

# More Opinions

## Voters Have Clear Choice

Editor:

This year, voters will have a clear choice between two senatorial candidates who have differing views on the direction of society in the area of abortion.

Patrick Moynihan supports legalized abortion on demand and will support no constitutional amendment to limit them. He would allow abortion of the poor at the financial expense of other taxpayers including those who, in conscience, cannot participate in the abortion process. Last year, 275,000 abortions were paid for by tax money at a cost of \$50 million. In New York City last year, there were 1,000 minority births for every 1304 minority abortions. More minority members were killed by abortion than were allowed to be born.

Sen. Buckley, on the other hand, seeks to restore the legal value of every human life by enactment of a Human Life Amendment to protect unborn children, the handicapped, and the elderly. He rejects the Rockefeller solution of abortion and seeks humane solutions to very difficult human problems. While many may disagree when Sen. Buckley's conservative return to governmental responsibility, there is no denial that he has stood out in the forefront on the basic human rights of the most defenseless and vulnerable members of our society.

As we move into the area of euthanasia and infanticide as disclosed in recent publications and legislation in California, it is important that we elect those legislators who recognize the legal protection of all human beings and are willing to restore that value to our society.

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## Pre Cana Observations

Editor:

Mrs. O'Connor's letter in the Oct. 9 Courier made us a little sad. We've also felt frustrated and discouraged about the state of marriage preparation for more than six years, and have done many Pre Cana conferences as well as five weekends for engaged couples. Of course, each Pre Cana is different because the team of married couples is different, but every Pre Cana has a talk on spirituality as well as sexuality—usually given by a couple.

Our own Pre Cana team shows no films, since our team believes that the psychology of sexuality—the communication—is most important. Most of our Pre Cana engaged couples come, at least at first, because the priest says they must, and therefore may be critical of the Pre Cana. Still, there are enough fantastic engaged couples who do understand our talks on spirituality and sexuality, and because of them (and also what it does for us) the conferences are meaningful.

We suggest people who feel discouraged about marriage observe a Pre Cana, talk to a team couple, instead of depending on someone else's impressions. It's true that we don't feel we have enough time in Pre Cana to share

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all that could be shared about marriage and what it means to us — so we do the weekends. There, we have 44 hours completely away from distractions to talk about and live the marriage we believe in — not one of duties or obligations — but of mutual love and acceptance, and commitment. If you're married, and want more, try a Marriage Encounter. If you're engaged, try our Engaged Encounter. We guarantee you'll feel better about marriage. The next Engaged Encounter for the Rochester area is Nov. 5-7 at the Colony East Inn. Call us. 342-2279.

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## Simple Question On Abortion

Editor:

What is all the fuss about abortion?

As I read articles, speeches and letters to the editors, I marvel at peoples' love of rhetoric and emotion but total avoidance of logic or reason.

The issue is not a religious one, or an opinion. It simply boils down to a basic "yes or no" question — Is the fetus a human life?

If the answer can be proven to be "no," then certainly abortion is permissible. There would be no more morality involved than in having a wart surgically removed. Possibly it would be contrary to the tenets of some religious group (as indeed, so would surgical removal of a wart!), but this would have no bearing on the general public.

On the other hand, if the fetus is a human life, then abortion is murder — no matter what emotional or "end justifies the means" appeals might be made. In our society, there can be no justification for terminating a human life without its consent and where it is guiltless of any crime against others.

No one should have the right to argue either against abortion or for abortion until he or she has faced the basic question, resolved an answer, and is prepared to accept the consequences of the answer.

If a woman is 8 1/2 months pregnant, I don't think anyone would claim that the still-unborn baby is not a human life. How about 8 months? Or 7 months? Who can honestly say with assurance that at any particular moment there is a human life, but a minute earlier there was not a human life? No doctor, no scientist, no politician can point to one specific instant where a change occurs that means non-life turns into life — except at the moment of conception when sperm and ova unite and growth begins.

I bought and planted an apple tree. It didn't look nor act like an apple tree. No branches, no fruit, just a pencil-thin stick about two feet high. But, it was an apple tree, not a "nothing" that would turn into an apple tree someday.

The state recognizes this. A man dies without a will, and his wife is one month pregnant. By law, the baby, the unborn child, inherits two-thirds of the estate. The state protects this human being's right to property — it only fails to protect its right to life.

Since I do know that an unborn baby is a human life at eight or nine months, and no one has shown any proof that it is non-life at any earlier stage since conception, I must assume that abortion is, indeed, murder — or at least not dare to take a chance without reasonable proof that at some earlier time it is simply a "wart," a growth.

If an advocate of abortion is willing to accept that there is no proof of non-life, and willing to accept that termination may indeed be murder, then I will respect his or her honesty and listen to the arguments. Population control, avoidance of unwanted and unloved children, choice of sex, and elimination of defective children are all praiseworthy goals. Of course, if we can accept terminating a human life to accomplish these goals it doesn't really make any difference at what point of time the termination occurs — before birth or after.

There is precedent. Certain African tribes did not have any concern over the death of a child until it reached the age of two years. Some doctors have already publically advocated "termination" of a physically defective baby immediately upon birth. Surely an unwed mother, a poor person, a mother who finds that she does not love her baby, can suffer as much

or more trauma when the baby is one or two years old as when it had not yet been born.

I will listen to the arguments of an honest person. I will agree with the end goals, and sympathize with the real problems that the mother

to be or the baby may face. I still cannot agree that an acceptable solution is killing a human being either before or after birth.

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Do you read our mail? If so, you'll receive in the next week or two our invitation to help the Holy Father do what Christ did in the Holy Land. In Bethlehem, for instance! At the Pontifical Mission Orphanage our Sisters are giving a home to 60 little Arab girls who otherwise might have been lost forever. In Jerusalem the Pontifical Mission office provides clothing (collected in the U.S.A.) to the aging and the crippled, babies, the destitute—as well as food and medicines (more than 1,000 children daily receive their only hot meal). Refugee boys are becoming tailors at the Salesian School in Nazareth. Blind girls learn to "read" in the Gaza Strip, deaf-mute boys and girls begin to speak at Epheta in Bethlehem. It's all possible because you support the Pontifical Mission for Palestine. What is the Pontifical Mission? The sister agency of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, it's the Holy Father's self-help relief agency for 1.8 million Arab refugees, begun 27 years ago by Pope Paul himself (then Monsignor Montini) after the first Arab-Israeli War. Your own mission of mercy in the Holy Land, it serves Moslems as well as Christians on the basis of "need not creed." If you do not hear from us this week, why not write to us? We'll tell you how you can help.

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