

letters

Insensitive

I never realized how insensitive people can be until I walked past the EMU and a man dressed in a black cape with his face painted white pointed a skewered fetus at me and said, "abortion is murder." I would like to pose a few questions to this man and other anti-abortionists:

1) If you had a daughter who was married and pregnant and her life would be endangered by carrying the fetus to term, would you honestly will death on your own daughter rather than allow her to have an

abortion?

2) Would you prefer to read statistics for the number of deaths due to self-inflicted abortions where the figures were higher than the number of deaths from abortions done in a sterile environment?

3) Do you want 11 or 12-year-old girls to be forced to carry pregnancies to term, thereby risking the proper development of their own bodies and possible death?

If your answer to any one of these questions is yes, then I suggest that you continue in your fight to outlaw abortion. However, if you answered no, I

suggest that you end your fight against abortion because if abortion were illegal, it would lead to circumstances in which these situations would arise.

Dee Chandle
Pro-Choice

Disturbed

Your editorial (ODE Jan. 16) concerning abortion disturbs me a great deal. The reasoning you used leaves me wondering if the editorial staff would have endorsed slavery as a morally justifiable position because of the economic and social implications involved.

Slavery was wrong, even though public opinion and the Supreme Court supported it. Human beings do not stop being human beings because of a legal declaration. This was true in the Dred Scott decision in the last century, and it is true in the Roe vs. Wade decision in our time. Your statement that the "broader implications" of the abortion issue are social and economic ones completely misses the point that human life is being taken, life that is biologically distinct from the life of the mother. Before an abortion, there is a living, growing human. Once it is done, there is a dead human. Whatever you call it, a baby or a fetus, it is still human, and dead.

Abortion has, in effect, become a legal means of birth control. Because of a decision by the Supreme Court, defenseless, voiceless humans can now be treated as non-human trash and thrown away. I wonder what segment of our population will next be declared worthless and disposable. I wonder where the Emerald editorial staff will stand on that issue.

William Moore
Music

Outnumbered

I can understand why the fundamentalist anti-choice people want enforced fertility for women within their ranks. What I don't understand is why the fundamentalists insist that unruly feminists, amoral atheists, godless humanists, and promiscuous teenagers bear a child for every birth control failure they are subject to. I'd like to point out that the fundamentalists would be even more drastically outnumbered in generations to come if their fertility practices were adopted universally. They should stop while they are ahead.

Hilary Anthony
Eugene

To heaven

If a woman was raped, then told that if she carried the fetus to full term there would be a good possibility of complications resulting in death or sickness, would you force this woman to have this child? If you would force this woman to risk this birth, I see you in the same light as those who would refuse a transfusion. I think most abortion foes would allow this woman an abortion. This is the key point. If you allow it for one in any circumstances, then you must allow it for others. No one knows the inner torture of the human mind. What is pain to one, as in the case of the rape, may be greater or equal to someone that is pregnant not from rape. Free will is what it implies.

The bottom line in the Christian argument is that the fetus has a soul at conception. If this is true, what's the beef? The fetus can't sin, so if aborted it goes to heaven. Now if I could go to the heaven the Christians talk about, I would gladly give

up the 77 odd years on this earth and go straight from the abortion bucket to heaven. So in the long run look how many people are going to heaven without all the day-to-day pain, and without taking the chance of goofing up by sinning. If I had my druthers, I would rather have been aborted.

Dan Suire
History

Retroactive

In the past twelve years, millions of women have safely killed their children. Abortion has become easier than childbirth. A woman can make an appointment to have her baby eradicated at her convenience. If a fetus isn't convenient, a doctor is.

I propose we take this one step further. How many women want a child when it starts crying or when it turns thirteen? We live in a disposable society; we throw away things when we no longer want them. Why not add children to the list?

Children are bio-degradable: no need to take them to the hospital for a deposit. If you plant them in your garden, they'll even enrich your soil (no more fish emulsion). And, as Jonathon Swift pointed out, children make delicious meals; we could send them to Ethiopia.

C.S. Lewis, a renowned Christian, said "Until you have it, you will not know what you wanted." Likewise, until you have a child, you don't know how you'll not want it. Many women have found out too late that they are not ready for a child.

If abortion can correct errors in contraception, it should also correct errors in childbirth. Let's make abortion retroactive!

Brian Moore
English

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A: A Resume from ODE Graphic Services!

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Thursday, January 24, 1985