Informed abortion choice is best

To the Editor:

Cynthia G. Brinkley argues "Pro-life against improper impulses," Oct. 7) that she is not anti-choice, because she allows people to make the choice to have sex, even if she won't let them choose to have an abortion.

She exhaustively uses the words choose, choice, and choices, making the reader slow down so as not to get lost. Despite this form of argument, I believe she does not understand her own letter.

However, I think that she does not take the time to break down abortion into separate groups and reflects the fact that different people feel about different reasons. Specifically, she does not address the area of teen pregnancy.

Brinkley states that pro-choice people are "in favor of the right of people to make informed moral choices." I am certainly in favor of informed choices. But what about those people who are not well informed? They certainly could not make an informed choice.

What about these available, safe, and effective birth control methods? Are they really so available, especially to women? No way. Don't forget, a girl must be over 18 years of age to purchase the Pill, and at the age of 16 she started taking the Pill with her parent's consent.

Consider the case of a 14 or 15-year-old girl who gets pregnant. Chances are that she has been told little, if anything, about sex and birth control. She did not make an informed decision. She had to sort out, at a very young age, the relationship between love, sex, and pregnancy. It is unlikely that she had any understanding of her body, or that she felt comfortable enough with, to talk about it.

Now, she is pregnant and Brinkley feels that this girl should be forced to have the baby. After all, this girl made her choice. No matter how this girl feels about it, no matter how it affects her, she should have the option of a safe, legal abortion. I think this is very foolish.

Furthermore, this use of abortion is unimportant because they get pregnant. On the other hand, I think that if a pregnant woman decides that she should have the option of a safe, legal abortion.

I believe I understand her letter. I am pro-choice, but I am not, in general, in favor of women having abortions. Adult women who have more than one abortion are probably using abortion as the full-back method of birth control. I think this is very foolish.

It is likely that the most dangerous method of birth control. Furthermore, this use of abortion is unnecessary, given the available means of birth control. People should not think that birth control is unimportant because they can always have an abortion if they get pregnant. On the other hand, I think that if a pregnant woman decides that she should have the option of a safe, legal abortion.

Fights the abortion problem by information, not legislation.

John C. Briggs

Anti-abortionists should not impose their views on others

(Continued from page 4) (Since Planned Parenthood of Massachusetts)

Brinkley seems to believe that calling oneself pro-choice means that one is in favor of abortion. This is patently false. Pro-choice does not mean pro-abortion. It means pro-choice.

We do not want to deny anyone the right to hold opinions founded upon his or her basic moral convictions. We speak, however, of people who do not recognize that other people's decisions and convictions are based upon different sets of convictions. Thankfully, Brinkley stops short of recommending that legislation enforce her views on the subject of choosing an abortion.

Unfortunately, many who share her views wish to force their views on others who do not. It is not fair to put every pregnant woman to whom abortion is immorally forced to choose her pregnancy to term. It is also not fair to force all pregnant women who have the option of a safe, legal abortion.

Chris Thorman '88

Eve Chen '89

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