

JET

LEGAL ABORTION: IS IT GENOCIDE OR BLESSING IN DISGUISE?



JET

March 22, 1973
Vol. XLIII, No. 26

A Johnson Publication

CONTENTS

Cover photo by Isaac Sutton
[Cover story on Page 12](#)

African Affairs	36
Armed Forces	22
Business	27
Education	30
Entertainment	56
Health	24
Housing	52
Journalism	8
Labor	8
Law and Justice	32
Medicine	9
National	5
New York Beat	63
People	37
People Are Talking About	60
Politics	25
Readers Rap	4
Religion	26
Society World	44
Soul Brothers Top 20	64
Sports	53
Television	66
The Sexes	9
Ticker Tape	11
Weekly Almanac	50
Week's Best Photos	39
Words of the Week	38

Editor and Publisher
John H. Johnson

Executive Editor
Robert E. Johnson

Managing Editor
Robert A. DeLeon

Copy Editor
Lenice Watkins

Art Director
Norman L. Hunter

Washington Bureau Chief
Simeon Booker

Administrative Assistants
Edna Cooper Sims
Bernice R. Bryant

Production Assistant
Brenda Butler

Society Editor
Gerri Major

Associate Editors
William Earl Berry
E. Fannie Granton
Ronald E. Kisner
M. Cordell Thompson

Assistant Editors
Carolyn Erwin
Gregory Simms
Caryl V. Terrell

Staff Photographers
Ozier Muhammad
Moneta Sleet Jr.
Maurice Sorrell
Isaac Sutton
Ted Williams
G. Marshall Wilson

Research
Basil Phillips
Henrietta Thomas

*Executive Vice President
and Associate Publisher*
William P. Grayson

National Advertising Manager
William M. Santos

Vice Presidents
Willie Miles Burns
Mildred Clark
Robert H. Fentress
Lincoln T. Hudson
Isaac N. Payne
June A. Rhinehart

Director of Public Affairs
Reginald C. Hayes



Published weekly by Johnson Publishing Co. Inc., 820 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605, New York office at Rockefeller Center, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020. Washington, D.C., office, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington D.C. 20006. Second-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois © Copyright 1973 by Johnson Publishing Co. Inc. Subscriptions: U.S.A., \$12.00 one year; Canada, Pan America, \$14.00; foreign, \$15.00. We cannot be responsible for unsolicited material. Member, Audit Bureau of Circulation.

LEGAL ABORTION: IS IT GENOCIDE OR BLESSING IN DISGUISE?

By Robert E. Johnson
JET Executive Editor

A high school teacher, with chalk in hand, gazed at the word *abortion* which he had written on the blackboard. He turned to his class of teen-age girls and boys to challenge them in a game of free association to the word.

In a matter of moments, his gaze faded into a gawk as he scribbled an amazing array of emotional responses: crisis, disgrace, dread, danger, fear, fright, grief, panic, pain, remorse, sorrow, sin, stigma, suffer, shame, scandal, murder, relief, bitterness, freedom, genocide!

These associations also reflect a cross section of the Black community outside the classroom, where abortion is fast becoming a crisis issue to some Black women whose responses range from freedom from grief to fear of genocide.

But while the game of free association was taking place in the classroom, the real life drama was being played out in more than 19 states, which have legalized abortions since the U. S. Supreme Court ruled last Jan. 22 that a woman has the right to end an unwanted pregnancy.

In Chicago last week, within an hour after a U. S. District Court ruled that abortions are legal in Illinois, the Friendship Medical Center, whose director is Dr. T. R. M. Howard, became a heated issue. Black women, who see legalized abortion as a blessing in disguise, took their burdens to the medical facility to leave them there, while Black men, who see legal abortions as white racist genocide, marched in front of the medical center with picket signs, trying to persuade the women not to end their unwanted pregnancies.

What made Friendship Medical Center a prime target for the anti-abortion forces and a haven for women who favor abortions was the widespread television, radio and newspaper publicity which the center received when a 14-year-old Black girl, the clinic's first abortion patient, walked into the operating room and strolled out 15 minutes later, freed from her fetus and her fear.

She neither winced nor gasped or cried out in pain, the report said.

