

TECH

The Summer Edition of **TECHNICIAN**, N.C. State's Student Newspaper Since 1920



Pro-life vs. Pro-choice

Fueled by the recent Supreme Court decision to allow states to restrict public funding for abortions, the debate over abortion continues, stronger than ever.

See **TECH**Opinion, page 3.

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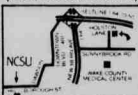


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TECH

The Summer Edition of TECHNICIAN

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A paper that is entirely the product of the student body becomes at once the official organ through which the thoughts, the activity and in fact the very life of the campus are registered. It is the mouthpiece through which the students themselves talk. College life without its journal is blank.

Technician, vol. 1 no. 1, February 1, 1920

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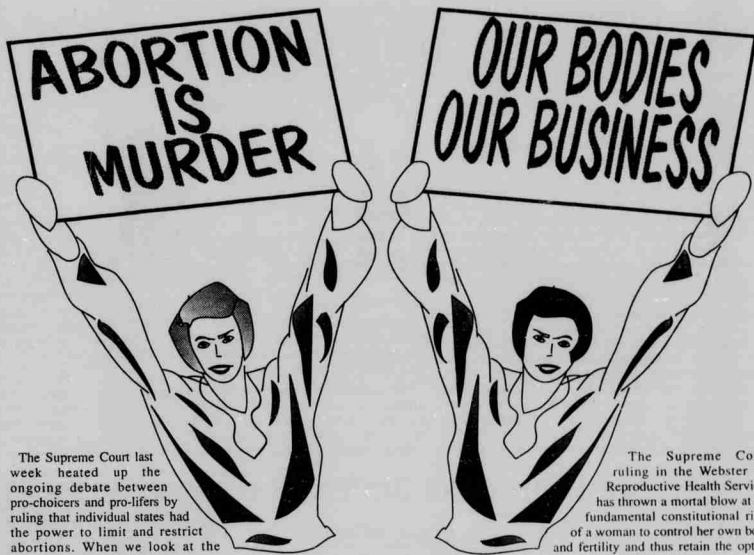
TECHNICIAN

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TECHOpinion

JULY 12, 1989 3



The Supreme Court last week heated up the ongoing debate between pro-choicers and pro-lifers by ruling that individual states had the power to limit and restrict abortions. When we look at the arguments presented by both sides, we can see that the pro-choicers avoid the central and single issue (that of when life begins) by presenting these inconsistent and irrelevant issues:

- 1) The states now have control over women's bodies by their power to limit and restrict abortions.
- 2) The ruling allowing states to regulate abortions discriminates against poor people because they cannot afford safe and legal abortions, whereas wealthy people can afford to travel to countries where abortions are legal, and
- 3) The ruling does not allow women to decide what is morally best for themselves and will allow states to restrict funding for abortions.

That the courts and the government should not have control over the individuals' bodies has always been a central theme to the pro-choice advocates. Gloria Steinem has said, "The power of the government ... has to stop at our skins. Our bodies cannot be invaded. They are our castles to rule."

The fact is that this issue is irrelevant as the government does have control over our bodies. Is it not a law that we must be vaccinated against German measles, tetanus and polio? We are even required by law to see that our children also receive these vaccinations. There are no exceptions and we have no choice in the matter. Therefore, these vaccinations are violating our right to govern our bodies. However, pro-choicers never argue against such vaccinations (even though they violate the pro-choicers' main argument) because they would say, as would nearly everyone else, that the government has a legitimate interest in protecting others against harm or damage. Why then, does the pro-choice faction deny the government's interest to protect life where the fetus is concerned? Obviously pro-choice advocates have contradicted their own arguments, and so their position that the government has control over women's bodies is inconsistent and irrelevant.

The pro-choice argument that the states' regulation of the availability of abortions will discriminate against the poor is also irrelevant and inconsistent. They argue that if the states regulate the availability of abortions, people who cannot afford abortions or a new child will seek "back-alley" abortions where, as they like to point out, there is danger to the health of the mother. That the mother may get hurt as a result of the illegal abortion matters

The Supreme Court ruling in the Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services has thrown a mortal blow at the fundamental constitutional right of a woman to control her own body and fertility and thus retain the option of abortion.

