

# Birth control — evident factor

(Continued from page 1)

required to remain in the hospital more than a few hours.

Price, like personal preference, varies greatly. In some clinics, the price can be as low as \$200. Others prefer the more orthodox surroundings of a hospital and a private doctor.

The USC student at Beth Israel paid her doctor \$338, the hospital \$200 for the use of the operating room and the service of the recovery room in which she rested for three hours; the anesthesiologist received \$50, total cost (excluding transportation to and from New York): \$588.

The doctor for this particular operation was a medium to high priced gynecologist with an office in modest, but prestigious Grammercy Park, around the corner from Beth Israel Hospital.

Others simply go up-state New York or to a clinic where an abortion can be obtained somewhat cheaper. Regardless of what type or cost of the abortion, one thing is common to all: they are performed in adequate, medically approved facilities, done by competent licensed doctors, and they are legal.

According to the USC coed who was at Beth Israel, the atmosphere, no matter how tense, was preferable to a motel room in Columbia. The same girl then told of a friend of hers that had become pregnant and had an abortion in Columbia. Various complications set in, none of which are uncommon, and she had to go into a local hospital. By the time she paid the abortionist, the doctor and the hospital, her illegal, local abortion had cost her \$850, plus a very painful and depressing two weeks.

One of the nurses at the hospital also commented that the legal abortion is much easier on the patient and her child's father. The emotional pangs of terminating you child's life can never really be totally alleviated, but the legality of the operation can greatly lessen the guilt and emotional hangover.

Whatever the benefits of the present law in New York, all doctors interviewed stressed that they would prefer better birth control programs so that the abortions performed in New York would not be necessary.

One such doctor prescribes birth control pills to all his abortion patients as part of his treatment. Most girls, following the procedure, vow to take the pills regardless of their sexual habits. Most college girls interviewed also blame their unwanted pregnancy on stupidity, their own for not looking into birth control procedures, and the stupidity of their institutions for not making the information easily available, like polio vaccine.

Unfortunately for this particular USC coed and according to a local gynecologist hundreds of other USC girls, the University of South Carolina does not share the opinion of most New York or for that matter, local doctors.

It is impossible to receive birth control information or devices, pills included, at the USC medical health facility, the Wallace Thompson Memorial Infirmary. This policy apparently is decided by the administration of USC, as voiced by Dr. Harvey Burnette, director of the infirmary.

It is interesting to note that this is not the policy of the state of South Carolina. At The Richland County Health Center No. 1, birth control information and pills are dispensed at cost. This facility is run by the County of Richland, and supported by the state of South Carolina, as is the University.

A doctor at the health center described the main patrons of the clinic as "non-white poor." According to the physician, the dispensation of the birth control material is a normal part of their duties. The only criteria demanded by the Richland County Health Unit are that the patient be 21,

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## Abortion referral services

By BOB CRAFT  
Columnist

"Hello Florida Women's Medical Association. May I help you?"

"Uh, yes, I am a student at the University of South Carolina and I saw your ad in the Gamecock," I said.

"Yes, my name is Adrienne. The Florida Women's Medical Association is a referral agency. We refer you to a hospital in New York where the girl will be on an outpatient status. She won't have to stay overnight.

"I want to tell you about the procedure they use. When was her last period?" the voice was soft, sympathetic and under other circumstances, it could have been quite sexy.

"Uh, two," I mumbled.

The voice name Adrienne sounded puzzled. "Two days?"

"No, two months; eight weeks."

Adrienne resumed control. "I see, well then, they would use the vacuum aspiration method. Have you ever heard of it?"

"Uh, no I haven't."

"Well, the vacuum aspiration method is a modern method which takes about 6 to 10 minutes and there is no pain involved."

"No pain," I said woodenly.

"Yes, no pain and the operation is performed by one of the finest gynecologists in New York."

Now, if I could have your name? The operation is very safe. There is no more danger in it than in a tonsillectomy."

"Uh, I'd rather not, if you don't mind."

"Very well, then. Has the pregnancy been confirmed by a doctor?"

"Yes."

Adrienne went on to tell about the details of payment and how the appointment would be set up. The cost for the abortion would be \$250.

Even though the new abortion laws that are emerging in other states particularly New York are a blessing. Even though my mistress was imaginary and I wouldn't have to call The Florida Women's Medical Association for real, I still couldn't shake the feeling that I had of being a bad boy who had been caught.

have parental permission, or be married. The clinic is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

According to Thomas F. Jones, president of USC and main figurehead of university policy, "I don't see any changes in this (dispensation of birth control information) because of the existing morals and values of the society which supports the school. This is information that is rather easily available and to get from any doctor."

When a USC girl who had obtained an abortion last year was told of Jones statement, she replied "sure, you can get pills from a doctor in town, but it's like sneaking off in secret because birth control is something terrible. The county clinic gives them (pills) out, and the same state supports the clinic as well as the University. I just think that the time will come when the University will have to recognize it's responsibility and realize that the problem cannot be ignored forever."

