Letters to the editor

GAP's comparisons unjust

Freedom of speech is a powerful tool in our society, but that is not what we wish to discuss. We wish to discuss the pathetic visual argument that Genocide Awareness Project brought to the University campus on Monday. Abortion is a choice, if it were forced there may be a comparison.

Genocide and systematic violence represented by the Holocaust and lynching is not comparable to the choice of abortion. This argument belittles the tragedy of the Holocaust and violent racism with a choice to abort a fetus. They liken women who have abortions to Nazis and lynch mob members. If these statements seem erroneous, it only illuminates the holes in their argument.

If they wanted to change people's minds, there are better ways that do not inspire anger and adversity. As their propaganda states, "Ungentile. Unwhite. Unborn." We say to them: Unwarranted. Ungodly. Unwanted.

Amanda Krantz
English
Sara Geoghegan
Spanish

Protesters of GAP hypocrites

I am baffled by Jennie Breslow and her co-signers' letter to the editor on Monday (ODE, Oct. 11). Not because they used their freedom of speech to invite the campus community to join them in a silent protest or because they expressed their views on the Genocide Awareness Project that was displayed in the EMU Amphitheater on Monday. But to predicate the letter with a lesson on freedom of speech was hypocritical to me.

By holding up sheets and blocking the Amphitheater from view, you are essentially censoring the freedom of speech of The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform . Yes, you can be "silent" and still be censoring. You might not want to hear what they have to say, or see what they have to show. But maybe someone else does. Why try to block what is rightfully mine to see?

Maybe the display was disrespectful. I don't know. I didn't see it. But last I checked two wrongs do not make a right. The protesters who censored the project in the Amphitheater were disrespecting The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform. Breslow's letter discredited the display before anyone even had a chance to see it and judge for themselves. The protesters took it a step further by trying to block others from seeing the display.

In the future, how about you respect everyone's freedom of speech, not just your own.

Erik Talbert
Journalism

Message not educational

The garish display in the EMU Amphitheater is a shameless attempt to confuse a political viewpoint. The First Amendment guarantees the deceptively named Genocide Awareness Project a right to express itself. It does not guarantee GAP's right to restrict student's access to our own amphitheater and treat us like idiots.

GAP's parent organization, The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform , claims GAP is showing an "educational presentation as an advocacy group with a specific point of view" (ODE, Oct. 12).

I am a college student. I know what education is. GAP's message: "Nazis perform abortions; therefore, by fighting abortion, you're fighting the Nazis" is not education. At best, it's sensationalism. At worst, it's witch hunting. It might as well say: "Nazis eat applesauce. Fight applesauce to stop the Nazi agenda!" Hey, do you know who else performs abortions? Doctors! Stop the doctors!

Whoever is responsible for allowing these people to take over the Amphitheater should make a pubic apology. I have no problem with abortion debates on campus, as long as they present intelligent viewpoints in a reasonable manner.

Michael Medlock
Biology

Presentation overwhelming

My heart is no longer beating fast. I am no longer sweating adrenaline. I am at peace. I am calm again. On Monday, I had an experience I will remember for a long time. It was happening. Pictures of death, slaughter and abortion were presented to me. These pictures overwhelmed my senses and delivered subtle emotional blows into my body. I had no expectation of seeing them. I felt damaged. I felt pain. And then I felt great anger.

I confronted that man. I learned the story. It was to "morally educate" me. But it was only a half-truth. Forgotten and not shown were the horrors of a worse kind. Nowhere did I see pictures of illegal abortions. The true intention was to promote a one-sided political agenda. My world was invaded by selfish and destructive methods. I was assaulted to promote legal legislation, and it was absolutely legal for them to do so.

I want to speak to all my fellow students. I have a message for you as well. I want to tell you that I have the highest respect for you. Your are my brothers and sisters, and we are one. My intention toward you is not to hurt you, but to accept and assist you. I assert that your own beliefs are absolutely valid for you. I don't want to change you in any way. On the contrary, I want to learn from you and grow in the process. You are my friends and I love you.

K. Baba Jacob
Physics and Philosophy

Exhibit inappropriate

I am writing in disapproval of the Genocide Awareness Project display. It unfairly subjects students to images that are completely inappropriate to be exhibited regardless of anyone's view of abortion. It is my right to walk through my campus without being forced to see these images. I believe that my rights have been recklessly violated.

