

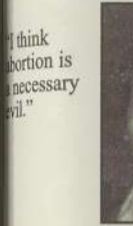
# Student Poll

What do you think about abortion?



Tim Lussier

"I believe that this nation should be a nation that supports life."



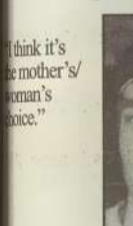
Jake Johnson

"I think abortion is necessary evil."



Amanda Harp

"Abortion should be used only for life or death situations favoring the mother."



Austin Parker

"I think it's the mother's/ woman's choice."

# Abortion ban a good start

Elizabeth Hitz

The Clackamas Print

On March 6, South Dakota took center stage in the national abortion debate as Governor Mike Rounds signed a bill outlawing all abortions except those performed for the sake of the mother's health.

The ban seems to be a political move; a protest of sorts, which, because of our current judicial system, has no real hope of surviving. With the appointment of two new Supreme Court justices, this ban simply seems like a ploy to bring up the generations old feud between pro-lifers and those with a pro-choice agenda. Roe v. Wade, the infamous court ruling handed down Jan. 22, 1973, made abortion, including partial birth abortions, legal nationwide.

But even if the ban is just a strategic maneuver in the game of politics, where does that leave the heart of the issue: should abortion be legal or not?

Health wise, abortion is one of the safest options available to women as a means of so called "birth control," with less than a 0.5 percent chance of complications in patients. The procedure is about a tenth of the danger associated with childbirth. However, the psychological effects of an abortion on women are massive, long-lasting, heartbreaking and little known.

According to the Tennessee Right to Life website, in a 1985 University of Minnesota study Dr. Anne Speckhard, "researched 'long-term manifestations of abortion' and found that 81 percent of mothers reported preoccupation with

their aborted child, 54 percent had nightmares, 35 percent had perceived visitations with their child and 96 percent felt their abortion had taken a human life."

I've seen the effects of abortion firsthand. Watching a grown man, over 48 years old, sob like a baby over an abortion that happened over 20 years ago is heart-wrenching. A worn, weathered face twisted in grief, and the most haunted eyes I have seen on any human being, these are the emotional effects of abortion. And they affect more than just "the women."

The same site states, "Immediately after an abortion, many women report a feeling of relief ... What you won't hear of is the guilt and depression that frequently follows. A

national poll found that at least 56 percent of women experience a sense of guilt over their decision, though the pollster himself acknowledged that many women will not even admit having had an abortion. In fact, a five-year study shows that 25 percent of women who have had abortions sought out psychiatric care, versus just 3 percent of women who have not had abortions. Further, numerous studies reveal that women who have had an abortion experience

a high incidence of depression, stress, low self-esteem, suicidal feelings and substance abuse."

**"Watching a grown man ... sob like a baby over an abortion that happened over 20 years ago is heart-wrenching."**

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, "At 22 days after conception, a baby's heart is already beating. At six weeks, brain waves can be measured. At eight weeks ... fingerprints have formed. At nine weeks, the unborn child can feel pain."

Most abortions are performed between the first 6 to 12 weeks of pregnancy. Think about that.

