

# Improved birth control would lessen abortions

More than 2,000 Right to Life supporters marched through downtown Lincoln Saturday to demonstrate their opposition to the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. Across the nation, thousands more paraded through city streets protesting abortion laws and practices. Last weekend, Ronald Reagan crooned, "I, too, have always believed that God's greatest gift is human life and

proven to be incredibly hazardous to the health of the women using them. The sometimes disastrous effects of their use are frequently visible only after a period of 20 to 30 years.

Other contraceptives are not destructive to the health of their users, but their rate of prevention is also decreased. In the past year, physicians have advocated the practice of performing reversible vasectomies and other tubal ligations, yet the feasibility of such severe measure remains to be decided.

In our society, where medical accomplishments are frequent and quite grand, it seems that more resources ought to be allocated for the purpose of improving existing methods of birth control and devising innovative procedures for preventing the incidence of pregnancy.

Teen-agers and poverty-stricken individuals tend to be the groups most uninformed about the necessity of birth control practices. Both groups continue to be sufficiently sexually active for their lack of information to be of concern. Yet President Reagan has loudly stated his support for legislation that would intimidate those persons under 18 who receive birth control prescriptions by notifying their parents or guardians. Such a measure is guaranteed to reduce the number of teen-agers who practice birth control, but by no means is it guaranteed to reduce their sexual activity. Thus, it almost insures the increase in the number of the country's unwanted pregnancies. Actions such as this further demonstrate the feeble-mindedness of leaders who pretend to be concerned about the country's social quandaries.

The University Health Center and its administrators should be commended for their open attitudes toward providing wholistic health care and adequate, inexpensive birth control to the university's student community. More local individuals and community organizations ought to exhibit such notions and administer such programs.

Without improved methods of birth control, new preventative practices and sincere educational attempts, the citizens of the United States will continue to wage a battle over the abortion controversy. A reduction in the need for abortion as an end to an undesirable pregnancy is the only hope for the quarrel to be resolved in a satisfactory manner. Reducing the amount of unwanted pregnancies is the only reasonable goal.



**Becky Stingley**

that we have a duty to protect the life of an unborn child."

Yet, it never ceases to amaze me that thousands of individuals are protesting abortion while they are offering no solutions that guarantee any greater degree of mental, emotional or physical health. The fact is pro-lifers fail to act upon the ultimate cause that has thus far necessitated that abortions be allowed by federal law.

At times, it seems that American society is one of the least productive in existence. Only in the past decade has emphasis been placed on preventive medicine, wellness and healthy lifestyles as a means of reducing the country's health concerns. Frequently, Americans are hell-bent on discovering solutions to society's dilemmas without focusing on the fundamental cause of the issue.

It seems only logical that society must eliminate the need for abortions before it can declare abortions unlawful. Right to Life supporters need to focus their time, energy and financial resources on preventing unwanted pregnancies rather than screaming for the protection of already-conceived but unborn fetuses. With the absence of undesirable pregnancies, there is nothing necessitating abortion in our society.

Granted, the frequent occurrence of sexual rape and incest precludes the notion of eliminating unwanted pregnancies, but the nation and community need to focus their efforts on improving the existing methods of birth control, developing new preventative practices and educating those persons who choose to be sexually active. Currently, oral contraceptives and intra-uterine devices are the most effective means of birth control, yet both have

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