

# Abortion

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assertions. Labeling Feminists for Life a "fringe" group, Dr. Eric Schaff, legislative chairman for the Greater Rochester Coalition for Choice said, "most feminists in 1990 believe that women should be given a choice."

Yet one former provider of abortions dismisses the argument that abortion is a matter of women's rights. "The abortion industry is not about choices; it is about money," Carol Everett stated in a recent statement to the press.

"Abortion is a skillfully marketed product sold to a woman at a crisis time in her life," charged Everett, who ran several Texas abortion clinics for the six years prior to 1983. A woman faced with an unplanned pregnancy "needs help," she stated. "(The clinics) sell her an abortion — she finds the product defective. It is too late to return it for a refund. Her baby is dead."

Killing babies for profit is the hallmark

of the "abortion industry," Everett remarked in a phone interview with the *Catholic Courier*. Abortions are "sold" by clinic counselors to women who are fearful, Everett said, adding that providers of abortion and supporters of legalized abortion are well aware of what they are doing.

"I have seen (pro-choicers) state after state," she said. "Not one of them denies (the fetus) is a baby." The physician also charged that women's lives continue to be threatened by legalized abortion, just as they were in the days before the Supreme Court's *Roe vs. Wade* decision legalized abortion nationally.

Everett noted that abortion providers stand to make thousands of dollars performing abortions and running clinics. Charging that abortionists often fail to report income from abortions to the Internal Revenue Service, and that abortionists routinely violate health and safety standards, Everett's statement asserted: "The abortionist works on a straight commission basis in many areas, meaning the doctor is only paid for the number of abortions he completes."

"The abortionist makes roughly one-third to one-half the fee, ranging from \$250 to \$8,000 (for a third-trimester abortion)," her statement continued. "An average to fast abortionist can accomplish 10-12 abortions per hour. Based on a minimum of \$75 per abortion, that is \$750-950 per hour."

Schwartz rebutted Everett's claims, labeling them inaccurate and exaggerative. Most doctors could only perform four abortions an hour, she said, adding that physicians generally make about \$80 profit on a first-trimester abortion. Schwartz also said that few obstetrician/gynecologists perform abortions on a full-time basis and that the majority abide by ethical accounting practices.

Diana Lennox, director of the Erie Medical Center in Buffalo — which provides abortions — concurred with Schwartz, adding that Everett's charge about the "marketing" of abortion is false. "We're not seeking (women) out," Lennox said. "We do have patients who leave (without getting an abortion). Abortion isn't any more skillfully marketed than the anti-abortion (stance)."

Schwartz and Lennox agreed that most physicians who perform abortions are motivated by women's needs, not by greed. Lennox also commented that the pro-life harassment often suffered by abortion providers makes their task burdensome.

"(Abortion providers) have gone through a lot," she said. "They've been picketed at their home, and held up to public ridicule ... If they didn't have the conviction that it's the woman's right to choose, they wouldn't do it," Lennox said.

Amid such accusations and counter-accusations, can pro-lifers and pro-choicers — who both claim to be concerned about women — ever find common ground on the issues of economic rights for women?

That is not likely, according to observers on both sides of the issue. "We have lobbied in conjunction with women's rights groups to stop surrogate motherhood," Gallagher recalled, noting that the church and feminists agree that surrogacy exploits women.

But pro-choicers and pro-lifers find it hard to compromise on such issues as Medicaid funding for pre-natal care, she said, pointing to a three-year legislative deadlock on a state Medicaid bill that broke last June. The Republican-controlled state Senate opposed the bill's funding provisions for abortions, and eventually the bill was passed without the provisions.

Both Gallagher and Soehner remarked that their respective organizations had lined up on opposite sides of the issue, and each accused the other's group of being uncompromising in the debate. Nonetheless, Gallagher and Soehner agreed that concentrating solely on one aspect regarding abortion is an unreasonable stance.

"I guess I would agree that the focus on abortion doesn't do anybody much good, because you put blinders on other issues," Soehner said.

# Lacrosse

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as Irondequoit, Penfield, Webster and Penn Yan on tap. Despite the rugged schedule, Coons is confident his team has a shot at making the Class B sectionals.

The Kings were scheduled to begin regular season play April 3 at home against Newark.

Levin is not aiming for the sectionals this year, but he said six wins is a realistic goal for McQuaid.

In the Knights' second season of varsity play last year, they recorded two victories against varsity opponents.

McQuaid will have a tough time reaching Levin's goal of six wins with the likes of Kearney, Rush-Henrietta, Penn Yan and Penfield on its schedule.

"I don't think you can say we're ducking anyone," Levin said. "We're going to take our lumps."

McQuaid will rely on junior captain Steven Paul (attacker), senior Scott Cottier (midfield) and senior John Holby (defense) to provide leadership on a young and inexperienced squad. Fifteen of the team's 27 varsity players are sophomores or freshman.

The Knights will go with junior goalie Ben Hirokawa, who is playing his first season of lacrosse. Levin said he and his staff picked Hirokawa to tend goal because he has "fantastic reactions" and is the "best athlete on the team."

Levin acknowledged that his team lacks some stick skills and is still learning the fundamentals of the game. "What we don't have in talent, I do believe we make up for in desire and work habits," he said.

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