

*Court decision still in litigation*

## Right to privacy v. right to life

**By Suellen Mathews**

February is the 10th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision that a woman has the right to a legal abortion. The right to privacy remains the key issue in the ongoing debate over abortion.

In February 1973, the *Roe v. Wade* case was decided by the Supreme Court. Jane Roe, an unmarried woman, had been denied a legal abortion in Texas because her life was not endangered by the pregnancy. Texas law restricted abortion except to save a woman's life.

Justice Harry Blackmun delivered the opinion and established the trimester concept saying that until the first 16 to 18 weeks of pregnancy there is no recognizable movement of the fetus. During this first trimester, the court ruled, a woman is entitled to a legal abortion.

In the decision, Justice Blackmun wrote that the Constitution does not explicitly mention any right of privacy. But the roots to that right could be found in the First, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, and 14th Amendments, he said.

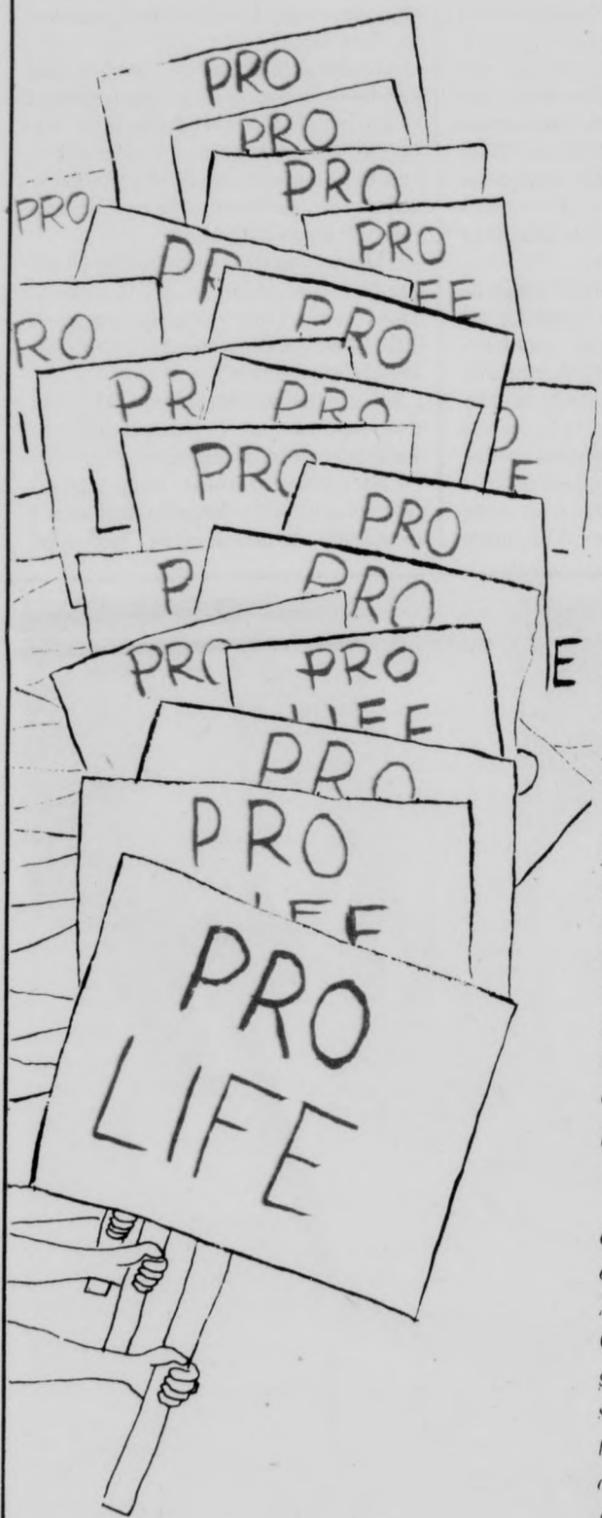
"The right of privacy, whether it be founded in the 14th Amendment's concept of personal liberty and restrictions upon state action, as we feel it is, or, as the District Court determined, in the Ninth Amendment's reservation of rights to the people, is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy," wrote Justice Blackmun.

But that right is still being challenged.

