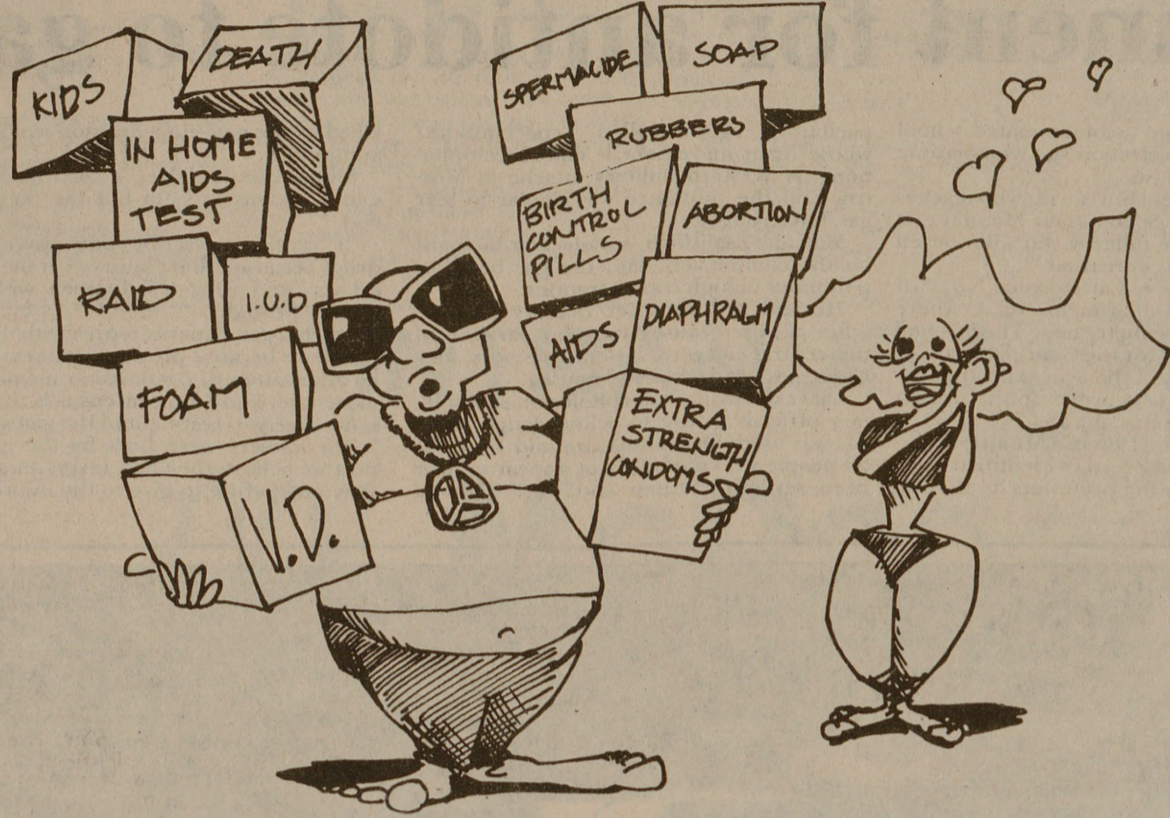


## WHO SAYS FREE LOVE DIED IN THE 60'S



IT JUST COSTS A LITTLE MORE IN THE 80'S

## Supreme Court decision must allow abortion to remain legal

The Supreme Court is hearing arguments which may lead to a complete or partial reversal of the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision which legalized abortion in 1973.

In recent months, the media has been saturated with both pro-life and pro-choice opinions.

I am convinced that making abortion illegal will be a giant leap backward to a time when ignorance and piety ruled over rational, logical thought.

My biggest problem with the pro-life position is the presumptuous implication that abortion is a black and white issue. Pro-lifers have transformed abortion into a single question of right or wrong, when the issue is actually a series of questions that must be answered before individuals can pass judgment on abortion. Every person must ask themselves:

Is death sometimes a preferred alternative?

