

As a recording artist, Ron Ellington Shy performed such memorable hits of the 1950s and 1960s as "Leavin' It All Up To You," "Jungle Hop," "Justine," "The Letter," "Farmer John," and my late colleague Sonny Bono's "Koko Joe." A gifted vocalist, Ron is also a versatile musician who plays guitar, piano, organ, saxophone, valve trombone, and harmonica. He is known for his charismatic showmanship, involving his audience as they sing along to the many classic oldies he performs in his shows. As an actor, Ron has appeared on television in such notable programs as "Dallas," "Knotts Landing," and "Falcon Crest," as well as TV commercials for Right Guard deodorant, Church's Chicken, and the California Lottery.

Currently, Ron is on a national tour acting the role, and performing the music, of the late Ray Charles. Ron graciously accepted the invitation of the Joseph Gallagher Middle School, the East Cleveland Neighborhood Center, and local Hip-Hop impresario Bill "Silver B" Richards, to participate in the "Stars for Peace" rally for peace and violence prevention. Ron and the sponsors and organizers of this event understand the importance of international peace and that peace begins with each of us as individuals and in our homes.

Mr. Speaker, and Colleagues, it is my pleasure to welcome Ron Ellington Shy to Ohio's 10th District, to congratulate him on his many accomplishments, and to commend him on taking a stand in using his fame and international recognition to promote world peace and violence prevention.

FACTS SHOW CLAIMS OF INCREASED ABORTIONS OVER LAST FOUR YEARS DON'T HOLD UP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, for about a year now a myth has been promoted that abortions have increased since President Bush was elected in 2000. This myth was launched publicly when Glen Stassen and Gary Krane published a piece in October of 2004, called "Why abortion rate is up in Bush years" that attempted to make the case that President Bush's pro-life policies have not been effective in decreasing abortion.

This mantra was picked up and repeated by many public figures and organizations who do not hold pro-life positions, but the facts simply do not support their claims. In fact, abortion has continued to decrease while President Bush has been in office, as demonstrated by an Annenberg Political Fact Check piece posted yesterday at www.factcheck.org and called "Abortions rising under Bush? Not true. How that false claim came to be and lives on."

To debunk the myth that the number of abortions have increased over the last 5 years, I am submitting the Annenberg Political Fact Check analysis to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

[From the Annenberg Political Fact Check, May 25, 2005]

THE BIOGRAPHY OF A BAD STATISTIC—ABORTIONS RISING UNDER BUSH? NOT TRUE. HOW THAT FALSE CLAIM CAME TO BE -AND LIVES ON

SUMMARY

Politicians from Hillary Clinton and John Kerry to Howard Dean have recently contended that abortions have increased since George W. Bush took office in 2001.

This claim is false. It's based on an opinion piece that used data from only 16 States. A study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute of 43 States found that abortions have actually decreased.

ANALYSIS

A number of politicians and organizations have been circulating an interesting and surprising idea: that abortions have gone up under George W. Bush's watch. The claim is repeated by supporters of abortion rights as evidence that Bush's anti-abortion policies have backfired, or at least been ineffective.

But the claim is untrue. In fact, according to the respected Alan Guttmacher Institute, a 20-year decline in abortion rates continued after Bush took office, as shown in this graph: Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute, "Trends in Abortion in the United States"

Here's the story of how a false idea took hold.

THE BIRTH OF A BAD STATISTIC

The claim that abortions are rising again can be traced back to an opinion piece by Glen Harold Stassen, an ethics professor at Fuller Theological Seminary. His article originally appeared in a web and e-mail publication of Sojourners, a Christian magazine, in October 2004. Several other outlets, including the Houston Chronicle, also ran a similar piece co-authored by Stassen and journalist Gary Krane. The articles generated a good deal of discussion on a number of both liberal and conservative blogs.

Describing himself as "consistently pro-life," Stassen reported that he "analyzed the data on abortion during the Bush presidency" and reached some "disturbing" conclusions. "Under President Bush, the decade-long trend of declining abortion rates appears to have reversed," he said. "Given the trends of the 1990s, 52,000 more abortions occurred in the United States in 2002 than would have been expected before this change of direction."

Stassen's broad conclusion wasn't justified by the sketchy information he cited, however. Furthermore, a primary organization he cited specifically as a source for historical data now contradicts him, saying abortions have continued to decline since Bush took office. More about that later.

HILLARY CLINTON USES IT

Stassen offered his article as evidence that Bush's economic policies were driving pregnant women to abortion. And although he opposes abortion, his claim was soon picked up and repeated uncritically by the other side—supporters of abortion rights. In a speech to family-planning providers in New York on January 24, 2005, Sen. Hillary Clinton recounted decreases in the abortion rate that occurred in her husband's administration, then lamented that the situation had changed. She repeated exactly some of the figures that Stassen had given in his Houston Chronicle article.

Clinton: But unfortunately, in the last few years, while we are engaged in an ideological debate instead of one that uses facts and evidence and common sense, the rate of abortion is on the rise in some states. In the three years since President Bush took office, 8 states saw an increase in abortion rates

(14.6 percent average increase), and four saw a decrease (4.3 percent average), so we have a lot of work still ahead of us.