The New York Times reported a demonstration on Jan. 22 marking the anniversary of the court's decision. About 26,000 people marched on the Capitol in Washington. The pro-life groups held anti-abortion demonstrations in which they demanded that the court's decision be overturned. They are proposing a Human Life Amendment that would make abortion illegal.

Also in attendance at the demonstration were representatives of organizations that support the court's decision.

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# Court

From page 1

The Jan. 23 issue of *The New York Times* reported that President Reagan called the court's decision a tragedy in his weekly radio address. On the day of the demonstration, he met with leaders of the anti-abortion groups, giving them his backing and urging them to unite behind legislation to overturn the decision.

Dr. Donald Jackson, an associate professor of political science at TCU, said that the key issue in the court's decision is the right to privacy. When asked about the likelihood of the decision being overturned, he said that there is a movement to take the jurisdiction on such issues away from the courts by means of statute.

The pro-life groups are leaders in the anti-abortion fight, but Jackson said the groups' main concern has been to defeat the Equal Rights Amendment. Once that was done, in his opinion, these groups relaxed.

"The intensity of the opposition peaked about a year ago. It won't be so intense now," he said.

"The pro-birth groups' main concern is with lives to be, but they tend to overlook lives in being," Jackson said. "I'm a libertarian. I believe in people making their own choices; that does not mean that I favor abortion."

Jackson said that if his wife were in a situation where an abortion was being considered, he would be very reluctant.

But Ruth Augustine, 49, would not be so reluctant in many instances. She no longer works outside the home, but from 1969 to 1977 she owned a child-care center. She still has such a love for children that she keeps them in her home occasionally.

Augustine is a small, energetic woman who always appears to be happy. She has four sons, as well as a new grandson. Even with such a strong feeling for children she supports the court's decision about abortion.

"I think a woman should be able to have an abortion if she wants one," she said. "I think it's all right if it's done soon enough and it's not a form of birth control."

Augustine said that she thinks abortion is sometimes a must. She gave several examples.

"I feel very strongly about incest and rape," she said. "And if a child comes into a poor family and they can't take care of it, it's unfair to the child."

Whether the family wants the child or will love the child makes a difference also, she said.

"Children need love," Augustine said. "In dealing with children I've seen a lot of consequences of children raised without it."

She spoke of the anti-abortion posters that depict aborted fetuses. "To me an abortion is more than that little dead fetus. There's more to it than that," she said. "Why don't they show some of the little children who have been abused?"

Jane Carpenter is a 42-year-old mother with three daughters. She supports the court's decision. Her

oldest daughter is 21 and not yet married.

If her daughter were to come to her seeking advice on terminating an unwanted pregnancy, Carpenter said that she would support her daughter's decision whatever it was.

"I think every woman has the right to make her own decisions about her own body," she said.

Carpenter, a secretary for a local oil firm, speaks without hesitation on the issue. If her 15-year-old daughter were raped, she said she would immediately seek an abortion for her.

In speaking about the pro-life posters that show aborted fetuses, she said, "I think they're in very bad taste. They are working for the sympathy of other women, and they will get it from some, but it's in very bad taste."

The debate will continue. There will be people who call abortion murder and there will be others who claim that abortion is an individual's choice. For the anti-abortionists, the psychological and financial well-being of the woman who seeks an abortion will not matter. Whether a child is unwanted will not matter.

To those who support the woman's right to an abortion, the fetus will be less important than the woman who carries it.

Right and wrong are hard to recognize in the issue. Both sides are right and both sides are wrong. It just depends on who is talking.

# Student fights for

By Karen McLain

This Jan. 22, marking the 10th anniversary of legalized abortion, the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights had cause for celebration. Several awards were presented to pro-choice senators by the organization based in Washington, D.C. The press was there.

But Elizabeth Ames, who had worked with the coalition, was not there. An intern last semester, she is now back at TCU. She has not forgotten her experiences of only a few months ago. Nor has she lost the views which were only strengthened there.

Those are views in which she supports the woman's and her doctor's right to choose whether to have an abortion. She does not think that a doctor or abortion counselor should have to advise a woman seeking an abortion that life begins at conception.

Neither does she believe that a clinic should be forced to make all women wait several days between consultation for an abortion, and the time at which that abortion is performed.

Her views were strengthened by her internship.