So, before the day turned to dusk, more than 400 pregnant women—Black and white—whose ages were as varied as their anxieties jammed the telephone switchboard and the reception rooms to make appointments.

It was like an abortion epidemic. And at \$125 per operation, the modern, 16,000-square foot medical center was on its way toward becoming one of the largest and best-operated abortion clinics in the country.

From 11 a.m., on the first day



A picket protests abortions at \$1½ million Friendship Medical Center, where 38 doctors, 37 nurses and 23 clerks make up the interracial staff of 130. A model is used to illustrate the clinic's abortion procedure.

the medical center began performing abortions, to midnight, about 34 operations were completed. That was when the abortion issue began to warm up. First, the white press added fuel by inflaming a segment of the Black community with speculation about the money Dr. Howard would make:

"The clinic's fee is \$60-\$75 lower than those of two other clinics scheduled to open in Chicago," a white newspaper said. "But the fact remains that Howard could take in \$52,000 a week from abortions, if the clinics were open seven days a week, 12 hours a day."

According to the paper's figures, the 65-year-old physician could take in \$2,704,000 yearly and that kind of speculation teased and tantalized. It teased the prospects

Dr. Howard greets abortion model. Youngest abortee was 12 years old and oldest was 47. Median age is 19.

of some white medics who didn't have the foresight to plan ahead like Dr. Howard in order to cash in on the abortion bonanza and tantalized the sensibilities of Blacks who eye the money projection with envy.



This One



8UJK-JZF-61DQ

Dr. Howard Is An Advocate Of 'Lunch-Hour' Abortions

Already, a move is afoot in the Illinois legislature, where a white lawmaker has introduced a bill which would specify that abortions must be performed by a specialist in gynecology and obstetrics. Dr. Howard is a general practitioner. Effort is also underway to pass a law which would require that abortions be performed in hospitals. The Black-owned and



Mrs. Shirley Hinton gives questionnaire to model to get information.

virtually Black-staffed medical center, located in a Black neighborhood, is not a hospital. Virtually every hospital in Chicago is white-owned, white-controlled, and predominantly white staffed.

Dr. Howard, under attack from the Black and white sides of the controversy, does not back off the

prospect that his medical center, which employs persons with varied specialties in seven divisions of medicine and health care fields, will bring money into the Black community through abortion services.

Confident of the medical skills he has acquired through medical school training and practice as chief surgeon in a hospital which served the Black community of Mound Bayou, Miss., from 1940 until he moved North in 1955 to continue his medical practice, Dr. Howard defended his clinic:

"I don't think abortions have to be performed in hospitals, but I think they should be performed in clean, efficient, well-equipped clinics.

"I'm actually an advocate of the lunch-hour abortion for early pregnancies," Dr. Howard said. "I could perform such an abortion and the woman would be able to return, with no complications, to her job after her lunch break. I maintain that a working woman doesn't have time to go to a hospital, nor does she have the money they charge. Friendship is as equipped as any hospital in the city, and can deal with woman in a much more peaceful, friendly atmosphere."

Outside Friendship, the atmosphere was neither peaceful nor friendly. The right-to-life forces were on the move. Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, president of People United to Save Humanity (PUSH), an organization which Dr. Howard serves as a fund raiser, took opposition in his regular Satur-

day-morning radio broadcast and later repeated his position in an interview with JET:

