

Letters

Quoting

Interesting that Brandon Shepard's quoting of scripture to his own ends (and out of context) makes him a "surgeon" of the Bible, while anyone he disagrees with who does the same is a "butcher" (ODE Dec. 4).

He would be well-advised to remember that the surgeons of Biblical times were barbers, farmers, and yes, butchers.

In five different Bibles I find the word "abortion" not once. Looking at the passages Mr.

Shepard cites I find: Genesis 1 says nothing about Leah's having been barren. Exodus 21 contains, if anything, evidence that God regarded fetuses as property and not persons. Assaults against people (excluding slaves, which were property) resulting in death were punishable by death. By contrast, the penalty for causing a miscarriage was merely a fine, paid to the woman's husband.

Isaiah 44 and Jeremiah 1 offer evidence that, at best, blessed only some, not all fetuses.

There is no evidence that all women of Sodom and Gomorrah were free from pregnancy

prior to their destruction; indeed the reverse seems likely.

Nor are we given reason to assume universal barrenness prior to the Great Flood. We are told, repeatedly, that God punished only wicked people: either He regarded the fetuses He killed as wicked, or He did not regard them as people. Whatever the case, they still died.

We can't all be surgeons, and if a search for logical consistency is called butchery by some, so be it.

Hiawatha
Graduate, music

Spirit

The Oregon volleyball team and staff would like to thank all the fans who came to our volleyball matches this year.

The supportive spirit of our home crowd was clearly the best in the Pac-10, if not the entire country. A special note of thanks to the Green Garter Band and the "Crazies" immediately above them as well as the inimitable Oregon Duck.

As Dorothy well knew, "there is no place like home."

Gerry Gregory
Volleyball

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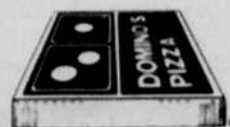
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