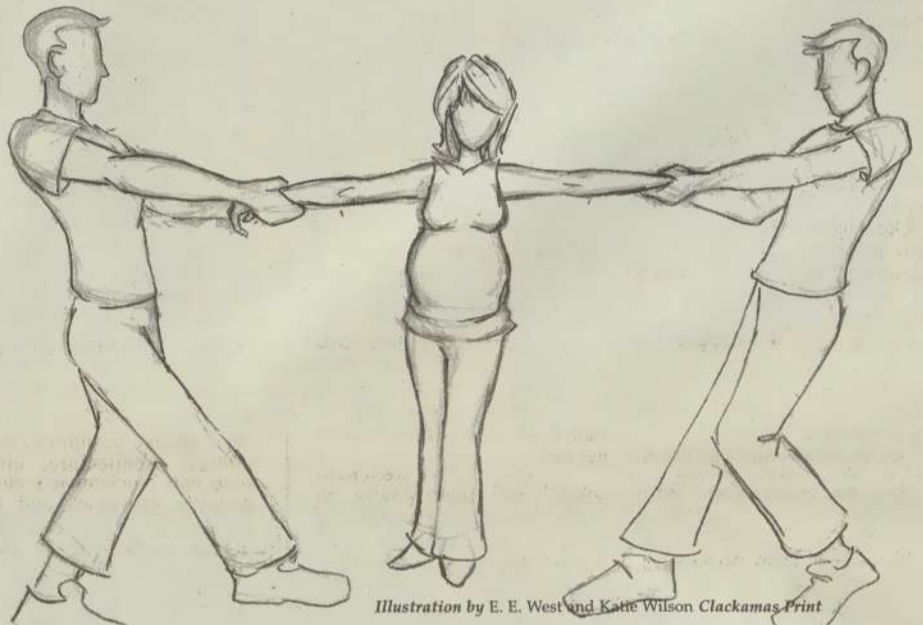


Illustration by E. E. West and Katie Wilson Clackamas Print

## Letters to the editor

### Vandalism unfair to clubs

It is unfair to the Rainbow Club to have vandals ripping off their posters. I believe strongly that these types of situations may and often-times result in violent acts. To live in a free country means that you do have freedoms. And to have people vandalize property is a great disappointment. Whether it be the Rainbow Club, Latino Club, or any other club, they should all have the same respect. One must understand that these types of people show the same lack of integrity to not only the Rainbow Club, but to many other groups of people. I really hope this results in a non-confrontational ending.

Gabriel T. Alba

### Equal support an issue

I am responding to the recent article in the Clackamas Print about the Rainbow Club posters that have been torn down. Carol Burnell was

quoted as saying: "Tearing down the posters was counterproductive. People got upset, and they wanted to do something about it." I agree with this statement because it made the club come back stronger. When you react to a poster by tearing it down, it makes the other side upset and more determined to push their agenda. I think that this is not the result that the vandals wanted. I don't believe that any signs should be torn down. On the other hand, the school should support those who want to promote a club of the opposite view just as much as they back this group. I was somewhat disappointed that the tone of the article showed only the club's side and worked to enforce their increased strength. I also detected definite bias from the faculty members that made statements. I believe that it would be right to make sure that our faculty come from a diverse background, and to strongly discourage biased responses to students.

Brian Grove

### Beliefs shouldn't equal hate

The issue of gay people is controversial. Even though I don't want to predict, I think it is going to be controversial for as long as this Earth rotates. I have a strong opinion about this issue. I am against homosexuality.

However, my beliefs and my opinion don't make me do hateful things. I knew one homosexual young man pretty well, and I personally never treated him badly. I actually think he was a good person. I would say that I can like people, but strongly dislike what lifestyle they choose. I do believe that it's a choice.

The article in the newspaper tells only one side. However, how about straight men and women? How do they feel? Maybe they think that the world is going to collapse because God just can't look at homosexuality anymore.

I don't want the world to end like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Inna Umerenko

### Vandalism unsurprising

I have recently read an article entitled "Rainbow Club target of intolerance," located in *The Clackamas Print*. I must say that I'm not at all surprised. Although the rate of people coming out is steadily rising, there are still people out there who will fight its progress every step of the way. In my opinion, everyone is entitled to love whoever it is that they choose to love (within the law). There is absolutely nothing wrong with a man loving a man; a woman loving a woman. To most of our society, these relationships seem ungodly and unnatural. But who are we to deny someone love? This is America; [we have] the freedom to choose and the freedom to express who we truly are. To deny someone the liberty of self-expression is like denying someone the right to breathe. When will we, as a whole society, start to understand the exact nature of our wrongs, and let those who socially suffer finally be free?

Rae Ellen Gandy

### We're all in this together

While I am not personally offended by the poster incident, I do feel the need to remind people from all walks of life to look at the world through another's perspective. We are all college students, with many other similarities, trying to put ourselves through school. This school belongs to everyone equally. Students have the right to put posters up, and hopefully they will be treated with enough respect [for the posters] to stay up. However, if the problem is going to continue, with both sides throwing fuel on the fire, the fault falls on both. We all go here, and we all need to learn to get along.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Trone

*Editor's note: these letters were written as a class assignment in Diane Averill's WR-121 class. Submissions were edited for space and clarity; not content.*

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