

Monologue



Pro-choice critics still out to overturn 1973 court ruling

By Doug Vaughan
Editor in Chief

Sunday was the eleventh anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion. Along with the anniversary came heated words and debate.

From our state capitol to Washington, D.C., both sides marched in protest and in honor. Yet the opposers are claiming that lawmakers are "out of sync with the public." But does the public oppose abortion? On second thought, even if a majority of it does, should that be enough cause to take away the rights of the individual? Isn't America the land of the free? Like in freedom of choice.

Right-to-life supporters need to wake up. If more of their information came from scientific studies rather than their own literature, maybe they would realize their basis of reasoning is nothing but a fallacy.

We have all heard the scare tactics used by anti-abortion supporters. These emotional ones like how the victim's face is grossly contorted from the fatal violations on its body from the abortion. The only problem with that statement is that it's wrong. Most therapeutic abortions take place within the twelfth week of pregnancy. The fetus is the size of a marble at that stage, and there isn't much of what could be considered a "face."

Be responsible, right anti-abortionists? Sorry again. We all know there is not a 100 percent effective birth control method. So what is responsible about having an unwanted baby? Choosing to have an abortion is taking responsibility.

Abortions are expensive, painful, shameful and physiologically detrimental, no matter what the individual's moral beliefs are. It is not something that someone is proud of, but a decision that an individual needs to make.

Without abortions the world would be filled with unwanted babies. What would we do with them. Adoption sounds good, but the black market has made it a joke. Why not make a few bucks instead of give the baby up, right? Now, how moral is that? Nevertheless, it is a definite possibility of what can happen if abortions are outlawed.

With laws the way they stand today we can feel good about the safety of the individual. Neither the removal of public funding nor the outlawing of abortion will stop abortions, but only change the quality of them.

With a president determined to end women's ability to make responsible choices about child-bearing and child-rearing, the threat of anti-abortion laws should be on everyone's mind.

Sharon Mischler of the National Organization for Women stressed that the re-election of President Reagan might result in the reconsideration of Roe vs. Wade, the ruling that legalized abortion eleven years ago. Reagan would need only to appoint two more justices to reverse the decision, and five of the pro-choice justices now serving are 73 years old.

There is a need for abortions. People who do not believe this are ignoring the facts. The decision should lie with the mother and her doctor, not a person in a three-piece suit smoking a cigar.

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Report disputes democracy

By Marco Procaccini
Copy Editor

The word "democracy" took on yet another inaccurate and contradictory meaning Saturday when the Kissinger Report on Central America was released and broadcast on CNN (Cable News Network). The report recommends the U.S. provide \$8 billion to El Salvador in A: Business investment to increase influence of that country's markets to, as Reagan put it, "stabilize its economic structure" and B: Military aid to defend the "democratic development" of the "elected government" there.

This government received its hollow title in the so-called "free election" in El Salvador in 1982 when the left-wing coalition party, FDR (Federation for a Democratic Republic) was not allowed to participate. The result was less than 50 percent voter turnout. Of those that voted, 40 percent went to the liberal Christian Democratic Party (CDP) giving it a minority government over various rightist parties which represent national and foreign business interests and the military. The rightists then

ousted the CDP by a non-confidence vote, thus returning the old junta to power. This is supposedly the "elected government."

Since then, "democratic development" in the country has taken the form of political purges, increased taxes, blocking trade unions and more military spending. One asks, "Why guerrillas?" By now it should be obvious.

The report also calls for more U.S. support for Somocista forces destabilizing the Nicaraguan Sandinista government. A Republican congressman was quoted in a CNN report as saying the Sandinistas are "menacing the surrounding democracies." I suppose Guatemala, like the Philippines or South Africa, is democratic. Amnesty International reports such brutal repression in these countries they make Eastern Europe look like Paradise.

The Sandinistas, although far from perfect, have promoted a democratic industrial management program where the factories and farmland are controlled by the workers. They also announced Saturday that general elections would take place some time this year. If that's not democratic, what is?

Yet the Reagan Administration condemns the Sandinistas because their demands for collectivization of private- and state-owned industry are supposedly hurting U.S. business interests. So what? My heart weeps. Perhaps the U.S. puppet Somoza regime was good for business, but certainly not for people, which is what counts.

This shows what the Reagan Administration, its Wall Street backers and conservatives generally feel democracy is--the right of business to rape, steal and exploit freely and be protected by bullheaded insensitive governments. Human rights are acceptable only if they don't jeopardize the power and privilege of those who reap where they don't sow, right? Reagan and Kissinger seem to think so. It shows in their domestic policies as well.

The Kissinger Report gives Latin American people and liberation movements the choice of either unconditional surrender or forced entrance into the Soviet/Cuban camp, a place where they clearly state they don't want to be. Such is the full-flowered "democracy" of the right.

Aristotle turns over in his grave one more time.

Dialogue

Letter draws explanation

To the Editor:

In response to Richard Weiss' letter Jan. 11, 1984, and as a member of the Clackamas County Park Advisory Board, I wish to clarify the reason for the sale of the Deep Creek property.

Due to lack of County funds, no funding was provided for County parks for fiscal year 1983-84. To maintain and continue operations of these parks, namely Barton, Eagle Fern, Metzler, Feyrer, Hebb, Hoodland, Carver and Risley, the Clackamas County Park

Advisory Board recommended to the County Commissioners the sale of the undeveloped Deep Creek property after considerable study of financing problems during the last year.

Deep Creek property is a steep, hilly area that would be expensive to develop and would be limited in use. Other park areas that have been set aside and not developed, (Wilhoit, Wagon Wheel, Ed Latourette, Barlow Trail, Willamette at the foot of Courtney Street) could more easily and less expensively be

developed, if funds were available.

The park advisory board, made up of 10 members from various parts of the County, recommended that the funds from the sale of Deep Creek property be placed in trust and only the interest be used for operations.

The County Commissioners agreed with our recommendation and placed the proceeds in a trust account with only the interest used for operation and maintenance.

G. R. "Gib" Bloomquist
Clackamas Community College

