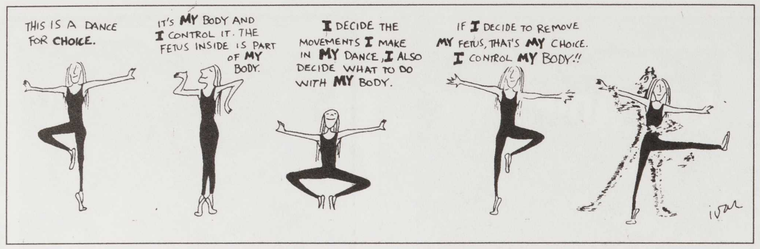
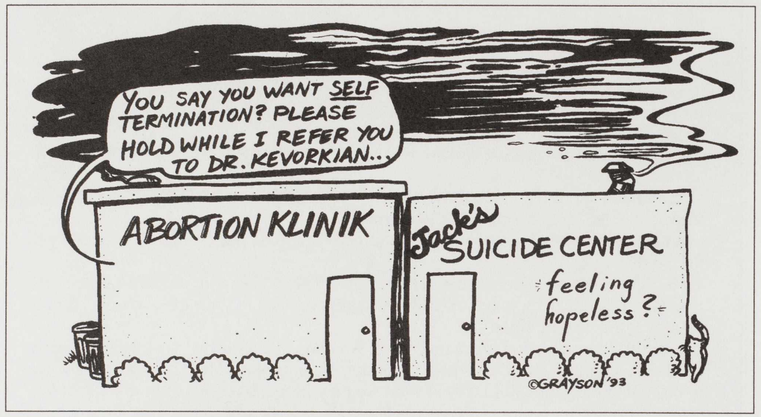


"From this day forward, I no longer shall tinker with the machinery of death."

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, author of the Roe v. Wade opinion, stating his opposition to the death penalty.

"Perhaps *the* major problem of pro-choice public relations is that the image of this procedure we so believe in—of somebody scraping or vacuuming out a woman's insides, digging between her legs into her tender sexual passage, blood, goey tissue, injured fetus all falling out—is esthetically a disaster. Are we really pro *that*?"

Nora Johnson, a pro-abort, writes a commentary in New York Times Magazine.



"Abortion is precisely equivalent to operating on an appendix or removing a gangrenous bowel."

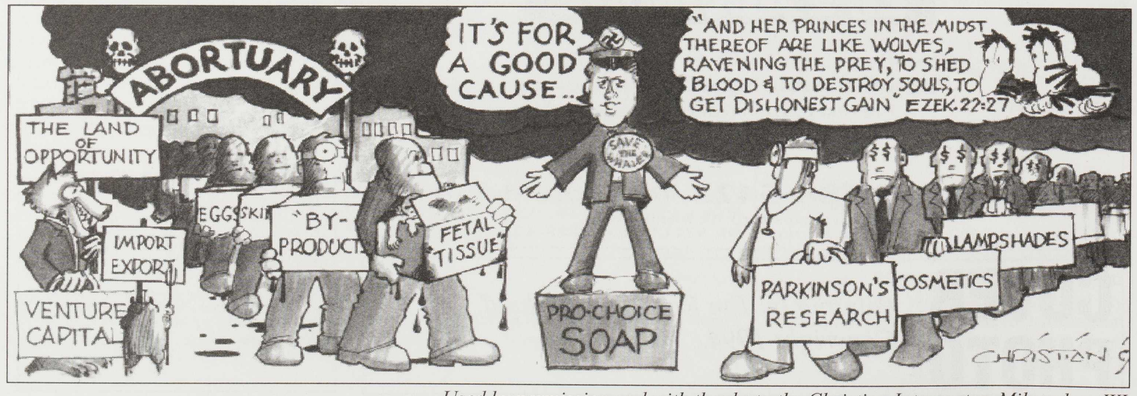
Alan Gutmacher, Planned Parenthood.

"If you are going to kill all these people, at least take the brains out so that the material may be utilized."

Dr. Julius Hallervorden, Nuremburg trials, 1945.

"I've never known anyone who made this decision [to have an abortion] without a great deal of agony."

