

Opinion

Anti-abortion arguments abound in 'Mr. Rogers' neighborhood

It's so easy for some people to pass off their ideas as self-righteous. This is exactly what Jim Rogers did in his Jan. 22 editorial column and I stress *editorial*. Rogers took it upon himself to tell people who believe differently that their views are morally and logically wrong.

Not everyone will decide to have an abortion. For many women it is a traumatic event, not morally wrong, to terminate their pregnancy. They have trouble coping with it. Others will have no grievance after an abortion. Last, but not least, are those people who find abortion morally wrong.

(three months). Including all beliefs, some believe life begins when human characteristics take form (last quarter). Some people believe that when a baby is born, a soul enters it and life begins.

Let's say we made abortions illegal. But common sense tells us that, given the magnitude of error if we were in fact wrong (namely about 40 to 50 million estimated constitutional rights would be violated), then we should leave it up to personal choice, not force one's ideas upon others.

2. The choice of whether to have an abortion is a woman's constitutional right. If you are for or against abortion in No. 1, you are still going to believe the same in No. 2.

3. No, it isn't a fact that unwanted fetuses have to become unwanted kids. This is just a reality. There will always be people who don't want, don't want to love or can't afford a baby. Again, it is unfair to use murdering a wife as an example if one does not believe abortion is murder. See No. 1.

4. Laws restricting abortion do not violate the principle of separation of church and state. There just shouldn't be any such laws. They violate our constitutional rights.

5. There is no majority of people who are anti-choice. So to impose one's morality at this point just isn't logical and will come back to haunt us.

6. This argument that people will "just break the law" is just plain redundant, since there should be no anti-abortion laws.

7. Although there was a lot of exaggerating to get the 1973 court ruling, most of it was true and happened frequently to those wishing to end their pregnancy. Today, if a woman wants to end her pregnancy, she can have it done safely and legally. She doesn't

have to hurt herself or hide like a thief.

The 40 percent that weren't sure could have been part of the 58 percent that supported a ban on all abortions, in a Gallup Poll that is hardly accurate. You can make numbers say whatever you want.

It's easy for someone else to say "give the baby up for adoption." A woman who doesn't want the baby has to go through a lot of pain that I wouldn't wish on myself, even if I fell down a flight of stairs. Let's get the words right. It shouldn't be pro-life/anti-life. It should be pro-choice/anti-choice.

We should respect others' beliefs and stand up for our rights. Isn't it nice that we all don't live in Mr. Rogers' neighborhood?

Marcus Aurelius Rexilius
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I'm not them, so I'll be quiet

I was considering replying to the recent columns concerning the abortion issue, but since I am not a woman, I guess I won't. I suppose that since Abraham Lincoln wasn't a slave owner, he should have minded his own business, too.

And since many of the allied fighting forces weren't Jews, they shouldn't have bothered with Hitler. Since I am not living in South Africa, I won't comment on apartheid either.

Since I don't have any reason to have a voice in any issue, I won't waste my time.

I'd hate to put my nose in something that isn't my business.

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Letters

Rogers politicizes gospel

Just who does Jim Rogers think he is, and what right does he have to quote scripture to me to back up a national anti-choice campaign (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 22)? Every time I see the gospel twisted and politicized like it was in his column, my stomach does somersaults.

As a Christian, my duty is to imitate the God I claim to serve. I know that if Jesus Christ were to walk on this earth today, he wouldn't be concerned about Roe vs. Wade, national legislation or even Rogers' somewhat verbose opinion. He wouldn't march around carrying silly signs, bomb clinics, circulate petitions or sit behind an editorial desk engaging in semantic games.

No, Christ would be with that woman who is agonizing over a choice that will affect the rest of her life. Standing by her side he would say, "There is no need for you to worry, I'll take care of the child." And with that simple statement there would be no need for another beautiful child to die.

Christ is screaming in anguish, as I am also, every time another baby is destroyed. But he cries in exactly the same way whenever anyone makes the conscious choice not to follow him, because he wishes that everyone could be with him. He has the power to force us all to do his will, but he won't. That would remove our choice and we would be nothing more than robots. Without choice, humans become mere animals. With it, we can become like God.

Our goal must not be to remove our choices, for that limits not only who we are, but who we can become. Our goal must be the same as Christ's: to remove the desire that leads to the wrong choice. We could at least try to be like Christ, but who would believe us? We have already proven that we are incapable of taking care of living, breathing

and talking children, so how can we possibly convince anybody that we care about the unborn?

So don't preach to me about God's position on abortion, because, ultimately, God is always pro-choice. He just wants us to make the right one.

Every year at this time interest is raised in this topic. For a couple of weeks, or even months, people walk the streets, carry signs and scream and shout at each other. Then they go home and forget about it.

It's easy to do that. It satisfies the twinge in the conscience. They can go home feeling that they've done their part for the world's children, both the living and the dead.

