

EDUCATION: March 12, 2006

# America is rife with morally dubious awards

**R**achel Corrie, a young American woman accidentally flattened by an Israeli bulldozer during a protest in Gaza three years ago, is a hero to Palestinians and the anti-American left. When she died, a photo of her burning an American flag sealed her high status on the left. Her honors included many vigils, memorials, buildings named for her, at least two plays, an annual pancake breakfast, and the Rachel Corrie Award for courage in the teaching of writing. Why helping people learn to write should require courage is not explained.

**I HAVE BEEN** planning for some time to write about America's peculiar awards, prizes and memorials, and the flourishing of Rachel Corrie awards is a good excuse to list some of them.

— Stanford University gives the Allan Cox medal each year for faculty

excellence in guiding student research. Cox was a professor of geophysics and dean of the school of earth sciences at Stanford. He committed suicide in 1987 while under investigation for sexually molesting the son of a former student. The molesting allegedly went on for five years, starting when the boy was 14.

— One of the most elegant prep schools, Phillips Exeter Academy, gives an annual Edmund E. Perry Award for "diversity and cultural awareness." Perry was an outstanding black student at Phillips Exeter who was shot to death in Harlem while trying to mug a plainclothes cop.

— Convicted cop-killer Mumia Abu-Jamal has been honored as a commence-

ment speaker (via audiotape) at Antioch College, Evergreen State University, Occidental University and the University of California-Santa Cruz.

**JOHN LEO**



— Warren Kimbo confessed to shooting a fellow Black Panther in the back of the head. After his release from prison, he was accepted at Harvard, then served as a dean at Eastern Connecticut State University.

— **SUSAN ROSENBERG**, an advocate of "collective violence" against the U.S. government, was caught with nearly 700 pounds of explosives in 1984, and went to prison to begin serving a 58-year term. She was pardoned by Bill Clinton, then hired as a writing instructor by Hamilton College in upstate New

York, the institution that gave us Ward Churchill. Her course was in "Resistance Memoirs: Writing, Identity and Change."

— Bard College notoriously maintains a chair in social studies named for Alger Hiss, the communist spy, traitor and perjurer. This is perhaps the stupidest honor given anywhere in America. The University of Washington's Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies is named for the late and powerful labor leader, who was a communist, a perjurer and an apologist for Stalin.

— Last year the Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York announced a new scholarship named for Ho Chi Minh and another honoring Joanne Chesimard, the former Black Panther and convicted murderer of a New Jersey police officer. Both scholarships were quickly renamed after protests.

— Stanford Law School paid Lynne Stewart, the lawyer who had been indicted for aiding Islamic terrorists, to speak and mentor students at a conference. After loud complaints, the school withdrew the word "mentor" from her conference title, but let her conduct mentoring and deliver her lecture anyway. Since then, she has been convicted on all five counts of conspiring to aid terrorists and lying to the government.

— Jeffrey Eden, a 17-year-old Rhode Island student, created a high-school art project comparing President Bush to Adolf Hitler, complete with three swastikas, little toy figurines and several slogans. One slogan was "Hitler's own justification was his own hatred." The Bush-equals-Hitler artwork was just what some people wanted to see. It got an A from his teacher and a silver key at the Rhode Island scholastic art awards.

— Villanova University installed a memorial plaque honoring a professor who killed her Down syndrome baby and herself in 2003. After protests, including some from parents of Down children, the plaque was removed. A spokesman said, "At no time did the university nor anyone associated with the university intend to devalue the sanctity of life."

— **AND WE HAVE** the awards that many Austrians and other Europeans wanted to bestow on Tookie Williams, the unusually vicious multiple murderer who was executed in California late last year. He was nominated for a Nobel Peace prize by opponents of the death penalty, and when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger denied Williams clemency, a drive began to remove Arnold's name from an Austrian sports stadium and dedicate the building to Tookie instead. Awards are the new frontier of moral confusion.

CHILD SUPPORT: March 10, 2006

# The right to abandon your child

**T**his is one of those moments when you want to grab liberals by the lapels and demand, "Well, what did you expect?"

A group called the National Center for Men has filed a lawsuit they are calling "Roe v. Wade for Men." Here are the facts: A 25-year-old computer programmer named Matt Dubay of Saginaw, Mich., was ordered by a judge to pay \$500 per month in child support for a daughter he fathered with his ex-girlfriend. His contention — and that of the National Center for Men — is that this requirement is unconstitutional because it violates the equal protection clause.

**DUBAY DOES NOT** dispute that he is the child's father. Rather, he claims that during the course of his relationship with the mother, he was given to understand that she could not become pregnant because of a physical condition. He insists that she knew he did not want to have children with her. The courts, he and his advocates argue, are forcing parenthood upon him in a way that they cannot do to a woman. Here's the money quote from the NCM web site:

"More than three decades ago Roe vs. Wade gave women control of their reproductive lives but nothing in the law changed for men. Women can now have sexual intimacy without sacrificing reproductive choice. Women now have the freedom and security to enjoy lovemaking without the fear of forced procreation. Women now have control of their lives after an unplanned conception. But men are routinely forced to give up control, forced to be

financially responsible for choices only women are permitted to make, forced to relinquish reproductive choice as the price of intimacy."

The feminists may well be stumped by this argument. After all, they've based their abortion advocacy as a matter of women's reproductive rights. Is it

**MONA CHAREN**



logical to claim that women have reproductive rights that men lack? Yes, a woman has to carry an unplanned pregnancy for nine months and give birth. But Mr. Dubay, and many other men, are saddled with 18 years of child support. That's a pretty substantial inhibition of one's "reproductive freedom."

**IMAGINE THAT** John and Jane learn that she is pregnant. She has full latitude in the decision-making. She can decide, over his objections, to abort the child or to raise it alone (he'll be lucky to get generous visitation), or to place the child for adoption (in which case he can object, but only if he wants to raise the baby himself).

The National Center for Men could argue that since a man cannot oblige a woman to carry his child to term, neither should she be able to demand 18 years of child support from him. (The NCM has other complaints, too, and it's amusing to see the tables turned. They whine, for example, that men tend

to die an average of eight years earlier than women, and that the overwhelming majority of the homeless are men. True. Is it the fault of the patriarchy?)

But the gravamen of the men's complaint is unwanted fatherhood. These poor fellows who have sex with women they do not want to marry or have children with are persecuted in this Brave New World we've created. When the only frame of reference is a competition of rights, both sexes strive to outdo one another in selfishness.

The point (and it is not one the feminists will find in their quiver) is that sexuality requires responsibility — and that doesn't just mean using birth control. It means that if you engage in sex you have an automatic obligation to any child that may result. Pro-choice women have been vociferously rejecting this responsibility for decades. It should come as no surprise that men are inclined to do the same.

Roe v. Wade and the sexual carnival we've encouraged in this country ever since have planted the idea that men and women have some sort of constitutional right to enjoy sex without consequences. Mr. Dubay and all of those similarly situated (including women who use abortion as emergency contraception) should look into the faces of their sons and daughters and explain that it's nothing personal.

MONA CHAREN  
©2006, Creators Syndicate, Inc.

JOHN LEO  
(c) 2006, Universal Press Syndicate