

Letters

Alternatives

This is in response to the letter by Ms. Vivian Ludington published in the Terrace Bay Schreiber News on November 14, 1984.

The issue of abortion is an extremely controversial and emotional one. Like many number of people, I tend to become very emotional when I read an article that supports abortion and praises a self-righteous murderer such as Dr. Henry Morgentaler. I certainly do not view his recent acquittal as "a victory for women everywhere", to paraphrase "the good doctor's" post-trial statement.

I was as thoroughly disgusted and outraged by Ms. Ludington's opinion concerning the abortion issue and her approval of Dr. Morgentaler. In each example that this woman cites, she suggests abortion as the only viable solution to the situation. However, I believe that there are very real, very workable alternatives to outright murder.

The education of children, teenagers, and adults is probably one of the major choices. It is not only young rape victims, teenage girls, or women who are carrying deformed or retarded children, who seek abortion. Young women in their late teens or early twenties and career-orientated women in their thirties, who face an unwanted pregnancy, also view abortion as their only answer. Educating children, teens, and adults with regard to the several excellent and effective methods of birth control is a less traumatic answer than the final one of abortion.

The prevention of an unwanted pregnancy seems more desirable than the murder of an unborn child. If an unwanted pregnancy does occur as a result of a rape or for another reason, there are excellent pregnancy counselling centres. These centres provide much needed emotional support, encouragement, understanding, and compassion.

Every pregnant woman, but especially a woman carrying a baby she does not want, needs the love and support of parents, family, close friends, and specially-trained professional people who truly care for her. Aborting the unborn child of a young rape victim would certainly not end "the violent and emotionally upsetting experience." If anything, I think an abortion would compound the experience, double the anguish. Abortion would not erase the memory of the rape. Even a twelve year old child can have a definite opinion about an issue as current as abortion. If such a young girl has strong feelings against taking the life of an unborn baby, then an abortion would certainly

further. Her guilt might be unbearable.

Adoption is also a very real and desirable alternative to abortion, especially in this day and age when so many young girls choose to keep their children. Maybe the girl would spend the rest of her life wondering where her child might have been if he had been allowed to be born.

Pregnancies are not only terminated in the first couple of weeks. In some cases, a woman will carry a baby nearly to term and, then for either very selfish reasons or because of sudden tragedy (ie. the death of the husband), will choose to abort the child - and it is done! In one recorded case history, a woman had her child aborted at between six and seven months but, because of the method used, the child was still alive. And yes, the doctor and nurses present did hear this aborted baby's cry. She was brought to neo-natal intensive care and two years later, she celebrated her second birthday with the family who adopted her.

This particular story was discussed in a pro-life film shown in St. Martin's church basement a few years ago. I wish I could recall the name of the film but, unfortunately, I cannot. This film also showed pictures of garbage cans full of aborted babies, pictures that have appeared in anti-abortion articles in magazines and papers. However, I have seen no pictures of smiling twelve year olds or thirty year old career women following their abortions. As the expression goes; "A picture is

worth a thousand words."

I am not sure that I would be able to handle a baby that is retarded or deformed in some way but I would certainly examine my choices as opposed to the one choice of abortion. There are special people who willingly adopt these "special" children. There are several types of community programs to aid the parents of a retarded or handicapped child. There are infant stimulation programs and infant development programs to help these children progress to a certain stage of independence and to keep them out of institutions. As a more final alternative, there are institutions that provide care for the handicapped child. Abortion is definitely not the sole answer.

Peoples' opinions and ideas cannot be altered overnight - ie. the "macho" husband who refuses to have a vasectomy for fear he will be less of a man or the man who refuses to allow his wife to undergo a tubal ligation - but educating these people is a better answer than abortion.

Change, particularly a change for the betterment of mankind will take time but, in the end, it will be worth the wait. Something must be done to protect the lives of our unborn children and it must be done now. It has to be accomplished before we find Dr. Morgentaler's future abortion clinic on Restaurant Row, squeezed in between the golden arches of McDonalds and Colonel Saunders Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Sincerely,
Helen Pelto.

"Hooray for Dr. Morgentaler??"

Is there such a lack of heroes these days that we applaud this man?

Dr. Morgentaler needs prayers, guidance, a change of heart and attitude. He does not need praise.

Let's stop thinking of abortion as some fast, easy, uncomplicated solution to unwanted pregnancies.

Abortion is a crime not a right. It has become one of the most horrible, devastating wrong doings of our society.

It destroys one of our most basic, sacred rights, the right to live.

Life is not an accident. It is a gift from God to be respected and cher-

ished. No one can assume the right to arbitrarily end that life, for any reason.

Anyone considering an abortion should first be sure they have as many of the available facts as possible.

Find out about pregnancy. Look seriously into the process of adoption. Then take a very close look at abortion.

What happens to the fetus? What will happen to you physically and mentally immediately following the abortion and afterwards?

Sit through a slide or film presentation dealing with abortion clinics such as those run by Dr. Morgentaler.

Besides information, there are available excellent support groups,

councillors, and therapists that exist to help continued on page 6

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on November 29th at 7:30 p.m.

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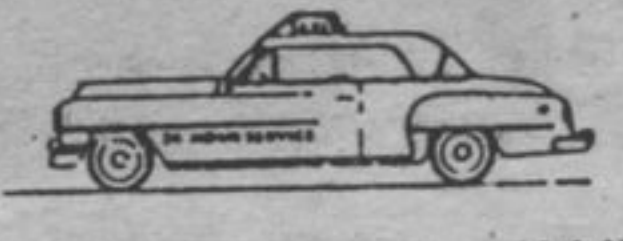
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