At what point does a fetus become a human life?

Does a woman have the right to decide the life or death of that fetus?

Does a woman have the right to choose death over a poor quality of life for her child?

Until these questions are answered to each individual's satisfaction, that person is in no position to make an informed decision about abortion. The answers to these questions lie not in consensus of the masses, but as a matter of personal belief.

Regardless of the legality of abortion, it is inevitable. Although inevitability is not reason enough to legalize any action, it should play an important role in the decision. As long as women continue to have unwanted pregnancies, they will continue to find a way to terminate those pregnancies. Making abortion illegal will not eliminate the procedure, it



**Stephanie Stribling**  
Columnist

will simply make it an infinitely more dangerous proposition.

There is no question that unwanted pregnancy is a mistake. Some pro-lifers believe that abortions circumvent the price a woman must pay for that mistake. However, unless a woman is completely without conscience, there are few who would say abortion is not costly, both physically and emotionally.

Whether that price is paid immediately or years later, it will be paid. Unlike miscarriage, where a woman is encouraged to heal herself both emotionally and physically, a woman who has had an abortion is expected to walk away from it unscathed. She has no opportunity to grieve her loss.

Some pro-lifers use the argument that repeat offenders, who use abortion as a form of birth control, are representative of abortion as an easy alternative. But this argument doesn't merit discussion. There will always be opposing extremes, but their numbers are too few to consider. Most women who abort a child will not make the same painful mistake again.

Women do pay a price, regardless of their decision to abort. Forcing a woman to carry a pregnancy to term only inflicts the price of her mistake on her innocent, unborn child, which I find obscene.

The quality of life for the child should be the foremost consideration when a woman is deciding the future of that child. If she decides she is not in a posi-

tion to support the child, both financially and emotionally, and her decision is based on careful consideration of the facts, then abortion should be an alternative.

Forcing a woman to give up her child for adoption is not a viable alternative to reduce the number of abortions. If she is not prepared to raise the child herself, she should not be forced to subject that child to the even more uncertain future of adoption or foster care. If pro-lifers are really dedicated to using adoption as an alternative to abortion, they should consider adopting five or six unwanted children themselves. That would really help the cause.

There are alternatives to reducing the number of abortions. Making them illegal is not the answer. In particular, violence as a means of bringing about reform is not the answer. To take a life in the name of saving one is even more heinous a crime than the one the pro-lifers claim to be fighting.

The pro-lifers are too busy battling the symptom, not the disease. They forget we are all members of a society that condones premarital sex as easily as it points a finger at the results.

Changing our attitudes about premarital sex is one alternative to reducing the number of abortions. Through education, we are changing our attitudes about drugs. We can certainly do the same with premarital sex. Particularly since the fatal dimension of AIDS has been added to the equation.

We need to quit sending mixed signals to women. It is the height of hypocrisy to condone premarital sex and simultaneously condemn unwanted pregnancy. The two will be inextricably linked forever.

*Stephanie Stribling is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.*

## Don't mess with the postal service

**Mike Royko**  
Columnist

It's doubtful that Joseph Champlin is a wealthy man. He's only 20 years old and lives in the working class neighborhood of Canaryville on the South Side of Chicago. My guess is that he doesn't have a lot of money to throw around.

Yet, he made a very foolish and potentially costly investment last week, if police reports can be believed.

Champlin may have invested as much as two years of his freedom and the price of hiring a lawyer. All for the dubious satisfaction of being a racial bigot.

I've been unable to reach Champlin to discuss his alleged investment. But a version of the story has been told by Larry Bailey, 20, a Chicago mail carrier.

Bailey doesn't have a regular mail route yet. He fills in wherever he's needed.

And last week he was needed in the Canaryville neighborhood, which has a long history of racial hostility.

Bailey picks up the story:

"It was the end of the day and I was getting ready to get off and I was picking up my bags.

