

Should abortion be legalized? Pro-Con

## Abortion a matter of freedom of choice

There are no easy answers to the questions raised by abortion. When exactly is a fetus considered an independent human life, thus making abortion tantamount to murder? Is the termination of a condition leading to another life morally or ethically right? There is no way anyone can make such decisions for someone else, so the question really is, "Does any person have the right to decide what another will do with her body?" The answer to this is a resounding NO.

**PRO**

**Jim Titus**

We live in a country that guarantees each one of its citizens the right to choose where they want to live, what occupation they want to pursue, and even what god they want to believe in. It is therefore wrong for anyone to decide, based on their own ethical, moral, and religious beliefs, what another person can or cannot do.

Fervent religious believers are basically intolerant of the beliefs of others, if such beliefs are contrary to their own. The decision whether or not to abort an unwanted pregnancy is one a woman should make for herself; those who are opposed to abortion offer no solutions to the hardships faced by such women should they decide not to abort. It's easy for a person to tell a woman she should go ahead with a pregnancy when that person won't have to

support the child.

It's also easy for a man to be against abortion, but it is not in his prerogative. It takes two people to conceive a child; if that child is unwanted by the woman it is not the man's place to tell her she has to go ahead and deliver that child. I could never tell a woman that she cannot have an abortion. If I was a pregnant woman I seriously doubt that I would have an abortion, but since I am a man and do not possess the proper equipment I don't have the right to make the decision for those who do.

Fundamentally, the abortion issue is a question of individual rights. Does a woman have the right to decide what she will or will not do with her own body? Yes.

Most religions have some concept of having to answer for the deeds of the present life in the afterlife. If this is the case, religious fanatics who desire for women to conform with their beliefs should spend less time trying to make those women conform. After all, if abortion is wrong in the eyes of their god, won't women who abort their pregnancies eventually pay the price? It is awfully presumptuous of these fanatics to take on the role of some sort of watchdog of their god's laws.

Reversal of Roe v. Wade would be a serious blow to the personal freedom of choice enjoyed by all. Opponents of abortion are lucky we have such freedoms--without them they wouldn't be allowed to voice their opposition.

## Ruling on abortion should be examined

Abortion. The mere sound of the word evokes different reactions from people across the United States and the world.

Last Sunday 300,000 pro-choice marchers marched through the streets of Washington, D.C. and ended up staging a rally on the steps of the Supreme Court. They argued that Roe vs. Wade should not be over turned.

**CON**

**Rick Piller**

Roe vs. Wade is the landmark court case that legalized abortion and solved the serious infractions against humankind that doctors who perform abortions were committing before the case. Coathanger abortions were stopped, but an increase in the amount of abortions resulted. Each year in the U.S. there are about 1 million abortions performed on women whose average age is 24 and are single. About 4000 abortions are performed each day in the U.S.; this is 1/60th of the worldwide amount. Today most abortions in the U.S. are elective; they are not truly necessary since the pregnancy is neither the result of a rape nor dangerous to the health of the mother.

Elective abortions offer an unnecessary health risk to the mother. This sort of an abortion, like all abortions, causes undue damage to the uterus of the woman on whom the procedure is performed.

Today the debate between the "Pro-Choice" group and the "Anti-Abortion/

Pro-Life" group is heating up. I feel, maybe unduly, that the law that worked so hard and is working so hard to protect the rights of women everywhere has created a climate where the woman is left out in the cold. Both groups use the women as pawns in a great game to control each other. The "Pro-Life" group uses forms of terrorism to scare women from the clinics where the abortions are performed. Society has ingrained into the minds of young people today that if a girl gets pregnant her life from that point on will be terrible, and the only solution would be to choose to abort the baby.

When was the choice made though? Was it not in fact made when the couple decided to engage in sexual intercourse? If the man is not mature enough to use a condom then it is up to the woman to protect herself from the unwanted pregnancy. There is not a one hundred percent sure way of protecting oneself from a pregnancy, but abortion should not be used as a form of retroactive birth control.

I expressed my views here because I feel very strongly about this issue. I was adopted, and I feel that maybe if my biological mother had thought about abortion I wouldn't be here writing these words for all of you to read. Since I am a man some feel that I shouldn't comment on this issue, since it is a "women's issue." I think that it would be much worse for my comment to go unheard, because in this great country that we live any uninformed choice is a bad choice.

## Veterans' transition needs to be reviewed

There is only one word to describe the imminent switch of Veterans' Specialist Pat Fontaine and Information Specialist Betty Reynolds: bad.

The idea of ensuring that a high level of service to vets is maintained by training more than one person to do the job is a good one, but the haste of the whole affair is illogical. Why not wait until the summer, when there are considerably less veterans to deal with (and less possibility of problems arising)? And why, above all, not keep the veterans that attend this school apprised of situations that concern them and their economic livelihood?

The fact is that most vets receiving tuition assistance from the government are given considerably more money than the \$230 per term it takes to attend Clackamas. The remainder of this money is used for things such as textbooks, food, rent, and car payments. If problems arise that delay assistance checks (and they inevitably will--the job of veterans' specialist is inherently difficult due to the huge amount of paperwork involved), vets could be faced with financial problems that are unnecessary. The last thing a full-time college student needs to worry about is a pack of bill collectors threatening to repossess his means of getting to school.

There are many questions concerning the changeover that Director of Counseling Lee Turpin has not answered to the satisfaction of affected veterans. Why the rush? Why not train more people to do the

job (so the college won't get "caught short" if Fontaine leaves, which is Turpin's rationale for the change) but leave Fontaine in her current position? And what happens when Fontaine's replacement, Betty Reynolds, retires in December? The whole process of training a new veterans' specialist will have to be repeated after Reynolds' retirement.

The whole affair smacks of political infighting and petty personal differences. What Turpin needs to remember is that he is in a service-oriented position, and he should not let his personal differences intrude on an important service to a segment of the college's student body.

The military veterans of Clackamas Community College need to be involved in decisions that directly affect them. The reorganization of the Veterans' Office should be postponed and a review conducted that involves all concerned. Perhaps if there was a veterans representative position created as part of the Associated Student Government and elected by the veterans themselves such situations would not occur. Veterans need a voice on this campus that is sympathetic to their needs and knowledgeable of their unique situations.

Clackamas Community College is not part of the military, and veterans attending the college should not be subject to the same dictatorial controls they experienced in government service. Military veterans gave loyal, sincere service to their country and should expect no less in return.

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