Academic free speech?

Bloomington, IN — On March 26, Joseph Scheidler of Chicago's Pro-Life Action League gave a talk in Bloomington in the Alumni Hall of the Union Building at Indiana University.

Joseph Scheidler

Prior to his scheduled talk, about 100 pro-abortion demonstrators protested his talk. He had come at the invitation of both Bloomington Right to Life and the Indiana University campus pro-life organization.

Shortly before Scheidler began his talk, protesters entered the hall and took places in front to the podium. Once Scheidler was introduced the protesters started a harangue, yelling obscenities and shouting "Sieg Heil." They continued throughout Scheidler's hour-long talk.

The dean of students asked the protesters to let Scheidler speak in peace, pointing to Indiana University's history as a center of free speech. The dean was booed, jeered and found himself the target of calls of "white supremacist."

Scheidler gave his entire speech, but was asked to delay his question and answer session while order was restored. When he returned, one protester vomited in front of the podium, another spat at Scheidler, and another stole a book of Scheidler's.

The evening was terminated as police could not control the pro-aborts.

A tape made during Scheidler's presentation was shown to a Bloomington City Council meeting considering the possible opening of an abortion facility in that city. They were able to see how the pro-aborts acted with the coming of one pro-lifer, and consider the controversy they will face if the proposed clinic is opened.

Damned lies and statistics

According to *World Watch Paper* No. 97, "Each year a half a million women from India die from illegal abortions." Ironically, that number exceeds the number of deaths of from all causes for women in India between the ages of 15 and 45.

The National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) invented the statistics of 5,000 to 10,000 maternal deaths a year due to illegal abortions "out of thin air." "It was a powerful and compelling lie and we used it shamelessly," admits Dr. Bernard Nathanson, a founder of NARAL. National media accepted the statistics without verification.

In point of fact, the Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control, Abortion Surveillance (11-80) reported only 128 maternal deaths due to abortion in 1970.

Pro-abortionists in Canada claim thousands of deaths from illegal abortions per year, but in the 14 years before abortion was decriminalized in Canada, a total of 306 women died. In pressing for a change in England's abortion laws, MP David Steel stated 2,000 women died in illegal Italian abortions in 1974, when in fact there were only 259 maternal deaths from all causes, and 20 resulting from abortions. CNN's World Report claims that there are six million illegal abortions done every year in Brazil, and 400,000 deaths were the result. In fact, the total number of deaths from all causes for women ages 15 to 45 in Brazil is only 40,000. The Mexican Institute of Sexology said, "The number of annual abortion deaths might be as high as 100,000." The World Health Organization and the UN Demographic Yearbook, 1988 report only 20,000 deaths annually from all causes for women 15-45.

Louisiana seeks high court review

Baton Rouge, LA — Louisiana Attorney General Richard P. Ieyoub said he will ask for a Supreme Court review of his state's abortion law in spite of the court's refusal to review a similar law in Guam. Ieyoub said Louisiana as a sovereign state would have greater legal standing than a territory such as Guam and the 6-3 decision against review of Guam's appeal indicated "strong disagreement" in the court.

On December 7, the Supreme Court left intact a decision striking down Guam's 1990 abortion law, said to be the nation's toughest. The high court indicated in June that such criminal laws would be unconstitutional.

The Louisiana law was struck down September 23 by the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on the basis of a recent Pennsylvania decision. It was nearly as restrictive as Guam's total ban, but permitted exceptions in the cases of rape or incest. In Baton Rouge December 8, Ieyoub announced he would seek a review of the Louisiana abortion statute.

He also noted that the Supreme Court delayed announcing its action on the Guam appeal. He said the Guam writ was considered no fewer than five times before the court finally made a decision.

Pro-lifers pray outside the Baton Rouge courthouse during the summer of 1992.

Counselors?

A Planned Parenthood internal survey of its affiliates described their counselors as "largely young and inexperienced...probably using PPFA employment for training, experience and preparation for other jobs in the future." Only 18% of PPFA counselors considered their job to "provide people with information they need to make informed decisions about family planning." Most felt their job was to "enable people to explore feelings which interfere with making particular decisions" and to "help people resolve uncertainty, ambivalence and anxiety about their reproductive health and enhance their capacity to arrive at a decision that reflects their considered self-interest."

A representative of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Pennsylvania testified last year against Pennsylvania's informed consent law, stating Planned Parenthood did not consider information on risks, alternatives, and fetal development "relevant." All of this could explain why in a review of "yearly projection for early abortion counseling" at two small Planned Parenthood referral facilities in California, 540 of 552 women (98%) at one clinic and 250 of 260 (96%) in the other "chose" abortion.

Toledo RICO lawsuit fails against rescuers

Toledo, OH — In an order dated December 23, 1992, federal Judge John W. Potter denied all RICO (Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organization Act) charges against eight defendants, and remanded the balance of claims to Lucas County Common Pleas Court.