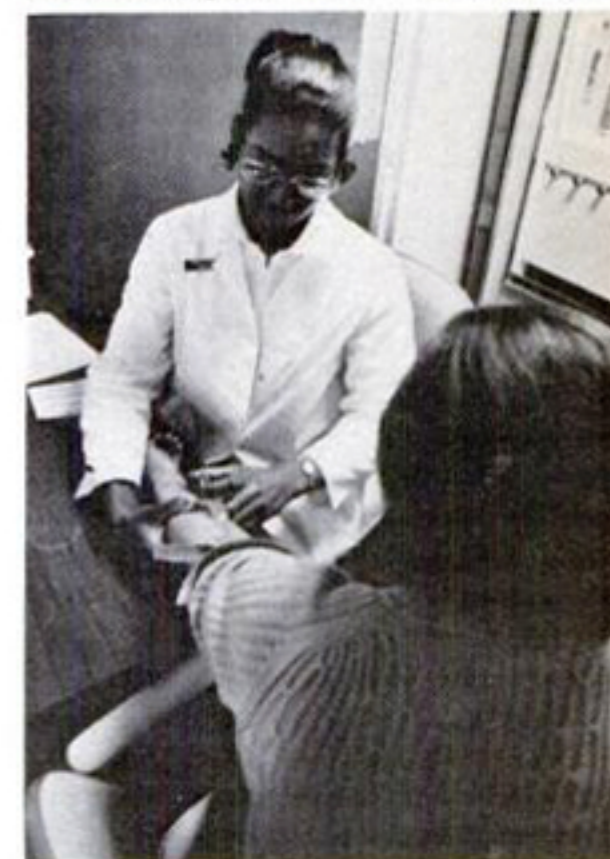
"Abortion is genocide," Rev. Jackson warned. "If people use preventive measures to stop the life process from originating, I can buy that. If they use pills, contraceptives, rhythm to stop it from being, I can buy that, too. But if they get carried enough away to set the baby in process, they must get carried enough away to accept the responsibility of the baby. And I don't want to hear this bit about babies not really living until the baby has a face and the doctor smacks it and it cries.

"Anything growing is living. . . . If you got the thrill to set the baby in motion and you don't have the will to protect it, you're dishonest." He concluded: "You try to avoid reproducing sickness. You try to avoid reproducing deformities. But you don't try to stop reproducing and procreating human life at its best. For who knows the cure for cancer won't come out of some mind of some Black child?"

Lu Palmer, a Chicago radio commentator who is a man obsessed with one question, one subject and one concern—the situation of Black people in a white racist society—told JET:

"I think if you're going to have to deal on this issue, you will really have to deal with the Black male. If Black men and Black women were totally together in terms of the concept of Black life, then a categorical statement could be made in terms of being against abortion. Because then the value

system would have been developed so that when a Black woman became pregnant there would be some systems in Black community life to sustain the mother, the baby and the father. But as it stands now, the woman is 1) stigmatized when she becomes pregnant out of wedlock, 2) left with an economic burden and 3) she's left with a psychological burden. But the man who is the father of the child goes on his merry way



Abortion model receives blood test as part of preparation at clinic.

and might even go on somewhere and make a speech about how terrible abortion is."

Of all the Black anti-abortion forces, the Black Panther Party, through its leaders and its newspaper, has made a rallying cry to equate abortion with Black

Black Panthers Sound Genocide Alarm For Blacks

genocide. The Panther newspaper, in one article, asserted:

"The abortion law hides behind the guise of helping women when in reality it will attempt to destroy our people. How long do you think it will take for voluntary abortions to turn into involuntary abortion, into compulsory sterilization? Black people are aware that laws made supposedly to ensure our well-being are often put into practice in such a way that they ensure our deaths."

As the abortion issue continues to boil, a discrepancy surfaces and clearly exposes the contradiction between the Black genocide position and the plight of many women and children in the Black and Puerto Rican community, according to Florynce Kennedy, a New York lawyer who collaborated with Diane Schuler to author a book, *The Abortion Rap*.

They write: "In our opinion, the Black genocide argument is subject to certain objections. Of girls who drop out of high school, a large proportion are from the Black or nonwhite communities and a major reason for leaving school is pregnancy, which competes with economics and boredom to motivate the dropout.

"Black majorities in places like South Africa and Mississippi are not noticeably revolutionary. No evidence has come to our attention that mothers of large broods led the rebellions in Watts, Detroit, or Newark, although Mothers for Adequate Welfare in Roxbury precipitated the Boston re-

