

## Solution offered to file sharing

To the Editor,

Every time I sit down in a computer lab on campus I see the same thing: a small square on the small screen telling me that I'm going to be fined a quarter of a million dollars (per song) if I don't stop sharing music online.

Has that stopped most of my friends from sharing music? No. The fact is, music piracy online is available in so many forms and used so widely on campus that it seems like a victimless and untraceable crime.

Things like KaZaA Lite, which promises anonymity, give students the confidence to share music fearlessly.

While I personally don't use KaZaA Lite, I do share music online in a relatively safer, more respectful manner to the artists.

Through Apple iTunes that can be downloaded for free online at <http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/> and allows users to share their music with all those on their subnet.

Basically, you can share your music with everyone in your residence hall and give all of your friends access to your library.

## Mailbox

I present this option to students on campus. Tell your hall mates about it.

Sharing through iTunes is not illegal and people are not being sued for doing so, so share with iTunes and rid yourself of that tiny pang of guilt you feel every time you see that small square in a computer lab.

- Luke Johnson '07

## Crosswalk still cause for concern

To the Editor,

In the Oct. 23 edition of *The Pendulum*, there were several articles on the "crosswalk concerns" of bad student driving and jay-walking around campus. I know that a lot of people, including myself, had no idea we were jay-walking when walking over a crosswalk without pressing the button.

Many times when I actually have pressed the button, drivers have some choice words to say about having to wait on the light. I know this is merely a matter of

impatience and misunderstanding, but perhaps it would be best to post signs that alert both students and drivers of the fact that crossing is illegal if the button is not pushed.

Also, I think it would be to beneficial to students and faculty to place a crosswalk between Moseley Center and McMichael parking lots.

No matter what happens, people are going to continue to jay-walk on O'Kelly Avenue, and it just makes sense to put in a new crosswalk to ensure the safety of Elon students and faculty.

- Rachel Hetu '06

# Partial-birth abortions: Pro-life v. pro-choice

## A baby's rights should be protected

Leigh Wiley  
Columnist

Well it's happened. Partial-birth abortions are now illegal thanks to what CNN calls an "overwhelming" vote in Congress. But how is the nation going to take the first governmental call on abortion since the 1970s?

Most people have already chosen how they are going to react: they are either pro-life or pro-choice. You rarely meet anyone who is undecided.

I have voted to go pro-life. Nobody has the right to choose death for another human being. That's what these babies are - human beings. Sure, they are not fully grown, but their hearts begin to beat after 22 days. These fetuses can feel pain just like any other human being.

Brenda Pratt Shafer testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1995 about a partial-birth abortion she witnessed while acting as a nurse.

She described the birth of a baby, 26 - and - a - half weeks old. She said the doctor delivered everything but the head. With the head still inside the uterus, the body was turned around and scissors were used to cut open the baby's neck. Shafer said the baby physically reacted to this by jerking, "Like a baby does when he thinks he might fall." The doctor then inserted a suction tube and removed the baby's brain. The skull collapsed and the

now dead child slid the rest of the way out.

A fetus that reacts like that is feeling pain. No matter how far you distance yourself from the fetus; it is still alive and was just killed.

The argument that abortion is a woman's right is ridiculous. In no other circumstance does someone have the right to kill another human because that human is an inconvenience to them.

The argument that a baby that may be born deformed should be aborted and saved the trouble is also ridiculous. First of all, the baby is alive whether it's deformed or not. Second of all, not all babies that are considered deformed in the womb turn out to be deformed.

I have a friend at Appalachian State University who was suppose to have been born retarded. The doctor urged her mother to have an abortion. Her mother refused and instead gave birth to one of the brightest people I know.

Yes, women have a choice. They have a choice to protect themselves. They have a choice to abstain. They even have the choice to have an abortion in the first trimester. But women who choose to carry the baby until the last trimester should not have the right to discard their baby in this fashion.

Contact Leigh Wiley at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or 278-7247.



Leigh Wiley

## Women should control their destiny

Margurette Awad  
Columnist

Imagine, it's late one Saturday night and you've just had the time of your life at a party, when you realize you're worn out and it's time to go home. All your girlfriends left hours ago and you have to walk to Danieley by yourself. You know that walking across the intramural fields by yourself isn't necessarily the smartest idea, but it seemed like the only option.

You're making your way across the grass when you hear a rustle from behind. It grows louder and faster and you can't help but fear the worse as you turn and see a dark stranger nearing. You're scrambling, wishing someone would save you. He shadows over you and your tears prevent you from seeing his face as he rips away your clothes.

Every day women face these sorts of dilemmas but rarely are we given the choice to decide. We have been given the right to make decisions that concern our own body. Ever since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, the United States government has maintained that abortion is legal and that no one shall take that right away. However, in a recent bill passed by Congress in October 2003, it was stated that all partial birth abortions are banned. In laymen's terms, this means no woman who is in her second or third trimester can expect to receive service in an abortion

clinic. I firmly believe in the right to choose. What if you were placed in a situation like the one just described and became pregnant? Could you give birth to a child that had been created on one of the most horrific nights of your life? And if you felt that you could bear that child, could you rear it and love it, knowing that your life could have been different?

United States officials, who do not live the life of ordinary citizens, should not have the power to control our destiny. We are the masters of our own bodies and no one else should be allowed to

make certain decisions. Many argue that abortion should not be allowed because it is the death of the unborn child, but what if that child's life affected the life of the mother. Who is to say that the life of the fetus is more valuable than that of the mother? There should never be *one* rule for millions of people. We are all different and should never be expected to act in the same manner.

If you believe this is the end to issues concerning abortion, think again. If the government allows it, abortion will become entirely illegal leaving American women with absolutely no choices. This is just the beginning to a lengthy battle. Ladies, stand up for yourself and don't let government power control you.



Margurette Awad

Contact Margurette Awad at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or 278-7247.