

Abortion debate already decided

Sunday marked the anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, the Supreme Court judgment that legalized abortion across America.

Twenty-two years after the decision, Americans are tiring of the abortion debate. A significant and vocal minority opposes abortion. But abortion is still legal despite restrictions in some areas, and available throughout the country.

Some say that abortion must be made illegal or the Roe decision overturned as a way to eliminate abortions in America. Yet no matter what happens, women in America will find a way to get an abortion when they want one.

Roe v. Wade will not be overturned. Although some argue that the law is less than perfect and that flaws exist, relatively conservative Supreme Courts since the landmark decision have refused to overthrow the judgment. Roe v. Wade is here to stay.

The only way for the decision to be negated would be for a constitutional amendment to be passed by Congress and ratified by the states. All but the most optimistic opponents of abortion would concede that this is an impossibility. Abortion will remain legal in America.

The killing of abortion doctors, in a way, is an attempt by some to resuscitate the anti-abortion movement which has deteriorated over recent years. Instead of trying to persuade people not to have abortions, a minority within the movement has attempted to scare those considering the medical procedure from following through.

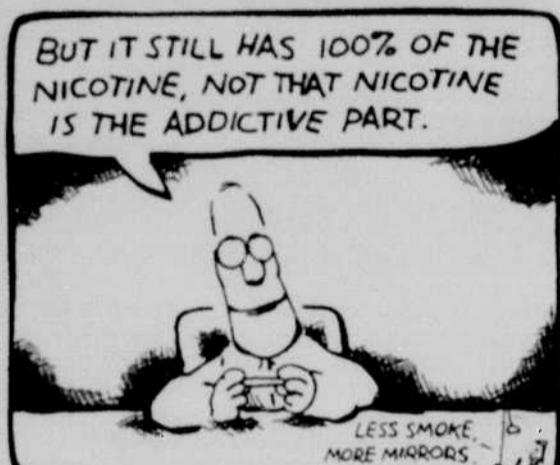
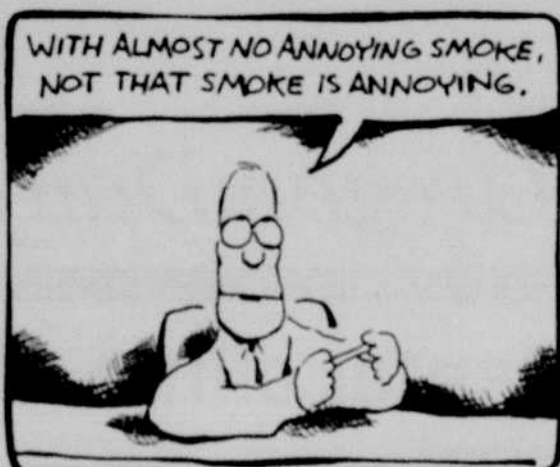
These killings, in turn, scare doctors from performing abortions, and make the service less available to those who want it. These days, only ideologically dedicated doctors are risking their lives to perform abortions — a legal medical procedure in America.

Others prefer to intimidate women and their doctors outright by picketing in front of the homes of abortion doctors or in demonstrations in towns across the country. Some, such as those in the militant anti-abortion group Operation Rescue, have targeted a particular city and demonstrated there during the summer, all as a way to make abortion less available as a medical procedure.

Those who support violence or intimidation as a way of opposing abortion are scaring away potential supporters to the cause. The anti-abortion community is a minority and only hurts itself when it causes others who disagree with violence against clinics to leave the movement.

While the abortion issue may have been decided, it is not about to go away. Anti-abortion demonstrators, peaceful and otherwise, will continue to protest against abortion for as long as it is legal in America.

However, the debate is repeating itself, people's minds are decided and abortion will continue to be available to women.



OPINION

Show students more of University



ROBBIE REEVES

Ah, winter. The season of snow, mud and freezing cold weather. More importantly though, winter is the time when thousands of potential Ducks-to-be are considering coming to the University to further their education.

