

letters

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Abortion is not a "women's issue." Great numbers of women oppose it. It is not basically a religious issue. Metzger and Beranek's own letter points out that there are "religious people" on both sides of the question. (One will recall that pro-abortion people used to try to say that opposition to abortion was only coming from the Catholic church, and thus should be ignored.) The real issue, which those favoring easy abortion consistently ignore, is whether or not the victim of abortion is a person deserving protection. Surely the burden of proof ought to be on the abortionists. For if they are wrong in their assumption that the mother does not carry a person within her, then a human is needlessly killed. Let them prove that the unborn is only a glob of cells, and not a human.

Ms. Levin's statements on this point were wholly inadequate. She said that the fact that there is diversity of opinion about when life beings *mandates* that there must be freedom to choose an abortion. That is untrue. Diversity of opinion in itself mandates nothing. There was diversity of opinion about whether blacks would be given equality in this country, but that did not mean that every one was free to decide for themselves how to treat them.

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Quality of life

What is life? Can premeditated killing be set apart from murder? In this ever-increasing technically oriented society, these questions are becoming more urgent. Certain sectors of mankind have regressed to the point of total apathy in regard to fellow people. What about those who are unable to voice their rights? For instance, did the "thing" (we use this term to avoid semantic arguments) that was born at University Hospital on Sept. 6 deserve to live? According to the law, a child is legally viable if it is capable of living outside the womb even if it must be medically assisted. This "thing" lived for two and one half hours on its own. It was a human being, and it was entitled to all the rights of any other American citizen—*life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.* It was alive when outside the mother. What was it when it was within the mother? Was it dead? It was a case of spontaneous generation when it hit the air, right? Wrong, it was a live human being before it was born too. This child was 22 to 27 weeks old, but yet it could be legally aborted up until it was nine months of age. The law discriminates against unborn humans on the basis of place of residence. If the child is outside of the womb, it is protected. If it is inside

of the mother, it is not.

Next, let us examine the discussion presented by Jerry Fairbanks in his article "Regents Grovel Before Money Whip" (Oct. 23). Mr. Fairbanks' argument proceeded along the following line: 1.) He cites the fact that the Regents made the decision to ban non-therapeutic abortions at University Hospital, 2.) He then discusses the Tuition Hike and the Speaker Issue—two issues that were highly unpopular with the students, 3.) He links all three issues together—the common denominator being the Regents. The implication is that since the Speaker Issue and the Tuition Hike were unjustified, the abortion ban is also unjustified. This is an invalid argument. Just because the Regents made some bad decisions does not mean that all of their decisions are bad. To assume there is a link in the three separate decisions is an erroneous generalization.

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Pornography dehumanizes

It seems that only a male business major (letter, Oct. 22) could so totally confuse prudishness with concern about the dehumanizing and objectification of women in our society, and be more concerned with money (e.g. student fee increases) than with the human responsibility of everyone to eliminate the opporessive conditions that all but white males experience daily. It's true, there's no money to be made or prestige to be gained by objecting to the violence, psychic and physical, that is perpetuated on women by porno and those who condone it. It's also not a popular stance, seeing as how it requires a political analysis of our lives and values, the courage of one's convictions to stand up and object in the face of uncomprehending stares, sneers, and jokes about prudes, and a belief that relationships can be more than simple-minded thrusting and strutting. Sounds like work, doesn't it, not to go with a simple impulse and enjoy a violence not perpetuated on YOU instead of thinking about it, making the connection, and objecting to it out of gut feeling or on principle?

Well, its always unpopular to think about the con-

sequences of our actions, whether we're making a pornographic movie, attending it or running an ad for it, but it's absolutely necessary that we do think, or we may experience the consequences first-hand in a rape, a beating, or in a sexual slur. Recently, a Harvard University study found that pornography DOES increase aggressiveness in men towards women, and that some men as a result ceased to see rape as a violent crime.

If males were more inclined towards the wholeness of erotica than pornography, rapes would undoubtedly decrease, sexual acts would not take on the aspects of a competitive game, and men just might become better lovers. If you want to start an organization, try SMUT—Single-Minded Unwillingness to Think.

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