

Planned Parenthood not the answer for sex education

WHAT WOULD Sarah Vasquez (the young Greeley woman who was sentenced to five years last week for killing her newborn baby moments after it was born) have to say about the front page article in last Friday's Tribune? The story, entitled, "Abortion demonstrators square off," quoted Jessie Danielson of the Colorado chapter of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League saying, "Planned Parenthood does more (than the demonstrators) every day to prevent the need for abortion through family planning and sex education." Really?

Since 1962, teen pregnancy rates have risen over 700 percent nationwide. During this time, Planned Parenthood has been used by many public schools to teach children about sex. In a recent fund-raising letter, the organization stated, "Today, one in 10 women between

**Mike
Martin**

**Guest
Columnist**



the ages of 15 and 19 becomes pregnant." If their instruction was effective, that wouldn't be the case. What does Planned Parenthood, the leading abortion provider in the United States, have to gain from ending abortion?

If Sarah was subjected to "sex education" from Planned Parenthood, the instructor's philosophy was based on the assumption, "teenagers are going to have sex, that's a given." Sarah would have been told (in a 'nonjudgmental' fashion, of course) that if she prac-

ticed sex, to be certain it was 'safe sex' (which results in pregnancy more frequently than the 'unsafe' kind). Once pregnant, if she went to Planned Parenthood for 'family planning,' she would have been offered an abortion. Planned Parenthood only does early-term abortions, so if she waited too long, the organization would probably have referred her to a late-term abortionist who, for a price, would have killed her baby the day before it was born, making it all legal. Would she then be able to put it all behind her, instead of grieving, as she is now, for the baby whose life she took? Would the crime seem any less heinous to her because she paid an abortionist to cut up the baby instead of doing it herself? She would have avoided a jail sentence, but would have been no less guilty. Was Sarah's baby girl somehow more human the second she was

born than she was the day before when she could have been legally killed?

Sarah's situation points out the hypocrisy of a society that endorses killing children in the womb. It's a sanction that comes with a high price tag. Today's teenagers know that they are survivors of a deadly holocaust and could have been aborted with no laws to protect them. Since they are also constantly taught that the world is overpopulated, we can hardly blame them if they conclude that their own lives and the lives of others (including their own children) have little value. If we persist in spreading the message of the culture of death by allowing Planned Parenthood to continue unabated, we can expect more Sarahs and more Columbine-style massacres.

The pastors who demonstrated their approval of abortion at

Thursday's demonstration need to take a long, hard look in the mirror before they accept their next paychecks as servants of God. His word says, "Thou shalt not kill." Instead of spending their time criticizing people who want to stop the slaughter, let these clergymen teach young people what the Bible says about abstinence. Perhaps if they had reached Sarah Vasquez with that message, the pretty former Greeley West cheerleader would be somewhere rooting on a college basketball team instead of languishing in jail.

Mike Martin is the former pro-life editor of the Colorado Christian News and a member of Colorado Pro-life Non-Violent Action. His articles have appeared in several newspapers and magazines and he has been a guest on several radio talk shows in the Denver area.

*The Greeley
Tribune 6-23-01*