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She feels a last-minute pang of compassion for her fetus as the din of the vacuum gurgles like a garburetor.

Legs shaking from the strain of pressing against the stirrups, the vacuum whines down after what seems an interminable length of time. The nurse slips a sanitary napkin between Linda's legs after taking them down from the stirrups. She helps Linda to a sitting position on the table, and when she is sure Linda is able to walk, helps her back to the waiting room.

The other women watch as Linda re-enters the waiting room, one hand pressed tenderly to her belly. She takes the paper sack from her friend and goes to change.

The fifteen year old woman-child is next. Her mother is told to wait in the room when she moves to go with her daughter down the hall.

"If a woman becomes pregnant when she doesn't want to be it's a dreadful situation. Whatever she chooses, the situation cannot be manipulated," says Johnson. "It doesn't matter how much the guy loves her, only she

can make a decision."

There are only three options open to a woman facing an unwanted pregnancy: keeping the child, carrying the pregnancy to term and placing the child for adoption, or having an abortion.

"It's a terribly lonely and difficult time for a woman. She needs love and understanding," says Johnson. He hopes the couple decides together what is right for her, and says difficulties are minimized where all the alternatives are known and the right conclusion for that woman is reached.

Johnson says it is very easy to have philosophical ideas about abortion but convictions may waver when a woman actually discovers she is pregnant. He says he has seen confirmed pro-lifers opt for abortion, and other women who first considered it as an alternative who find themselves unwilling to have one.

There are pronounced psychological effects for any woman who faces an unwanted pregnancy whatever her choice is to deal with it. These may include depression, hostility, feelings of guilt and remorse, delinquency, criminal behaviour, alcoholism and drug dependency, to varying degrees.

It is generally conceded that after-effects of terminating an unwanted pregnancy are not as severe as either adoption or parenting. Apart from the physical strain of bearing a child, the woman who places her child up for adoption faces the condemnation of society for carrying and giving birth to a bastard, months of guilt after the fact and a nagging question which will haunt her for the rest of her life: Whatever became of my child?

Parenting has additional burdens socially and financially, which do not affect only the mother. In one Swedish study concluded in 1965, 120 children of women who were refused therapeutic abortions were less well

off by the time they had reached 21 years than a control group of children from women who willingly gave birth (Esther Greenglass, "After Abortion", Longman Canada Ltd. 1976).

"These children received less schooling, and when they grew up, more of them were recipients of public welfare assistance, and more of them were judged as unfit for military service. The greater social and mental problems of these children, quite apart from the human misery of those mothers who were refused abortion, could be a persuasive argument for allowing the decision to abort to be left up to the pregnant woman herself." (Ibid)

Attitudes towards abortion and pregnancy must change. What kind of a society advocates a woman must give birth to a child she does not want and cannot care for as a punishment for her sexual behaviour?

What kind of a society glorifies the sanctity of human life on one hand and with the back of the other strikes the woman who is bringing that human life into existence?

Abortion is necessary, if only because of the lack of contraceptive information made available to those who need it most. Only the naive can hope the natural act of physically loving another person can be relegated to a procreative act in the conjugal bed.

Linda is exhausted. She aches, but feels less pain than when in the hospital a few hours ago. Now the anger flares. She remembers when she had told him to stop, it was time to put the condom on.

With relief she had felt him move his arms. And then with horror felt his hands pin her arms down beneath him.



"I think she's interested in me. She asked if I've had a vasectomy."

Hypnotist/Mentalist.

KEN WEBER SUPERMIND



Amazing!
Hilarious!

E.S.P.

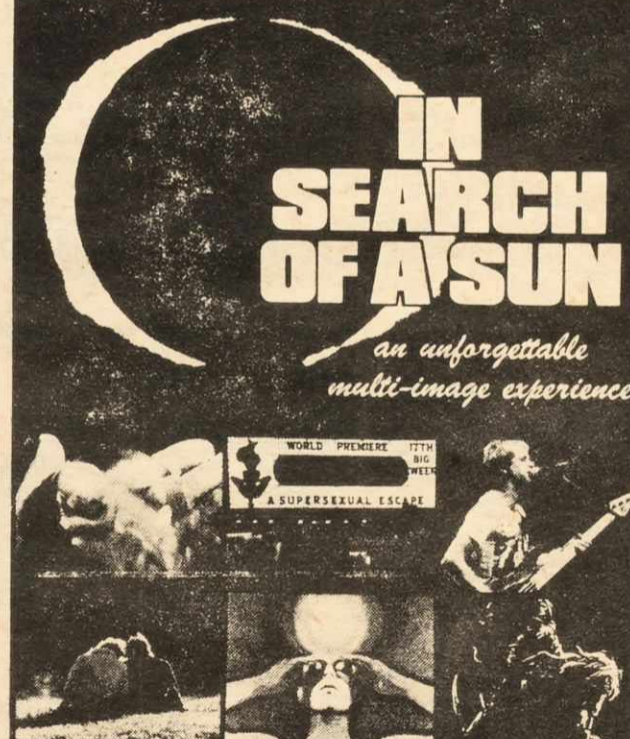
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