The battle has begun, as well as the erosion of the historic 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision, which placed the abortion matter in the hands of women, granting absolute first trimester and conditional second trimester abortion

rights. At 24 weeks the court found the fetus clearly viable and drew the controversial fetal viability line and proclaimed abortion unpermissible during the third trimester. But prior to this viability line, the Roe resolution deemed the fetus a nonperson and protected the right to privacy of a pregnant woman.

The Webster decision takes this right and grants states the authority to restrict abortion accessibility. Essentially, the court is sending out a message: abortion rights are no longer a matter primarily for women, but increasingly a matter for politicians.

Unfortunately, due to the regressive Webster ruling, enacted by two original dissenters of the 7-2 Roe ruling and three Reagan appointees, it is necessary to justify, once again, the fundamental right of a woman to maintain ultimate authority over her own body and it's physiological processes.

Re-examining the issue raises several questions: Does the fetus possess certain inalienable, constitutional rights that necessitate legal protection? Is it morally wrong to abort the potential life of a fetus? Does an individual retain the fundamental right to control her own body?

Scientific research, especially since 1973, lends some enlightening data enabling one to examine the stages of fetal development. At the 12th day, scientists have determined the embryo is formed. By the 4th week the backbone is complete. At about eight weeks, the fetus begins to resemble a human creature. At approximately 20 weeks, the fetus weighs about 10 ounces and the heartbeat can be detected with a telescope. In North Carolina, abortions may not be obtained after the 20th week and in all legal rulings the fetus has been protected after 24 weeks.

Whether life begins at conception is an entirely different question. Anti-abortionists claim it does, though the pretension is clearly unfounded. In the earliest stages of gestation, what lies in the womb is a cell that divides into two cells, then into four cells, and so on. It is a fertilized human cell, not a human being. One cannot label the fetus a person. At this point, the fetus is legally

Pro-life vs. Pro-choice

DENIS C. LUTMAN
GUEST COLUMNIST

Pro-Life

DAPHNE EDWARDS
OPINION EDITOR

Pro-Choice

See LIFE, page 7

See CHOICE, page 7

NCSU students protect N.C. bears

By Mark Schaffer
Staff Writer

N.C. State researchers have been studying the black bear at the Pisgah Bear Sanctuary in the Pisgah National Forest for over 10 years now.

In 1977 the Wildlife Resource Commission began to fund research into the study of the Pisgah Bear Sanctuary through NCSU. During the first few years, only enough money for one graduate student was provided to work on the study. In 1981, Roger A. Powell, an associate professor of zoology and forestry, was able to get the grant extended and expanded until 1990 to do additional research on the bears.

Each year three graduate students, an undergraduate intern and 20-25 volunteers from Earthwatch, a volunteer and funding organization with a coordinated membership, work on the study. This summer the three NCSU graduate students participating are John Zimmerman, who is working on his doctorate, Erran Seaman, who is doing the last of his field work for his doctorate, and Paul Jobis, who is beginning work on his master's degree. This summer David McHenry is the undergraduate intern and Caren Cooper, a former graduate student, is the technician



for the group.

From May to July, shifts of three to 10 students and workers camp at the Pisgah National Forest, remaining a few weeks to capture and tag bears and collect valuable data from previously tagged bears.

This study has expanded from the original goal of just evaluating the sanctuary for the government. Personal goals have been set by the group and by the graduate students. They want to understand the social structure of both the male and female bears and also understand how the black

bears choose their habitats. The data for these goals is collected through radio transmitter collars.

Before 1987 the researchers used the old collars that emitted a constant signal, but when it was discovered that poachers had been tuning in to the signal and tracking the bears, the bears were retrapped and the collars removed until a new collar was developed. This year the researchers have a new collar that is activated by a special signal that turns it on and off, thereby not giving the poachers a chance to track the bears since no signal is emitted when the collar is off. The collars transmit the data collected on the bear and then shut off when the appropriate signal is sent. Poachers cannot activate the collars.

Currently only six bears are collared, but Powell hopes that 15 will be collared by the end of the summer. He hopes that in the future the data they collect will show the social organization of the bears and the state of the population of the bears.

Powell is currently working on a proposal to get more funding to study the bears into the early and mid 1990s. He teaches mammalogy, wildlife management and various graduate courses. He began teaching at NCSU in 1979. He was born in Joliet, Ill., and received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1977.

