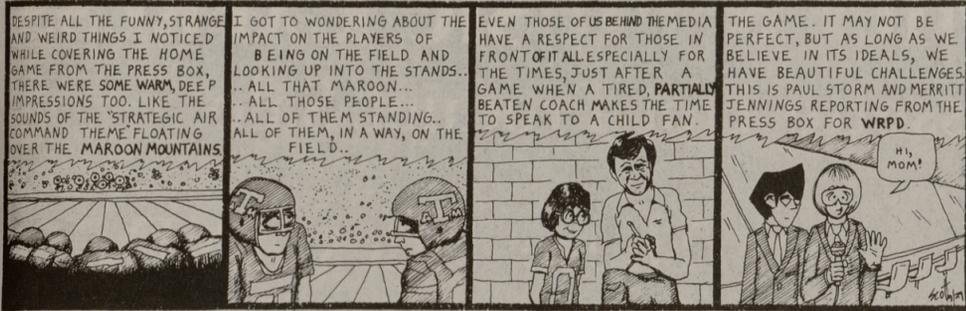


Warped by Scott McCullar



Report says pill killing American users yearly

NEW YORK — Birth control pills kill 500 of their 10 million American users annually, a new report on risks and benefits of current contraceptive methods said Wednesday.

The study, "Making Choices," estimated about 30 die annually from complications of tubal sterilization, 30 from use of the intra-uterine device, and 15 from trouble linked to abortion.

Deaths from complications of pill use could be cut to about 70 if no pill users smoked and if none took the pill after her 35th birthday, said Dr. Howard W. Ory, epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and an author of the report.

Despite deaths and other complications due to contraception, the report said unwanted pregnancy and childbearing pose a greater risk to a woman's life and health than the use of any currently available birth control method.

More than half of all American couples want no more than two children and most women, as a result, spend an average of 25 to 30 years of their adult lives trying to avoid pregnancy, the report said.

If health were the only consideration, a woman's safest course would be to start with the pill and continue with that method for four years (to get maximum protection against ovarian cancer), have the number of children she desires by her mid-twenties, and then persuade her husband to have a vasectomy, the authors said.

The Alan Guttmacher Institute, a research affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, published the study funded by the Commonwealth Fund, the Rockefeller Foundation and Needmor Fund.

Pill-related deaths are offset by the pill-related prevention of an estimated 850 deaths from ovarian cancer each year among users, the report said. The exceptions: use of the pill by women over 40 and by women over 35 who smoke.

Side effects from the pill put 9,400 in hospitals each year. An estimated 9,600 others also are hospitalized as a result of trouble connected with IUDs. The most common is pelvic inflammatory disease.

Complications from sterilization, surgical and permanent birth control, causes additional hospitalization for 32,000 women annually. And some 5,000 of the 1.6 million who obtain legal abortions each year suffer major complications.

The report estimated that a woman using no method of contraception from age 17 to 44 could theoretically expect to have 14.3 births or 31.2 abortions, and a woman using the pill would have 0.2 unwanted or unintended births and 0.3 abortions.

Woman may be death row first

SALT LAKE CITY — New York socialite Frances Bernice Schreuder will become the first woman occupant of Utah's death row if a jury decides to send her before a firing squad for masterminding the murder of her wealthy father.

Schreuder, 45, was convicted of first-degree murder in the 1978 slaying of auto parts magnate Franklin James Bradshaw, 76. Jurors delivered the verdict late Tuesday and were scheduled to return Oct. 3 to issue a sentence.

The heiress faces death by firing squad or life in prison.

Schreuder, a socialite and member of the New York City Ballet board of directors, turned pale but otherwise showed no emotion when the verdict was read.

Prosecutor Ernie Jones said the surprise testimony of her convicted killer son, Marc, led to the guilty verdict. Young Schreuder told the jury his mother ordered him to kill her father in 1978 because she feared the multi-millionaire would cut her out of his will.

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Defense attorney Michael Rosen declined comment, saying he was under the judge's orders not to talk about the case due to next Monday's penalty hearing.

In closing arguments, Jones said Schreuder almost pulled off "the perfect crime." Her only flaw was to cheat a long-time friend, Richard Behrens, out of \$3,700, the prosecutor said.

Behrens testified he hid the murder weapon for the heiress until the two had an argument about \$3,700 she stole from a bank account they shared.

Ford calls for Watt to resign

SAN ANTONIO — Former President Gerald Ford Wednesday joined a list of prominent Republicans calling for the resignation of James Watt in the wake of the interior secretary's wisecrack about a coal advisory panel.

Ford, in San Antonio for play in the Texas Open golf tournament, told reporters he believed Watt's remark was "irresponsible" and harmful to President Reagan.

The former president was directing his comments to Watt's remark last week that a coal advisory board was made up of a "black, a woman, two Jews and a cripple."

"I think the decision is up to Mr. Watt," Ford said. "The comment was very irresponsible. I think in bad taste."

"In my opinion, Mr. Watt ought to realize he is a burden to the president and he ought to take action to relieve the president of that burden."

At least 11 Republican senators have called for Watt's ouster and 14 GOP House members, led by Rep. John McKernan, R-Maine, signed a letter to Watt Tuesday urging him to step down.

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