

The Media Murders the Pro Life Movement

by *Terry Sullivan* bulletin # 11 February 1995

Thanks to the media attention given to John Salvi's unheroic deeds, I feel like I have to start wearing a sign which reads: ***I DO NOT SHOOT WOMEN!*** Coming in the wake of a massive propaganda campaign about the ***TERRORIST CONSPIRACY*** in the pro life movement, all of us who show up in front of the abortuaries are assumed by the public to be trigger-happy extremists. The newspaper is full of articles about the increase in security measures at abortion clinics. Denver Congresswoman Pat Schroeder is demanding that federal marshalls be stationed at every abortion clinic. I'm not against it. The abortion customers will think they are pickets and, the more pickets we have out there, the more abortions we stop. Actually everyone who works for the government should come down to the abortuary to see for themselves what actually happens there. They should be required to go inside and look in the garbage can at what it is they are defending.

The fact that I have made a life long commitment to **NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION**, that I have done it faithfully 5 days a week for six years now in front of the abortion clinic, counts for nothing against this media blitz that depicts all of us as violent criminals. We have saved many babies despite constant attack by the court house allies of Planned Parenthood, despite 80 tickets and arrests on trivial and trumped up charges, but the only time the press ever wants to talk to us is when there is some incident of violence, or even some false allegation of violence, from however far away. When I was arrested for nothing and given 45 days in jail, it was no story. The reporters look at the picture of me with a baby that we saved from abortion, and then they look away. But now they want my picture juxtaposed with the police standing guard against violent criminals like me. But **the violence is inside, folks!** That is still the truth !

The Conspiracy

In fact, there is a conspiracy. It started when Phil Donahue and Ted Koppel made a national celebrity out of Paul Hill, a year before he shot anybody himself, just because he was willing to verbally support what Michael Griffin had done. John Salvi is obviously a disciple of Paul Hill. As soon as he was in custody, he offered an exclusive interview to ***a prominent journalist***, preferably ***Barbara Walters***. He was inspired by the 20 minute interview that Connie Chung gave Paul Hill on national television on December 1st 1994.

Are you unloved, unwanted and unemployed ? Does everyone ignore you ? Do you deeply desire to be **THE CENTER OF ATTENTION**, and **THE STAR OF THE SHOW** ? Are you tired of being unknown ? You too can be famous! You too can be on national television! You too can be on the front page of every newspaper in America ! All you have to do is commit a violent act at an abortion clinic.

Or even verbally endorse someone else doing it. Now there is a supporting cast of "I cannot condemn" ers whose ticket to national television coverage is their willingness to 1) "support" the violence 2) pretend that they speak for the pro life movement.

Geraldo puts on two defrocked priests, advocates of *Justifiable Homicide* whose service to the pro life movement consists of their willingness to defame it on television. The priests and pastors who have labored to save babies by *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION*, who have remained faithful to it, are invisible--they do not represent the movement. These fellows who betray the church and the pro life movement both, are made the spokesmen for both, because they are willing to broadcast the propaganda line of the pro abortion media.

The editors of the *Life Advocate* reveled in a media blitz when they put the shooters on the front cover. When they preached and practiced *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION*, the media had no time for them. But when they abandoned that position, they got **200 CALLS !** from reporters all over the world. Years ago, when they still went to jail for rescuing babies, it was no story. But after they burned out on rescue and began gingerly "supporting" violence--on paper, in a philosophical way, of course--it was a national story and an international story. The vanity we all have, the desire to be seen on TV, has proven to be an irresistible temptation to brothers and sisters whose ambitions for themselves were deeper and stronger than their ambitions for the unborn children. They have betrayed the pro life movement because they were lured by the fool's gold of media fame.

Now the media scouts are traveling the back roads and roaming the bayous in search of anyone who will feed the propaganda mill. Any semblance of pro life credentials will do. Paul Hill was a totally unknown former activist without even an organization connection when they turned him into **a national spokesman** for the movement ! If you endorse violence, Ted Koppel wants you on *Nightline*. If you don't endorse violence, you will be ignored.

