

Headline: Ask Anyone ... It's Up for Debate

Subhead: After the overturning of Roe v. Wade, staff and students hold a variety of opinions and perspectives

Sierra Dillbeck

"I do see [abortion] as a women's rights issue," senior **Sierra Dillbeck** said. "But, I see it in a different light than other people may see it. Whereas people will see it like women should have the right to choose that, I see it like women should have the right to still live their lives and be a mother."

Dillbeck said she was pro-life because she believed life began at conception and therefore abortion was ending a human life. She remembered the morning she found out Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court ruling that stood for almost half a century, was overturned and was excited about what it meant for the country, Dillbeck said.

After the ruling, Dillbeck said she posted multiple Instagram stories which expressed her pro-life point of view, but she received argumentative messages in response. She said many people would ask her why she hated women or if she wanted to take rights away from them; however, Dillbeck said she viewed the issue in a different light.

"Being a mother is a beautiful thing and people degrade that," Dillbeck said. "People sit there and are like 'Oh, if you have a baby then that's the end of your life. You can't have fun anymore. You can't accomplish your goals. You can't do all this stuff.' But women are so resilient, so strong and I think having children and having that relationship makes your life even better."

Dillbeck said that she was often accused of only caring about women giving birth but not about them after. However, she said that was not true and that there were so many services that care for women after they have had their baby; including the women's shelter that Dillbeck said she asked her friends to donate to instead of gifting her presents for her birthday.

"It's a good way to support women and give them more options," Dillbeck said. "The more funding that places like that have and the more supplies, the more women they can help."

Karen Punswick

"It shouldn't be based on another person's opinion whether that life is valid or not," English teacher **Karen Punswick** said.

Punswick said that she was pro-human life at all ages and stages. For that reason, she was pro-life concerning abortion. She said she had many experiences that led her to develop that point of view including her difficult pregnancy with her youngest son, **Luke Punswick**, who was born 11 weeks early.

“It’s hard for me to understand why there was a team of doctors, nurses, specialists there to save his life, when other children that age, their life is taken from them,” Punswick said.

Despite her strong opinion, Punswick said this topic too often destroyed bonds between people who more often than not, were more similar to each other than they thought. She said especially after the pandemic, face-to-face relationships and conversations were important.

“I just think that people who throw stones or spray paint or take other people’s signs down, they are choosing the easy way out because they don’t have to engage with someone and sit down and have a conversation and try to find out their point of view,” Punswick said.

She said that she wasn’t sure how the overturning of Roe v. Wade will affect Northwest, but she hoped students understood that it is OK to hold different viewpoints and that was what made our country great.

“I think we need to recognize the dignity of all human life at all ages and stages,” Punswick said. “I think if we do that, we’re going to find that we’re far more alike.”

Claire Doherty

“Abortion is a sad thing, but it’s a thing that happens, and you can’t just make it illegal because even if it’s illegal it’s still going to happen,” senior **Claire Doherty** said.

Doherty said she was pro-choice because abortion was something one could not prevent and making it illegal only caused harm. She said that when there were first rumors that Roe vs. Wade could be overturned, she didn’t believe it and was shocked and saddened when it happened.

“I couldn’t process it,” Doherty said. “It was unbelievable.”

She said that she believed this was not only a setback in women’s rights, but in civil rights, and she was scared for what this would mean for her friends and loved ones in states where abortion was made illegal.

She hoped this would be a wake up call to her generation and encourage them to take action before more of their rights could be taken away, Doherty said.

“It’s scary to think about the effects,” Doherty said. “I know so many mothers and young girls have died already. I hope that as a generation this makes people angry and want to have some sort of progress.”

Angie Reyes

“I’m a woman,” senior **Angie Reyes** said. “I have a uterus, and I can’t even imagine having to deal with the possibility of needing an abortion.”

Reyes said she was 100 percent pro-choice, and she did not think that it was anyone’s right to speak on things that do not affect them personally. After the overturning of Roe v. Wade, Reyes said she was unnerved by the need of politicians to control women and people who have a uterus.

“I was just sad,” Reyes said. “I was just angry because this isn’t just about abortion. It’s about women’s rights as a whole. And not just about women’s rights, but about human rights in general. This need to control our bodies when there’s such a low percentage of women represented in politics and the audacity of people who don’t have to deal with pregnancy to try and regulate how that’s dealt with is unnerving to say the least.”

Additionally, Reyes said it was important to note how the overturning of Roe v. Wade would disproportionately affect poor women and women of color. Unfortunately, it would not be the politicians who allowed Roe v. Wade to be overturned who would be affected because they have money, and they have status, Reyes said.

“It is the poor black and hispanic women who live in inner cities that don’t have access to good health care that are going to be affected the most,” Reyes said. “They’re the ones who have health issues with pregnancies. They’re the ones who are discriminated against in the healthcare system, and it’s honestly an attack on women of color.”

Kylie,

I don’t see any issue with this. We’ll have to see how it looks when it’s on the page with photos, but for just words, it appears to be very fair and balanced in your approach to the topic.

—JM