

Ashcroft not extreme

Peggy Loonan (Soapbox, Jan. 25) calls John Ashcroft's position extreme because of his belief that human life is God-given and, therefore, sacred from conception to natural death.

On the contrary! The extreme position is the one held by the person who admits that unborn life is truly human but is, nevertheless, subject to death at any stage of de-

velopment and for any reason merely because the mother wills it (Loonan's position, Colorado State University abortion debate, Nov. 15).

Is it extreme to believe that human life is to be loved, cherished and nurtured from beginning to end or is it, rather, extreme to believe that human life can be killed when most vulnerable and dependent upon another? When we consider that the most fundamental level of trust is that between a mother and her child, we can most certainly conclude that our society is in deep trouble if Loonan's position is considered rational and good.

Mother Teresa said it well: "When women kill their children, anyone can kill anyone." The culture of death touches us all. Each of us escaped the killing at the beginning of life, but we're all candidates for the killing at the end. This is cause enough to reject the reasoning set forth by Loonan. It is, by far, too extreme!

**Barbara Martin,
Fort Collins**

Stance misrepresented

Barbara Martin's Feb. 6 letter challenging my comments about John Ashcroft lacked honesty, which calls into question her sincerity and credibility.

It's Ashcroft's record of attempting to legislate his religious beliefs about abortion and birth control upon others that's problematic.

Martin's blubbering about the sacredness of human fetal life is disingenuous. She bemoans fetal death from legal abortion all the while being willing to allow a fetus and woman to die from an illegal abortion. Authors Joffe and Reagan have documented the death of desperate, determined women and their fetuses pro-Roe. An intellectually honest approach combines pregnancy prevention and Roe vs. Wade, which balanced the right to life and liberty of woman and fetus.

Martin deliberately lied about my position on abortion. I've never been supportive of killing innocent human life for any reason at any stage of development. It isn't what I articulated in November, isn't consistent with Roe vs. Wade, and Martin knows that. Consistent with Roe, states can make abortions illegal after viability except to protect the health and life of a woman. The number of third trimester abortions and the heartbreaking stories of the women who've faced such tragic circumstances belie the "pro-life" claim that Doe vs. Bolton's definition of health has allowed for any, let alone rampant, third-trimester abortions because a woman is simply depressed or suddenly decides she doesn't want a baby.

Life and Liberty for Women's new Web site, up March 1, contains my November speech and our position paper on third-trimester abortions.

**Peggy Loonan,
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Fort Collins**

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