Or smeared, if you are too prominent to be ignored. The January 16th *Time* Magazine asks where Paul Hill and John Salvi got their money and suggests we can find out when the National Organization of Women lawsuit lets them examine Joe Scheidler's books. Aside from the fact that Joe can't pay his own bills, let alone somebody else's, a record of 20 years of faithful *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION* to save babies should have given a national news magazine a reason not to print the kind of smear that the National Enquirer would be ashamed to use.

But the secular media has plunged into the most shameless yellow journalism they have featured since the days when they made every black man guilty of the crime that any black man committed. Fortunately they are pushing it to the point where they are destroying their residual credibility, even with the illiterati that watch television. If they had stuck to vilifying the few of us who are out in front of the abortuaries , with our sometimes rude manners and our sometimes less than fashionable dress, they could have made more of the mud stick. But they want to show that Cardinal O'Connor and Doctor James Dobson are behind a *TERRORIST CONSPIRACY* and they thereby push their propaganda campaign to the level of hysteria. Nothing like it has been seen since the

smear campaign that right wing organizations and media launched in the early 1960's to portray the nonviolent civil rights movement as part of the Communist Conspiracy.

The Love of Fame

The epitaph for John Salvi and Paul Hill is: *I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET ON TELEVISION!* The watchword of their supporters is: *I'LL SAY ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO SAY IF YOU'LL PUT ME ON TELEVISION.* And, as the media well knows, there is never any shortage of those willing to do it.

Recently there was a series of violent episodes in front of the White House. It began when a man was given the front page of every newspaper in the country after he shot at the White House. Other forlorn and forgotten men rushed to imitate his success. Years ago the network cameras stopped showing fans who ran out on the field during nationally televised football games because they recognized that they were encouraging such behavior, that the **OBSESSION WITH THE MEDIA SPOTLIGHT** was the reason for such behavior. They are well aware that the average American would sell his mother for the chance to write

AS SEEN ON TV! after his name.

In respect to the pro life movement, the secular news media have pursued just the opposite policy. Look at them making a national celebrity out of a totally unknown person like Paul Hill just because he was willing to talk about violence. When they finally stopped interviewing him just for talking about it, they pushed him to do it himself, because he had become a **SPOTLIGHT JUNKIE** and he had to have another fix.

2 Murder in America

The secular media have headlined these abortion clinic shootings, but how important are they as a news story? How serious a problem do they present for the federal, state and local law enforcement authorities? Do we need new laws? A task force specializing in clinic shootings? Pat Schroeder thinks we do.

In the City of Denver, Pat Schroeder's home district, there were 86 homicides in 1994. In 29 of them, no arrest has been made and the killer is still at large. In fact, no one has gone to jail for 521 homicides committed in Colorado from 1984 to 1993.

But that compares favorably with other big cities. The country has 24,000 homicides a year. As in Denver, no one even gets arrested in a third of those homicides. In Washington D.C. the shootings are so out of control that the last DC mayor tried to have the National Guard assigned to patrolling the streets. In one episode, a man walked into a police station and shot and killed four people.

By contrast, shootings at abortion clinics have averaged less than 1 per year in the entire nation--6 shootings in 20 years. And those who shot someone at an abortion clinic were

immediately apprehended. Mike Griffin surrendered to the nearest police officer, as did Paul Hill. Rachelle Shannon was caught the next day, when she returned the rental car to the airport. John Salvi was arrested the next day after he shot at a building in Virginia. So all of them are behind bars and will be for years to come. Is this an out of control crime problem ?

On the record, I am the one who needs a federal marshall to accompany me to my daily witness at the abortuary. We have had several unsolved drive by shootings in my neighborhood. I don't suppose Pat Schroeder would want to sponsor the measure ?

Homicides on college campuses average 15 or more every year. When was the last time you saw any headline about them ? Homicides of abortion industry workers average less than 1 a year. So what makes it headline news and a federal government priority ?

The *New York Times*, which ran daily headlines about the shootings by John Salvi in Boston, is published in a city where there are 3000 homicides a year. Why then are the shootings in Boston, which were solved within the hour, so important? In an editorial the Times explains that they are important because they interfere with a basic right. What they mean is that the right to life, the right to walk down an American street without stopping a stray bullet, is not important compared to the right to get rid of an unwanted pregnancy, because that right is basic to the lifestyle of those that work for the Times.

