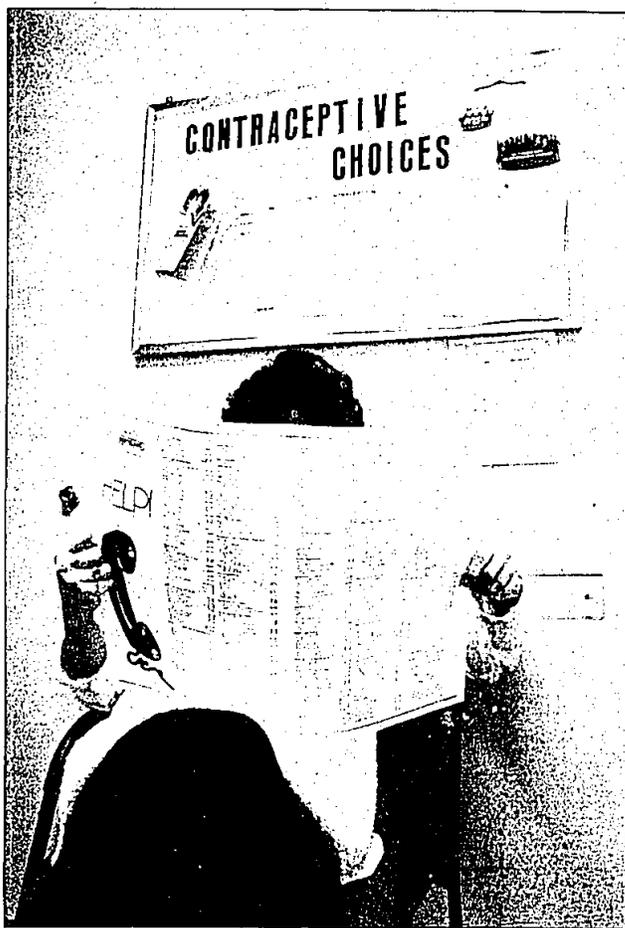


photos by DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Renee Chellan, founder and administrator of the Northland Family Planning Clinic, predicts women again will have to go to great lengths — and cost — to obtain abortions if the U.S. Supreme Court reverses its historic 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision.



There's plenty of informative reading material available in the waiting room at Northland Family Planning Clinic in Southfield. Since its inception in 1976, the clinic has provided women with access to safe, inexpensive abortions as well as birth control and pregnancy counseling.

# Area women fear court ruling will put severe limit on abortion rights

By Tim Smith staff writer

Wednesday marks the 19th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the historic U.S. Supreme Court decision giving women the constitutional right to have legalized abortions.

But will that right vanish by the time the 20th anniversary rolls around next January?

It probably will — after the ultra-conservative Supreme Court reviews the case of Pennsylvania's strict abortion law sometime this year, said Sarah Keidan, a political science professor at the Farmington Hills-based Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College.

"I'm not a betting person, but if I were, I'd bet Roe will be gone," said Keidan, a West Bloomfield resident. Besides teaching at OCC, she is an attorney, with an independent law practice in Detroit.

The case, Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania vs Casey, Keidan said, "doesn't reverse Roe, but it makes it so close to impossible for women to get an abortion that the right would be virtually gone."

Hamifications eventually might go beyond reproductive rights.

"THE GOVERNMENT is in our bedrooms, what's next?" said Renee Chellan, administrator of the Northland Family Planning Clinic, located in Southfield, Romulus and Mt. Clemons. About 5,000 abortions annually are performed at the clinics.

The thought of "legalized abortion

being eliminated "certainly scares me," Chellan said. "I'm 40 years old. I've seen a whole generation of women where a legal abortion always has been a backup."

The administrator of Detroit's Summit Medical Center, Kathy Allen of Bloomfield Hills, could not be reached Friday afternoon for comment about the subject.

One theory being circulated as to why Roe vs. Wade might be reversed, said OCC professor Keidan, is that it wasn't an original constitutional right. Instead, it was drawn from the First, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth and 14th Amendments.

The "mindset" of the current Supreme Court (mostly appointed by Republican Presidents Reagan and Bush) is "because if (Roe) is not in the original Bill of Rights it (abortion) shouldn't be a constitutionally protected right," Keidan said.

But Keidan said "all kinds of rights are at risk," not just reproductive rights. Possibly vulnerable are those rights which govern freedom of speech, search and seizure procedures and Miranda warnings, she added.

She said that such a "further erosion" of rights depends on "the cases they hear, what the issues are."

"MY SENSE IS, this is indeed an activist court when it comes to redefining many individual rights along narrower lines," Keidan said. Chellan, who also lives in West Bloomfield, said it is "likely" the high court's 1973 decision will be re-

versed, triggering a return to the expensive, unsafe abortion practices that preceded it.

"We'll have the patchwork system that existed prior to Roe, with abortion legal in some states and illegal in others," she said.

Chellan draws from experience in making that statement. During the early 1970s, she worked for a Detroit-area physician who helped women obtain legal abortions in Buffalo, N.Y. Each weekend, they accompanied women to Buffalo for the procedures, then costing between \$200-\$600.

Since abortion was legalized, prices have been reduced to approximately \$250 — which Chellan said is "affordable for most women."

But the demise of Roe vs. Wade would reduce the number of abortion clinics and ultimately drive costs back up to the former level, she added.

A CONTRIBUTING factor to increased costs is a targeting of remaining clinics by pro-life activists — hence requiring clinics to increase security personnel, Chellan said.