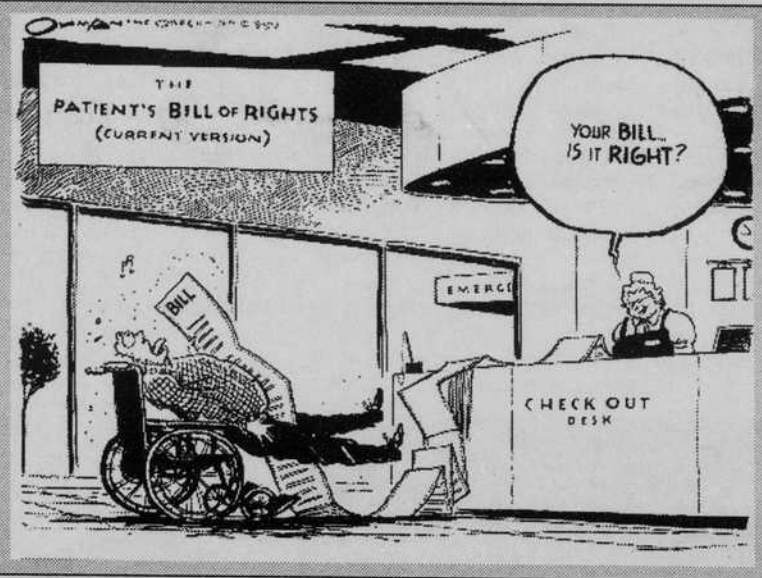
I believe that all students have a right to free speech. Although, I do not think that a four-member student organization is using fair or conscientious judgment by supporting the disgusting display our campus has now been subjected to.

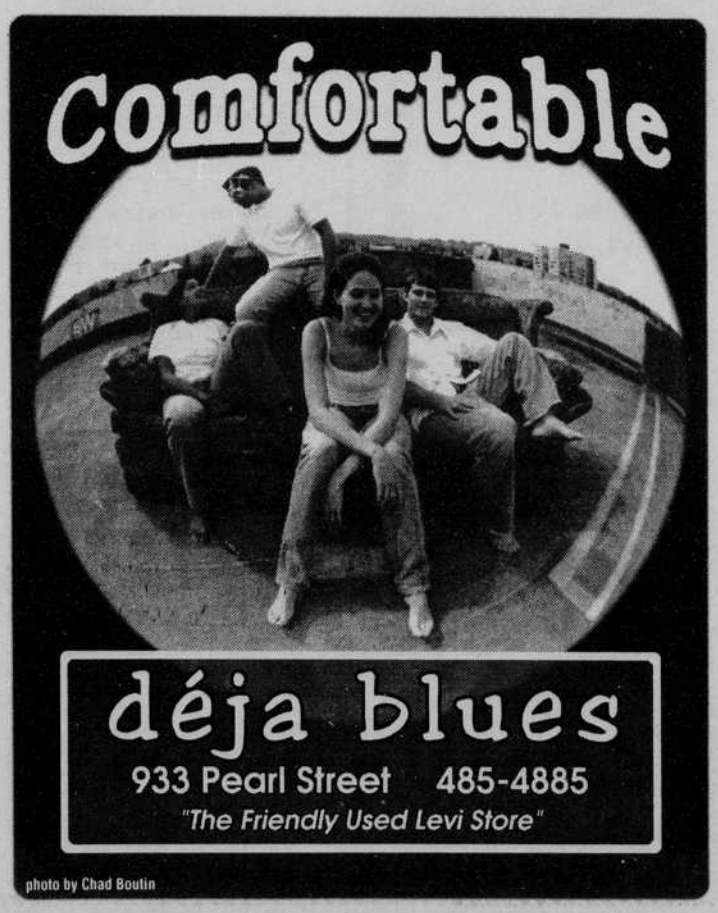
I agree with the GAP organization that abortion needs to be addressed, but how can any topic be seriously considered when it is presented along with vulgarity and obscenity? For anyone to believe that the environment at the EMU Amphitheater was at all conducive to discussion is almost ridiculous.

I am personally pro-choice but am always willing to discuss my viewpoints and ideas with anyone. Discussion and debate only help me to see and understand opposing opinions, which lead to me making an educated decision. Yet, to be honest, I left the Amphitheater completely unwilling to discuss anything. For me, the exhibition totally failed to meet its goal or even slightly convince me of its arguments.

I would like to commend all the individuals who worked amazingly to preserve our rights for the rest of us students. Abortion is a very sensitive subject that involves a lot of emotion; any display concerning the topic should be presented in a way that is responsible and ethical.

Michelle Shaw
Biology





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