3 The Propaganda Arm

For many years, the secular news media have functioned as the propaganda arm of the pro abortion forces. Their coverage of the pro life movement is objective journalism like the *HUNS RAPE NUNS!* story of World War I vintage was objective journalism. Describing the media as "biased" against the pro life movement is an understatement. They are "biased" against the pro life movement, like the Nazis were "biased" against the Jews.

The media has ignored us 99 % of the time and smeared us the rest of the time. The first and last major story about pro life activists in Denver carried by the Denver Post included an allegation that an anti-abortion activist in Birmingham Alabama had caused a miscarriage by punching a woman in the stomach. (Since he saved her the price of the abortion, what was the complaint ? Since he was pro-abortion, to judge by what he allegedly did, why is he counted with the anti-abortion people ?) There was no police report of any such incident and the reporter, when challenged, could provide no source for it or explain why it was included in a story about Denver. It was obviously a piece of abortion industry propaganda, but it served to create the image of anti-abortion activists as **HOOLIGANS WHO ATTACK WOMEN** instead of **HEROES WHO SAVE BABIES**. Which is the truth. You read it here first. And last. That is, you will never read it in the secular media.

Both of the newspapers here routinely ignore or obscure news stories of the pro life movement. The large pro life rally in Washington on January 22 1990 was put on page two of the Rocky Mountain News and illustrated--by a big picture of Molly Yard speaking to a group of counter demonstrators in Washington. Page one was reserved for a big picture of a small pro abortion rally here in Denver that drew a couple of hundred people. The picture made it appear that there were many times that number. There wasn't even a mention of the proliferators who were counter demonstrators.

And they still do it. All three of the major television stations here carried the same story on January 20th 1995 about the annual Right to Life rally at the state capitol in Denver. A brief glimpse of the rally is followed by a long interview with abortionist Warren Hern who says that all pro life activists are potential killers. Video of a pro life activist preaching in front of Hern's abortion clinic is the proof.

When 2000 people turned out for a life chain, the TV stations ignored it, except for one which made it appear that there were a few dozen people there. Then they gave "equal time" to a pro abortion spokeswoman who did nothing that day except comment when the reporter asked her. Nationwide, more than one million people have been turning out for the annual life chain in October. But they are almost invisible to the news media.

That is exactly how they treated the Rescue Movement of 1988-1990. More than 50,000 people engaged in sit-ins in front of abortion clinics in the largest *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION* campaign that America has ever seen. Not one of them was guilty of even misdemeanor assault. And the media made them disappear. The media invented allegations of violence to try and discredit them. There had been 10,000 people arrested in *RESCUES* before the first tiny item appeared about it in any newspaper here. The media ignored the very existence of a movement which was already larger than the direct action civil rights movement was at its strongest. People who learned about it and joined it then did so only because of Christian news media.

The same thing happened in the summer of 1991 when there was a major *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION* campaign in Wichita Kansas. Six weeks went by and hundreds had been arrested with no news of it being reported here. We knew about it only through our phone contacts.

A special that aired on television here during Christmas week showed how Randall Terry is linked to the *TERRORIST CONSPIRACY*: 1) his lively speaking style may get people excited; 2) a pastor received a check from Operation Rescue several years ago and now he can't quite remember what it was for. Well! If that doesn't prove a *TERRORIST CONSPIRACY*, what more do you want? Meanwhile, Randall Terry is actually in a federal penitentiary--the TV special failed to mention this revealing and ominous fact. For *TERRORIST CONSPIRACY*!? Well, sort of. He got 6 months in a federal penitentiary because 1) one of his associates presented presidential candidate Bill Clinton with an aborted fetus and 2) a federal judge ruled that this violated his injunction and that

Randall Terry was responsible for what his friend had done. (The fellow that actually did it was acquitted on the grounds that he hadn't been notified of the injunction.)

So here is the best known pro life activist in the country doing half a year in a federal penitentiary for what would be a free speech activity if any other kind of activist did it. Here is an episode which personally involved the President. Isn't this a newsworthy event, by any ordinary professional reckoning? Have you seen a TV special on this yet? Let me know when you do, but don't hold your breath.

