

Quality of life can't be predetermined

To the editor:

I am writing regarding a letter recently submitted about abortion. Although I agreed with several of the writer's points, I had to address one comment.

"Women who decide to have an abortion aren't demonstrating lack of conscience, in fact, these women are morally superior to anti-abortionists because they aren't oblivious to the quality of life their child would or wouldn't have."

I suppose if this is the justification for abortions, then it might be acceptable for us to begin euthanizing seniors who are confined to nursing homes or can't afford prescription drugs. After all, if their quality of life is lacking, aren't they better off dead?

In any case, abortion isn't the only alternative to parenting; we all know that adoption is a feasible option.

The fact remains, regardless: we don't have the right to choose death for another human being, whether they will be living in a gutter or a mansion. Quality of life is subjective. One person's heaven is another's hell. We all deserve the chance to make our own lives. How many people have overcome poverty and other hardships and gone on to change the world forever, to permanently alter the landscape of our society in beautiful ways? Perhaps it would have been easy for Martin Luther King Jr.'s mother to say, "My son is going to encounter so much sorrow because of the ignorant, racist nation we live in. Perhaps he'd be better off dead." Where would we be now?

What we make of our lives is not dependent upon what we are born into. We all have the freedom to make our lives whatever we choose to, regardless of our roots. And we all deserve that opportunity — the opportunity to embrace the life we've been blessed with and sculpt it into whatever shape we choose. To take that away from another human being is tragic and is certainly not morally superior to choosing life. I have the utmost sympathy for any woman who must face this choice. I've faced it myself. Despite my strong feelings on the subject, I am pro-choice. I don't think outlawing abortion would help anyone. In fact, I think it would lead us down a slippery slope that would eventually undermine everything women have fought and worked for. This is one of the few gray areas for me — where the law and morals don't coincide and it's for the better of all. However, I feel that we need to be honest about our motives and refrain from justifying abortion with excuses that are obviously baseless.

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Headline
12-24-01