New York "probably" would remain a safe haven for women seeking to end unwanted pregnancies, as it was "before Roe made it (legalized abortions) the law of the land," Chellan said.

But both Keidan and Chellan agreed Michigan probably wouldn't be such a place, particularly with a pro-life governor and legislature in place.

"If Roe vs. Wade is overturned, my sense is that this state legislature would not pass a law that would give women access to abortions," Keidan said. "If people are interested they should pay attention to the people they elect."

Chellan, meanwhile, said "the likelihood Michigan will retain legal abortions is slim."

That could change down the road if more liberal politicians take over in Lansing, she continued. "Every time there's an election, abortion will be a political hot potato. Theoretically, the law could change every time."

WHATEVER THE Supreme Court decides, Chellan said Northland Family Planning Clinics would continue to diagnose pregnancies and make referrals for women "to go to a place where they are legal."

While legality is the issue most at the forefront, Chellan said safety and affordability are other important ones.

"Women will always get abortions, they always have and they always will," Chellan said. "The question is, will they be safe and legal or illegal and dangerous?"

If Roe vs. Wade is reversed, Chellan predicted that women struggling to make ends meet — who can't afford abortions or trips to other states for the procedure — "will resort to back alley abortions and self-abortions."

Instead of placing emphasis on anti-abortion laws, Chellan said the government should instead focus more on improving sex education.

That would help reduce both the number of teenage pregnancies and — for many — subsequent abortions. About 1.5 million are performed each year in the United States, Chellan said.

"Are we a country that's prepared to take care of a million forced births? I'd like to see the need for abortion eliminated, not the right."



## Pre-Inventory Stock Reduction SALE!

**Drastic Reductions Throughout the Store!**

<p><b>Wintuk Yarn</b> <b>99¢</b> Reg 1.59 3 1/2 oz. 100% acrylic various colors</p>	<p><b>Sweatshirts</b> <b>7.88</b> Reg 9.99 First quality in 12 great colors. Adult sizes M, L, XL</p>	<p><b>Folk Art Acrylic Paint</b> <b>88¢</b> Reg 1.49 2 oz. 100% acrylic Over 100 colors</p>	<p><b>Dried Look Craft Flowers</b> <b>2 for \$1</b> Reg 99¢ pkg Realistic looking, flower heads for decorating</p>
<p><b>All Wedding Flowers</b> <b>25% Off</b> Reg 79¢-89¢</p>	<p><b>100 Page Photo Album</b> <b>3.97</b> Reg 5.99</p>	<p><b>18" Straw Hat</b> <b>97¢</b> Reg 2.99</p>	<p><b>Special Selection Long Stem Silk Flowers</b> <b>50% Off</b> Reg 59¢-9.99</p>
<p><b>All Artist Papers and Canvas</b> <b>25% Off</b> Reg 59¢-1.99</p>	<p><b>2 oz. Spanish Moss</b> <b>3 for 99¢</b> Reg 99¢ pkg</p>	<p><b>Polymark Fabric Paint</b> <b>99¢</b> Reg 1.49 1 oz. bottle 60 great colors</p>	<p><b>Special Selection Fashion Yarns</b> <b>1.00</b> Values to 3.59 Selection varies by store</p>
<p><b>Truckload Sale</b> <b>Unfinished Wood</b> <b>16.99-79.99</b> Values 29.99-149.99 Benches, cabinets, pure stands, more</p>		<p><b>Cross-stitch Towels and Mitts</b> <b>99¢ &amp; 1.99</b> Value 2.69-4.99 1st and 2nd quality</p>	
<p><b>10" Glue Sticks</b> <b>6 for 96¢</b> Reg 2.54 ea</p>			

While quantities last — Sorry, no rainchecks

# Leewards

STORE HOURS FOR WARREN, TAYLOR, WESTLAND & LANSING: 9:30-9 AM, 11-8 Sun  
STORE HOURS FOR HOWLAND, HOOVER HILLS & ANN ARBOR PITTSFIELD: 9:30-9 AM Sat, 11-8 Sun

WARREN  
13 Mile & Schoenherr  
722-8800  
LANSING, 23145 Warren Rd.  
728-8210  
WESTLAND, 23145 Warren Rd.  
728-8210  
E. LANSING, 2781 E. Grand River  
311-4710

HOWLAND CENTER  
1st Southeast corner of  
1788 Howland Rd.  
LANSING, on Spangos Highway  
access from Lansing Mall  
311-4710

ANN ARBOR PITTSFIELD  
247-1940  
322-0200  
866-3800

On sale 1/19-1/25 1992

Due to recent ANTI-CHOICE Acts, if anyone harasses you on our property, tell us immediately! Thank you!

**YOUR RIGHTS AS A CONSUMER IN THIS CLINIC:**

- To be treated with and
- To have for your conversations and records. We will not release information to anyone without your permission.
- To why certain procedures and tests are required, and why we request certain information.
- To any treatment that you do not understand or do not want.
- To get information and education about birth control that presents both the and
- To with your clinician any questions or problems about your medical care.

**YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Always ask questions for using medicine and birth control.
- Do serious about if anything changes about your health.
- Tell us if anything changes about your health.

WE ARE IN PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHIER YOU!

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

The hand-printed notice taped on the Northland Family Planning Clinic door is perhaps a sign of the times. But, at least for now, women still have the right to decide whether they want abortions.