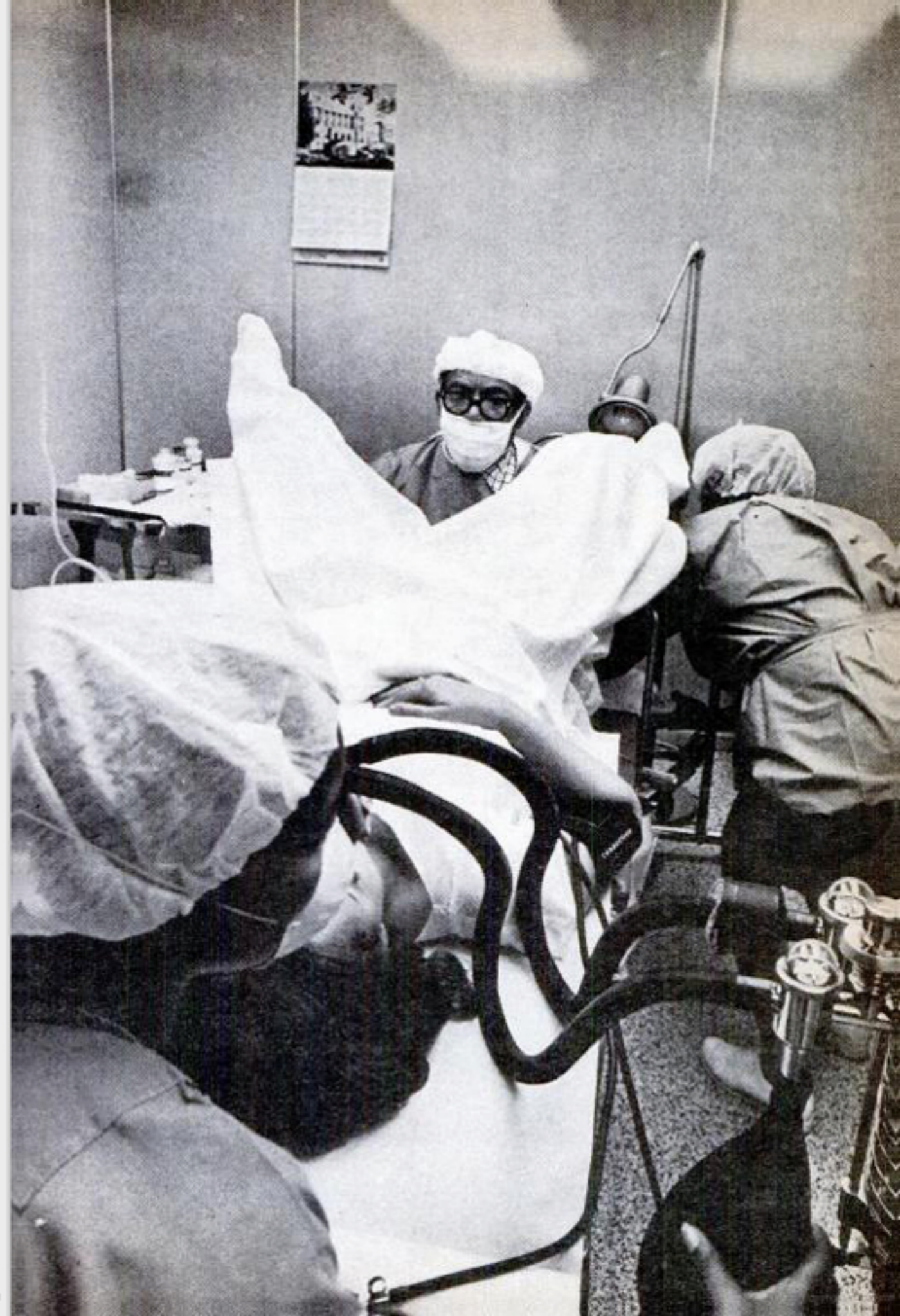
bellion with their sit-in.

"Women hampered by children tend not to be in the vanguard, and male revolutionaries frequently abandon their children when the going gets rough. Perhaps the thought is that the parents will continue to consent to oppression, but will reproduce large numbers of children who will snatch them from the claws of the oppressors in their old age. This concept of breeding revolutionaries, rather than revolutions, is appropriate in a society where the old people do the voting and the youngsters do the fighting and dying. Breeding revolutions can be fatal, whereas breeding revolutionaries is not too far removed from a cultural past where Black women were encouraged to be breeding machines for their slave masters.