In fact this illustrates the two contrasting stories: The true one that the media refuses to print and the false one that they fabricate. The true story is that 50,000 people, engaged in *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION* have been smeared by the press, physically attacked by the police and falsely imprisoned by the judges. The false story, the only one the media wants to carry, is violent pro-lifers--the 4 of them who somehow represent all the rest of us--attacking the kindly nonviolent baby-killers who work in the abortion industry.

4 The True Story: The Nonviolent Movement

In the shadows of the spotlight put on John Salvi's misdeeds is the true story of the nonviolent movement to save the babies. When he turned and fired at his pursuers in Boston, a bullet lodged in the car of one of the pro life pickets who were there. (The police impounded the car for evidence.) When he fired through the building in Virginia, the bullets fell close to where peaceful pro life pickets were trying to save babies. You would never hear about them being there except as background to the only story that the media wants to tell.

The reason the abortion industry is so hysterical has nothing to do with a once a year shooting in some far off city. It is that they are surrounded by the daily presence of pro life witnesses who convict them of child murder and turn away their customers just by being there. The real threat to them is not violent and physical, it is nonviolent and moral. The witnesses summon the specter of the murdered children.

In front of every abortuary in America now there is a pro life *WITNESS* by people who have made the commitment to *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION*. It is the largest and most consistently nonviolent movement that the nation has ever seen. And the abortuary is highly vulnerable to *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION*. Not since the segregated lunch counters disappeared has there been so inviting a target for the moral witness and the courageous action of a *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION* campaign. That is why the pro abortion forces are doing everything they can to discredit and destroy it.

When you are trying to stop a war going on 10,000 miles away, you wind up picketing the post office downtown because that is where the recruiting office is. A downtown street character who has been ejected from the post office comes by to sympathize with your witness. But the **war against the unborn** is going on a mile away from where you

live and you can drop a monkey wrench in the war machinery just by showing up there with a sign.

People aren't deeply embarrassed and ambivalent about crossing a union picket line to buy bread and milk. But they are deeply ambivalent about abortion and embarrassed to go into an abortuary in front of witnesses. If a grocery store customer turns away, the store loses \$ 10. If the abortion customer turns away, the clinic loses \$ 350. They lose their moral justification which argues that these abortions are necessary, and that there is no good alternative.

Here in Denver we have halfway shut down the largest Planned Parenthood abortuary in the region, and we have saved dozens of babies, by consistent nonviolent direct action, at the price of some 80 tickets and arrests on trivial and trumped up charges. They are frantically trying to suspend the first amendment rights that we use to rescue babies from destruction. Now they are using an all out propaganda campaign to justify novel and pseudo-legal measures that will force us to stay away from the abortuaries.

And everywhere else in the country the same story is being written, even though the secular media refuses to print it and prints abortion industry propaganda instead.

There has not been the hundredth part of the violence in this movement that there was in earlier movements which we still regard as models for nonviolent direct action. The battles that sometimes erupted in the labor movement of the 1930's do not justify any responsible historian in ignoring the essentially nonviolent character of that struggle for economic justice, but it was a violent movement compared to this one. The same is true of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's.

When the nonviolent Civil Rights movement of the 1960's was eclipsed by a wave of black riots in American cities, the media continued to focus on the faithful commitment to nonviolence of Martin Luther King and the others who opposed the violence and did everything they could to stop it. Contrast that with the way the media now ignores all those who have any standing to speak for the pro life movement in favor of obscure persons who will endorse the violence and defrocked clergy whose claim to speak for the pro life movement is as bogus as their claim to speak for the Christian Church.

Civil Disobedience

In fact the media performed a major service in the early 1960's by educating the country about *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION*. They went to some trouble to distinguish demonstrations from riots and to teach people that *CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE* to challenge unjust laws was something entirely different from ordinary lawlessness.

But now they are doing just the opposite with the pro life movement. Their propaganda for the abortion industry relentlessly obscures the line between **violent direct action** and *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION*. They endlessly repeat the laments of abortion industry workers who complain that they suffer from shooting and leafleting and

bombing and preaching, that they are confronted with guns and with signs, and attacked by lawless rebels who break down the door or who sit in front of it anyway. They are distracted by all this criminal behavior from the peaceful pursuit of dis-membering babies and they can't comprehend the insanity of those who think they are doing something wrong. Since they are insane, they must be dangerous.