Clinton was careful not to state flatly that abortions were increasing nationally. She spoke only of "some States" in which the rate had increased. However, she omitted any mention of other States where abortions were going down, inviting her listeners to conclude that the national trend to fewer abortions had reversed itself since Bush took office.

And in fact a few days later, in an interview on NBC's Meet the Press on January 30, 2005, Senator John Kerry claimed that abortions were up, period:

Kerry: And do you know that in fact abortion has gone up in these last few years with the draconian policies that Republicans have...

A Kerry spokesman confirmed at the time to FactCheck.org that Kerry was relying on the Stassen article for his information.

Finally, as recently as May 24, 2005, Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean also asserted on NBC News' Meet the Press:

Dean: You know that abortions have gone up 25 percent since George Bush was President?

Dean's "statistic" went unchallenged by moderator Tim Russert, so millions of viewers probably got the impression that Dean's very specific 25 percent figure was correct. But Dean was wrong—and by a wide margin.

We asked the Democratic National Committee repeatedly where Dean got his 25 percent figure, but we got no response. Even if Stassen's estimate of 52,000 additional abortions were correct, that would figure to an increase of less than 4 percent. And in any case the rate is going down, not up, according to the most authoritative figures available.

CHERRY-PICKING DATA

A close reading of Stassen's article makes clear that he didn't even pretend to have comprehensive national data on abortion rates. He said he looked at data from 16 States only—and didn't even name most of them.

Stassen said that in the four States that had already posted statistics for three full years of Bush's first term, he found that abortion was up. Twelve more States had posted statistics for 2 years of Bush's term—2001 and 2002—and here the picture was mixed. According to Stassen, "Eight states saw an increase in abortion rates (14.6 percent average increase), and five saw a decrease (4.3 percent average)." A version of the piece in the Houston Chronicle reported instead that four saw a decrease with a 4.3 percent average.

So Stassen was projecting findings onto the entire country from 12 States that he said had showed an increase and 5 (or maybe 4) that he said had shown a decrease. That leaves a total of 34 other States for which Stassen had no data whatsoever.

Furthermore, Stassen is contradicted by one of the very organizations whose data he cites. The only primary source of data that Stassen cites specifically in the article is the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit organization that conducts a periodic survey of all known abortion providers, which numbered nearly 2,000 at last count. Guttmacher's statistics are widely used and respected by all sides in the abortion debate. It is the only organization to compile and publish national abortion-rate data other than the federal Center for Disease Control. CDC's official statistics, however, run only through 2001, so they shed no light on what has happened since Bush took office.

And Guttmacher—as we shall see—now says abortion rates have decreased since

Bush took office. And that's based on data from 43 States, not just 16.

DE-BUNKING THE STATISTIC

Stassen's numbers, and the widespread acceptance they seemed to be getting, prompted the Guttmacher Institute to conduct a special analysis to update its comprehensive census of abortion providers for the year 2000. The increases that Stassen reported "would be a significant change in a long-standing trend in the U.S.," Leila Darabi of the institute explained to Factcheck.

Besides the fact that Stassen claimed to have data only from 16 States, the Guttmacher Institute said it is likely that many of the States Stassen picked have higher abortion rates historically, have a higher concentration of population subgroups that tend to have more abortions, and see abortion rates rise more quickly when they do go up. Stassen himself named only Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Colorado among the 16 States he says he studied, but his co-author on the Houston Chronicle article listed each State in a separate article posted on the Internet.

The Guttmacher Institute found that two of the States Stassen used had unreliable reporting systems. In Colorado, for instance, where Stassen claimed that rates "skyrocketed 111 percent," the reporting procedure had been recently changed in order to compensate for historic underreporting. Guttmacher also found Arizona had an inconsistent reporting system.

THE FACTS

The Guttmacher Institute announced its findings May 19. Guttmacher analyzed available government data "as an interim measure until another provider census can be conducted" according to a news release. The interim study analyzed data from 43 States determined to have reliable State reporting systems.

What it found was that the number of abortions decreased nationwide—by 0.8 percent in 2001 and by another 0.8 percent in 2002. The abortion rate, which is the number of women having abortions relative to the total population, also decreased 1 percent in 2001 and 0.9 percent in 2002. That's not as rapid a decrease as had been seen in earlier years, but it is a decrease nonetheless.

We give much weight to Guttmacher's analysis. Their figures are widely used and accepted by both anti-abortion groups and abortion-rights advocates. Their surveys of abortion providers go back to 1973, and Stassen cites them himself as the source for the number of abortions in 2000.

Guttmacher has little motive to make Bush and his anti-abortion policies look good. The institute was founded in 1968 in honor of a former president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and describes its mission as being "to protect the reproductive choice of all women and men in the United States and throughout the world." Had Stassen's numbers proven accurate, the Institute "would have reported and widely publicized a rise in abortion rates," said Darabi. But facts are facts.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the anniversary of an entity which has proven very important to the long standing US/

Jamaican relationship. The Jamaica Tourist Association recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. In such time it has gone about making Jamaica one of the top tourist destinations in the world. The JTA will be celebrating their anniversary throughout the year with a series of events and initiatives, and I am happy to acknowledge their accomplishments here today.

