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ENG 100 Writing 1

15 Feb. 2013

Butting Heads About Abortion

Weak, immobile, ingesting limited substances, practically able to feel death's grip slowly tighten around her, everything she had accomplished in her life was about to diminish, just as her health had been doing for months. All of her dreams, her hopes, her ideas for the future, concerning not only herself, but also her husband and eighteen month old child at home, slipping through her fingers. Why? Pregnancy. Amy had been pregnant only one time previous to this; during the first pregnancy she was also very ill, however she was experiencing more sickness the second go around. Mrs. Blackford and her husband loved kids, they wanted three children of their own, maybe even more! Disappointingly, their first child's conception didn't just compose of ecstatic positive emotions, and joy all around; sickness had taken over both mother and child, which spread throughout the family like wild fire. Despite many obstacles and visits to medical practitioners, rcdx. . Blackford had her first baby boy; he was 3 weeks premature and healthy. Now she finds herself pregnant with her second child. She has already been hospitalized within the first month of pregnancy. What will happen to her family if this pregnancy ends badly? Is it fair to her loved ones to possibly lose her to sickness brought on by a fetus? I wish to alter the thought process of many stubborn people who never attempt to understand the opposing opinions relating to abortion.

Oligohydramnios, ectopic pregnancy, preeclampsia; all complications of pregnancy that not only affect the fetus, but also cause serious damage to mothers. Oligohydramnios: a malfunction of the placenta that decreases the amount of oxygen and nutrients sent to the unborn baby, resulting in abnormal growth behavior and fetal stress (heart of the fetus does not work properly). This lack of essential substances lowers both the baby's chance of a healthy and safe conception and delivery, and can result in loss of the unborn child ("Placental Dysfunction" pt 1). If the mother experiences a severe case of oligohydramnios, the fetus will self-terminate, meaning a miscarriage, and tissue remaining within the mother can accumulate fluid which causes infection that can essentially kill the carrier. Dr. James W. Ferguson constitutes this by saying:

The fetus within the intact fetal membranes is no longer nourished by the placenta (no heart pushing blood to and fro) so the structures begin to break down. They may pass as a miscarriage or need to be coaxed out by an induction or manual removal. Overtime the tissue can attain a bag of soup consistency. Retained tissues can cause an infection that may kill mom (As I saw once in training) (Ferguson pt 1.)

For arguments sake, lets say a woman does indeed have a severe case of oligohydramnios, her doctor informs her that the fetus has died two weeks previous to the visit and an infection has set up within the placenta. This woman who at one time had her child growing inside of her, now has an infection developing within her body. She is only two months away from her due date, but when this day finally arrives she will deliver a sack of infection that has, by this time, reached numerous additional parts of her body. That is, if abortion was not legal. However, if abortion *is* legal, then she can have the dead fetus and infection removed, which in result will extract the stress and sickness from her life and body. Mrs. Blackford states:

"I would have never considered it, but when I was put in that position, choosing between terminating a pregnancy and risking my life and the future of my family, I didn't know what to do. After visiting my doctor, he actually recommended me to abort my child and surprisingly so did my father and husband who in previous times were completely against abortion. I cannot judge anyone for making that decision, because *honestly* you don't know what it's like until you've experienced it for yourself" (Blackford).

Amy chose not to get an abortion, however her second son was born three months premature and was a still born. 1.3 million pregnancies across America result in abortion yearly (Dudley par 1). 94% of these abortions are due to non-medical reasons (Why Do Women pt 5). I find myself puzzled by this statistic considering how many health complications are present when pregnant.

Why must a woman who terminates a pregnancy due to health reasons be looked down upon to the same degree as a woman who aborts a fetus due to financial reasons? I believe this example of judgment is unethical, considering a woman with serious health complications is putting her life on the line to have a child, which in result can kill her. On the other hand, a woman getting an abortion for financial reasons simply feels as if a child would interrupt her way of life. What this woman would simply need to do is get an extra job to support her baby. Chiefly, a mother with no way of altering her health, and a woman with elementary adjustments available to increase her salary, are being looked at with identical degrees of disapproval. I'm afraid society today does not realize how great of a gift children are. Young people will find cures for sicknesses that doctors today don't understand; young people will be our world's rulers. Yet, women are terminating these possible leaders due to lack of money. I do not wholeheartedly agree with abortion; I cannot sympathize for women who decide to escape the responsibility of having a child by terminating the pregnancy. I do, however, think abortion should be legal for certain reasons, such as health risks, sexual abuse, and also religious reasons.

