

Face Off: two views on abortion

Abortion is not the answer

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Imagine that at any moment your mother could decide to take your life from you.

Not by quick and easy means, no. How about being injected with a saline solution that burns you from the inside out? Maybe a long metal rod directed straight at your brain. Or perhaps a large vacuum to rip you apart piece by piece.

I know this is quite graphic and even cruel, but every day unborn children are given no choice as to whether they live or die.

Every woman who carries a child gets to choose for her unborn baby. She chooses to allow them to grow and mature, or die before their time.

Many people will argue a baby is not truly alive until it is born. That is so untrue. There are many facts that support a baby is alive at conception. Just 28 days into its growth, the baby's heart, brain and nervous system have begun to form. This allows the baby to think and feel.

There are also those who will argue a baby conceived in rape should be aborted. Why? Granted, I have never been in the situation. The mother may feel the baby is a reminder of the rape, but should the infant be punished for that? Many families are

willing to adopt, including couples unable to have their own children.

There are many issues to consider where a child is concerned. What sickens me most is that abortion is used as birth control. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently reviewing not only a morning-after contraception pill, but an injection as well. Now if a woman is concerned about pregnancy, all she has to do is pop the pill or get an injection. Birth control could become a thing of the past with this new pharmacology. No longer will women have to remember to take the daily pill or slip in the sponge before things get hot and heavy.

This is real injustice to the unborn children of the world. The mother won't even have to think about a life growing inside her, just pop the pill be done with it.

My advice is if you don't want a child, "Don't have Sex!" I know it's asking a lot of college students. At least be sensible about birth control—if you don't create a child in the first place, there is no chance you'll have to destroy it.

Think about it. You wouldn't be here if your mom had made a different decision all those years ago.

For questions, comments, or ideas call ext. 2309 or E-mail me at salenadelacruz@netscape.net.

Everyone has a right to choose

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So you think that abortion is immoral? Well then maybe you shouldn't have one. That sounds like a simple enough answer for the people who oppose abortion.

It seems that there is a very strong stereotype when people hear the word abortion. Many people may think of a young girl who accidentally got pregnant and is looking for an easy way out. Abortion is viewed as an alternative to birth control.

In a small percentage of the cases this may be true, but as a whole I think that it is a very narrow view. I doubt that there are very many girls that are saying, "let's just have sex now, and hey forget the condom I'll just go and get myself an abortion, and hey who needs the worries right now anyway." I think that these stereotypes are an insult to the people who have suffered violations to their bodies.

There are some extremely ugly situations that may lead some woman to abort a child: namely rape and incest. These things are ultimate violations of a woman's body. I know that

many of us have never experienced such a thing, and if we haven't, then how can we begin to comprehend having an abortion? There are also many cases of women of all ages and in many different situations that choose abortion as an option everyday.

I think that it is very easy to look at abortion and make generalizations. The facts are that we do not know everyone's situation, we don't know the thoughts that lead up to their decision. Most of us don't know what it is like to look at abortion as a solution. To all the people who have ever had an abortion, the comment that it is the "easy way out" is anything but true. There are many emotions that come with this decision.

We make decisions every day about things that we think are right for us. I think that it is every individuals right to choose if abortion is suiting for them. They are the people who have to live with their decision. I know that it is easy to look at abortion and say that it is something that we would never do, and that's great, but I do think that it is everyone's right to choose.

What are your feelings on abortion?



"I am fully against abortion. I believe that it is taking the life of a child. Once they are conceived they are a child."

-Ron Landolt



"I wouldn't have one myself, but I can understand when it's a health hazard or when a woman has been raped."

-Jessica Anderson



"It's a women's decision."

-Kyle McLain



"A few months ago I had a miscarriage and the fetus at six weeks was fully formed. I can't believe someone chopping it up on purpose."

-Stevanie Waldorf



"I think people should stop talking about it."

-Tyler Komp



"I think there are situations where it's warranted, but I don't think it should be a form of birth control."

-Kathleen Smith

Abortion Facts

Each year more than 50% of the all American pregnancies are unintended. About half of the unplanned pregnancies, or 1.5 million are ended in abortion.

Women that have abortions come from all racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds.

Women ages 11-19 account for 21% of abortions. Women 21-24 account for 34% of abortions. Women 30 and older account for 22% of abortions. While women younger than 15 and older than 35 account for the lowest percentage.

89% of abortions are obtained in the first trimester of pregnancy.

81% of the women that obtain abortions are unmarried, while 63% have never married and 18% are separated, married or widowed.

54% of the women that have abortions have had no previous ones. 28% of the women have had at least one previous abortion.

Information obtained at www.prochoice.org