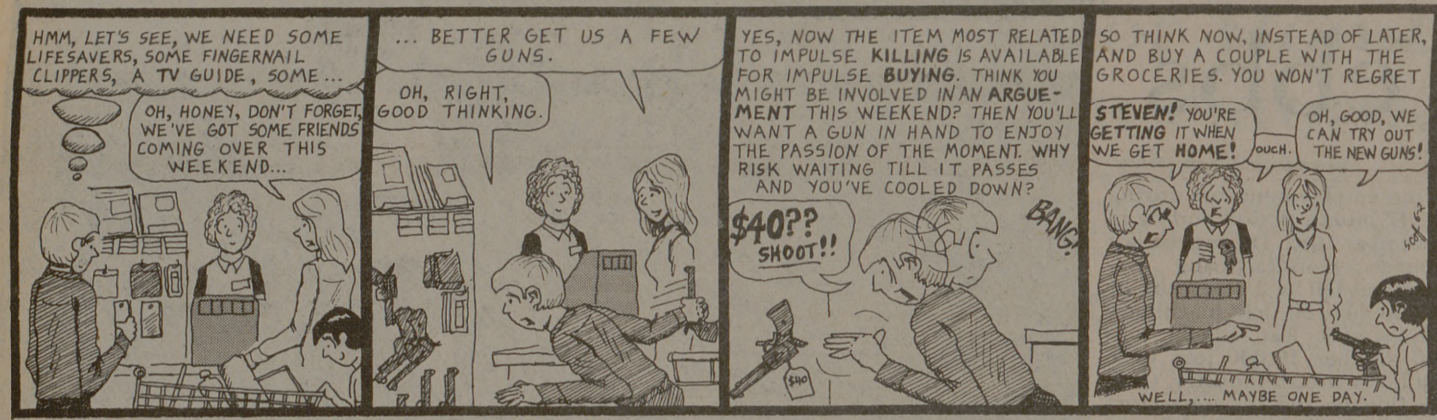


Warped

by Scott McCullar



Abortion used to build family of desired sex

United Press International
DETROIT — Some parents are custom-tailoring their families by aborting a fetus if prenatal tests show the child is not the desired sex, researchers say.

"It is possible to determine the sex of the child before the child is born by doing amniocentesis," Anne B. Swanson, associate chemistry professor at Edgewood College in Madison, Wis., said in an interview after addressing the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Amniocentesis, usually performed on older pregnant women to determine if the fetus has Down's syndrome, involves insertion of a needle to with-

draw amniotic fluid from the womb.

"It is possible to abort a fetus which is one sex or another," Swanson said. "Some parents do it. And there are some physicians who do it in this country."

"But it is not common. And most ethicists are opposed to this — aborting a baby just because it's not the sex you want," she said.

John C. Fletcher, National Institute of Health assistant for bioethics, told the convention that sex selection would increase with new pre-natal diagnostic techniques.

"I believe that practice to be ethically unjustifiable and

against the best interests of and women in this or any society," he said.

"Because of the technical feasibility and the aging of population, there will be a increasing demand for pre-diagnosis," he said. "The we could increase the fitness genetic measures will become stronger issue again."

Parents could opt for a child because the fetus has a linked genetic defect. The defect is carried on the Y chromosome, a baby boy would have the defect, but a baby girl would not.

Jury selected in rape trial

United Press International
SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — A twelfth juror was selected Wednesday to hear the controversial case of five men accused of

gang raping and beating a former Ohio beauty queen, then leaving her to wander nude in the freezing cold.

The additional juror was

selected Wednesday, the fifth day of the selection process, as the existing pool of potential jurors dwindled.

Sixteen people will be selected.

Five eastern Massachusetts men, all 22, are accused of raping the unidentified victim, 38, and leaving her in a wooded area in Holbrook, Mass., in January 1980. The trial will be held 80 miles east, in the Nor-

folk County seat of Dedham.

Only 10 of the 260-member jury pool were left to be questioned Tuesday. Judge John P. Sullivan ordered marshals sent to the "highways and byways" if the 10 remaining people did not fill the additional jury seats.

Sullivan expected jury selection in the widely publicized case to continue into Thursday. The trial should last 2 to three weeks, he said.

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Widow fighting IRS over possible house sale

United Press International
DALLAS — An elderly woman said Wednesday she will not let the government seize her home despite a U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowing its sale to pay taxes owed by her dead husband.

Lucille Mitzi Bosce Rodgers, 68, said her nightmare began in 1976, two years after the death of her husband. An Internal Revenue Service agent telephoned, she said, and asked if she still lived in their three-bedroom brick home.

Several weeks later, she said, an IRS agent knocked on her door "with a subpoena. They said they were suing me for my house."

Citing the case of Rodgers and another Dallas woman, Jorene Ingram, the IRS went to court to allow seizure of the houses to pay the debts.

Lower courts ruled against the IRS. On appeal, however,

the Supreme Court on a 5-4 vote Tuesday reversed those rulings and said the IRS can force the sale of a married couple's home to pay a tax debt owed by one of the spouses.

The court said the surviving spouse must be compensated for her share of the property, and only the debtor's share can be used to pay the debt.

"I'm a little old lady," said Rodgers. "I haven't moved yet. They're not going to get my house."

"I just don't understand how a person isn't protected (from the government)," she said.

Rodgers said she and her second husband, Coleman A. Rodgers, 79, have no other place to live.

"Social Security is about all we have," said Rodgers.

She said the home cost \$39,000 29 years ago but she did not know its current market value because "I've never been

interested in selling. It's just an ordinary house."

Texas' homestead law protects a house "from forced for payment of all debts, the Texas attorney general said the federal tax decision will supersede it."

An IRS spokesman in Dallas said the agency likely will use its new power.

The IRS says Rodgers' husband, gas station owner Philip S. Bosco, owed \$927,000 in federal wage taxes, interest penalties when he died in 1976.

The tax debt was never paid. Rodgers and her lawyer said the Supreme Court ordered a new trial.

Justice William Brennan wrote that the new trial must balance "both the government's interest in prompt and certain collection of delinquent taxes and the possibility that innocent third parties will be harmed by the effort."

Ex-inmate unhappy with settlement of \$1 million for false conviction

United Press International
NEW YORK — A 66 year-old man, saying he "lost so much that can never be replaced," is unhappy with a \$1 million court award for the 24 years he spent in prison for a murder he did not commit.

Isidore Zimmerman, who came within two hours of being executed during his prison stay, says he will end up with about

\$500,000 after he pays his lawyers.

"I feel I should have gotten much more," Zimmerman, a retired doorman, said Tuesday. "I lost so much that can never be replaced. I would have had children. I would have cherished someone calling me 'Daddy.' I am very unhappy."

A judge made the damages award last week, and it was announced Tuesday.

Zimmerman says he also paid \$300,000 in medical bills for treatment of a glandular disease and psychiatric care.

He hopes to establish a foundation to help prisoners accused of crimes and to help capital punishment. He plans a world cruise with his wife of 21 years, Ruth, who "was for him" throughout his useful imprisonment.

In 1962, the state Court of Appeals reversed Zimmerman's conviction for the 1938 murder of New York City Detective Michael Foley after Zimmerman had testified against himself that he admitted they had lied.

Zimmerman spent 24 months on death row in Sing Sing but said a reprieve by Herbert Lehman less than 24 hours before his scheduled execution saved him. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

Zimmerman had sought \$1 million in damages for his conviction that imprisoned him from 1938 to 1962 but said he would not appeal the ruling.

"I have had so many appointments in my life," he said. "The nightmare will be with me the rest of my life."

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