The Abortion Profiteers
Making a killing in Michigan Av. clinics

By Pamela Zekman
and Pamela Warrick

Behind the Tiffany tinsel and Gucci glitter, the abortion business is booming on the Magnificent Mile.

In the shadows of shoppers bustling from store to store, anxious, desperate women make their way to appointments at Michigan Av. abortion mills.

Some are pregnant; some are not. It doesn’t matter. Most of them will be sold abortions.

For the abortion profiteers, there is money to be made and no time to waste. The women don’t know it yet, but they are about to put their lives on the abortion assembly line.

FIVE MONTHS AGO, The Sun-Times and the Better Government Assn. began the first in-depth investigation of Chicago’s thriving abortion business since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion on Jan. 22, 1973. We found:

- Dozens of abortion procedures performed on women who were not pregnant and others illegally performed on women more than 12 weeks pregnant.

- An alarming number of women who, because of unsterile conditions and haphazard clinic care, suffered debilitating cramps, massive infections and such severe internal damage that all their reproductive organs had to be removed.

- Incompetent and unqualified doctors, including moonlighting residents, medical apprentices and at least one physician who has lost his license in one state and faces revocation here.

- Doctors who callously perform abortions in an excruciating 2 minutes, when they should properly take 10 to 15 minutes, and doctors who don’t even wait for pain-killing anesthetics to take effect.

- Referral services that, for a fee, send women to a disreputable Detroit abortionist, whose dog, to one couple’s horror, accompanied the nurse into the operating room and lapped blood from the floor.

- Clinics that either fail to order critical postoperative pathology reports, ignore the results or mix up the specimens.

- Dangerously shoddy record keeping by aides who falsify records of patients’ vital signs and who scramble or lose results of crucial lab tests.

- Counselors who are paid not to counsel.

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Oklahoma upset
Wisconsin ties Purdue; Notre Dame wins. Sports
Life on the abortion assembly line: Grim, greedy

The doctors came each other. Especially on Saturday, they came to see who could get the most patients.

By Peter Urban

**A note to our readers**

The Detroit News, The Detroit Free Press, and other newspapers often print articles that are critical of the abortion industry. This practice is called 'abortion-bashing,' and it is part of a larger campaign to discredit and marginalize those who provide reproductive health care services. These articles are often funded by anti-choice organizations and spread false information about the procedures and providers of abortion care.

This particular article, titled "Life on the abortion assembly line: Grim, greedy," suggests a negative portrayal of abortion providers and the services they offer. The text contains sensational language and emphasizes the providers' motives, suggesting a focus on greed and a lack of concern for patient care.

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**The abortion assembly line:**

Many abortion providers have been accused of engaging in unethical practices, such as forcibly inducing abortions or performing them without proper consent. These allegations are often based on anecdotal evidence and lack substantiation.

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**Grim and greedy:**

The article's title, "Life on the abortion assembly line: Grim, greedy," is designed to evoke fear and associating abortions with fast-food-like assembly lines. This language is intended to discredit the providers and downplay the actual medical procedures involved.

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**Concerns about patient safety:**

Abortion providers are required to follow strict medical protocols and adhere to standards of care to ensure patient safety. However, the article's emphasis on "grim" and "greedy" Providers suggests a disregard for these standards, which is a common tactic in anti-abortion discourse to undermine the legitimacy of the providers.

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**Sensational language:**

The use of terms such as "assembly line" and "grim" to describe abortion procedures is a form of sensationalism, designed to provoke an emotional response rather than provide a balanced and informative discussion of the medical procedures associated with abortion.

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**Implications for providers:**

Abortion providers are already under significant scrutiny from anti-abortion groups. This article, with its focus on greed and the assembly line metaphor, could further undermine their credibility and accreditation, making it more difficult for them to perform their work.

