

Outreach
Human Resources in Action
in North Carolina
Pat Williamson

In January, 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down a decision which affected virtually every woman in her first 20 weeks of pregnancy -- decisions regarding abortions were now left up to the pregnant woman and her physician.

As a result of this decision, North Carolina had to change its laws concerning abortions. The 1973 General Assembly wrote the following law:

"It shall not be unlawful during the first twenty weeks of pregnancy to advise, procure, or cause a miscarriage or abortion when the procedure is performed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina at a hospital or clinic certified by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission to be a suitable facility for the performance of abortions."

The Commission for Medical Facility Services and Licensure (formerly the Medical Care Commission) of the N.C. Department of Human Resources was given the responsibility of writing the rules and regulations governing freestanding abortion facilities. The Commission wrote the following opinion concerning the suitability of facilities for the performance of abortions:

"During the first ten to twelve weeks following conception, abortions can be performed safely by a licensed physician in either freestanding clinics or outpatient facilities connected with hospitals, and the use of impatient facilities is economically wasteful and therefore discouraged. However, the interruption of pregnancies beyond twelve weeks' gestation requires that certain technical precautions be taken to assure the patient's return to her previous normal state of health within a reasonable length of time. Interruption of pregnancies beyond twelve weeks' gestation should be carried out only in licensed general hospitals having suitable facilities and technically skilled staff."

Prior to the Supreme Court's decision, a woman could only have an abortion in North Carolina if the pregnancy endangered her life or health, if the fetus would likely be born with serious defects, or the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.

Two freestanding abortion clinics have opened in North Carolina since the

Supreme Court's ruling - The Hallmark Clinic and Counseling Services and The Fleming Clinic.

The Hallmark Clinic in Charlotte charges \$175 for an abortion. Approximately 1000 abortions have been performed at this clinic since its opening, with 640 having been performed in November and December of 1973. This clinic is currently operating under a court restraining order due to the lack of a transfer agreement with a local hospital.

Another abortion facility, the Fleming Clinic, has been opened in Raleigh. It has just recently been certified by the Division of Facility Services.

A group of physicians have made application to open a clinic in Winston-Salem. It is anticipated they will open the clinic within the next few months.

Complete statistics on abortions for 1973 were not available with the Division of Health Services. However, according to 1972 statistics, 8365 abortions were reported in North Carolina for that year with 88,894 births. The 15-19 age category had the most abortions at 2832 with 22,112 births. Approximately 53 percent of the abortions were performed on females who had never been married.

Feelings are mixed on abortions, but in view of the Supreme Court's ruling, decisions regarding abortions are strictly between the pregnant woman and her physician.


Lexington Laborer Indicted By Federal Jury On Tax Counts

GREENSBORO-- A Lexington, N.C. man has been charged by a federal grand jury in Greensboro with 19 counts of income tax violations.

James Lindsay, Jr., 44, was charged with four counts of signing his personal income tax returns for the years 1968 - 71 which he did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter.

He was indicted on 15 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent income tax returns for others. The indictment charged Lindsay with claiming a total of \$30,560.-18 in false and overstated deductions on returns he prepared for other persons.

Lindsay, a skilled laborer and tax return preparer, resides at 823 Carver Street, Lexington.



Health Hints
by
Dr. William S. Burley
Optometrist
High Point, N.C.

by Dr. William S. Burley, Optometrist

Recently, we listed five visual abilities or skills that a child must develop if proper visual functioning is to be obtained. We further stated that these skills should be developed before the child becomes of school age. In this article we will give you the parent, some easy test procedures that you can do at home to test your child's visual ability development.

PROCEDURE: (Penlight Pursuits)

1. Obtain a small penlight to use as a target for the following routine. If penlight is not available, use tip of a pencil or pen.

Standing erect, feet about 12-15 inches apart, have someone help you by moving penlight slowly in different directions.

a. Instruct the child to follow the light as closely as he can without moving his head.

b. Rotate penlight in small circle, 10-12 inches in diameter, at a distance of 14-16 inches, at eye level.

c. Move penlight clockwise a few turns, then counter clockwise.

d. Move penlight from side to side.

e. Move penlight up and down.

Is there any roughness or jerkiness in your child's eyemovement? Does your child move his eyes or does he tend to move his head?

Does he seem to lag behind the target or do they seem to lead it? Cover one eye with a eye patch. Observe same things. Does this improve his abilities?

Test of eye-teaming skills:
PROCEDURE: (have child seated comfortably with correct posture)

Materials: Wall calendar and a pencil

Instr.: Place calendar across the room on the wall and hold the pencil about 16 inches from your child's body. Instruct your child to look at the pen on one, and look up at the calendar (numbers or any small print that he may be able to see) on two, you should develop a rhythm 1-2-1-2 and so on.

Note: At all times the child is to try and make accurate fixations keeping the tip of the pencil and the print of the calendar clear. If the child reports that things are not clear, encourage him and make them clear. Repeat same procedure with one eye covered. Is there an increase in his ability to perform this task?

As you may have noticed, this is the same thing a child is asked to do all day in a classroom situation, (looking at the blackboard at school and back at his work on the desk.)

PROCEDURE: Eye-Hand coordination

Purpose: To test the coordination of the dominant hand and eye.

Instructions: Obtain an interesting color or cartoon book and some tracing paper. Have child to trace an entire picture. Observe Body posture, any head tilt, and child's working distance.

2. Have the child pick up small objects from the table.

3. Have your child to dot all the (o) in a sheet of newspaper.

4. Trace out some small circles on a sheet of paper using a dime, have your child stick a pin in the middle of the circle.

OBSERVATION: The observation that you as a parent should make are obvious and need no further explanation.

Shiloh Baptist Church



J. RAY BUTLER, Pastor
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