

Editorial

Abortion is legal, but the decision is moral

On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court declared abortion legal. Prior to this time, state laws protected fetus life from abortion, except in rare and extreme cases, usually to save the life of the mother.

Regarding the personhood of the "blob of protoplasm", or "baby", depending on your perspective the Court states, legal person hood does not exist prenatally, and therefore ruled that the fetus is not entitled to legal protection of his or her life.

It is legal in the State of Michigan to terminate a pregnancy period, The grounds for the termination of a pregnancy to date are irrelevant.

Abortion is taking place in the Alpena County. The Michigan Dept. of Public Health, office of Vital and Health Statistics has recently issued a lengthy tabulation of reported number of abortions by county residence, Oct.1, 1979-Dec.31, 1979, showing Alpena with 15 abortions. It also recorded the number fo reported abortions by Michigan County of Occurrence, Oct.1, 1979-Dec. 31, 1979, listing Alpena with 20 abortions.

Before the Court's decision (as early as 1795) state laws fully recognized the unborn child's personhood. Until 1973, the fetus's life, and even his ability to sue, and qualify for Social Security benefits were closely protected by law regardless of the fetus's gestational age.

What changes have occurred in the United States in those 178 years and in the values of Americans to bring about this decision?

Have the hedonistic preoccupations, which American sociologists readily acknowledge been a precipitating factor? Or have our expectations of life determined this new conditional value ethic, in which some believe a utopian world, where population, poverty, old age, birth defects and disability will disappear magically?

Let's not forget about the young, middle age, or older woman carrying this life. During the 1970's new visions of womanhood brought hope to their dreams of equality. New avenues of expression became available to them and their outstanding contributions became evident in every arena of the American way of

life. Also, a new choice became readily obtainable to women-to be pregnant or not to be. At the same time the abortion rate increased to over 1,000,000 a year.

During the 70's the child abuse phenomenon has developed and is under the scrutiny of sociologists. Many pro-abortion advocates believe that abortion will eliminate the unwanted or unplanned child and thus solve the problem. Contrary ot this popular belief, the following facts about battered children were revealed in a large ongoing study, undertaken at the University of Southern California:

- * 91% have been planned pregnancies
- * 90% have been legitimate
- * 24% were named after their parents

As compared to only 4% of a control group This study clearly raises new questions about "planned" abused children.

Has anyone considered the rape or incest victim and their need for legalized abortions? Pregnancy resulting from criminal rape is extremely rare. A ten year study in Minnesota showed no pregnancies from 3,500 forcible rape cases. A Czechoslovakian study showed out of 86,000 consecutive abortions only 22 were done for rape. Still, should those 22 have to endure such a pregnancy? Or should the unborn child have to pay for the crime of his or her father?

Published reports of legal abortion deaths seem rather confusing also. They range from 1.2 to 75 deaths per 100,000 abortions. One reason for this has been recently recognized. The majority of abortion caused deaths do not occur during the procedure, but only afterwards. Examples include uterine infection, peritonitis, hemorrhage, and risks from complications requiring surgery, such as a perforated uterus or later tubal pregnancy. Also, before legalized abortion, hospitals were on the look-out to report evidence of illegal abortions, or deaths from these complications. Now, they are seldom recorded as "Abortion related."

Perhaps it would be wise to heed warnings from such physicians as Dr. Matthew J. Bulfin, a Florida physician. He wrote in a Southern

Medical Journal, strongly suggesting that teenage girls be educated in the dangers of abortion.

Some individuals would argue, yes, I realize the dangers of abortion, and yet, isn't abortion sometimes necessary to preserve the mental health of the mother? These people would probably want to debate the issue with Frank Ayd, M.D. medical editor and nationally known psychiatrist when he said; "True psychiatric reasons for abortion have become practically non-existent. Modern psychiatric therapy has made it possible to carry a mentally ill woman to term." Psychiatrists are now becoming more preoccupied with treating mental disturbances by woman who have had abortions and are now feeling guilty.

Although there are still countries where abortion is illegal, our Supreme Court has sanctioned the practice to abortion and it now is held as a National moral code for United States citizens to consider.

The abortion issue is close to home and the choice is ours!

Residence Hall reinstates slavery

To get things underway after Spring Break, RHA is having a Slave Auction at the Residence Hall in the Center Section on Wednesday April 9 at 9:00p.m. Mike Norton will be the Auctioneer while Dormitory Staff and faculty will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Buyers are entitled to the service of their slaves for one hour and time before the end of the school year. Refreshments will be served at the auction.

Spring

SALE

Come in and check out our line of summer clothing.

ACC Bookstore

located in Besser Tech

Guys display gams

Legs, legs, legs were seen on Wednesday March 19 at 9:00 p.m. in the Russell Wilson Residence Hall when who else but the guys got to show off their legs. Mike Norton and Sal Frontiero were the judges and they chose these winners: John Crooks took first place for \$10.00 and Dave Perry took second place for \$5.00 Nice legs guys!

Museum, cont.

at the Detroit Institute of Arts and The Freer Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C.). He is currently working with the National Collection of Fine Arts and the Detroit Historical Museum on an exhibition, "Charles Lang Freer-The Man and His Collection" which will open in Detroit in January, 1981. He has lectured extensively and has had several publications-including his book Pe-wabic Pottery: Marks and Labels.

The public is invited to this free, informative and enjoyable presentation. A reception will follow.

NEED AN ATTORNEY?

CALL

DeLysle Henry

Attorney at Law

130 East Chisholm Street, Alpena
No Charge or Cost for Initial Consultation

Phone 354-2071 for Appointment

CAMPUS UPDATE

a communications medium of Alpena Community College published bimonthly, September through May, except during vacations and examination periods, by the students of Alpena Community College, Alpena, Michigan. Campus Update is printed by the Alpena News. All articles published are the sole responsibility of the author. The opinions expressed in such articles do not necessarily express the views of the editors, the advisor, or the administration of Alpena Community College.

Editor: Cathy Mason	Assistant Editor: Andrea Dean	Sports Editor: Ken Lechtanski	Advertising Manager: Tom Greene
Business Manager: Sheri Rickert	Photographer: Linda Rhoads	Staff Artist: John Holcomb	
Reporters: Rhonda Pomranke, Shari Ratz, Dave Talbot, Beth Anderson, Dale Beard, Janice Wade, Madeline Briggs, Janet Lozon			