

Jeffery Poulson, Casey Broadbent, Nathan Bills, Yancy Childs, Ben Poulson, Aaron Ford, Mike Brown, Mark Jones, and Greg Watts with Paul Baird and James Nixon assisting.

On the last evening the Scout leaders' wives brought the ingredients for a dutch oven chicken dinner, cooked by assistant Scout master Orin Bawdens.

The highlight of the evening was the retiring of a tattered flag over the campfire. Scoutmaster Kent Poulson, reminded everyone of the history and significance of our flag and the freedom it represented. As the flag was being consumed by the fire, Tom James, a member of the Scout committee blew taps. When the flag retiring was completed the boys spontaneously began to sing "God Bless America."

We are thankful for the Boy Scout program and its devoted leaders for their influence in helping us as parents make our boys better young men.

*David Nemelka*  
Chairman of Troop 66  
Scout committee

## Aluminum plague

Editor:

I am seeing and hearing about many new diseases that seem to be destroying the health of good people. These new diseases keep the medical profession very busy while the scientists search for causes and cures; and yet there has never been better medical research and better medical care in the history of the world. Why are so many people suffering such terrible and unusual diseases?

I believe that man will be destroyed by the worst plague of all and it will affect everyone unless they take notice. It will cost people every penny they have and the cure will never be found. What single item does everyone come in contact with

# Abortion pill has strange pedigree

Even by the most charitable definition of the term, Etienne-Emile Baulieu is an unlikely liberator of women. Baulieu, the discoverer of the abortion pill RU 486, is the subject of an extensive profile in the current issue of Omni magazine.

Baulieu insists, "I've not dedicated my life to abortion." His previous enthusiasms include early membership in the French Communist Party (he joined during the Stalin era and resigned after the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956). Baulieu's interest is what he is pleased to call "women's rights" developed during his membership in the "Aubergees de Jeunesse," which he describes as "the leftist youth groups that were the precursors to the revolution of '68."

Research performed by Baulieu while he was still in his 20s led to the discovery of RU 486 in 1980. The drug was synthesized by George Teusch, a chemist in the employ of the French pharmaceutical company Roussel-Ulcaf. The French company is controlled by Hoechst A.G., a German company that is the direct descendant of I.G. Farben — the company that produced the Zyklon-B gas used in Nazi extermination camps. (Accordingly, a better name for Roussel-Ulcaf might be "Vichy Pharmaceutical.")

Roussel was reluctant to market the drug; Omni blames Roussel's "Catholic executives" for this reluctance, but aversion to potential product liability lawsuits is a more likely motivation. Baulieu, who is a consultant to Roussel, was angered by the delay and flew to a Oby/Gyn world conference in Rio de



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Janiero. There he was able to hector over 1,000 poorly-informed doctors into signing a petition condemning Roussel's withdrawal of RU 486 as "morally scandalous."

Two days after this grandstand play the French Minister of Health baptized RU 486 the "moral property of women, not just the property of the drug company." This emancipated concept of property rights permitted the French government to demand that Roussel release the drug. Under the French constitution the government may withdraw the patent of a company that refuses to use it "in the public interest." The French government also owns a significant plurality interest in Roussel (a fact neglected by Omni). Accordingly, the government had sufficient leverage to compel Roussel to market a largely untested — and potentially dangerous — drug.

RU 486, therefore, has a fascinating pedigree. Its earliest ancestor was discovered by a Stalinist; it is presently marketed by a company that is the lineal descendant of a Nazi chemical company; its "midwife" is France's

Socialist government.

Baulieu predicts that American distribution of the drug may be facilitated by an alliance between Roussel and "non-profit groups who already have a network of centers that could deliver the pill" — that is, through Planned Parenthood clinics. No organization is better equipped, or more greatly inclined, to continue I.G. Farben's work.

Baulieu is rather modest about RU 486's potential. He maintains that "to demedicalize abortion by removing doctors from the process (is) insane!" The drug requires that Baulieu calls a "more active" approach to abortion than that associated with the surgical procedure. At least 48 hours will elapse between administration of the drug and the onset of bleeding; a dose of prostaglandin is required before the abortion can be consummated. The entire procedure must occur beneath a physician's supervision.

Baulieu is oblivious to self-contradiction. His grandiose gesture in Rio notwithstanding, he condemns another researcher for mixing science and politics. He describes the birth control pill as "the most important invention of the 20th century" because "by divorcing sexuality from reproduction, the pill has revolutionized human behavior." Yet he has the temerity to declare, "Women will always win in the end because they make the children ... men will never overcome the bond between mother and child."

Baulieu is a man who is attempting to do just that.