Murphy pointed to Mrs. Bobbitt's statement to police after the mutilation, in which she reportedly explained the attack by saying her husband was interested only in his own sexual satisfaction.

"John is particularly incensed

that Lorena would stoop to using the most emotionally difficult decision in their marriage, the termination of an unplanned pregnancy, for public sympathy."

In the interview, Mrs. Bobbitt says her husband "would be on top of me . . . and he would use his two thumbs to actually choke me, and every time he did that he hit me.

"It felt like there's no air anymore," she says. "I kind of feel like I was going to pass out, and everything was white . . . he choked me again and that's how he forced me into sex."

She also tells "20/20" about what thoughts went through her mind June 23, the night she said her husband raped her.

"Afterwards, he said, 'I don't care for you.' So I was crying and it was just a different sensation," she says in her broken English. "I don't know. I feel embarrassed at the same time, or humiliated. He had done it again. How more do I have to put up with this?"

Mr. Murphy declined to address other statements by Mrs. Bobbitt.