Said Ames, "Ever since I considered the issue, I've been pro-

choice. Working there I thought more about the issue than I had before and read more than I had before. But I had a pretty strong conviction before I went. I didn't change that."

Ames is a short TCU senior with light wavy hair, a small build and a ready smile. When she was in high school in Tulsa, Okla., her mother left the nursery school she was working at to counsel patients in a nearby abortion center.

Several times, Ames went to pick her mother up at the center. One time her mother offered to show her the clinic. The tour would include the cleanup room. Did Elizabeth want to see that room?

Ames was told that an abortion had just been performed, so she hesitated to go in. All she could think of was the blood and gore. "I thought it would be a gruesome mess," she said.

But she went in. The room was clean. It wasn't that bad.

"There was this tiny, little gauze bag, maybe an inch in diameter," Ames said. There was no mess. A little blood. A little thing. "I thought, 'Where's the head?'"

She created another scene. This one also happened in Tulsa, but prior to the legalization of abortion.

There was one very good gynecologist who illegally performed abortions, Ames' mother had told



**FIGHTING ABORTION:** Harriet Menchaca has been a worker for the Tarrant County Right to Life for 10 years. DAVID ROBISON / TCU Daily Skiff

# pro-choice Washington lobby

her. The woman who wanted an abortion would contact this doctor indirectly. Later, at a parking lot, she would be picked up in a station wagon. Then she would be blindfolded and told to lie down on the floor of the car. The car would then take an indirect route to the gynecologist's garage, where the abortions were performed.

The blindfold never came off until the woman was returned, so she never saw the unknown hands placed on her during the operation. Nor did she see the instruments.

"That's the thing more than anything else that makes me say (abortion) has to be legal—just knowing the conditions of fear involved and how dirty you would feel," Ames said.

Ames said that she only wished people were more aware of their bodies and of how reproduction works. Many girls don't realize until too late how they become pregnant, she said. But even when they do, birth control can foul up.

"If you could do away with unwanted pregnancies, I would be against abortion," she said.

Unfortunately, some women realize they want to complete their pregnancies only after they have terminated them.

During her stay the Religious

Coalition did receive one call from a woman who was distraught after an abortion, Ames said. This woman, who Ames remembered, called and was very upset. She said that since her abortion, she no longer felt that life was worth living. She wanted to kill herself.

But such a call is very rare, Ames said.

The woman may have talked to a very extreme pro-lifer who made her feel guilty about getting an abortion, she said. But added that there was not any way she could know what had caused such despair.

One such extreme pro-lifer is Olga Fairfax, Ames said. Fairfax formed the Methodists for Life. "As far as we can tell, she is the only one in it," Ames said. This woman pickets in front of the House and Senate buildings. With her, she carries a fetus in a jar.

"She's not the only one," Ames said. The tactics used by other pro-lifers are just as bad. Tactics such as using pictures taken of abortions in the second trimester.

The pro-lifers arose as a group in 1973. Several months later, in response to such groups and in an attempt to keep abortion legal, the United Methodist Church formed the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights.

The organization began to get the support of other churches, even while using more and more of the Methodist Church budget, Ames said. Thus, eventually the organization began to operate independently, as it does now.

It is, however, still housed in the old Methodist building. So are some of the church's administrative offices.

One day a young Methodist from Florida walked into the building. He had been raised in a very pro-life church. He was shocked to find a pro-

choice organization in a Methodist building. Ames tried to explain the organization to him.

"Nothing I said made him change his mind. He believed abortion was murder and that was the only way he would even begin to consider the issue," she said.

"Once people have their minds made up, I don't know that you can change their minds . . . , especially not in one conversation, especially not (some)one who has very strong convictions," she said.



ELIZABETH AMES: MARTY TRISTAN / TCU Daily Skiff

## Students echo abortion controversies

By Lisa Kestler

The past 10 years have seen the number of abortions in this country rise to 1.5 million a year.

This escalation parallels the rising controversy over legalized abortion. Several groups, such as the National Right to Life Committee and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, are pushing for federal legislation to prohibit abortion. They emphasize the life of the unborn baby as something to be protected at all costs.

Senior religion major Joe Rzeppa said an unborn baby has the same basic right to life that an adult has. "The right to life is our most fundamental right," he said. "If you don't have that right, you can't enjoy all the other rights we're supposed to have."

