

## Ruling on abortion should stay as it is

A very sensitive issue that has unfortunately resurfaced is abortion. 16 years after Roe vs. Wade, do they want to reverse the decision and throw Roe in jail?

The blindly fanatical fundamentalists on a "rescue" mission are aiming at the wrong issue. Their claim is that an unborn fetus is a human life and has rights.

These people are missing the fact that sex education is as vital as learning one's ABC's. Sex education would also help young children recognize a "good" touch from a "bad" touch. Therefore, pregnancies relating to incest could be curtailed. If young people are educated about what is happening to their bodies and where babies come from, teen pregnancies may be reduced. Should a person decide to be sexually active, BOTH partners must take all precautions to prevent an unwanted pregnancy.

"Pregnant? You already made your choice..." read one anti-abortion slogan. How do these people know on what grounds this person found herself pregnant? It could have been rape, or incest, or that one percent chance of conception even with birth control. The pro-lifers believe they are speaking for the discriminated. WHO'S DISCRIMINATED AGAINST?! An un-

born fetus has no validity. It is A PART of another being; essentially, a sub-human. If this child was outside the womb it would be different. THE MOTHER is its life giver, its creator, and can do with what's growing in her what ever she pleases. If she decides to keep the child for herself, or give it up for adoption, that would be very admirable. But if she is in school or working, and carrying a child, it could be imperative. Many changes happen to a woman's body during the 9 months of gestation. She has to eat properly, and buy new clothing. Overall, she has to change her lifestyle for the unborn. That's quite taxing for someone who doesn't plan to keep the child. And it isn't easy for someone who is fighting a heroin or alcohol problem either. A woman is not a walking incubator.

Did the people who picket abortion clinics also cheer the death of Ted Bundy? Do these people wonder if those they "save" will go fight for freedom and democracy in a war to save the American way and then die a heroic death? And, finally, if abortion is made illegal, the girls who use wire hangers will kill themselves, but it's justified because they were trying to murder a thing that essentially does not exist.

## Gun control advocates, NRA need to compromise

The furor over the sale and possession of semi-automatic military-style weapons has flared up in the wake of the Stockton, California schoolyard massacre. One of the striking aspects of the controversy is the stubbornness of both sides.

Anti-gun activists feel that no one should be allowed to own a military-style weapon. If you don't know what is meant by "military-style weapon" then you have had your eyes closed for the past few years. Every action adventure movie is packed full of Uzis, M-16s, and AK-47s. Semi-automatic civilian versions of these firearms are readily available at any sporting goods store. People who support gun control (actually it isn't control they advocate, it's a total ban) feel that these weapons have only one purpose: to kill human beings. They feel the weapons belong on the battlefield and not in the hands of private civilians (Have these people been in Northeast Portland lately?).

Those who support the "right to keep and bear arms," usually members of the National Rifle Association or similar organizations, complain that they have a constitutional right to own guns. They block any attempt at gun control, saying that gun control is the first step toward a fascist takeover of the United States.

One word that seems to be missing from the vocabulary of both gun control advocates and the NRA is **compromise**.

There is nothing wrong with the ownership of a gun by a person with no criminal record. Gun collecting and shooting is a valid hobby. But there is also nothing wrong with regulating the sale of guns in order to keep them out of the hands of criminals. But there is something seriously wrong with part of the population getting upset over a horrible incident and trying to take away the freedom of others.

Part of the problem is the attention that mass shootings get in the media, and the disinformation that is created. The man responsible for the Stockton shooting did buy his AK-47 in Oregon, but it was not a "fully automatic machine gun" as the press made it out to be. There are no legal gun dealerships in this state or any other that will allow a customer to walk in, slap down several hundred dollars, and walk out with a fully automatic weapon. The possession of machine guns is strictly regulated by the federal government, and involves a background check of the buyer by the FBI, complete with fingerprints.

Enacting a process of background checks and waiting periods for the purchase of firearms is a sensible idea. Taking away the freedom of legitimate gun owners to pursue their hobby isn't. The world is not always a safe place, but we shouldn't go so far trying to make it safe that we take away individual freedom.

## Editorial Policy

The Print welcomes letters to the Editor. Such letters must be signed or will not be printed. Letters must not exceed 250 words and should be typewritten or neatly printed. Letters can be turned into The Print offices in Trailer B north of Randall Hall. The Print reserves the right to edit letters to the Editor for grammar, obscenities and libelous material. Letters to the Editor must be turned in Friday in order to be printed in the following Wednesday's edition.