"It might shock Black radicals to entertain the possibility that religious programming combined with certain of the slaver's social values, plus a soupcon of male chauvinism, account for the volume, of the contention that a legalization of a woman's right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy is Black genocide. In any case, Friends of the Fetus in the Black Community have permitted a number of potential revolutionaries to languish in orphanages and foster homes, despite widely broadcast pleas for rescue (for revolutionary or whatever purpose)."

A further irony of the Black genocide position is expressed by Mrs. Jorja English, a Black activist in Chicago, who said, "Abor-

Photos by Isaac Sutton →



Mother Seeks Help For Pregnant Daughters, 9 And 11

tion is personal and solely dependent upon other conditions that exist in society. So the laws can't regulate that. Men and women make babies together. Women alone bear them—oftentimes in seclusion, in misery and with stigmas of shame. Oftentimes women also are the only source of support for these children. Any form of Black leadership that speaks to just one side of this double-edged sword without attempting to resolve the issues that make this such an ominous problem, is simply contributing to the age-old factor which has kept us immobilized as a power-seeking entity. When we rectify imbalances in the quality of life, we will eradicate problems that pertain to the quantity of life."

Despite the heat, Dr. Howard has no intention of getting out of the abortion kitchen.

"I'm aware that I don't enjoy 100 percent popularity on this issue in the Black community," Dr. Howard said. "Men of the physical sciences have often been at odds with the social scientists. And at one time, even Christians were persecuted for their religious activities—until the age of enlightenment," he added.

He then set forth his case:

"In my 37 years of medical practice, I have come to know this: babies are made that aren't always wanted and people end up with large families because abortion wasn't within their reach. So we end up with people who are

poorly fed, poorly housed and poorly clothed. My years in the Mississippi Delta have convinced me that abortion really is a blessing in disguise for Black people.

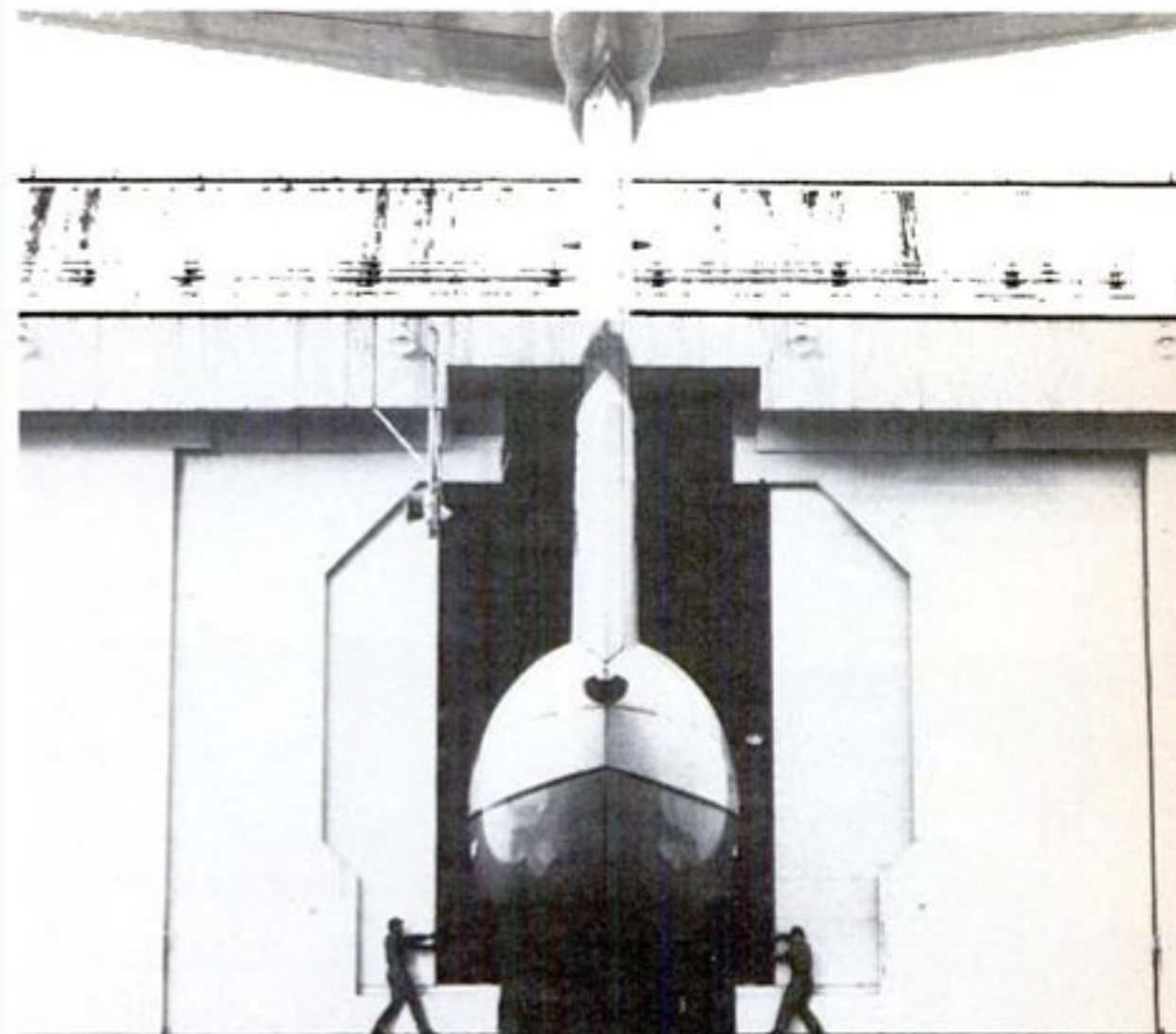
"Just yesterday, a Black woman who is the mother of nine children came into my office with two of her daughters. She said she had been harassed outside this clinic by pickets who are protesting abortion as genocide. This woman was in tears as she told me of her plight. I was soon to learn that her nine-year-old girl was five weeks pregnant and the 11-year-old was in her ninth week of pregnancy. This poor woman was not on welfare. She was working two jobs in order to feed, clothe and house her family.

