

*New twist on arguments*

# Abortion philosophies debated

By Diane Brayton  
Staff Reporter

A pro-choice position based on religion and an anti-abortion position using scientific arguments were heard by a standing-room-only crowd at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Law Thursday afternoon.

About 200 students and faculty members listened to different perspectives about the abortion issue from Richard Duncan, a UNL law professor and president of the Nebraska chapter of the Rutherford Society, and Kappie Weber, active member of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights.

Duncan opened the discussion, stressing the scientific basis of his arguments.

**"I think we should punish severely physicians who kill for pay."**

--Duncan

"The pro-life position is based on indisputable scientific evidence," he said. "The unborn child is a unique human being, genetically distinct from its mother."

Duncan said the "pro-abortionist" position was not based on sci-

entific facts, but on the religious and philosophical issue of "personhood."

Weber emphasized religious evidence supporting her pro-choice position, citing scriptures from the Bible and Hebrew scholars.

"I believe life began when God breathed life into the nostrils of Adam," Weber said. "I believe life is everlasting. The sperm and ovum were alive before they met and they were alive after they met."

"I would not presume to tell you when life begins," she said.

Weber said it is the mother who makes the decision and assumes the responsibility.

"It is between her and her Maker," she said.

After the two speakers presented their views, they invited questions from the audience.

Duncan responded to a question about possible criminal penalties for abortion by saying it was necessary to distinguish between the act and the actor.

Women are the second victims of abortion, he said.

"I think we should punish severely physicians who kill for pay," Duncan said.

Weber said physicians should decide when fetuses are alive, not the courts.

Both speakers were asked about the male's role in the abortion is-

sue. Weber said that women have "a 100 percent, exclusive right to choose" whether to have an abortion but that the issue is not a simple one.

**(Women have) "a 100 percent, exclusive right to choose."**

--Weber


Duncan said, "Both men and women have a responsibility not to abuse them (children), not to kill them."

Duncan, asked how he felt about polls indicating that the majority of the population supports abortion, responded that the polls changed as questions got more specific.

"A strong majority of people think abortion should be illegal in those cases," he said. "People think more than 90 percent of abortions should be illegal."

Jim Ogloff, psychology instructor and member of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, and Richard Harnsberger, Cline Williams-Flavel A. Wright professor of law, moderated the discussion. The NCLU student group sponsored the discussion.

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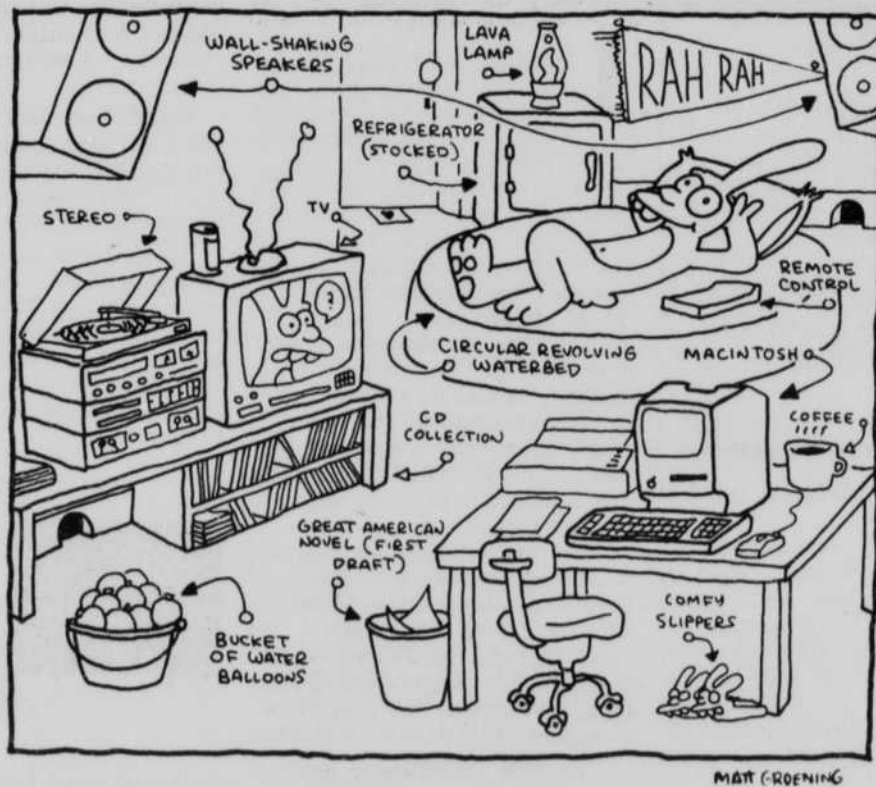
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