

# Happy birthday Roe vs. Wade

Depending on your point of view, today marks the anniversary of freedom for women, or state-sanctioned murder.

Strong words, yes, but in the emotionally charged debate over abortion, no others will do.

*Roe vs. Wade*, the court decision legalizing abortion, turns 19 today, and pro-abortion advocates are worried the legislation won't make it out of its teens.

They are correct to be worried.

Since 1973, only one Democrat has occupied the White House. Justices from the liberal court of Chief Justice Earl Warren who favored *Roe* have been replaced. The country tilts ever more to the right, and conservatives have their eyes set on repealing *Roe*.

Ironically, in light of the anniversary, the Supreme Court will decide sometime this week whether to hear Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania vs. Casey, which both pro-choice and anti-abortion advocates think could be the case that will overturn *Roe*.

**But have no illusion, an overturning of *Roe vs. Wade*, while not catastrophic, is certainly damaging. Once more, a freedom — the freedom to determine the course of your own life — is being threatened.**

Should *Roe* be thrown out, abortion would not automatically be outlawed across the nation. The landmark case legalized abortion under the Constitution's right-to-privacy clause. Because abortion isn't mentioned — for or against — in the Constitution, enforcement and interpretation of abortion rights would revert to the states if *Roe* is overturned.

Abortion in Oregon appears safe for now. The overwhelming failure of anti-abortion ballot measures 8 and 10 in 1990 accurately reflected Oregon citizens' mind-set.

But have no illusions: An overturning of *Roe vs. Wade*, while not catastrophic, is certainly damaging. Once more, a freedom — the freedom to determine the course of your own life — is being threatened. That's something we all can ill-afford.

## LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

# Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3189, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the *Oregon Daily Emerald* Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The *Emerald* operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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HEY HEY FOLKS....GET YOURS TODAY!  
IT DICES IT SLICES, IT MUNCHES AND IT CRUNCHES.  
IT CAN REDUCE A ONCE PROUD INDUSTRY  
TO COMPLETE RUIN... NO STATE  
SHOULD BE WITHOUT  
AT LEAST ONE!



## LETTERS

### Break down

In response to Jordan Lund's letter (*ODE*, Jan. 16): Not all women hate men. That notion would get us nowhere. You say we, as a gender, imply that "men are responsible for causing fear in some women because of their appearance," and continue to ponder reversing the statement, saying that "women cause lust in some men," justifying legal rape because of it.

Let's break this down. No, not every man is the cause of fear in every woman, but let's face it, there are sick people in this world. The fact still remains that the vast majority of rapes occur against women by men, which leads into my second point.

To be very blunt, rape is not about sex or lust, it's about power and control... it's about violating another individual. As far as instilled fear in women is concerned, that is not necessarily such a bad thing.

For a lot of people, it opens their eyes and makes them aware. We don't live in a Puritan society (although I'm sure rape and other sexual assaults happened among them also), so fear has become the result of education, knowledge, and for some, experience.

Let's keep in mind the object of the game is not to pit women against men; it's to have everyone, as people, work together to reduce the instances of violent crimes.

Maybe this will give us all something to think about.

Stacie Palmer  
Psychology

### Woolly bully

I was horrified by the recent snow-camping article in the Jan. 15 *Emerald* by Jayson Jacoby. His ideas on winter clothing are not just foolish, but dangerous. It is not uncommon to have freezing rain in the Cas-

cades where everything gets wet, then freezes; a clear hypothermia situation.

Jacoby got the layering concept right, but to recommend cotton blends as the first two layers is simply idiotic and deadly. Cotton holds the cold moisture to your body and becomes very heavy. You're better off naked underneath than wearing two layers of wet cotton. Avoid it. I've never heard of goose down underwear, but most folds use 100 percent capilene, polypropylene, or light wool.

Jacoby continues his incompetent suggestions by downplaying and confusing the importance of an outer shell. Wool does not keep out the wind, even less so when wet. Wool does keep most of its thermal properties when wet, but why would anyone want a soaked outer wool layer that allows underlayers to get wet, becomes very heavy, and freezes at night. Wool makes a good middle layer. So does pile, which is lighter, quicker to dry, and is very common among active outdoors people.

A good outer rain- and windproof shell with a hood is relatively light and not only blocks the wind but keeps out most moisture. Wind will cut right through a wool or pile cap; wind combined with a freezing rain renders a wool hat virtually useless. Jacoby doesn't even mention an outer rainproof layer for the legs.

### Implications

I am extremely alarmed by some of the arguments made by Mike Colson in a recent commentary in the *Emerald* (*ODE*, Jan. 14). While on the surface he argues the United States is to blame for its trade problems, he continually refers to Japan.

One of his 18 references to Japan begins: "The villainy of

the the Japanese and other foreign interests...."

There is no reference to these other interests. No reference is made to the fact that Japan is neither the largest American trade partner nor the largest foreign investor in America, positions which are held by Canada and the United Kingdom, respectively.

What reason would we have for focusing more attention toward Japan than toward Germany or the United Kingdom? Can we so easily dismiss racism, as Colson does?

"Second, the all too familiar chime of 'racism' (Colson's quotation marks) ... is utilized to blunt criticism for Japanese influence peddling. The race card is a familiar gambit used to discredit concerns of Americans over policies that affect their lives. Obviously some Americans are still racist, but legitimate issues are denied the opportunity to be discussed because of this stigmatizing label."

To whom exactly is the chime of racism all too familiar? What exactly does "the race card is a familiar gambit" mean? The implication appears to be that racism is not a legitimate complaint. However, I think it is the argument put forward in Colson's commentary that is not legitimate.

Steve Masat  
Political Science

### DeGrades

Let me get this straight: The NCAA is raising its academic requirements for college athletes (*ODE*, Jan. 17) and Lisa Lawrence of the Black Student Union says this is a form of racism.

Is she saying black athletes aren't as capable of getting good grades as white athletes? Where's the real racism here?

Steve Johnson  
Student