"You see, genocide takes many forms. A malnourished body caused by a lack of food is genocide. A slum apartment infested with rats and poison paint peeling is genocide. Bad schooling which plunge Blacks into a dismal economic plight is genocide. Teachers and preachers, businessmen and celebrities who impregnate their students, choir members, women employes, and fan club members then leave them to fend for themselves is social genocide.

"I can devote more time to the other ills and diseases of mankind when teachers, preachers, parents and all the other social engineers and social planners do their jobs so well that no woman will ever experience an unwanted pregnancy.

"Since I'm not overly optimistic

(Continued on page 51)



**When we open doors for you,
we open doors.**

We've got good jobs—opportunity in capital letters. Over 130 to choose from. From Aircraft Maintenance Mechanic to Dental Specialist, and if the one you want is available, we'll guarantee you get it before you sign up. Make you an

expert. Give you a 30-day paid vacation each year. Pay you well even while you're learning. Right from the start.

For location of nearest Air Force Recruiter call 800-447-4700, toll free. (Illinois, 800-322-4400.) Or send coupon.

Air Force Opportunities Box A Randolph AFB, Texas 78148	I-JT-33
Please send me more information. I understand there is no obligation.	
Name _____	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> (M) <input type="checkbox"/> (F)
(Please Print)	
Address _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____	Date of Birth _____ Soc. Sec. # _____

Find yourself in the Air Force

Two Views On Legal Abortions

Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint, assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard University, and Father George Clements, pastor of Chicago's Holy Angels Church, expressed the following opinions on abortions:

"I don't see the new abortion law as genocide. I see it as a new right for women. Women should not be made to have children that they don't want. If, emotionally or economically, the woman can't afford to bring a child into the world, then she shouldn't.

"All things being equal, for most unwed Black mothers I recommend that they have an abortion. Many people say that birth

"I believe the entire question of abortions is just one more in the continuous series of events to eliminate the Black population. The legalization of the law is just a subtle trick to get Blacks in the frame of mind to make them think it is praiseworthy to have an abortion. Hitherto, we were people who always valued life.

"I say to our people that I am hopeful they will have as many



Dr. Alvin Poussaint

control and abortions are attempts to control the Black population. But it is an individual's right to decide how many children she wants to have.

"Legal abortions are the solution for women who don't want to have a baby. But I don't support forced abortions through incentive plans. These plans would amount to tyranny for Black and poor people."