The abortion forces are doing their best to turn a nonviolent confrontation into a violent confrontation. With the all out help of the media, there is a good chance that they will succeed in doing just that.

If they do succeed in starting a war, they will almost certainly lose it. The trouble is, we won't win it. The moral and spiritual victory we must win on behalf of the unborn cannot be won that way. What can be won is the power that is the real aim of most of the people on their side. Unfortunately, it is also the real aim of too many of the people on our side--who pretend to be on our side.

That is the primary reason that a nonviolent struggle so easily turns into a violent struggle. The great challenge that we face is to keep the pro life movement on the true course of *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION*. It will not be easy.

They never do a story on the life and death drama of the peaceful baby-saving picket line in front of Planned Parenthood. Then they do a front page story about a *BOMB THREAT*--a pipe with tape wrapped around it was found lying on the parking lot. The dozens of babies we save do not interest the press. Where is the human interest in a story about a baby being rescued from the trash behind Planned Parenthood? Who wants to interview a young mother who tells you in a breaking voice that she planned to have her baby killed by abortion and that now the baby is the most precious thing in her life? Not female reporters who have had several abortions themselves as the price of their careers. Who wants to read about that when you can devote the whole front page to this fascinating and frightening piece of trash and the fears of the feminoids who staff the abortuary.

When you kill babies for a living, it isn't surprizing that you start hearing footsteps behind you and voices from people that aren't there. The rampant drug use among abortion industry workers doesn't help either. The objective truth is that abortion industry workers are in no more danger than workers in any other industry. But there is no cure for their nightmares. You can't dismember babies for a living and wash their blood down the sink without it starting to get to you.

The rare incidents of violence against abortion facilities are magnified far out of proportion because of the hypersensitivity of reporters who are themselves haunted by nightmares of abortion. That is one reason that minor incidents are blown up into major stories, and major incidents are presented as a national emergency of some sort.

Another story about a *BOMB THREAT*--a discarded refrigerator with anti-abortion signs painted on it, left in front of a Planned Parenthood birth control clinic--was used to obscure the story of a pro life protest in front of the District Attorney's office after he

refused to charge a private cop who attacked two pro life pickets here with a steel baton. (the story is in bulletin # 9 *The Struggle in Denver*) The complicity of the pro abortion political establishment in providing a legal cover-up for a violent attack that put two people in the hospital is replaced by a story about a refrigerator bomb that was only an old refrigerator.

The media presented the nonviolent sit-in of July 8 1989 here as a riot. In collusion with the police and the abortion industry, they put on a show which entirely mis-represented what happened that day. The pro life rescuers, who were entirely disciplined and nonviolent, were depicted as violent. The violence of the police, who used pain compliance on passive and nonresisting rescuers was brushed off. The physical assaults by pro-abortion counter demonstrators, who were permitted to push their way through the seated rescuers for no reason except to put on a show for the media, were presented by the media as somehow heroic. That kind of mis-reporting discourages peaceful people from joining pro life protests. It creates a vacuum which attracts the violent rebels.

5 Lies Half-Truths and Omissions

When there were rescues in 65 cities on April 29 1989, the media featured spokeswomen for the abortion industry who insisted that no appointments had been canceled because of the thousands of people surrounding the clinics. The reporter did not ask the rather obvious follow up question: how could you possibly be doing any abortions in there when the clinic has been completely surrounded since early this morning ? Did the abortionist come in through the sewer pipe ?

The media regularly carries abortion industry propaganda to the effect that picket lines are dwindling (in fact they have grown steadily) that they have no effect on abortion clinics (they have a devastating effect) that they raise money by the "sponsor a picket" program (as if money was their problem).

They never talk about the money that the abortion industry makes. They always present the abortionist as a humanitarian who is dedicated to helping women with their problems. He spends 10 minutes per customer and collects \$2000 an hour. This is humanitarianism? If he doesn't spend it on drugs, like half of them do, he can be a millionaire in a couple of years. This is humanitarianism?