Rev. Frances Reece Day of Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Vancouver, Washington commenting on the need for the church to provide "accepting" rituals for women who have aborted their children.



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Mother Teresa files appeal in Loce case

Washington, D.C. — Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India, filed a "friend of the court" brief at the U.S. Supreme Court that supports the case of a New Jersey man who tried to prevent the abortion of a child he fathered and who says civil rights begin at conception.

According to the lawyers and documents filed with the court, Alexander Loce was engaged to be married when his fiancee, identified only as Ms. Z, learned she was pregnant.

In September 1990, the woman told Loce she was going to have an abortion. Loce tried to get a restraining order from a New Jersey court preventing the abortion but failed to do so and tried other means to prevent the abortion from taking place.

Loce and 14 others entered the Morristown, N.J., clinic where Ms. Z's abortion was to be performed sat on the floor and locked themselves together with handcuffs and bicycle locks. After they were arrested and taken away, the abortion was performed.

Robert George, the lawyer representing Mother Teresa, was one of several attorneys who invoked the nun's name during a press conference held outside the Supreme Court. Mother Teresa, who won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her good works, was not present.

George said Mother Teresa has a right to file an amicus brief in the case because she is "a true citizen of the world" and "casts a moral light" on any ethical question. ■

Federal court upholds North Dakota abortion restrictions

St. Louis, MO — A federal appeals court upheld a North Dakota abortion law requiring that women seeking abortions be informed of the risks and options 24 hours before the procedure is performed.

The law is virtually identical to statutes in effect in Pennsylvania and Mississippi and requires that women be advised about who will perform the procedure, the medical risks associated with it, the probable gestational age of the fetus and the medical risks of carrying the pregnancy to term.

The law also requires that women be advised of alternatives to abortion and that if the pregnancy is carried to term, the father will be required to support the child.

The law was passed in 1991 but its effective date has been stayed until the court action has been resolved. ■

Massachusetts court overturns priest's rescue conviction

Boston, MA —On March 1, the Massachusetts State Appeals Court said the apparent attempt by prosecutors to exclude Catholics from the jury violated the rights of the Rev. Thomas Carleton, a member of Operation Rescue.

Carleton, 47, was released form jail in December after serving one year of a 2 1/2-year sentence imposed in December 1992 for violating a state court injunction forbidding the blockade of abortion clinics in Massachusetts.

He had charged prosecutors with discrimination for disqualifying jurors who had Irish or Italian last names, presuming they were Catholic.

The Appeals Court said the priest raised legitimate questions of "discriminatory intent." The court said prospective jurors were not asked directly about their religion, but found that the reasons given for excluding three jurors with Catholic-sounding surnames were insufficient.

The court said Carleton, consequently, may have been deprived of his right to trial by a jury "drawn from a cross section of the community."

When Carleton went to trial, state prosecutors had sought to keep him from wearing his clerical garb or being addressed as "Father" in the courtroom. Those attempts were withdrawn after a storm of protest from religious groups. ■

British clinic to offer RU-486 to American women

London, ENGLAND — The Marie Stopes Health Clinic in London has offered to provide RU-486, the so-called abortion pill, to American women.

The pill, unavailable as yet in the United States, would be given under certain conditions to American women in place of surgical abortions. The women would be required to go to London, be seen by a doctor, and stay in London for follow-up — including a night in the clinic. The pregnancy would also have to be within a very narrow gestational age to qualify for the pill's use. The actual procedure would cost about $500. The total cost for the flight and an approximate two-week stay would be about $2,000 — about 10 times the cost of a surgical abortion.

Nevertheless, officials at the British clinic that is making the pill available to Americans predict there will be a steady stream of women making the journey.

"Despite all that, contrary to all logic and reason, it still seems there are hundreds of American women who will do it," said Frances Perrow, director of public affairs at the abortuary.

RU-486, which is manufactured by the French drug company Roussel-Uclaf, has not been available in the United States for purposes of abortion. The French firm and its parent company, Hoechst AG of Germany, have not sought approval here, partly out of fear that antiabortion rights groups would boycott other company products.

Richard Glasow, educational director of the National Right to Life Committee, said his organization will continue its postcard campaign pressuring executives at Hoechst not to import the drug. ■