You've probably seen them on campus. Whether they are being led around on the official University tour or are lost in the EMU, there's no question that this place is swarming with prospective students.

I've been on the tours of the University before and have seen what information about the campus that the University sends out. But, in spirit of goodwill and honesty, I think that it's only proper that we show potential students a little more of our University than they otherwise see.

My tour would begin at Amazon, our now famous family housing complex. I'm sorry, that's the historic family housing complex. I'd show them that people actually live in these units, and that they can live there, too, if they can spare the hefty \$200 or so rent each month.

For the few people still interested in the University after the Amazon stop, we'd take Lane Transit District back to the University Station on 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street. This would be a chance to meet some of the locals who are not normally included on the official tour.

I'd inform my group, of course, that the nice people at the corner who extend their hands are not doing so to welcome new students to the University, but to ask for money. I would also tell them that it isn't necessary to pay them anything,

but if they want to, they have four years to do it. The outstretched hands aren't going anywhere but into your pockets.

I'd also introduce the group to some of the personalities that Oregon Hall doesn't talk about much, such as Frog and the Hallelujah Man (who, by the way, is not a panhandler).

Once we've had enough fun with the locals, and if anyone is left on the tour, we'll move down 13th Avenue past the classrooms. We'll do this quickly, though. Anyone who's ever seen *Animal House* and the official tour has seen enough of 13th Avenue to last a lifetime.

We'll cross the street and enter the EMU. I'll show them the basement level and the first floor, which should amply demonstrate that at the University, from politics to peace to the environment, it's quite possible to protest about anything.

Of course, one can't forget to come visit us here at the *Emerald* office at Suite 300. It's a little known fact that the *Emerald* newsroom is the second highest point in the world, just behind Mount Everest.

Leaving the EMU, we'll go over to Carson Complex, one of University Housing's residence halls. I'll show them that the rooms aren't as big as home and that you have to live with someone who invariably snores or has religious objections to using deodorant, but life really isn't as bad as some people make it out to be.

We'll go back downstairs to see Carson Cafeteria. Carson, one of the three Housing cafeterias, serves a variety of taste treats daily, including some that are readily identifiable to the naked eye. Others, such as "more casserole" (an actual dish) and a half-zillion tofu things, are not.

After our tour has finished eating a fabulous dorm lunch, we'll walk past the tennis courts, Young Hall and over to the University Office of Public Safety.

Ah, the Office of Public Safety. The tour group will properly admire the fleet of OPS vans,

complete with the orange and green "We're not real police officers" revolving lights on top. I could also tell them about the zillions of little citations that they give out each year to errant drivers parked less than legally, but it would be more amusing to save that for later. After all, most students possess quite a collection of tickets after a few years.

Next, we'll head back up 15th Avenue toward the Knight Library. Before we get there, we will ponder the symbolism of having a cemetery next to the largest library in the state. Is this what happens when one studies at the University?

I'll give them the quick tour of the library, including a quickie demonstration of Janus (pronounced JAY-nuhs, named after the Greek god of online library catalogs). I could also show them the best places to be if one wants to hide from library employees at closing and stay the night in the library. (Disclaimer: staying in the library after closing would cause an OPS officer, invariably driving a car with flashing green and orange lights, to visit you. Don't do it.)

Once we leave the library, we'll head back to Kincaid Street and note some of the greek houses near the library. As we walk by, we'll chant the solemn and oft-repeated official notion that "the greek system isn't like *Animal House*." This stop would be a strictly B.Y.O.B. event, as budget cuts make it unlikely that the University can pay for the beer.

The tour will end at this point, mostly because I lost almost everyone back at the EMU. But if one thinks about it, there is a lot that we don't show people when they think about coming to the University.

Here's to the hope that one day, Taco Time and panhandlers will be given as much time on the tour as Deady Hall and PLC.

I won't hold my breath.

Robbie Reeves is editorial editor for the *Emerald*.

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