Father George Clements

children as possible. Only then can we have such numbers to make that white man think twice before he attempts to wipe us out.

"I hope other Black leaders will educate the people that we need Black families. Among even poor babies, we don't know when we might have another Martin, Malcolm or other great leader. If it were left up to me, I'd like to flood the country with Black people."

A Black Girl's Abortion Saga

"When you have a child there's so much pain. When you don't, there isn't any. . . ."—A young Black girl

Mary (a fictitious name) sat quietly in an operating room in the back of Chicago's Friendship Medical Clinic garbed in a white smock. She was one of the many women who bulged Dr. T. R. M. Howard's clinic after abortions were declared legal in Illinois.

There was still a softness about her face even though she was unmarried and had given birth to a boy when she was 17 years old, three years ago.

Her hair was jet black, thick and stopped close to her shoulders. It was ruffled a bit on the top from having to lie down on the operating bed, and her black mascara had run down her cheeks and dried up under both eyes. Mary was sure she was not going to have another child.

The attractive mother, who said she does "medical work," earning just over \$400 a month, said she just could not afford another baby.

"I was going to New York to have an abortion if the law hadn't come," she said during an interview. "To me, it would have been cheaper to pay for the trip than to have a child. The child suffers so much when you can't take care of it. I don't believe in having kids that you can't take care of."

When Mary was a small child, her father and mother were divorced. She has lived with just her mother ever since but regrets the fact that their communications

broke down on matters of sex.

"No one told me about contraception," Mary began as a look of bewilderment crossed her face. "I had to learn in the streets. I talked to my girlfriend who told me what her mother had told her about contraceptives. You know how mothers are about their daughters. They want to keep them babies."

After her first child, Mary began to take birth control pills but an infection developed and she was only able to take the pills infrequently. She was two months pregnant when she had the abortion.

"I barely make enough money to take care of my son's needs," she said almost in exasperation. "I was thinking more about the child after he comes. . . ."

After abortion in Chicago, "Mary" prepares for return to normal life.





WEEKLY ALMANAC



🌺🌺🌺 CRIME DOESN'T PAY.

Many in the crime world could argue that crime does, indeed, pay, but some ill-fated souls know all too well that the old adage sometimes rings true. In Freiburg, West Germany, burglars—after smashing a bullet-proof glass door and prying open a safe only to find it empty—had to settle for an employe's piggy bank. A Philadelphia thief's only loot one night was a speech by State Sen. Robert Rovner—"Let's Get Tough With Criminals." And in Naples, Italy, Raffaele Ferrigno, 26, charged into an employment office, gun in hand—to steal a job.

🌺🌺🌺 BIG FAT LIE.

After 16 years, it was all over. There were to be no more friendly gatherings. They were no longer tops with the summit township board of Jackson, Mich., and had been denied further use of the township library for their meetings. Officials had received complaints from a janitor tired of cleaning up a mess of cake and cookie crumbs after the meetings of TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly.

🌺🌺🌺 DISSATISFIED CUSTOMER.

He was gone. He'd only stayed three years, when he had planned to stay five, maybe longer. Maybe he wasn't happy. Maybe he didn't like it there. Tehachapi State Prison (Calif.) officials couldn't understand it. Clifford Pringle, 24, didn't explain.

"Bye, bye, baby. Ha, ha," was all he wrote and stole away into the sunset in a garbage truck.

🌺🌺🌺 BEGINNERS LUCK.

A woman's place is in the home or at her husband's side (so they say), so Angela Ciampi of Trento, Italy, found herself on a fishing expedition with her husband, Dino, instead of antique shopping as she had planned. In the peacefulness of nature's surroundings, she agreed it had been a good idea and at the day's end, Dino went home empty-handed and she carried a solid silver tankard she had reeled in.

🌺🌺🌺 A JOB WELL DONE.

It had been a long, hard day and the crew of contractor Lester Kiser of Jacksonville, Fla., was tired. The men had been sent to raze a red brick house and they had done a good job. They had ripped out paneling, removed wall-to-wall carpeting, knocked down a brick wall and smashed the windows of the \$40,000, 10-room house. It was a hard day's work, but it was the wrong house. The right one was a block away.