"Every 2 minutes, someone in the U.S is sexually abused" (Statistics pt 2). In the years 2004 and 2005 RAINN estimated about 64,080 women were raped. Due to this statistic, RAINN also estimated about 3,204 of these rapes resulted in pregnancies. If abortion was not legal then these 3,204 women would have their rapist's child, that is if the child makes it to the due date, considering no prenatal caution was taken, and either have the parents could of taken drugs.

Why must a women who was sexually abused go through nine months of pregnancy, provide for a child that was given to her by a possible stranger in a forceful way, and go through painful labor to give birth to a child who will remind her everyday of that miserable act? Considering the individuals that oppose the idea of conditional abortion, their argument for the topic of sexual abuse might be, "These woman shouldn't of gotten raped" (Williams). How would this side of the argument propose to prevent sexual abuse? These women could carry pepper spray, or a different form of self defense mechanism, though this alone will not stop a sick individual from conducting sexual abuse. In the state of Florida alone, 11,214 sexual offenses were reported to the law enforcement in the year of 2007 (Sexual Assault Statics pt 2). Even more shockingly, according to Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, "54% of rapes or sexual assaults are not reported to the police." A logical combination of these two statistics could assume around 22,500 sexual offenses were conducted just in the year of 2007 in the state of Florida. 5% of all rapes conducted result in pregnancy. Considering this fact, logical individuals can make the assumption that around 1,400 victims in the year of 2007 who reside in Florida became pregnant due to rape (Rape Related Pregnancies). Not only will this birth affect the mother, but the child too. I'm sure it's easy for the opposing side of this argument to say "Women should never get abortions, killing is wrong" (Williams). I suggest the idea that these same people would think

differently if perhaps *their own* child was sexually abused. In other words, I propose the idea of abortion being legal for limited reasons, sexual abuse being one of them.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." The first amendment of the Bill of Rights, within the Constitution promises us this. Are our rights, that we as Americans were given permission to freely conduct, by the founding of our glorious nation, now being shadowed by the hot air within various arguments, such as abortion? According to Alan Khoo, Buddhists believe in The Three Evils; greed, hatred, and delusion. They also believe in good karma and bad karma. When The Three Evils are conducted by a person, his or her family and friends will suffer from bad karma, while good karma can be sent to the conductors families and friends when one of the ten good deeds are conducted. The third precept of the Buddhism religion is do not indulge in sexual misconduct, breaking this precept would result in bad karma; however if this act was conducted upon an innocent woman whom becomes pregnant, would this mean the child itself is a bad karma? If so, would it be wrong of the mother to terminate a pregnancy, considering that the woman is doing so to prevent her family and friends from being sucked into the dark whirl of bad karma that could be distributed among the birth of the child? If a woman does indeed believe terminating a fetus will benefit her family and friends is this not an example of character, that shows services to others, the fifth good deed, and the tenth good deed, straightening one's own views, meaning the woman is putting others before herself? This is yet another reason I believe abortion should be legal, for a religious reason, *everyone* as an American has this right, by declining women to conduct abortions under *certain* conditions, go against our rights.

Many people, especially pro life people, argue that getting an abortion is killing; by getting abortions people are going against the Bible, and Declaration of Independence. However, these people never question why pro choice people believe their opinion is correct; I question both sides. Why should the government only pay attention to certain parts of these precious documents? I understand the Declaration of Independence states, everyone has a right to life, but what about the first amendment, The freedom of religion? Why should the government be able to turn away women who want abortions to impact their religion for the better? Also to kill something it must at have some time been alive, according to, the definition of alive is; in existence or operation. Moving things, abounding. Full of activity or animation, lively, aware of [surroundings] (Alive). As I'm sure many people know, an unborn fetus cannot be aware of their surroundings. In addition, the definition of dead, which is the result of killing is physically inactive, or dormant, having lost life, not having the capacity to produce or sustain life, barren (Dead). This with the exception of a few words could also be the definition of a fetus. The words relating to a fetus are physically inactive, not having the capacity to produce life, and dormant. "I would have never considered it, but...I cannot judge anyone for making that decision, because *honestly* you don't know what it's like until you've experienced it for yourself" (Blackford).

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