

# Anti-abortion argument is emotional

**O**N JUNE 22, MIKE MARTIN wrote an anti-abortion guest column that was highly inaccurate.

Martin attacks Planned Parenthood's effectiveness in teen pregnancy reduction. He states, "Since 1962, teen pregnancy rates have risen over 700 percent nationwide." I'm not sure where Martin found this statistic, or if he just plain made it up, but regardless, in light of studies completed this year, his claim is false.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics (April 2001), the birthrate for women ages 15-19 reached a record low in 1999. The rate of 49.6 births per 1,000 women was the lowest since records were first kept in 1940. According to a study by The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (May 2001), teen pregnancy, abortion, and birth rates began to decrease about 1991 and have continued to decline every year since.

The National Campaign also concluded that comprehensive sex education doesn't hasten the onset of sex, increase sexual activity, nor increase the number of sexual partners. In fact, the study found that some sex and HIV education programs (a.k.a. comprehensive sex education) delays the onset of sex, reduces the frequency of sex, and reduces the number of sexual partners.

The study found that none of the abstinence only programs reviewed showed an overall positive effect on sexual behavior, nor did they affect contraceptive use among sexually active participants.

Planned Parenthood isn't solely responsible for the decline in teen pregnancy.

**Julie Maslowski**

**Guest columnist**



But, Planned Parenthood does more than anti-abortion demonstrators everyday to prevent unintended pregnancy through their comprehensive sex education programs and accessible, affordable birth control. Empowering teens with knowledge doesn't cause pregnancy any more than driving school causes auto accidents.

Martin insinuates that Roe vs. Wade allows for abortion through all nine months of pregnancy for any reason, which is a lie. After viability, or in the third trimester, Roe vs. Wade gave states the right to deny a woman the right to terminate her pregnancy for any reason, in a clear and unequivocal support of protecting fetal life, with the ONLY exception being the protection of a woman's health or life. Forty-one states and the District of Columbia have such laws.

It's important to realize that a woman faced with such an awful tragedy as a fetus incompatible with life in the third trimester, also has a much wanted pregnancy. She didn't get up one morning and decide she didn't want to be pregnant. The anti-abortion movement won't admit this fact nor are they willing to deal with it. To do so would get in the way of their

emotional manipulation of the public.

The Alan Guttmacher Institute said, (1997), that approximately .04 percent of abortions are performed in the third trimester or after viability. Depending on the total number of abortions in a given year, the high being near 1.6 million, that would mean between approximately 400-700 abortions a year out of one million plus, occurs in the seventh, eighth or ninth month. That hardly sounds like the killing of healthy babies just before birth because a woman doesn't want to be pregnant anymore.

Martin chastises pro-choice clergy quoting "thou shalt not kill" from the Bible, but no direct object is supplied for the verb to kill. This commandment doesn't indiscriminately refer to killing anything. The death penalty, for example, which most "pro-lifers" support, violates this commandment if the commandment can be applied as indiscriminately as Martin applies it to legal abortion.

God never condemned abortion. In fact, God believes women have a right to life and liberty over a fetus from conception to birth. No exceptions. I'd direct Martin to [www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org](http://www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org); first Article under "Issues."

*Julie Maslowski is a former Planned Parenthood and Colorado NARAL staff member. She currently serves as a board member for Life & Liberty for Women ([www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org](http://www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org)), a Fort Collins-based nonprofit organization dedicated to aggressive and radical abortion rights education.*

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