

Zipping Up Unwanted Pregnancy

Adapted from my forthcoming novel The Dead Poetess Society

The old white Republican men
who call themselves conservatives
(plural because there is singularly nothing
conservative about what they are
doing to us young multicultural women)
lecture to us that if we
don't want to be made pregnant
we only need to keep
an aspirin tablet
clamped tight between our knees
as if we can just
reach into our purses
and pull out a pillbox
when their sons are on top of us
trying to pry our legs apart.



Zip it up there, boy

If they really cared about our chastity
And keeping us from suffering unwanted pregnancy
they would instead tell their sons
to keep a mountain climber's carabiner
clamped tight between
their zippers and their belt buckles
when they take us out on dates.

They really said these things!

“Like I said, Bayer Company invented aspirin. Put it between your knees.”

Arizona Republican Senate Majority Leader Sonny Borrelli

“Back in my days they'd use Bayer aspirin for contraceptions (sic). The gals put it between their knees, and it wasn't that costly.”

Republican Donor Foster Friess

“Abortion in this country is not about protecting the lives of mothers. It's about killing the child because you weren't responsible enough to keep your skirt down.”

North Carolina Republican (then) gubernatorial nominee Mark Robinson