National pro-abortion groups, such as the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, emphasize the right of a woman to decide about her own body.

"Abortion shouldn't be anybody's choice but the pregnant woman's," said Bonnie Singer, a junior social work major.

Jeff Dybdahl, a senior nursing major, said, "I believe in the woman's choice . . . in women's rights to control their bodies."

But Trudy Mikhail, a junior pre-med major, said women can sometimes forfeit that right. "If you are mature and old enough to decide to fool around," she said, "you should be prepared to either take precautions or face the consequences."

Rzeppa said a woman shouldn't have the choice of an abortion. Instead, he said, "she certainly has a choice whether to get pregnant or not."

The courts, however, have decided that the woman has more choice than that—during the first three months of pregnancy.

Federal involvement in abortions has begun to decrease. The federal government is now barred from funding abortions for low-income women. Instead, state governments are funding abortions with almost \$55 million a year, according to a January 1983 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*.

Some think the government should take a stronger stand against abortion.

"There is a role that government can and should play," Rzeppa said. "It should protect the life of the unborn baby."

Many feel, however, that the government should be kept out of the abortion issue. Steve Biel, a junior urban studies major, said, "It's not society's place to decide for a woman whether abortion is right."

Singer said, "It shouldn't be a political issue. It shouldn't be up to male politicians to decide."

There are many problems facing pregnant women that some feel justify abortion. These include a severely handicapped fetus, a pregnancy that threatens the mother's life, a pregnancy that results from rape or incest, and the financial and psychological strain of rearing a child.

"I think abortion is a more viable alternative than an unwanted pregnancy, a self-induced abortion, or having to sell your baby," Singer said.

Others argue that no pregnancy problem can justify an abortion. "We have to give life a chance," Rzeppa said. "Every individual has a chance to make something of himself."

He added that the number of pregnancies endangering the mother's life or resulting from rape or incest has been exaggerated.

"These issues are a smoke screen thrown up by pro-abortionists to disguise the fact that 1.5 million babies are being killed every year," he said.

Also central to the abortion argument is the question of when life actually begins. Anti-

abortionists argue that life begins at conception, and abortion of the fetus is therefore murder.

"I believe that abortion is the taking of an innocent human life," Rzeppa said. "I don't care what you call it. I think it's murder."

Pro-abortionists argue that until the fetus can survive outside the womb (usually at 24 weeks into pregnancy), it is not a true person, and it has no right to life.

"The fetus is dependent on the mother to live. It's not old enough to think for itself when it's aborted," Singer said.

There are many more unanswered questions about abortion, some of which are pending in the courts. For example, what rights does the father have in the abortion decision? What rights do parents have in juveniles' abortions?

Instead of concentrating on the abortion question, junior criminal justice major Shawna Ewer suggested concentrating on the cause of the problem. She said educating teen-agers on sex and birth control could eliminate a lot of unwanted pregnancies—and a lot of abortions.

Rzeppa, though, said education on sex and birth control would only increase the abortion problem. If society adopts a liberal, almost encouraging attitude towards sex, it will lead to more unwanted pregnancies, he said.

Instead, Rzeppa advocates "a return to the traditional standards of Judeo-Christian morality" to solve the abortion problem.

"People have to take responsibility for their actions," he said. "The change has to come from inside individuals. Individuals have to change themselves."

Whatever the answers, they will be slow in coming. For, as Ewer said, "You're not going to solve this issue by making abortion illegal. The problem will always exist."

# Abortion was her only solution

*The name of the writer has been omitted from this story to protect her identity.*

She took her first morning urine sample to the clinic in the plastic tube given to her by the clinic's receptionist.

The test results were positive. The young dark-haired, dark-eyed woman felt numb inside, as if Novocain had been administered to her emotions. The woman, a fourth-year college student, could no longer deny the truth her bodily signs were telling her.

Her slacks and skirts fit snugly

around the waist and her weight had increased by 12 pounds to 130. She had other signs too—the feeling of nausea, dizziness, and two missed periods.

She planned to graduate by the end of the year. She had no plans to marry or start a family. She could not afford to have a child, but her conscience and upbringing made her rebel against abortion.