"All of a sudden, this blue car pulls up and stops. I didn't pay no mind, but then this guy jumped out with a big stick in his hand.

"He said: 'I told you niggers about coming around here. I'm going to show you.'

"He came at me and I took off and ran down to the end of the block. Then I stopped and watched him. Another carload of guys pulled up and he talked to them. Then they took off in different directions."

Bailey is no fool, and he's familiar with the attitudes of some of the people who live in that neighborhood.

Leaving the mailbags where they were, he prudently took off on foot for the postal station, which is only a few blocks away.

He made it safely, but the trip was depressing. As Bailey explained:

"As I was going up the street, I saw some kids playing basketball. They started chasing me and throwing sticks and things at me, and calling me names. Just little kids."

Just little kids. It would be nice if their parents had them watch the video of the musical "South Pacific." There's a song about how kids have to be taught to hate. On the other hand, their parents have apparently taught them already.

As Bailey said: "I was surprised, especially this being election time. You'd think everything would be cool and calm, but it's not."

(By that, Bailey meant that the incident occurred only a few blocks from the home of Richard M. Daley has been trying to shed the racist stigma of his neighborhood.)

Bailey returned to the postal station, told his supervisor what happened, and they drove back to pick up the bags.

"When we got there, the police were already there and they asked me to get in the squad car to try and find the guy."

A police department spokesman said the cops were already there because someone who lived nearby saw the incident and was decent enough to call. And they helped identify Champlin.

Police tracked Champlin down through his license plate number, and although he tried to escape by running and ducking into a building, they grabbed him.

Then he was booked on one charge of aggravated assault. That was for menacing Bailey with the stick and chasing him. If found guilty on that charge, he could be sentenced to a year in prison.

Champlin also was charged with ethnic intimidation. That was for combining the threat with racial epithets. If found guilty on that charge, he could draw another year in prison.

Unless he pleads poverty and gets a free public defender, he is going to have to hire a lawyer. Criminal lawyers don't work cheap and most of them wisely ask for the money up front. And if Champlin does plead poverty, the judge might ask him how he can afford to own a car if he can't afford a lawyer.

But his problems might not end there.

It is against federal laws to mess around with a mail carrier. The postal inspectors also are looking into this case.

And if they decide there is sufficient evidence, they will turn it over to the U.S. Attorney's office for prosecution in federal court.

The average law-abiding person gets stomach butterflies when pulled over for running a yellow light. And going to traffic court can bring on a case of the sweats.

So imagine how young Mr. Champlin must be feeling, faced with the prospect of standing trial on a truly serious rap.

Of course, Champlin is presumed innocent until found guilty. But if Bailey's story is true, and a judge or a jury believes him and those who witnessed the incident, Champlin really should add up the costs and ask himself if being a jerk is worth it.

And if he is found guilty, I sincerely hope a judge throws the book at him.

Really, guys like him give being white a bad name.

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### The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism.

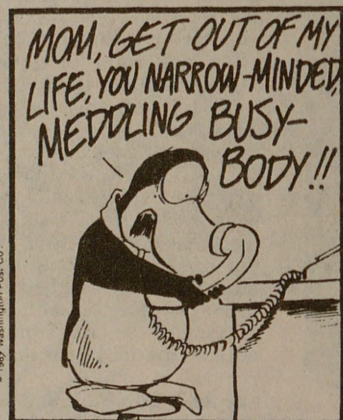
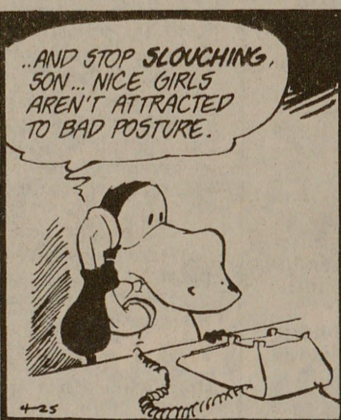
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### BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

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