

MAY 29th

Letters Petb. EXAMINER

Some purpose served

There have been a number of letters taking strong exception to the graphic pictures of aborted fetuses displayed by anti-abortionists on May 16.

While I understand and sympathize with some of the comments and concerns, such as the appropriateness of exposing pre-teens to this sort of graphic material, other comments seem more concerned that displaying the results of a choice to have an abortion would make those who have had or plan to have one feel badly.

If indeed having an abortion involves little more deliberation or morality than removing a wart as implied by some pro-choicers, then displaying or seeing the end product should not result in this strong reaction.

I suspect this reaction reflects the reality

that whatever its legal status, people know a fetus is more than a collection of tissue.

If not, and one truly believes abortion is nothing more than removing unwanted tissue like a tumor, why care other than to ensure those exposed are those mature enough to make appropriate choices.

If, however, the problem is that the pictures evoke feelings of guilt that are uncomfortable to have, then the pictures may have served some purpose in at least forcing that acknowledgement, though I suspect that rather than looking inward, the common reaction will be to shoot the messenger for telling us what we don't want to know.

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