Sterilization process developed

By Teebu Philip
Staff Writer

Imagine using a television set to sterilize food packages. Currently N.C. State researchers are exploring a similar technology that can be used to sterilize food containers such as milk cartons and fruit juice bottles.

Roger P. Rohrbach, a professor of biological and agricultural engineering, uses this technology in his research in "swift-electron sterilization."

Rohrbach's main focus is to develop an electron sterilizer for aseptic food packaging. Aseptic packages are sterilized, packed and sealed in a sterile environment.

NCSU leads research in aseptic food packaging in conjunction with the National Science Foundation. In 1987, the Foundation began a Center for Aseptic Processing and Packaging Studies with the help of industry in order to research further uses for aseptic packaging.

The current practice for sterilization is to bathe the package in hydrogen peroxide. This practice leaves traces of the chemical compound on the packaging material and is extremely slow.

Rohrbach says, "We don't want people eating low levels of hydrogen peroxide if we can help it."

The principle behind Rohrbach's electron sterilizer is the same used in television sets. When used in a television set, devices like an electron accelerator display images on a television screen. A different version of this electron accelerator is used in sterilizing food. This process leaves no potentially harmful chemicals on the packages, but the cost is too high to interest industry.

An electron accelerator located in Fuquay-Varina generates 4.5 million volts and costs millions of dollars to operate. The price of converting from chemical sterilization to this new technology is too expensive for industry to handle.

Rohrbach said, "You can sterilize the heck out of stuff when you have one that operates on 4.5 million volts."

Rohrbach and associates in the biological and

agricultural engineering department are in the process of building prototype electron sterilizers into aseptic food packaging machines. The machines must be small enough and cheap enough for industry to use.

Rohrbach's electron sterilizer would use only 50,000 volts to kill any microbes on the inner surface of the package. In comparison, a television set operates on 40,000 volts. Rohrbach's sterilizer would only cost \$10,000 when ready for the market.

To date, Rohrbach has built two prototypes.

The second model has a rocket-shaped vacuum chamber made of clear Plexiglas approximately one foot high. This chamber rests within a wooden housing structure coated with aluminum foil. An isolated transformer is also enclosed within the structure along with temperature and pressure recording instruments.

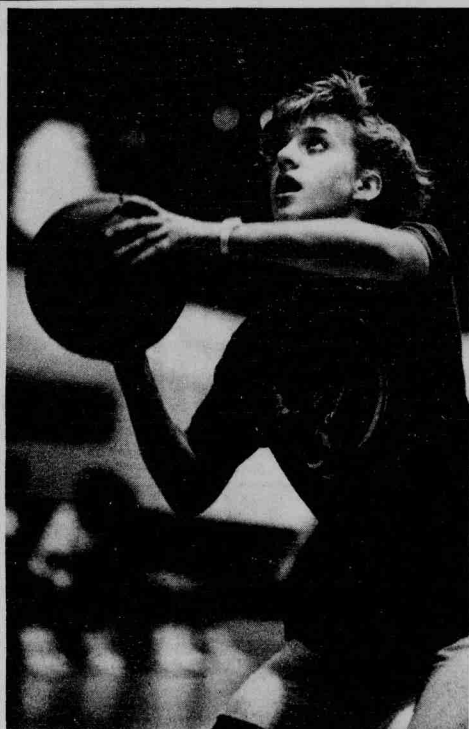
The power supply is able to produce 120,000 volts and it sits beside the wooden housing structure along with a vacuum pump.

Electrons are gained for sterilization by making a circuit between a negatively charged electron source (cathode) at the foot of the vacuum chamber and the positively charged window (anode) at the top. In the prototype model, the cathode is a simple heated filament and the anode is a thin piece of aluminum foil. In a television, the cathode is the electron accelerator itself and the anode is the metallic surface on or near the screen.

Rohrbach wants the electrons to gain enough momentum to pass through the foil and into the air beyond. The package to be sterilized would be placed between the foil and the air. When the electrons pass through the package, it would be left sterile.

Neither of the two prototype models Rohrbach has designed or built have been able to discharge electrons into the air. Air molecules within the chamber have prevented the electrons from being accelerated to the anode.

The third prototype currently in construction has better seal and a larger vacuum pump to keep air out. Rohrbach hopes the changes made to the design of the third model will be able to shoot electrons into the air to sterilize packages.