## Foard discusses takeover

Fifth Circuit Solicitor John W. Foard Jr. has scheduled a pre-trial conference March 29 with more than three dozen people accused in a student takeover of the USC Administration Building last spring.

The conference is part of a special one-week court term authorized by Presiding Judge Francis B. Nicholson.

Foard said that the special term had not been scheduled specifically for the USC cases, but "because of our backlog of cases."

When asked about the purpose of the pre-trial conference, Foard said, "I can't make that public. I have to discuss it with everyone involved."

Foard did, however, state that he would make an announcement the Monday or Tuesday of that week concerning when the case would be disposed of.

★★★★★

**Don't buy  
Campus  
Shop**

★★★★★

At the movies

## 'No Blade of Grass'

by Troy Davis

*Editor's note: Today At the movies concerns what is billed as the first environment film, "No Blade of Grass." Troy Davis, a well known environmentalist and chairman of last spring's Earth, Day Time Capsule project, has reviewed what is publicized as an important environmental film.*

Some people will stoop to about anything to make a buck.

NO BLADE OF GRASS is supposed to be the first of the new movies that deals directly with the environmental crisis that the world is presently experiencing. With this last statement in mind, I paid my "All Seats \$2" fee and entered the "fabulous" Fox.

What NO BLADE OF GRASS is supposed to be and what it is an experience in itself. To put it in a nutshell, NO BLADE OF GRASS is a cheap, rip-off movie, with sensationalism as its prime theme. First of all, the film was made in Panavision, yet shown at the Fox (which, incidentally, does not have Panavision facilities). The outcome: some of the movie is shown on the wall immediately adjacent to the screen and there are slightly distorted images at the top of the screen—which is easy to get used to if you happen to have twisted vision or a high content of acid in your system. But, the set-up at the Fox can only take minimal blame for NO BLADE OF GRASS being a piece of (a) plastic, (b) bat quano,

## Open season for protest

The UFO operators have been convicted and are appealing their case before the S.C. Supreme Court. Meanwhile, John Foard has pressed hard against the university administration for what he feels is a lack of appropriate action.

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Those charged with trespassing and destruction of state property have been judged by the Board of Trustees and are awaiting trial. Meanwhile, the Student Mobilization Committee, under its inner circle of leadership, has taken the initiative and sponsored a demonstration of support for the Georgetown Steel Strike and has held a demonstration against the supposed incursion into Laos. But the question is: who really runs the SMC?

The University campus has been relatively calm—just as one of the leaders of SMC promised when she said three months ago, "We don't plan any heavy agitation until later."

A deceptive calm, interrupted by a few bombings, has taken over the campuses across the nation. There have been more bomb threats than anything else. A number of threats have been phoned into the campus security offices here, but nobody will say how many.

How much "heavy agitation" SMC plans and what the extent of student support will be nobody knows—except that "inner circle" of SMC, who seems to be calling the shots.

(c) extreme "rip-off" capitalism at its best.

MGM studio is responsible for such a piece of a, b, or c being released. The movie has all of the intellectual appeal contained in such triumphs as "Angels on Wheels" and about as much aesthetic value as the "Beverly Hillbillies." The first 30 minutes of the flick contains such "sit on the edge of your uncomfortable chair" scenes as vomiting on camera, blood, bikers (complete with leather jackets, shades, and chains), blood, cheap mob scenes, a mother and her "virgin" daughter being raped, a wounded soldier who moans and screams in agony until some decent guy shoots him in the head to put him out of his misery, blood, large busts (the nipple variety), and more blood. In other words, "No Blade of Grass" contains all of the elements necessary to "sell" a movie to the American public. Even the musical score was performed by a single organ and a drum—giving the glorious effect of a dragged-out soap opera or a cheap late, late show.

The idea behind the movie is not really so bad: a scene in the future where the world has reached its limit of poisons in the air, earth, and water; and the utter outcome is chaos, cannibalism, and every man for himself. Maybe this could actually happen someday, but believe me, if the producers and something other than money on their minds and if there really is a meaning there were some excellent pollution shots—it is buried among all of the trash (perhaps 'pollution') in the script. If this flick had been run on the late show, I would have turned it off.

If you are an environmentalist, by all means DON'T see title: "No Blade of Grass." Instead, invest your two hours and your "All Seats \$2" in something worthwhile, i.e., don't be a sucker. After 45 minutes of this trashy movie, I realized that I could take no more. Thus, I proceeded to the manager's office to ask for my money back (which, I found, cannot be done). Some people have told me that I should have stayed around to see the "great" ending. All I can say to them is, that in this case, the ends could not possibly justify the means.

## Dickey to read his works

James Dickey, USC's poet-in-residence and best-selling novelist, will read from his works, past, present and unpublished 8:00 p.m., Tuesday at the Columbia Museum of Art.

Dickey, who calls himself a poet first, has recently scored a great success on his first novel, *Deliverance*. The book will be made into a movie this spring by Warner Brothers; the scenery will cover selected areas in Georgia.

With little theatrical affectation, Dickey likes to surprise himself when he reads poetry.