🌺🌺🌺 WORTH WAITING FOR?

Good things come to those who wait and Alberto Pasagli of Savona, Italy, had waited a long time—years. He was hopeful, expectant and with crossed fingers he opened the letter from the Social Security office about his pension. He would receive 10 lire a month—roughly 17 cents.

(Continued from page 18)

that this will happen soon, I intend to offer the best service there is in the abortion clinic of this multifaceted medical center. Already, I have employed a woman, Dr. E. Marie Johnson, who has a Ph.D. degree in psychology and will be one of the four counselors to these girls who are having abortions here. Another one of our counselors is Mrs. Velma Wilson, who has a master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago. Those are the two Black counselors. We have two white counselors who have their master's degrees from the University of Chicago.

These four women will go to New York this week to study the best abortion clinic there, watching their counseling procedures and then they will leave New York and go to Washington (D. C.), to spend two days in the fine abortion clinic there so that they will be able to bring the latest methods in counseling right back here to Friendship Medical Center, because I don't think it would be fair to do an abortion on a woman without counseling her on how to protect herself in the future so that she won't get pregnant again until she's ready to have her baby.

"We're determined that Friendship Medical Center will have one of the best abortion services in the entire United States. Incidentally, we are keeping detailed records, so if they call for the report 40 years from now we've got it. This won't be another Tuskegee Report."

As the fervid debate goes on as to whether legal abortions are a

blessing in disguise or genocide, perhaps, the greatest impact upon the issue from the point of view of Black women who have faced the ordeal of unwanted pregnancies is expressed by Carolyn Jones. In an article on "Abortion and Black Women," she chides, "Don't call me sister if you can't call me wife. Dig it! This is not a catch phrase, or one of the 10 top Black sayings of the week."

"This is a sentiment taking a strong hold on many sisters who are no longer willing to be the punch line of some brother's joke. The sisters say it and they mean business. No more fatherless Black babies, no more weeping Black unwed mothers. Sisters are firm in this stand, and they warn, 'Don't Cry Genocide!'"

Model chats with doctor's secretary Mrs. Velma Naggles before leaving.



Words of the Week

Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Chicago physician, on legalized abortions: "There are many Blacks employed on plantations and farms. They do seasonal work and they have so much free time on their hands, and so little enjoyment, that sex becomes a part-time hobby for some. Babies are made that aren't always wanted and people end up with large families because abortion wasn't within their reach..."

E. Marie Johnson, psychologist and president of her own consulting firm, on making progress: "Success for me means team work. Man cannot do anything alone. It takes faith in God, faith in your fellow man—Black or white—and most of all faith in yourself."

Mary Frances Thomas, 103-year-old Akron, Ohio, woman, on why she lives alone: "Ain't nobody else gonna mind my business. I want to own my own home. If I want to walk around naked, then I can walk around naked."

Dr. Eugene C. Callender, president of the New York Urban Coalition, on Blacks in America: "We cannot move to a new beginning until we can face the horror of the past. There is no such thing for us as the American dream. It has become for us the American lie."

Dick Gregory, comedian, author, lecturer and human rights activist, on drug pushers in the ghetto: "I will never be able to understand how a nine-year-old kid always seems to find the heroin man in the ghetto, but the FBI can't."

Howard N. Lee, mayor of Chapel Hill, N. C., on social change through politics: "Let us go forth here and now, proving that our aim is not to destroy but to build, not just to rap but to manage, seeking change not just for the hell of it but change for the good of it."

Idi Amin, president of Uganda, on the economic situation in Uganda: "There is plenty of food. Sugar was short for a time, but now there is plenty of everything. This is a paradise country. The poorest man in Uganda is General Amin. It is better for me to be poor and the people richer."



E. Callender



Dick Gregory



E. Marie Johnson



Howard N. Lee



THE WEEK'S
BEST PHOTOS

Elaine Tomlin

■ **Soul Gathering:** Mrs. Coretta Scott King and Georgia State Rep. E. J. Shepherd compare notes during a soul food dinner in Atlanta at Shepherd's Soul House restaurant. When the meal was over, Mrs. King and Shepherd both had some new recipes to try.