JOHN ILHOEFER/STAFF
Allison Young shows off her shooting touch at the Kay Yow basketball camp for girls. The camp, for girls aged 9 through 17, runs through July 13.

Star Trek

The Next Gentrification

FROG — Marry me, Winona Ryder.

On a much lighter note, two must-sees are hitting the capital city this weekend. Friday night the Brewery will be hosting one of New York City's finest bands, 24-7 SPYZ. And sticking with artists with numerics in their names, 007, will be riding the world of eiders.

Timothy Dalton, the fourth and latest James Bond figure, will star in "Licence To Kill."

And two more worthy notes: the Doobie Brothers will be in Chapel Hill's Dean Dome in August, and rumor has it that The Rolling Stones will be in Carter-Finley Stadium this fall — sometime in October — so keep your eyes and ears open for these living legends of rock.

Star Trek

I played big brother the other afternoon. No, I didn't spend the evening watching my wonderful neighbors using my new telescope. But I did see the stars when I took my brother to see "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier."

If they ever decide to make a Star Trek VI, it should be entitled "The Search for a Fat Farm." The reason why there are less people on the enterprise is that the crew's weight is on the rise.

Richard Simmons needs to take over.

Dr. McCoy was the only member of the crew who looked up to Starfleet standards for body weight. Sulu and Chekov weren't too bad, although they were tipping the scales in the wrong direction.

Scotty is nothing short of a blimp. Kirk and Spock looked pregnant. And the scene where Uhura tries to look sexy as she dances naked (but, thankfully, obscured) is a lunch loser.

The story was B-grade for television. The opening desert sequence is awesome, but it powderdries when the bloated crew comes

Joe
Corey

Party Favors



on.
Wait for it to come on TV and the crew will look a bit smaller.

Nazi Records

We are about to re-enter the frigid nature of the conservative '50s. Please put on your parkas to avoid the initial blast of air.

As part of the effort to keep "evil" music out of the hands of small children, Hastings Books and Music is putting stickers on certain records to prohibit their sale to people under 18.

Why shouldn't a 17-year-old kid be able to buy whatever he damn well wants with his money at a store? This is just one more case of infringing on the rights of the consumer.

What groups can't minors purchase at Hastings?

Rap groups are heavily hit with the stickers. NWA, 2 Live Crew, Eazy-E, L.L. Cool J, King Tee and Ice T are just a few that Johnny can't buy. Those "college alternative punky" bands have also been stickerized. Pussy Galore, Suicidal Tendencies, the Butthole Surfers, Scraping Foetus Off the Wheel, Alien Sex Fiend and even the Sex Pistols are now in the "adult section."

Some groups are only having one record stickered. This batch includes Motorhead's "Orgasmatron," Sonic Youth's "Confusion Is Sex" and the Circle Jerks' "Group Sex."

For the most part, Hastings is putting stickers on records not for their content, but for their labeling. Except for the rap music,



Winona Ryder



GEOR BROOKS/STAFF

most of the bands have been singled out because of their names. What's the difference between Motorhead's "Orgasmatron" and their "Ace of Spades" record?

The store should not under any circumstance play parent.

I can sort of understand some mother getting upset when her 10-year-old Johnny brings home a copy of the Butthole Surfers' "Hairway to Steven." But I get more offended at hearing Johnny playing the soundtrack to "Dirty Dancing."

A parent's duty should be to have some sense of art and guide the child in his tastes. Instead they allow really racist radio stations to babysit the child. Unless a parent sits down at the turntable and explains to Johnny what the whole Velvet Underground thing is, the parent should have no right to complain if the child rejects the mush-head crud dished out by radio.

And the nerve of Hastings to assume the role of the parent by dictating what Johnny can't buy! The idiots put in charge of making the black list have no sense of what is on the records. They are just jumping at whatever sounds wrong.

The Sex Pistols are for everybody. Sonic Youth's "Confusion Is Sex" is one of their

most tame releases and it even includes a song recorded live at the old Pier in Mission Valley. Kids under 18 really need to listen to this record.

It's as if Hastings just spoke titles out loud in front of some grandmothers' conventions and stuck stickers on records that got a titter out of the crowd.

And because the powers that be at Hastings seem to be banning more on a name basis than on true content, shouldn't Steely Dan be on the hit list as much as Alien Sex Fiend? For those of you who don't know, Steely Dan got their name from an industrial strength marital aid used in William S. Burroughs' "Naked Lunch."

