

“I Just Came for the Pizza and Beer”

Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

Since the 1970s the term *Roe v. Wade* has been equated with the abortion controversy. “Wade” was Henry Wade, the District Attorney of Dallas County (Texas) who was fighting to keep abortion illegal in this country. “Roe” was Jane Roe, the anonymous lead plaintiff who was allegedly leading the fight for this “pro-choice” cause. In reality, Jane Roe was a young lady named Norma McCorvey, who months earlier had entered her doctor’s office in an effort to terminate her pregnancy. Her physician put her in touch with foster attorneys, who then organized a meeting between Norma and two eager lawyers, Linda Coffee and Sarah Weddington. These two ladies had been waiting for just the right person to help them file a court case that would liberalize abortion laws. With her name signed on the affidavit, Norma McCorvey went down in history as “the woman who made abortion legal.”

But what is the truth about her role in this monumental case, and how did it ever come into being? A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to spend several hours with Norma, and the story she revealed was a shocking one (2006). I should mention up front that Norma is now very much pro-life, and is fighting diligently to have the laws overturned. In fact, she used her prerogative as a party in the original court case to reopen the case and have it overturned. However, on June 19, 2003, a Texas judge (David Godbey) ruled that too much time had passed and that her request was not made within a “reasonable time.” This was later followed by the Supreme Court refusal to grant a writ of certiorari on February 22, 2005, effectively eliminating her appeal.

Who was this woman, and what role did she really play? One of the biggest shockers I learned was the fact that Norma (aka Jane Roe) **never received an abortion or even entered a courtroom regarding this infamous court case.** She was simply a pawn who signed her name on a piece of paper in Texas. In conveying how it all began Norma noted:

I found myself pregnant for the third time, second time out of wedlock. I went to one doctor, and told him I wanted an abortion. I didn’t know what it was. I didn’t know what it meant, but I wanted one. Kinda like he could just put it in a package and I’d be outta there.... I just knew I didn’t want to have the baby. I took a bunch of drugs. I threw myself down a flight of stairs. I’d thrown myself in front of moving traffic. I mean, I did not want to have this child. I even went to a place they called an illegal abortion clinic. I don’t know if it was an abortion clinic or not, because I didn’t stay around that long.

Many people are under the impression that Jane Roe was a devout fighter for women—that she was a radical feminist who expanded the borders of women’s rights. The truth was she was simply trying to make a living. She told me: “I was more involved with the Vietnam War efforts than I was equal rights or ERA or anything like that.”

Realizing that her child was going to be born into this world, she finally talked her physician into giving her the name of an attorney that dealt in adoptive/foster cases. This lawyer listened to Norma and then introduced her to two people who would change her life forever. McCorvey lamented:

To make a long story short, I met with Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffee, and they—how do I say this, they upset me. They said, “Oh Norma, don’t you realize that women drive cars? Oh Norma, don’t you realize that women get to smoke in public? Oh Norma, don’t you know that women get to vote?” I finally told them, “Hey look, I just came for the pizza and beer, because I was hungry.” I met with them three or four times. I signed the affidavit that brought *Roe v. Wade* into being on March 17, 1970, and I found out about *Roe v. Wade* just like everyone else did. I read it in the newspaper.

Unsure I heard her correctly, I questioned, “Excuse me, are you telling me you were not aware that it was going on—that it had been sent to the Supreme Court?” She replied: “I was a paint contractor. I worked for HUD properties, so I was busy making a living. I didn’t care about women voting. I didn’t care about them smoking in their cars and driving, or climbing the glass ceiling.” So I asked Norma, “Did you ever attend courtroom sessions?” Her response stunned me. She quickly replied, “No, never.” Norma was the pawn. Having indulged in the free pizza, she signed her name to an affidavit, and forever changed the course of American history. The effects the case had on her life were obvious as we talked. She told me on more than one occasion that her life revolved around the topic of abortion—and that the early decision to sign that piece of paper lead to a life of drug and alcohol abuse. While many still tout “pro-choice” and “women’s rights” as the crusading call to keep abortion legal, the woman who started it all is appealing to all those who will listen that we must stop killing “a beating heart.”

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Q What is a living fossil?

A The definition for the term “living fossil” varies tremendously from source to source. Basically, a living fossil is a living animal that matches fossils that are considered by evolutionists to be extremely old. In many cases these animals were thought to have been extinct for millions of years. For instance, if a *Tyrannosaurus Rex* were found alive, it would be called a living fossil. The coelacanth fish is probably the most famous of all living fossils.

Living fossils pose a number of problems for those who believe in evolution. First, they cast serious suspicion on the way fossils are dated. If an animal’s fossils are thought to be sixty million years old, but then a living one shows up, how could we be sure that the animal has not left a fossil in the last sixty years? Could it be the case that the fossils considered to be sixty million years old are much younger than originally thought? Absolutely.

Second, living fossils show the non-falsifiable nature of evolutionary thinking. The coelacanth is a great example. It was used as an index fossil and thought to

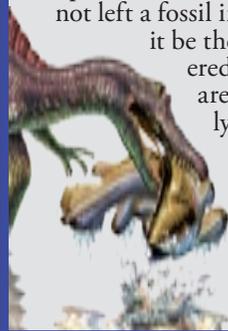
be a transitional stage between fish and certain land animals. When it was discovered, it obviously was not the “missing link” and several millions of years of alleged history were destroyed by the find. What did the evolutionary community do? They labeled it a living fossil and moved on to another “missing link.”

The newest living fossil to be discovered was found in the Coral Sea by a team of French scientists. This small, shrimp-like crustacean, about five inches long and named *Neoglyphea neocaledonica*, was thought to have been extinct for 60 million years (“Living Fossil’...,” 2006). So, with the find of a creature that could be boiled and served at a seafood restaurant for lunch, scientists erased 60 million years of alleged evolutionary history. In reality, this find is the equivalent of discovering a dinosaur. With more of these living fossils popping up every decade, one wonders how long the incorrect paleontological assumptions that fossils are millions of years old can last in the face of such evidence.

Kyle Butt

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IN THE NEWS

On a daily basis in America, the Christian religion and the God of the Bible are subjected to disdain, contempt, and open hostility by those who seem determined to eradicate the Christian worldview. The number and nature of these outrageous affronts are increasing in magnitude and absurdity. One recent instance is seen in the removal of “In God We Trust” from the image of a nickel on the yearbook of the Liberty Elementary School in Keller, Texas. The Superintendent said the decision was made to omit the phrase since it “might create an issue with people of several religious faiths” (Brown, 2006). In another incident, the Fredericksburg, Virginia city council voted to ban any reference to Jesus Christ in prayers after being threatened by the ACLU if the practice continued (Battle, 2006). The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had already unanimously ruled that by opening its meetings with a prayer that mentions Jesus Christ, the Great Falls, South Carolina Town Council was guilty of an unconstitutional government advancement of one religion, i.e., Christianity

(“4th Circuit...,” 2004). Another ACLU instigated lawsuit resulted in a U.S. District Judge ruling that the Indiana House of Representatives could not formally open with prayers that mention Jesus Christ or use Christian terms such as savior because they amount to state endorsement of a religion (Wilson, 2006). All such actions fly flagrantly in the face of over 180 years of contrary legislative and judicial practice. “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12).

Dave Miller

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