## Forum on smoking a productive beginning

Congratulations should go to the Clackamas Community College Associated Student Government.

By setting up a smoking forum they have taken a step in the right direction on the smoking issue. The forum is scheduled for March 1, nearly one month before a planned 30 day trial of a non-smoking indoor campus at Clackamas.

The forum will give students, faculty, staff and citizens of the community a chance to air their views on the smoking issue at Clackamas. According to ASG President Faith Taylor everyone will have a chance to be heard.

By giving everyone the opportunity to express their opinion, the college, and ASG in particular, is paving the way to a better line of communication with people involved with Clackamas Community College, something that the college has lacked this entire school year.

Although a decision on the smoking

issue won't necessarily be made following the results of the forum, it does show that the college is interested in what the students have to say.

The only way that the March 1 smoking forum cannot be a success is if people don't attend and air their opinions. Students have the chance to show the college and ASG that students really do care about what happens on campus, and what happens within the Associated Student Government.

There is one key to the success of the smoking forum. That is, like everything else at Clackamas, the students. Without the students' input on this issue, people will say that the college isn't doing anything to help students during their stay at Clackamas.

Clackamas' Associated Student Government has taken the first step, it is now up to the rest of us to follow.

## Riot not race related

The fracas Wednesday night at Randall Hall comes as no surprise. Put in a broader perspective, there is a similar incident of player and fan violence which occurs somewhere in America at least once a year.

Inevitably when a situation involving a mostly black team against a mostly white team turns ugly there are those who will say that racism was the cause. This argument is simply untrue.

The players involved were primarily concerned with trying to win an extremely competitive basketball game. Intimidation is an element in most sports and it was a factor Wednesday night. The two teams, as well as their fans, were trying to intimidate each other and neither side was backing down. The referees had lost control of the game by half-time and in the second half the physical play on the court had escalated beyond their control.

A large group of about 25 Chemeketa fans stopped at Pappandreas for beer and pizza prior to the game. It was the third consecutive year that they had done so and it is interesting that none of those fans were black. If these are the same people accusing the fans at Clackamas of being racist maybe

they should step back and re-examine themselves.

One of the few Clackamas fans in attendance said that a large group of Chemeketa fans were behaving rudely from the moment that they walked in the gym. It's a sad comment on the general state of apathy surrounding Clackamas athletics that fans from another school think that they can come to Clackamas and take over because so few of our students really care. It is a curious phenomena that there will be more Clackamas fans on hand for the Feb. 15 game at Chemeketa than at any of our previous home games.

There was at least one comment of a racist nature made, but it was a by-product of the tension that already electrified the air. So the question remains, who gets the blame? Everybody, no matter if they were at the game or not. If Clackamas fans hadn't been outnumbered by a two to one ratio by the visitors, if the referees hadn't lost control of the action, or if there had been adequate security for a game of this magnitude, it is unlikely that it ever would have happened.

Intimidation was the cause of this problem, not racism.

## The Print

The Print aims to be a fair and impartial newspaper covering the college community. Opinions expressed in The Print do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty, Associated Student Government, or other members of The Print staff. Articles and information published in this newspaper can be reprinted only with permission from the Student Publications Office. The Print is a weekly publication distributed every Wednesday except for finals week. Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Ave., Oregon City, Oregon 97045. Office: Trailer B. Telephone: 657-8400, ext. 309 (office) and 578 (advertising).

Editor-in-Chief: Christopher L. Curran  
 Managing/Feature Editor: Caree Hussey  
 Copyeditor: Jim Titus  
 News Editor: Briane Dotson  
 Photo Editor: Julie Church  
 Sports Editor: Mark Borrelli  
 Reporters: Staci Beard  
 Tina Early  
 Dan Fulton  
 Tim Jones  
 Ray Marcham  
 Mike Nelson  
 Luis Perez  
 Rick Pillier  
 Roseann Wentworth  
 Angela Wilson  
 Photographers: Jillian Porter  
 Tara Powers  
 Tim Zivney  
 Columnists: Joseph Patrick Lee  
 Tammy Swartzendruber  
 Business Manager: Pat Adams  
 Rhapsody Editor: Michelle Walch  
 Advisor: Linda Vogt