What about Ravel's "Bolero?" This is pure criticism at its peak. How many people have had sex to the plucking strings? Shouldn't this be banned as well?

Frankly this reeks of fascism. I'll put money on it that this same policy is in effect in China at this very moment. Of course Moscow is a different story since Sonic Youth actually toured there.

If this policy stands, perhaps more national chains will hop on the bandwagon. Soon kids will be hanging around the malls trying to get big kids to buy them copies of "Flopping a Dead Horse."

This isn't the America I want to live in.

Ramsey in Reality

The column that dares to be abrasive. Got a question, but too dull to answer it? Write in!

Dear R. in R.,

What the hell is that pointed miniature dome-thing in front of the Bookstore?

Logan Parker, SR, Speech-Communications

Dear M.J.,

That question has been hotly debated in academic circles around the globe for some time now, so, for the benefit of the misfortunate masses, here goes. Underneath that "miniature dome-thing" is a now dysfunctional sump pump. A sump pump is basically a bigwater pump. This particular one benefited the steam

tunnel directly beneath the sidewalk there at the Bookstore, for the rainwater and the like that may accumulate.

The reason for the oddball shape of this "sump-pump cover" is a little vague, but apparently it's because there is a removable faucet attachment that extends several feet above the base of the pump, perhaps to provide an outlet for water being pumped out. Therefore the bottom is wide and the top is just skinny enough to cover the faucet attachment.

Dear R. in R.,
I gotta know — is there really

a valid cure to the common hangover?

Matt Henry, Grad., Mechanical Engineering

Dear Matt,

There sure is, moron. On the night before the morning you don't want to have a hangover — don't drink! Or if you must drink, then sniff some argon gas first thing in the morning. This will cure your hangover immediately, mainly because you'll be dead immediately!

If you're too big of a pansy for the above, then try going to a fast food place and drinking a large

cup of pure carbonated water, then go to your big freezer and jump up and down for a minute. Or go out to the vet school and ask someone if you can suck on some pure oxygen for a minute. Based on what the hangover does to your body chemically, these methods do work.

While my previous hangover cure was lying in a bed all day until it was time to start partying again, my own personal favorite is — don't ever stop drinking.

Got a question, complaint, gripe



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or inquiry about anything in the world? Write us and we'll do our best to answer it. Address letters to "Ramsey in Reality." c/n TECH.

Summer sports are halfway there

Baseball races surprising; Auto racing predictable

Now that it's the middle of summer, I think it's quite appropriate to let those few fortunate souls who have been away what has been going on in the world of sports. So, as a friend of mine used to say, "I'm going to tell you the deal."

Just how does one know it is the middle of summer? The Major League Baseball All-Star Game, played Tuesday night in Anaheim, Calif. I hope you know who won, because I don't (deadline was Monday). Anyway, the baseball pennant races have been quite interesting, to say the least.

The biggest surprise has been the Baltimore Orioles. They're in first place in the American League East because of three things: pitching, defense and timely hitting. If they keep it up, forget it.

Speaking of Anaheim, Calif., the California Angels are the leaders in the league's West Division and have the best record in baseball. They're doing it the same way the Orioles are. With starting pitchers like Chuck Finley, Bert Blyleven and Kurt McCaskill, the Angels aren't going to give up a lot of runs. And they also have baseball's finest center fielder, Devon White, patrolling the outfield.

Not so surprising are the National League leaders, San Francisco and Montreal. The Giants have two superstar hitters — and I mean hitters — in Will Clark and Kevin Mitchell. Clark may be baseball's best all-around hitter and Mitchell has 31 homers (and it's only July 12!). San Fran has some good starting pitchers and the acquisition of

Lee Montgomery

Sports Editor

bullpen stopper Steve Bedrosian can only help.

When Montreal traded for pitcher Mark Langston, many observers handed the league's East Division to the Expos on a silver platter. After all, they said, the Mets are struggling and the Cubs, well they're the Cubs. This is the closest race in baseball, with Montreal taking first place from the Cubs about a week ago. Montreal may be the favorite, but don't count out my Cubbies.

Wouldn't it be great to see a Baltimore-Chicago World Series? Ahh, dream on young man.