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**Conclusion:**

This article exemplifies a pattern of discourse that is used to delegitimize abortion providers and the services they offer. It is important to critically analyze the sources and motivations behind such articles to understand the broader context in which reproductive health care is being discussed.
Life on abortion assembly line: grisly, greedy

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on a woman screaming and squirming in pain, one medical expert has suggested docto-
ors who don't wait for the patients to grow
numb are simply sadistic.

At least one doctor working in Michi-
gan abortion clinics has been known to give no
anesthetic at all. 'The pain was unbearable,'
said one patient. 'I don't think he gave me
an anesthetic. It happened so fast.'

Women who scream are told to shut up.
Others thrash around and are held down by aides. Even when they ask for additional
pain-killers, some doctors don't wait.

A 21-year-old secretary paid Biogenetics
an extra $50 for an injection of the tranquil-
izer Valium as well as an anesthetic. 'They
gave me the shot just seconds before the
doctor appeared,' she recalled. 'He didn't
wait five seconds. He started in. I was
screaming, and squirming all over the table.
I asked him to stop until the anesthetic took
effect. It was killing me.' I continued to
'scream.'

The Valium and anesthetic finally took ef-
fect... in the recovery room.

The recovery room in some of the Michi-
gan abortion clinics is the place where women re-
cover fast. They have to. After 15 minutes,
they said one patient, 'we got out.'

Medical experts consulted by The Sun-
Times and BGA say a patient should rest at
least 30 to 60 minutes after an abortion. But
on the assembly line, there's no time for
such "luxuries."

A 25-year-old rape victim waited from 10
a.m. to 4 p.m. for her abortion at the Chica-
go Loop Medicalic. When she finally saw
the doctor, it was for just four minutes—the
time he took to perform the abortion.

'I was very weak and woozy in the re-
cov ery room,' she recalled. 'I was lying
there about 15 minutes when the lady said,
'You aren't going to get any better sitting
there,' the woman's lawyer said. 'Get some
water.'

'I couldn't stand. I had to lie down on the
dressing room floor for another half-hour.
Six weeks later, her private physician told
her she was still pregnant.

At Biogenetics, a 14-year-old, who had
been pushed out of the recovery room so
the clinic could close, slumped on the floor of
the waiting room. BGA investigator Young
searched frantically for a place where the
girl could lie down. 'Don't put her in a bed,'
Young was told. 'They've all been made up
[for the next day] and you can't mess them
up again.'

Postoperative care, say the experts, is ab-
solutely essential to safeguard against seri-
ous infection and other life-threatening com-
mlications that may follow abortions.

Monev, say some Chicago abortionists, is
essential first.

At the Water Tower clinic, Dr. Bickham
demanding $25 from a woman who came to
him to complete the abortion he had per-
formed on her daughter.

The girl had received a $110 abortion on
Wednesday—Bickham's bargain day, when
he drops the price $15. But dead tissue ap-
parently had been left inside her during the
discount abortion.

The girl was only 17. She sat doubled over
in a straight-backed chair, sobbing. Bickham
told his receptionist he would not treat the
girl for less than cash. But the mother
didn't have the cash, so she stood by the
door to the operating rooms for five hours,
pleading with anyone who came out.

'Please! Is the doctor busy? I must talk to
him.'

Finally Bickham came out. 'He wanted to
know what he could do for me,' said the
mother. 'I asked him to help my daughter.
She's in pain."

'Do you have $25?' he asked the mother.
She asked if he would take a check or send
her a bill later. He wouldn't.

Bickham told the mother and daughter to
get out or he would call the police. They re-
 fused to leave. Bickham placed the call and
waited only long enough for police to escort
the mother and daughter away.

Then he closed the clinic for the day.
NEXr: Meet the people who profit from
women's pain.

Sun-Times

Vol. 31, No. 7, 368 Pages (Mail 10 Sections)

Published daily and Sunday by Field Enterprises, Inc.
at 401 N. Wabash, Chicago Ill. 60611. Second-class post-
age paid at Chicago, Ill. Home delivery prices, mail sub-
scription rates on request.

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tions will be published promptly, on request.

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