

FORGET THE SEALS.

Around this time of year, many conscience-stricken individuals are deploring the cruelty of the sealhunt. What blatant hypocrisy is there in our society, when its citizens get more concerned over the hunting of baby seals than the slaughter of baby humans. Many side-step the issue by referring to the latter as "embryos" or "fetuses"; these are simply words used to detach oneself from

at twenty days, the foundation of the entire nervous system has been laid down.

By twenty-four days after conception, the heart beats regularly - this is a legal sign of life. At twenty-eight days there are forty pairs of muscles developed along the trunk (arms and legs forming.) It is at this time that the earliest pregnancy testing can take place, although it is not fully reliable.

(stomach, liver, kidneys, brain). The new life possesses all necessary parts for living; it, like any other living person, requires only nourishment.

At ten and eleven weeks, the baby squints, swallows and retracts his tongue. If the fluid surrounding him is sweetened, he will swallow more; if it is made sour, he will - just like any baby - quit swallowing. Within the next few weeks his arms and legs move; he sucks his thumb; and inhales and exhales amniotic fluid.

The baby is sensitive to light, heat, noise and touch. (This was determined by very sophisticated experiments with closed circuit X-ray TV cameras by fetologist A. Wm. Liley of New Zealand.) At eleven weeks the baby will recoil with pain if pricked by a needle. If the pain is preceded by a beeping noise a few times, the baby begins to recoil at the sound of the beep; (Presence of intelligent activity enables him to anticipate the pain.)

The sixteen-week-old fetus, a foot long and weighing nearly a pound, will grasp with his hands, kick and turn somersaults. As the fetus approaches the eighteenth and twentieth weeks of life, the vocal chords are working (cries are muffled by fluid) and hair appears on the head.

The youngest surviving baby known (as of April, 1973) is Marcus Richardson, who was born January 1, 1972 in Cincinnati, approximately eighteen weeks after his conception. Marcus is a completely normal, healthy child. According to the laws of the United States and Canada, however, an eighteen week old fetus is not human. While doctors worked to make sure tiny Marcus lived, others were busy making sure babies his age - and older - did not.

The most common method used to dispose of an unwanted unborn child, in the early weeks of pregnancy, is referred to as the "suction method". A powerful suction tube is inserted into the uterus through the vaginal tract. The developing child is

ripped apart; while his source of nourishment, the placenta, is scraped and sucked from the wall of the womb. This method (which is used in 75-80% of all abortions in U.S. and Canada) does much damage to the woman (although this isn't often mentioned in the public press): 10% of women who have had one suction abortion, performed in good hospital conditions, becomes sterile; in subsequent pregnancies the chances of having a tubal pregnancy escalate from 1/2 % to 4%; the risk of (uninduced) miscarriage in each subsequent pregnancy rises 10%, as does the chance of premature birth. Is it surprising that those undergoing abortions are never informed of these facts??

There is another type of abortion similar to the suction method (but not used as much owing to the high incidence of infection and bleeding.) A small catheter is used. Often the small pieces of the baby are destroyed and sucked out, but the larger pieces cannot fit through the small catheter (the larger pieces are removed by forceps.)

In the D & C (dilation and curettage) method, the opening to the uterus is stretched and a sharp cutting instrument is used to cut the baby into pieces. These "pieces" are reassembled by an O.R. nurse to make sure no pieces have been left in the womb, (as this could cause the mother to hemorrhage and become infected.) The D & C



acknowledging an unborn child for exactly what it is - an unborn child.

Cellular development begins immediately with fertilization. Even before the fertilized ovum implants itself in the womb, its sex can be determined. Upon implantation - five to nine days after conception - the new life is composed of hundreds of cells. Even by this time it has developed a protective hormone to prevent its mother's body as rejecting it as foreign tissue. (The Intrauterine Device IUD - prevents the fertilized ovum from implanting itself in the lining of the womb. This device, since it causes each month a spontaneous shedding of the newly-conceived child, is not a method of birth control at all; rather, it is an abortifacient.) In seventeen days, the embryo has developed its own blood cells; at eighteen days there are occasional pulsations of the muscle that becomes the heart. Within the next day, the eyes begin to develop, and

At thirty days, there is a regular blood flow within the vascular system and ear and nasal development has begun. When the unborn child is forty days old, the energy output of his heart is almost 20% of that of an adult. Two days later, the skeleton is complete and reflexes are present. At this age, one might say that the developing baby looks like it could be the embryo of any animal. However, one need only use a microscope to see that each and every cell of the body has forty-six chromosomes - a characteristic which makes the embryo undeniably human. (He can be nothing else.) Around this time, electrical brain wave patterns can be recorded. This is evidence that thought processes are taking place.

At forty-nine days, the new life resembles a miniature doll, possessing complete fingers, toes and ears. At fifty-six days, the name is changed: the "embryo" is now referred to as the "fetus". All organs are functioning