So, nothing else happens besides baseball, right. Nope. Anybody who knows me knows that's not true. Oh, yes. Racing.

Dale Earnhardt leads the NASCAR Winston Cup point standings by a decent margin over Darrell Waltrip and Rusty Wallace at the halfway point of the season. Ironhead hasn't been as dominant as he has been in the past, yet he still leads the points. It ought to be a good second half.

Waltrip won the season-opening Daytona 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 (along with two other races) and is set to make a run at Earnhardt in the second half. Let me warn you now: be ready for a media blitz on Waltrip in about a month. By winning Daytona and the 600, he has two-thirds of the Winston Million. The final leg is the Heinz Southern 500 on September 4 at Darlington, S.C. If Waltrip wins there, he gets \$1 million. Let me be the first to tell you that Darrell hasn't won a Winston Cup race at Darlington since the spring race in 1984. And he has never won the Southern 500. But he thinks he'll win it. Could be. I wouldn't count him out.

Mark Martin, Rick Wilson and Sterling Marlin must t h i n k

somebody is out to get them. How close do you have to get before winning a race? It ain't fair. I wouldn't mind if these three won every race the rest of the year. They deserve it. Martin will win one soon and look out for Wilson at Talladega and Darlington and Charlotte.

Silly season has started. Geoff Bodine will be replaced by Ricky Rudd in 1990 in the Rick Hendrick-owned Levi Garrett Chevrolet. I guess Hendrick had had enough of Bodine's controversial incidents in past years. Now the question is, who will replace Rudd in the Quaker State ride? Bodine?

Don't forget rumors that say Terry Labonte will leave Junior Johnson for his own team next year. Further rumors link Rusty Wallace to Junior's Ford in 1990. Some have said Wilson or Alan Kulwicki may get in Johnson's car next season.

I just want all Winston Cup car owners to know that I'm available for the next 25 years or so, if you need an ambitious, up-

coming driver.

Beware of a bunch of 14-year-old girls running around campus the next few weeks. Wolfpack women's coach Kay Yow is holding her basketball camps now. Perhaps some of these girls will do the Pack uniform in a few years. These camps teach young women (some may read this, bless their souls) the fundamentals in basketball, like passing, defense and shooting. And we all know that if you can find a girl that can hit the 20-footer, you better marry her.

I bet Troy Aikman is a little peeved. The Dallas Cowboys make the top pick in the NFL draft and promise him money and glory as their starting quarterback of the future. Then they go and pick Steve Walsh in the supplemental draft. What can you do?



Rick Wilson



FILE PHOTO

Ricky Rudd will take over the Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet in 1990. What Geoff Bodine, the current driver of the #5 car, will do next season is unknown.

and-coming driver.

In other motorsports series, 20-year-old Rob Moroso leads the Busch Grand National series, the so-called minor leagues of NASCAR. I get to meet Robbie Mo this Saturday at South Boston (Va.) Speedway when the Grand Nationals come to town. And the Durham Morning Herald is sending me up there to cover it. More later.

Geoff Brabham leads the IMSA Camel GTP series for prototype sports cars. Brabham is one of the finest drivers in the world and it's a shame that more people don't know about him. He needs an Indy Car ride.



Rick Hendrick

Speaking of Indy Cars, Emerson Fittipaldi is on an absolute roll. He has won two straight races, the Indianapolis 500 and leads the points race by a wide margin. I'm sure Roger Penske is glad they made Emmo's team, Patrick Racing, a customer for the Penske PC-18 chassis. With the PC-18, Chevrolet engines and Fittipaldi's driving, look out. It could be a laughter the rest of the year. I bet Rick

Look for Jennifer's "How To Have Fun At Durham Athletic Park On Any Given Night" next week. She says it's quite funny.

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Pro-life vs. Pro-choice

Pro-Life
DENIS C. LUTMAN

Continued from page 3

title to the legality of abortion.

Let us look at an act that is clearly wrong, say, cannibalism. If cannibalism is banned or restricted, the back-alley cannibal must resort to digging up corpses to satisfy his desires and may get violently ill as a result. His illness does not constitute a valid reason for legalizing the eating of human flesh.

