

Abortion debate not as black and white as some may think



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I walked up to the anti-abortion protesters on campus Thursday, ready to challenge them for their ignorance and insensitivity in displaying gruesome pictures of aborted fetuses. But after over an hour of discussion, argument and counter arguments with one of the protesters, John, I came away feeling much different.

The discussion made me realize what I have always known but have been reluctant to admit; that abortion is a much more complicated issue than activists on both sides would like to admit. It is not just a matter of whether a woman should be able to make a choice, nor is it just a matter of abortion is bad and therefore should be illegal. It is deeper than that. There are a lot of underlying issues and ethical questions to consider when forming an stance on abortion.

I considered myself pro-

choice, and I always argued that keeping a pregnancy or not should be the woman's choice. I felt it was not up to the government to tell a woman what she can or cannot do with her body. I also felt that women do not take the decision to get an abortion lightly and making it illegal will only force them to take unhealthy options that will end up endangering their lives.

But after listening to John, I realized that dismissing a fetus as just a part of the woman's body is a very simplistic view; yes it is part of the woman, but it is also an independent life, an existence that is exactly where it is supposed to be. He also made a good point when he said the fact that people will do something anyway is not a good basis for public policy.

I don't question that abortion is immoral, but what I struggle with is whether it should be outlawed. I ask myself, "Does making abortion illegal amount to placing a premium on an unborn fetus over the mother? Or does making it legal make women choose between comfort, money, career and their unborn pregnancy?" A good argument can be made for either

side.

Also, can we really say there is no difference between an unborn fetus and a born child, or does human life really start at birth? I used to believe that human life starts at birth, but anyone who has ever seen a sonogram knows deep in them that a fetus is a life.

Finally, is it silly and a little hypocritical that a lot us are mad at the gruesome graphic photographs of aborted fetus being displayed on campus, but we are not equally appalled by the act that led to those photos?

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These are questions I struggle with, and I have a feeling I will be wrestling with them for a long time. I used to call myself pro-choice, but now I don't think that label is accurate. However, I am not ready to call myself "pro-life" either. I am going to keep listening to both sides and my views will keep evolving as I get new information from experts and knowledgeable sources. However, I will also like to know what you readers think. Send your letters to forum@ocolly.com.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By **SETH BECKER**
Sports media junior

Blake Keller has spent the past few weeks blasting the evil mainstream media for practices ranging from violating a poor old man's freedom of speech to the persecution of every Christian who dares to have faith.

First, lose the mainstream media tag. It's getting old. Fox News is the top rated news channel in the country. That makes them mainstream. But onto specifics.

Keller quotes James 2:14-20. I read this passage and found it interesting. James 2:14-17 says, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not

accompanied by act dead."

If Keller wants to talk about unwarranted persecution perhaps we could look at the continuing attack on people receiving government assistance or those without health care? You know, the people who may not be well fed. Faith by itself is not accompanied by good works.

"Get up off your knees, Christians," Keller corrects. "Hollywood and the mainstream media have declared war on you."

What? Aside from the fact this nation was founded with a belief we should be identified by religion an aspiring member of mainstream media, I find it hard to believe I would have received a memo had we declared war on you.

Now onto the Hamilton, Jr.- ESPN issue. There are several inconsistencies I just can't wrap my head around. Was William Hamilton an ESPN employee? If he quit or was he fired? Three separate sections

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