

Legalized abortion has saved women's lives

To the editor: Colorado 4-1-01

Common sense says that statistics of the number of illegal abortions and the mortality rate from them are affected by the inevitable by-product of illegal abortion: secrecy.

Regarding the number of abortions prior to Roe vs. Wade, R. Schwarz, *Septic Abortion, 1968* — "Most studies indicate that up to 1,200,000 illegal abortions are performed annually; one pregnancy in five is illegally terminated." *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, July 1, 1967*, studies by Dr. L. Fox estimated that 100,000 criminal abortions occurred per year in California alone.

While thousands of women died pre-Roe, most from self-induced abortions, many more didn't because of caring doctors who went underground and were facilitated by male doctors, some in hospitals, male prosecutors and police who needed their services from time to time; know what I mean?

In 1967 the "Jane Service" was created in Chicago by a group of women who learned to do abortions. From 1969 to 1973, they provided 11,000 safe, secret, illegal abortions. Leslie Reagan, *When Abortion Was a Crime, 1997* — "Dr. Josephine Gabler was a major source of abortions in Chicago during the '30s, performing over

18,000 illegal abortions between 1933-1941. Neither law, church nor taboo could stop women from having abortions. When one method failed, another was tried, illustrating women's escalating attempt to abort." Extrapolate out those numbers going coast to coast, and it's clear that criminalizing abortion again will not reduce the number of abortions from what they are today, but no doubt women would die again.

"It's been estimated," said Schwarz, 1968, "that as many as 5,000 American women die each year as a result of criminal abortion. That figure may be a minimum estimate, inasmuch as many such deaths are mislabeled or unreported. In Philadelphia, over 50 percent of the maternal deaths result from complications of abortion, 57 percent in Michigan, 33 percent at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn."

Dr. L. Fox, 1967 — "Induced abortion is the most common single cause of maternal deaths in California." Death like this: Carol Joffe, *Drs. of Conscience, 1996*, quoting Ken Gordon, 1960s chief resident at a large East Coast hospital, about a 22-year-old girl in septic shock from a self-induced illegal abortion. "The infection was overwhelming. We did the hysterectomy under local anesthesia. She died."

J. Trussel, *Contraceptive Failure in the U.S., Studies in Family Planning, J/F 1990* — "Condoms are 98 percent effective in preventing pregnancy when used correctly."

That means men have the responsibility and apart from their female partner, the means to significantly lower the number of abortions in this country every time they have sex.

It has been insinuated women have third trimester, post-viable abortions, because they now don't want the baby. That's a lie. The number, approximately .04 percent and reasons; fetuses incompatible with life threatening a women's health or life, don't support that insinuation.

Julie Hall
Milliken

No excuse for abortion; it's still child murder

To the editor:

This is in reply to Julie Hall's comments concerning abortion in the April 1 Open Forum.

Here we go again with comments filled with feminist propaganda in an attempt to justify abortion and convince herself and others that abortion isn't murder in the first degree. She wants to persuade us that the doctors who provide and perform abortions are heroes and heroines of society. Much of her information is derived from quotes by "doctors" used to justify, and wash the blood off their hands. Who elected them as "gods" to behave like Caligala, third emperor of Rome, in deciding who lives or dies? Just because their gloves, smocks and instruments are sterilized does not make abortion acceptable or right in the eyes of a truly compassionate God-fearing people. How ironic they hold "their" own lives in such high regard, yet hold no regard for the unborn children. Abortion by its very nature is a crime. You cannot and should not decriminalize murder. Can you really enjoy your life at the expense of another? You are abusing your God given freedom.

No law exists that forces a woman to seek an

abortion, whether in a back alley or in a clinic. Women who do so place themselves in a position of risk. Their unborn children shouldn't have to suffer the consequences of their irresponsible actions and lack of morals. The most effective and safe birth control choice is to say "no." Part of growing up into a mature, intelligent individual is first practicing self control or accepting the consequences of one's own actions and learning not to repeat one's mistakes.

Julie Hall failed to give the number of deaths per year of the unborn as a result of legalized murder. Out of the 1.3 million abortions performed last year, Julie would like us to believe nearly all were performed to save the woman's life, and only 0.4 percent were performed as a result of convenience. Even 0.4 percent partial birth abortion or any abortion would be too many. With ultrasound and other advanced technology, there is no need for an abortion and no acceptable excuse for partial birth abortion.

Erika Bruning
Loveland

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