You see, Christ's alternative is a 365-days-a-year, 24-hours-a-day job that not many people choose to do. It's not that they can't, it's just too easy to sit behind a desk and write a self-righteous editorial, so they do that instead. Or they rally. Or they march. And Christ cries.

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Guest opinion

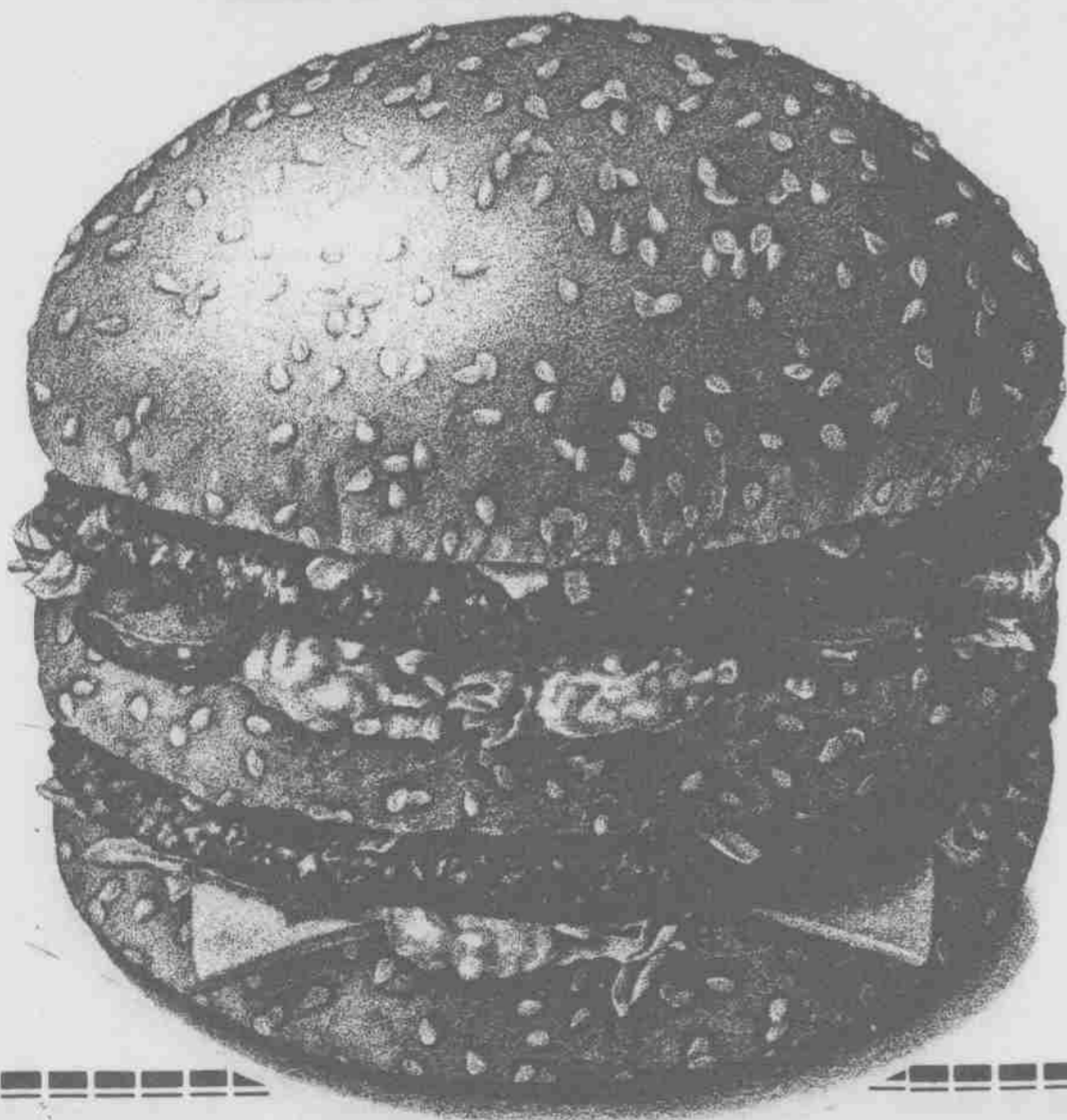
Everything considered, I think it's cool that so many people have varying opinions. This is America! Living in the United States means that you have a constitutional right to believe as you want, i.e. freedom of speech and freedom of the press. These freedoms have been violated too many times. If we don't speak up, our rights may be gone and it would be too late to retrieve them.

Rogers based his reasonings for his last six arguments on his first argument, where he states his personal opposition to abortion. Let us look at his seven arguments.

1. There are about as many views on when the fetus becomes life as there are on the morality of abortion.

Some people consider the time of conception as life. Others believe that life occurs when the embryo plants itself inside the womb, for without the menstrual lining, the embryo could not exist. Then there are those who believe that life begins after the first term

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