

Opposing views expressed on Question 7

Question 7, one of the most controversial questions on the Tuesday Nov. 6 ballot, asks voters to either approve the existing law regarding abortion, or send the issue back to the legislature for additional debate. The Yellin' Rebel has asked two notable representatives to voice their views.

Human life should be protected by Francis J. Beckwith

A "no" vote on Question 7 is not a vote for "pro-life" or "anti-abortion," but a vote against Nevada's permissive law of abortion on demand. Under the current law, an abortion can be obtained for no reason in the first six months of pregnancy and for any reason in months seven through nine. Supporters of this radical law claim that this is not true. But the near unanimous weight of legal scholarships is against them.

Typical of this scholarship is the work of Stanford Law School Dean John Hart Ely (a defender of abortion rights), who writes, "After viability the mother's life or health (which presumably is to be defined very broadly indeed, so as to include what many might regard as the mother's convenience...) must, as a matter of constitutional law, take precedence over...the fetus's life..."

This is why the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, after extensive interviews of both legal and medical experts, concluded that "the Supreme Court's decision has, in fact, made abortion available on demand throughout the pre-natal life of the child, from conception to birth."

Evidently, this does not bother the defenders of Nevada's radical abortion law. For example, one of their representatives, Professor Esther Langston, in a debate held on the UNLV campus, disclosed the "pro-choice" tolerance for infanticide, "...be it abortion, to keep, to adopt, to sell, to leave in a dumpster, to put on the porch, whatever; it's the person's right to choose."

In fact, Planned Parenthood's founder, Margaret Sanger, admitted, "The most merciful thing a large family can do for one of its infant members is to kill it."

Even if it is true that "no one knows when life begins" (which I believe is a misnomer), it is obvious that a genetically individual

human being exists at some time before birth, at least when brain waves can first be detected in the unborn about 40 to 42 weeks after conception (in the sixth week of pregnancy; about three weeks after a heartbeat can first be de-

tected).

So, if you believe that a human life should be protected at some time before birth, whether it be as early as conception or as late as the ninth month pregnancy; that abortion should be legal for some reasons (such as rape, incest, and/or to save the mother's life), but not for others, you should vote "no" on Question 7.

Francis J. Beckwith is a lecturer of philosophy at UNLV and the author of several articles on abortion.

Get out and vote.

Allow the freedom to choose by Jackie Hamilton

A "yes" vote on Question 7 is a vote for the very ideals that the United States of America is founded on. A "yes" vote says that you believe in freedom above all else. It states you believe in freedom of religion, freedom from

are willing to concede that it is not your right to make such a decision for another human being. You are willing to trust in the intelligence and morality of the person involved. Nobody has ever made the right decision all the time. How many of us would be willing to make the wrong decision for somebody else? This is a private decision best left to those who care about her and are involved in her private life.

The charges, that if we leave the existing law on the books it will be abused (abortion will be used for birth control, sex selection or in the third trimester), are groundless. We have had this law for almost 20 years and abortion has not been abused in this state. There is no reason to believe that if we keep the existing law it will be abused. Sex selections are not part of the American cultural morals. The only time sex selection abortions are performed is in the genetically transmitted disease that affects the offspring of one sex. Third trimester abortions are rarely performed in the state of Nevada, and only if the mother's life is at risk, or due to gross fetal abnormality. Ninety-six percent of all women who seek abortions report failed birth control as the cause. Parental consent is a different issue, and there is a different court case that is currently in the ninth circuit court of appeals.

If you believe in freedom, if you believe in America, then you must in clear conscience vote "yes" on Question 7. You must allow every citizen of Nevada the right to make their own choices.

Jackie Hamilton is president of UNLV Students for Choice.



The decision is in your hands!

government oppression and the freedom for each of us to shape our own destiny and for each of us to guide the course of our own lives as we see fit.

A "yes" vote on Question 7 does not say that you are "pro-abortion" or that you even believe in abortion. A "yes" vote says you respect the right of each person to make their own decision. You

No name, no gain by The Yellin' Rebel Staff

Unsigned letters are not printed because they imply that the people behind the words are unwilling, or unable to back them up.

Recently there appeared around campus two pages of nonsense that attacked this newspaper and its editors. That document was not signed, except by a "concerned student."

It had little effect.

One reason for such a document being a total waste of time and energy (besides the allegations being proven false), was that it was written anonymously. Without a name attached, only the gullible would blindly believe or accept the accusations made. The reasonable person assumes, right away, that if the things being stated were true, then the person, or persons, stating them would stand up and do so publicly.

Anonymity implies fear, or guilt, or pure meanness in writ-

ing something you shouldn't. Anonymous documents are rarely effective ones.

Not long ago there appeared an article about minority instructors on campus. In the wake of that story; the Yellin' Rebel received several letters, most of them unsigned, hateful junk, that were not printed. Unsigned letters are not printed because, once again, they imply that the people behind the words is unwilling, or unable to back them up.

The Yellin' Rebel wants your opinion. We want to hear from our readers, whether by letter, or phone, or note slipped under the door. Write us. Include your name, a telephone number, and the best time to get in touch with you if need be. We'll print your letters and your opinions, but not with-

out knowing who you are.

Along the same line, we here at The Yellin' Rebel are going to be presenting our views on issues that affect us as students and human beings. Although we seek not to hurt anyone, we expect to outrage a few, and to hopefully inspire one or two.

Although this space will run without a byline, following a common journalism tradition, anyone looking for the "authors" will not have to look very hard to find us. We'll stand by what we write, and ask only that you do the same.

No name, no gain. A hard lesson for the foolish people who spend so much time writing accusatory and hateful pieces. Of course, we can't pity the people involved.

No one knows who they are.



Yell Photo / JoAnn Palaz

Pro-choice rally - Professor Barbara Brents (Sociology) speaks to the crowd during last Thursday's rally.