The news media have always avoided presenting the reality of abortion. They have joined in a dis-information conspiracy with the abortion industry and the pro abortion forces to conceal the elementary information about fetal growth and development, what a fetus looks like at 8 weeks gestation (when most abortions are performed). They never show or describe the horrors of late term abortions by saline poisoning or other even more gruesome methods.

In all these years I have seen one story about a woman who turned away from abortion because of pro life witnesses in front of the abortion clinic--it happens every day in every

city. I am sure they carried that one story because of pro life complaints and because they have to keep up a pretence of fairness to avoid antagonizing pro life readers. It is only a pretence. The reality is that they do everything they can to conceal the truth about abortion and the truth about the pro life movement. In fact the routine coverage of the abortion story has been so biased and so unprofessional as to be simply shameless. No self-respecting reporter could be associated with it, but they pretend not to know that their newspaper has become a propaganda agent for the abortion forces.

They have concealed the reality of deaths and sterility from abortion. There are 100 times as many deaths and serious injuries from abortions as the industry admits or the media reports. Like deaths from AIDS, they are concealed under other causes. The **EPIDEMIC OF STERILITY** that afflicts millions of American women is not a separate story from the millions of American women who have had abortions, even though they write it that way. But none of them want to admit it and the abortion industry and their faithful media want to conceal it. They have assisted the abortion industry in their efforts to conceal and deny the link between abortion and a greatly increased **PROBABILITY OF BREAST CANCER** which 30 studies have established. They have played down and ignored the wholesale epidemics of venereal disease that have arisen from promiscuous sexuality, abortion and the effects of contraceptives.

They regularly depict abortion as a "woman's issue" and the pro life movement as 1) violent and 2) male. They ignore and refuse to interview the women who make up 60 % of the movement. They regularly bury the polling information that, however you put the question, **women oppose abortion more than men do.**

Women versus Lesbians

While they present the pro life movement as a male conspiracy against "women's rights" they allow the feminoids of the National Organization of Women to pretend that they speak for women. Every half sophisticated reporter knows that NOW and NARAL and the other pro abortion feminist groups are made up of "women" who are lesbians and peculiar females, deeply infected with the anti-family ideology of the radical feminists. They are "women" only by the radical feminist definition which makes women the opposite of everything that women have traditionally been. They are "women" who hate men, who have lesbian lovers and who sacrifice their children to the money and power they crave.

The media never shows the most dedicated supporters of abortion rights who show up at the clinics to confront the pro life witnesses. People like the **LESBIAN AVENGERS** and **QUEER NATION** whose obscene costumes and filthy language show that there is something that drives the abortion agenda besides "family planning." They don't ask the most obvious question: "Why do homosexuals have such an obsession with abortion? How does it concern them?" The media ignores them and makes them invisible.

The media have regularly prettied up the image of the radical feminists and concealed their worst excesses. In Betty Friedan's book (*It Changed My Life*) she tells how a

feminist television producer got rid of the footage of an episode in which a bunch of the sisters liberated themselves at a somewhat hysterical feminist rally by whacking off their hair on stage. The media played down the radical feminist ideology of a number of trigger happy terrorist groups such as the Weatherman Underground and the Symbionese Liberation Army that kidnapped Patty Hearst. There were a number of radical feminists involved in bank robberies and armored car robberies. Contrast the concealment of the radical feminist angle in these murderous episodes with the way that the media is using any violent anti-abortion incident to tar everyone in the pro life movement.

The influence of the homosexuals and their allies became obvious when the media launched the campaign of false assurance that began in 1983: *AIDS CANNOT BE TRANSMITTED BY CASUAL CONTACT*. They have been the senior partner in this campaign and have prodded the Public Health Service to go along with it. They have ignored evidence that AIDS can be transmitted by saliva and that therefore it can be transmitted by casual contact. They have ignored doctors and researchers who argue that it can and they have attacked those too prominent to be ignored. If it turns out that AIDS is being transmitted by saliva, and that millions of people have been unknowingly exposed to AIDS because of this **false assurance campaign**, those deaths must be laid at the door of a media which has put everyone's life at risk to protect the lifestyle of the homosexuals.

6 Why Does The Media Hate Us ?

Why does the media hate us ? What did we ever do to them to make them such relentless enemies? Why is there this lock-step uniformity which means that 95 % of the secular media is so pro abortion that they have abandoned all but the pretense of "objective" reporting?