Pro-choicers say that the poor would be discriminated against by a ban or restriction of abortion because only the wealthy could travel to countries where abortion is legal. That they can get away with abortion is not relevant to its legality. Doesn't a ban or restriction of cannibalism discriminate against poor cannibals because only wealthy ones could afford to travel to the few remote areas where it is still practiced? In that case, cannibalism should be legalized and not restricted because it is discriminatory.

This refutes the argument that outlawing abortions will discriminate against the poor.

Finally, pro-choicers claim that the new ruling prevents women from deciding what is morally best for them. Here pro-choice advocates, in supporting a woman's right to decide, contradict themselves. Whereas they claim that the woman should decide for herself what is best for her, pro-choicers demand federal and state (pronounced "taxpayer") funding for abortions. Thus, they reserve the right to moral choice, but deny taxpayers (the ones who actually pay for publicly-funded abortions) their moral right to decide for themselves whether they want to fund abortions.

If it is morally right for women to choose abortion, then it is also morally right for all citizens to choose to pay, or not to pay, for abortions. As the latter alternative is denied to all citizens, pro-choicers and pro-lifers alike, then this argument is inconsistent, irrelevant and, indeed, unconstitutional.

The three arguments discussed above are poor substitutes for the single and central issue, which pro-choicers have yet, and refuse to, address — the question of when life begins. If life begins at conception, an abortion to terminate an "unwanted pregnancy" differs little from the killing of an unwanted child — both constitute murder. The pro-choicers' term, "unwanted pregnancy," is in itself a meaningless and irrelevant term. The woman and the man by whom she became pregnant chose to ignore the risk; they chose to have sex, and they chose not to use contraceptives. Therefore, they cannot innocently claim they did not want the result. Cause and effect is concrete. That pro-choicers support the right of women to choose whether or not to have an abortion and make no mention of supporting the choice of contraceptives is also an inconsistency in their arguments.

However, if life begins at birth, there can be no objections to aborting the fetus at any time before labor. And yet, no one with any repute has, as far as I know, held that an abortion at such a late stage constitutes anything but the taking of a valid human life.

If life begins sometime between conception and birth, when does it begin? The Supreme Court, in Roe vs. Wade, held that a fetus can be aborted at any time up until the fetus is viable or is capable of a meaningful life outside the womb. The point at which that happens is 24 weeks into the pregnancy, according to Justice Harry Blackmun.

However, if we look at history and technology, we can see that at 24 weeks a fetus may be viable today, but was not 150 years ago. Now, a fetus born several weeks or even several months prematurely can grow to be a healthy child due to advances in medical

See LIFE, page 8

Pro-Choice
DAPHNE EDWARDS

Continued from page 3

and medically a nonhuman entity.

Of course, abortion foes scream "potential life" at women entering abortion clinics. Yet this, ipso facto, is problematic. Granted, in later stages of gestation the fetus may retain potential life, but in its earliest stages it is only an organism like any other organism that has the possibility for life. The fertilized egg does not legally retain the potential or capacity of life. Despite this, if one chooses to adhere to this principle, he must also understand that artificial contraceptives are also used to control potential life.

Now, with moral and medical considerations put aside for the moment, one must consider the right of an individual to control her own body and make her own moral decisions. In most situations, these rights are a given. This is the land of liberty where it is agreed that it is OK to disagree. But as the Charlotte Observer editorial noted, "abortion impose[s] a kind of government control on a pregnant woman that is not imposed on any other citizen." Enforced moral behavior, imposed by an overwhelming majority of men, is the height of hypocrisy, sexism, and paternalism. It is not the job of the state or federal government to attempt to restrain sexual behavior or dictate a moral code. It is simply not judicious or appropriate. Is it just to impose a moral code and force a woman to endure an unwanted pregnancy? Is it just to ruin her life as well as the child's for the sake of a belief that is empirically unjustified? Is it just to overcrowd the already overcrowded orphanages, and just hope that these thousands of children (over 3,000 now in orphanages) find some kind of anchor to provide them with the happiness they deserve? Is it just to make "welfare mothers" undergo compulsory pregnancy and compel society to pay for their subsistence?