She headed to her boyfriend's apartment to tell him of her pregnancy. "I tried to think of several ways to tell my boyfriend I was pregnant," she said. But after arriving at his apartment she couldn't tell him. The courage was not there.

She called him at work and said he should stop by her apartment. She couldn't tell him over the phone.

Her reluctance returned at her apartment. She found herself unable to talk to him about her problem.

"Do you have cancer? Has one of your parents died?" he asked. Finally he guessed the truth.

She cried, the black mascara and gray eyeliner running down her cheeks. They were tears of relief. She knew abortion was the only solution for her.

called names to complete pre-abortion procedures. First, there was a sonogram to determine the fetus's age. Then she went back to the front waiting room. Next came checks on her blood pressure, pulse, temperature and blood, after which she was moved to a waiting room in the rear of the building.

Finally the clinic's abortion counselor called her in and explained the procedure the doctor would use. Again the young woman had to wait. She had been in the clinic for 1½ hours and had become increasingly restless.

The doctor arrived. Now the abortion production line could start moving quickly. She was taken into the room where the abortion was performed. The doctor and the nurse traded small talk with her as they would if they had met on the street.

They told her to take off sweat pants and underwear, and instructed her to lie down on the table. It was padded and covered with a disposable material. It was cold. She put her legs on top of two supports on either side of the table. The lower part of her body was covered with a paper towel material. She received several shots in her right arm and a painful injection inside the crook of her right elbow.

The doctor started the procedure immediately. He didn't wait for the relaxing drug to take effect. He thrust his fingers inside of her. They were covered with a cleansing anti-bacterial lotion. The pain started.

He roughly inserted the cold metal speculum. She squirmed in response to the pain she was feeling. The relaxing drug still had not started.

He inserted other devices to enlarge the opening of her uterus. She dug her nails into her hand to divert her attention from the stabbing pain she was feeling in her abdomen. The pain felt more excruciating than her worst menstrual cramps.

Within five minutes the painful procedure was finished. Now she could feel the effects of the drug. The nurse put a paper robe on her and led her to a room with several cots.

One by one, other women came off the production line and were led into the room. Her eyelids started to droop. She felt an intense need to sleep.

Eventually she became alert again. She wanted to get up. She wanted to leave the clinic and leave the memory of pain and the abortion behind. She slowly walked to the front waiting room.

There were four teen-age girls across from where she had sat. A wave of nausea coursed through her body. The girls were laughing and turned in her direction; were they laughing at her?

Her boyfriend had still not come to pick her up. She had to get out of there.

Needing to breathe cool fresh air, she zipped up her coat and stepped outside. Then her mind and body was filled with a sense of relief as the cold winter air filled her lungs. It was over.

## events etc.

### Monday 21

**Residence Hall Staff** 9 a.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Angel Flight** 11 a.m., Student Center Lower Lobby  
**Academic Affairs** 11 a.m., Student Center Lower Lobby  
**IFC** noon, Student Center Room 211  
**Academic Affairs** 3 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**Performing Arts** 4:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**Films** 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**Phi Kappa Delta** 6 p.m., Student Center Rooms 207, 209  
**Baptist Executive Council** 6:15 p.m., University Ministries Office  
**Colossians Bible Study** 7 p.m., University Ministries Office  
**Faculty Chamber Concert** 8 p.m., Ed Landreth Auditorium  
**Campus Crusade** 8 p.m., Student Center Room 205  
**Mortar Board** 8 p.m., Student Center Room 218  
**Campus Crusade** 9:15 p.m., Student Center Room 204

### Tuesday 22

**Wednesday Night Bible Study** 7 a.m., Student Center Room 202  
**Interview with Admiral Carroll** 9 a.m., Student Center Room 208  
**Marriott** noon, Student Center Room 204  
**Traffic Appeals** 2 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**Parent's Weekend** 4:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**"Meet Wacker"** 5 p.m., Student Center Ballroom  
**Recreation and Travel** 5 p.m., Student Center Room 214  
**House of Student Representatives** 5 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Angel Flight** 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 205  
**BSU** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 218  
**Campus Chest** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 203  
**Wrangler Committee** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 214  
**Harris College of Nursing** 6:30 p.m., Student Center Room 204  
**Discipleship Study** 9 p.m., Wesley Foundation

