

I wish to quote Rev. Jesse Jackson who has said in *The National Right to Life News* of January 1977, "There are those who argue that the right to privacy is of higher order than the right to life... that was the premise of slavery. You could not protest the existence or treatment of slaves on the plantation because that was private and therefore outside your right to be concerned... Those advocating taking life prior to birth do not call it killing or murder, they call it abortion. They further never talk about aborting a baby because that would imply something human... Fetus sounds less human and therefore can be justified."

As to the question about if a foetus is a living human, if he is not living why does his heart beat (21 days after conception — usually before mother knows she is pregnant), why can electroencephalographic waves be picked up from his brain (after 45 days), why can he squint, swallow, suck his thumb, or recoil from pain (by 13 weeks), and why by this time can he be identified by his already existent and distinctive fingerprints? And if he isn't human then what is he? Genetically he is human. Physically he is human. He is human.

Each year in Canada thousands of abortions take place. In the United States more than one million

babies are aborted each year (very conservative estimates). If these were people one day old or older we would hear a cry condemning the government's non-action in protecting our citizens. God has created in the womb a place of warmth, of protection and security for the most dependent part of a person's life. As it stands now, government and society's non-action has made the womb the most dangerous place for any human to live.

Mel Cruikshank
Chaplain, Baptist Student Ministries

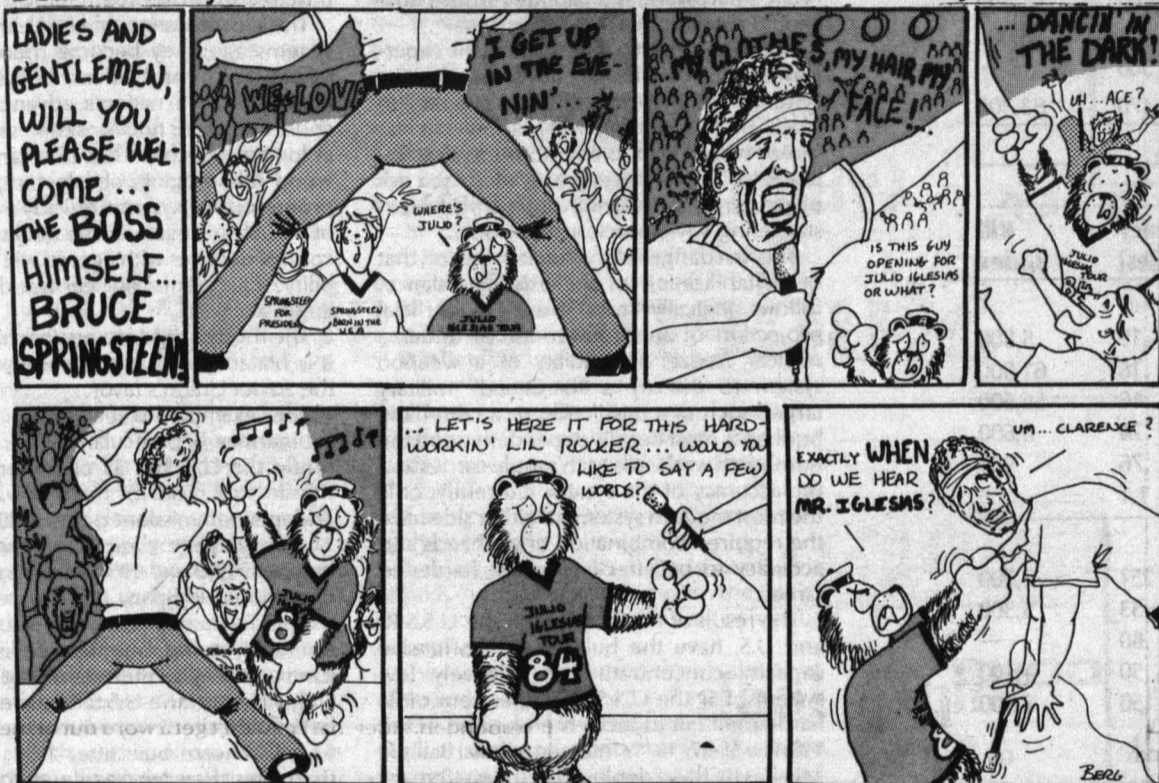
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