The mission of the Jamaican Tourist Board is to effectively market Jamaica's tourism sector, in an increasingly competitive global tourism industry. To date, they have succeeded not only in making Jamaica a global tourism powerhouse, but also strengthening ties between the United States and Jamaica.

The United States is the largest source of tourists to the island of Jamaica. Of the record 2.5 million international tourists to Jamaica in 2004, over one million came from the U.S. With tourism the primary foreign exchange earner for Jamaica, it is a cornerstone of the country's economic strength. That strength has translated into real benefits for the United States.

In 2004, Jamaica was the second largest destination for American exports in the Caribbean, totaling over \$1.4 billion. This is no doubt related to the purchasing power that the tourism sector affords Jamaica. As such, the work of the Jamaican Tourist Board has broad implications for both our nations.

The JTB continues to face many obstacles in developing the tourism sector. Last year's Caribbean hurricanes caused Jamaica hundreds of millions of dollars in damage. The tourism sector was not spared from the hurricanes' wrath, and is only now beginning to recover.

With that said, we in the United States must do all we can to ensure that we do not hinder the recovery, not only for Jamaica, but for the entire Caribbean. One such hindrance is the Bush Administration's proposed Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

I am opposed to aspects of the Initiative, due to inequities in the Initiative's implementation. As currently proposed, the initiative will require all travelers to and from the Americas, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to have a passport to enter or re-enter the United States. It is argued that the stricter policy will strengthen border security.

However, the Initiative is to be implemented in region specific phases, with travel to the Caribbean, Bermuda, and Central and South America being affected by the end of 2005, while travel to Canada and Mexico will not be affected until the end of 2006. I believe the early implementation date for the Caribbean is unfair.

With more than 50% of U.S. visitors to Jamaica not utilizing a passport when they travel, and considering that passport processing times can range up to 2 months, it can be expected that the new requirements will have an extremely negative impact on Jamaican tourism, as many U.S. tourists may choose vacation options that entail less hassle. As such, implementing new travel requirements on the Caribbean before other regions clearly warrants reconsideration.

With that said, I wish the Jamaican Tourist Board continued success, as its work will continue to be extremely important to both our nations. If the ever-increasing bond between our countries is any indication; the future success of Jamaican tourism is extremely bright.

OUTSTANDING ARTISTS FROM THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers to raise young men and women. I rise today to congratulate and honor 44 outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students is participating in the 2005 Annual Congressional Arts competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional!

We have 44 students participating. That is a tremendous response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition, first place was awarded to Paul Niziolek from Ridge High School for his work entitled, "Shut Off;" second place was awarded to Tommy Lientited from Livingston High School for his work entitled, "Self-Reflection;" and third place was awarded to Chris Murphy from West Morris Mendham High School for his work entitled, "Turn Away."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entries for the official Record.

Pope John High School: Kaelen Barden's "Color in Time," Colleen Sullivan's "Palms," Amanda Grace's "Beach."

Roxbury High School: Ryan Jouas's "Call for Details," Laura Montoya's "Alex," Emily Schumacher for her untitled work, Melody Idakaar's "Eremos # 3."

Randolph High School: Morgan Kolenut's "I'm just mad about saffron," Maria Soshinsky's "You Shoot You Score!"

Morris Knolls High School: Cheryl Hutnikoffs "Azure Blue," Maria Nuzhdin's "NYC," Jackie Trimmer's "Lizzy," Kimberly McConnell's "Say Cheese."

Montville High School: Tyler Martin's "Entanglement," Catherine Kocses's "Give Me A Minute," Nanase Nakanishi's "Cold Winter Morning," Jenny Kong's "ST. Basil Studio."

Boonton High School: Audrey Brennan for his untitled work, Amy Salas's "Self Portrait," Alexander Della Torre's "Girls from Narnia," Jennifer Hitchings's "Old Cadillac."

Mount Olive High School: Meghan Marvin's "Waning Light," Cassy Nickens's "Trapped Expression," Kyle Toolen's "Lunch Break," Elisa Winsze's "Riverside Wagon."

West Morris Mendham High School: Drew Koze's "March in Shadow," Chris Murphy's "Turn Away," Melissa Katie Krajewski's "Pacific Sunset," Andrew Herdren's "Atmosphere Friends."

Ridge High School: Michael Raynes's "Organ Donation," Samantha Mansfield's "Self Portrait / EEK! A mouse!," Paul Niziolek's "Shut Off," Lisa Cirelli's "Close-up Lens."

Livingston High School: David Runfolia's "Swift Limits," Justine Bienkowski's "Shattered," Tommy Li's "Self-Reflection," Casey Krosser for her untitled work.

Morris Hills High School: Brian Manna's "Proud," Julie Carlsen's "Ode to Van Gogh," Patricia Doris's "Our Responsibility."