In a seven-page opinion, Judge Potter said the plaintiff, Women's Pavilion, Inc., an abortion facility operated by Carol Dunn, had failed to prove an economic motive was involved with the alleged rescue activities which took place on September 29, 1989 and October 19, 1990. The defendants, Howard T. Moriarty Co., James Moriarty Sr., Antoinette Moriarty, Jimmy Moriarty, Kathleen Moriarty, the Pro-Life Action League of Toledo, Robert Weisenburger D.D.S., and Jeane Weisenburger M.D., were found not in violation of the RICO statues. RICO awards can be especially burdensome, since damages awarded are tripled and attorney's fees may also be added to the judgement. Judge Potter found persuasive the decision in a similar case out of Chicago, *National Organization for Women, Inc. v. Scheidler*. In *Scheidler*, the lack of an ecnomic motive was also the deciding factor.

A baby is born in the "death camp"

by Genevieve Poullot, Paris; translated by Mary O'Neill, Dunedin, New Zealand

Jesus, the Son of God, was a poor baby — born in the cold of winter, as legends tell, and warmed by the hay of a stable manger.

Since then, Christians have learned that God sends His gifts into the world in the most unexpected places.

The story I am about to tell is true and happened in Germany during the winter of 1944-1945.

A friend, who was deported into Germany for her Resistance work, told me this story.

Arrested in 1943 in Paris, she was cruelly treated by the Gestapo during interrogations. She was stubborn in her silence and determined not to betray any of her colleagues, so she was transferred to a concentration camp in Germany.

When she arrived in the barrack to which she was assigned, my friend found herself among women of all ages, social conditions, and nationalities. Living in conditions of absolute misery was all they had in common.

With the courage that made her a Resistance fighter, and an unshakable faith, my friend did not lose heart. She met up with a young woman originally from the Midi in the South of France who had just completed her thesis for a Doctorate in Medicine.

FIRST, THEY WOULD HAVE TO HIDE HER STATE, OR ELSE ABORTION WOULD BE IMMEDIATE.

The young doctor had also been arrested for her Resistance work, and she spent her time in the concentration camp helping her unfortunate companions. Many were suffering from various illnesses which she tried to relieve, although she had no medicines whatsoever.

One day, a new convoy of prisoners arrived at the camp. To make room for them, the women had to crowd together even more, in spite of the spaces left every day by those who died.

My friend was struck by the extreme pallor of one young Parisian girl, who was suffering from terrible nausea. She had been arrested at the same time as her engineer husband, and separated from him straightaway.

One evening, when at long last the roll-calls were finished, the doctor told the French-speaking women standing around her that a young life had come into the camp. Everyone would have to help the young mother if her pregnancy was to continue.

First, they would have to hide her state, or else abortion would be immediate. Then they would have to rack their brains for ways to help the baby survive until birth.

Quickly the news crossed all barriers of language and culture: the language of the heart is international, isn't it? Each day, these starving women pared off a mouthful of their pitiful ration. Together they managed to provide the minimum quantity of food that was essential for the mother's health.

Providentially, the young doctor could speak German well. She had often spoken with one of the sentries who stood on guard, for hours on end, in front of their barrack. Knowing her to be a doctor, he had asked her advice on the health of his wife and children.

One day, the doctor told him what was happening. Soon the chain of sentries which stretched as far as the barbed wire of the camp fence heard the story. By some miracle, the secret was kept. Their own lives were at stake too. But I believe it was a sense of humanity, above all, which kept them alert and protective during all those months.

Forced to stand outside, in all kinds of weather, for long hours during roll calls every morning and evening, the young mother-to-be was exhausted. Her companions, with feminine ingenuity, found a way to support her during these terrible hours of waiting. This they did without attracting the attention of the guards not "in the know" who must at all costs never learn of her pregnancy.

During this time, the baby began to show, all the more because his mother was so thin. She had nothing to hide the baby with. I wonder if even the great French couturiers would have managed to contrive the folds and pleats which these women made, with such pitiful materials. "It was amazing," my friend said. All the maternal love of these women, surrounded on every side by death, was directed toward this mother carrying her child, who gave them a reason to battle for life.

By some miracle, it was in the dead of night, sheltered from prying eyes, that the baby announced his imminent arrival: "I'm coming!" In the previous few weeks, each woman had cut a piece off her only blanket. And with all these little ends of material, a "swaddling cloth" was put together to welcome and warm the awaited baby.

Hardly had he uttered his first cry, drowned out immediately by noise from the other women to distract the attention of the sentries, than the baby was given to his mother for her to give him a first kiss. It was also, alas, the last. Without any delay, a little package full of life left the barrack, going out into the freezing night, passing silently from the arms of one sentry to the next.

As the watch-tower light swung to the opposite side of the camp, he was hoisted up over the barbed-wire fence. A kind-hearted German woman from the neighboring village had already been waiting on the other side for several hours. When she heard what was happening so close to her, she had said quite simply, "It will be my baby!"