It is not. And, unfortunately, men are not equipped to make that decision, though it can be guaranteed many women wish they could. It is just a fact that no matter how empathetic a man may be, he cannot fully understand or ever undergo the experience of pregnancy and labor. For most women, who are aware of the beauty as well as the bane of pregnancy, would choose to be in control of their own bodies and moral behavior. As it stands, men in state legislatures are now asked to decide what moral behavior is appropriate for women. This is just as severe as treating a woman like a child, one who is unable to be entrusted as a moral decision-maker. It's puzzling, considering for centuries women have been deemed the moral guardians of society. While male promiscuity has persisted as an accepted norm and even encouraged in certain circumstances, women have been expected to keep the male libido restrained. Sexual behavior and responsibility has always been a burden upon the shoulders of women.

To suggest that a woman does not retain the sensibility or ethical standard to make such a grave decision is to underestimate her mental and moral capabilities. For a state or federal body to take it upon themselves to make that decision for her undermines a woman's liberty and right to self-determination. Most of these men are not feminists or advocates of women's rights. Essentially, the bottom line is that they are not women and they are ratifying and enacting laws which directly affect the lives and livelihood of women.

The very fact that women are not making these decisions is disturbing and problematic. Abortion is probably the most personal, intimate and agonizing decision a woman ever has to make. For most women, it is never convenient. It costs in more ways than one: financially, emotionally, mentally and physically. It is a painful, grueling, haunting

See CHOICE, page 8

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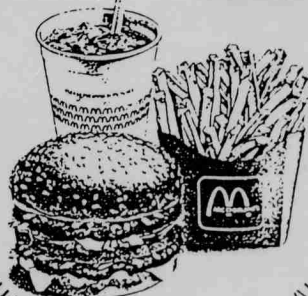
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Pro-Life DENIS C. LUTMAN

Continued from page 7

technology. Few people will deny that in the 1840s an infant born several months prematurely seldom survived. Indeed, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has noted that advances in science are pushing viability closer to conception. So, just as a 24-week-old fetus was not viable in 1840, a 24-week-old fetus in 1989 is viable. And just as a 10-week-old fetus is not viable in 1989, it could very well be viable in 2089 because of advances in scientific technology.

Pro-Choice DAPHNE EDWARDS

Continued from page 7

decision. It is an experience women pray that they will never have to face or go through. But if a woman finds herself in the inescapable position, abortion must be her choice and not the state's.

Those who advocate enforced morality must be willing to accept the consequences of the code they have imposed upon society. The ramifications are severe, and many women will pay with their lives, for the practice of abortion will not halt at a legislative command. Abortions have occurred since the earliest of civilizations and persisted despite the legal code of any land. Statistics show that in 1860, one out of every five women aborted their pregnancies when, for the most part, it was illegal. Comparatively, in 1985 one out of every four women had abortions. Also, in 1972 before the Roe decision, data shows that 1.2 million abortions occurred. Again comparatively, in 1985, 1.5 million abortion operations were performed. Abortion is not a modern phenomenon, but one that has persisted despite the legality of the act.

The vital question becomes whether women will be forced into a situation that only offers unsafe

Since I have yet to hear pro-choice advocates address the single and central issue (of when life begins), but instead substitute inconsistent and irrelevant arguments, I must accept the pro-life argument. No one can deny that life begins at least at birth. If technology continues to advance, viability will drop to 20, 15, 10 or even five weeks. Eventually, everyone will admit that viable life begins at or near conception. In short, time and technology are on the side of pro-life. Pro-choicers are losing the battle not only by their failure to address the central issue and their reliance on irrelevant arguments, but also because of the same technology from which they demand safer abortions.

abortions. Assuredly, it is not a fallacy. Women die from hatchet jobs and botched abortions. In Latin America, where abortion is illegal, botched abortions are the leading cause of death for women between the ages of 15-24. In America, since the legalization of abortion, deaths caused by unsafe abortions dropped from 20 percent to a plummeting five percent. The Roe decision permitted physicians to study and reduce the risk factors involved in abortion and perform the operations in well-equipped medical facilities.

Those who are the most adamant pro-lifers are the very same who are unwilling to follow through with the responsibility they didactically toss in the mother's lap. These groups, mainly led by conservative Bible-quoters, are the very same persons who are opposed to social legislation which would allow the child and the mother subsistence. Woman and child are left in the legislative wake.

In order to be thorough, one must review all avenues and perspectives held on abortion rights, excluding religiosity, for one must honor the founding of this country and its bedrock principle, separation between church and state. It is safe to say that God would prefer human beings to uphold the sanctity of life, but this has been disregarded relentlessly throughout history.

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