### Wednesday 23

**Young Americans for Freedom** 8 a.m., Student Center Lower Lobby  
**Marriott** 8 a.m., Student Center Room 204  
**Business Strategies** 8:30 a.m., Student Center Room 207  
**Career Placement** 9 a.m., Student Center Rooms 215, 218  
**Angel Flight** 11 a.m., Student Center Lower Lobby  
**Books Alive** 1 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**SOC** 3 p.m., Student Center Rooms 202, 203  
**RHA** 4:15 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**RA Orientation** 5 p.m., Student Center Ballroom  
**Programming Council** 5 p.m., Student Center Room 211  
**Canterbury Club** 5:30 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church  
**Circle K** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 205

**Alpha Phi Omega** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 218  
**Class of '85** 7 p.m., Student Center Ballroom  
**Wednesday Night Bible Study** 8 p.m., Student Center Room 207

### Thursday 24

**Business Strategies** 8:30 a.m., Student Center Room 207  
**Senior Week** 10 a.m., Student Center Room 218  
**"Eat and Confer" Luncheon** 12:30 p.m., Wesley Foundation  
**Career Options** 3 p.m., Student Center Room 218  
**Arnold Air Societies** 4:30 p.m., Student Center Room 205  
**Leadership Dinner** 5 p.m., Student Center Room 211  
**Methodist Fireside** 5:30 p.m., Wesley Foundation  
**Black Student Book Sale** 6 p.m., Student Center Upper Lobby  
**Rap on Race** 7 p.m., The Hideaway  
**W.E.B. DuBois Lecture** 7 p.m., Student Center Ballroom  
**Class of '85** 7 p.m., Student Center Room Ballroom  
**Black History Forum** 7 p.m., Student Center Room 207  
**Church of Christ** 7:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**Kappa Alpha Psi** 7:30 p.m., Student Center Room 216  
**Lutheran Ministries** 8 p.m., Student Center Room 203  
**Catholic Community** 8 p.m., Student Center Room 218

### Friday 25

**Business School** 7 a.m., Student Center Room 208  
**Friday on Campus** 8 a.m., Student Center Lower Lobby  
**Book Sale** 8 a.m., Student Center Lounge  
**Business Strategies** 8:30 a.m., Student Center Room 207  
**Student Life Staff** 8:30 a.m., Student Center Room 214  
**Methodist Luncheon** noon, Wesley Foundation  
**Friday Night Club** 5:45 p.m., Student Center Lounge  
**Cornerstone** 7 p.m., Student Center Room 205  
**Alpha Kappa Alpha** 9:30 p.m., Student Center Room 207

### Saturday 26

**Lambda Chi Alpha** 8 a.m., Student Center Ballroom  
**Quink Club** 10 a.m., Student Center Room 205  
**Quink Club** 11:30 a.m., Student Center Room 207  
**Lambda Chi Alpha** 2 p.m., Student Center Ballroom  
**Chinese Bible Study** 7:30 p.m., Student Center Room 218

### Sunday 27

**House of Student Representatives** 1 p.m., Student Center Room 207  
**Young Life** 4 p.m., Student Center Room 204  
**Tau Chi Upsilon** 7 p.m., Student Center Room 202

*The doctor arrived. Now the abortion production line could start moving quickly. She was taken into the room where the abortion was performed. The doctor and the nurse traded small talk with her as they would if they had met on the street. . . . Then the pain started.*

The next day she made an appointment for the abortion. "I would like to make an appointment for a pregnancy termination," she said. She used these words, the ones that appeared in the advertisement in the Yellow Pages. The word abortion seemed too harsh; she could not bring herself to say it.

The night before the appointment, she and her boyfriend had difficulty sleeping. She awoke two or three times during the night and early morning, sweating. Her thrashing around woke him up too. The motion made waves in the water bed.

After rising, taking a hot bath and getting her urine sample in a large, yellow plastic cup, she and her boyfriend headed for the clinic.

The plain, brown brick building devoid of personality looked like a doctor's or dentist's office. They were the first ones to arrive. She was given forms to fill out.

Soon this front waiting room was filled with mothers and daughters, girlfriends and boyfriends and a husband and wife with a young child. All had the same goal. Some were laughing, others chattering loudly. Some were like her—silent and keeping their thoughts to themselves.

The technicians from the clinic