The first reason is the fact of abortion itself, the fact that 30 million American women have had one, that 30 million American men have paid for one. There are 60 million people out there somewhere who are personally guilty of the crime of abortion. Which means that most career women have had one--it is the price that has to be paid for the doctrine that **WOMEN MUST HAVE CAREERS !** It means that most females who work in the media have had one or more abortions and that the men who work in the media have paid for those abortions, or perhaps refused to pay for them.

Is an abortion some routine medical procedure that a woman can undergo one day and forget the next? Yes and then have constant nightmares about it 20 years later.

Did you ever accidentally run over a dog or a cat ? And how did you feel about it, even if it was clearly not your fault ?

Suppose it was a child, not a pet that you ran over. Suppose it was your own child. Suppose that it was not an accident, that **YOU DID IT ON PURPOSE !**

How do you feel now? You don't feel any way at all. You can't afford to feel anything about it. You feel numb from the neck down, as if your moral spinal cord was severed.

And you want to go on feeling numb. They gave you a tranquilizer pill the day you had the abortion and now tranquilizers have become your very best friends.

So along comes someone with a sign and a leaflet which graphically reminds you of something you had forgotten--that you had almost forgotten; that you were pretending to yourself that you had forgotten.

And the sign and the leaflet say that you killed your own child, that what you did was murder. As an objective and professional journalist or journalette, how do you handle this story? Not very well.

You either go home and look at yourself in the mirror and say: *I am looking at someone who killed her own kid!* Or you do the opposite. You avoid looking at a biology text book and you look at the Planned Parenthood literature which presents an 8 week old fetus as "fetal tissue" or "two tablespoons of fluid." You decide that you didn't do anything wrong, that it was only a routine medical procedure and that therefore the people out there with signs and leaflets must be deranged religious fanatics unable to adjust to the modern world and deserving the contempt of that world. Where is the "neutral" position in relation to this story?

So it is a sham and a farce and a lie when the secular media reporters pretend to be reporting on the abortion controversy in a "professional" way. What is the reverse of "professional?" Amateur. One who is motivated by love. Or by hate. One who is driven by a deep feeling. That describes the media in relation to the pro life movement and it explains why they hate us. And they are going to go on hating us until we force them to repent or until they force us to disappear in reality, as they have already made us disappear from the TV screen and the front page. This latest propaganda campaign against pro life activists is the most serious effort yet to make us disappear.

What I remember about the time of the civil rights movement is the hatred that was aimed at us. It wasn't just a political disagreement as to whether racial segregation was a justifiable policy or not. There was a deadly hatred in those who defended racial segregation. There was the very devil of malice in them. They felt that their lives and their fortunes were threatened by us--or a lifestyle that they could not live without, a lifestyle that grew up around slavery and that still depended upon the semi-slavery of racial segregation. And so they reacted with an astonishing intensity of fear and hatred. And so it is with abortion and its defenders in the media. Underneath that thin veneer of professionalism and *just doing my job* is hatred, is a last ditch defense of a lifestyle that grew out of abortion and that depends upon abortion as the cornerstone of its foundation.

In fact the modern American lifestyle depends upon abortion. That is what the Supreme Court said in the 1992 *Casey* decision and it is true. To live the way we live now, women must have "careers," that is jobs that pay a lot of money. There just isn't enough money if they don't. And there is no way they can sustain those careers unless they can stay un-pregnant--unless they can have a reliable way to get rid of unwanted pregnancies.

And all but one are unwanted--the **TOKEN KID**. And they need, not just the right to abortion, but the right to feel good about it, the right not to feel emotionally torn up and ashamed about it, as if they had done something terrible--as if they had murdered a baby. So how can they feel towards those who persist in telling them that they have in fact murdered a baby ?

As a class, the people in the news media are representative of the **prosperous part of American society** for whom abortion is a personal and economic necessity. It is necessary so that women can pursue careers and the money that is necessary for the affluent lifestyle. It is necessary to check the growth in numbers of the poor people who threaten to overwhelm American society. They are in fact threatened not so much by the increase in population as by the increase in the population of poor people which undermines their own affluence. That is why they push contraception and abortion upon others as well as practicing it themselves.

7 Radical Anti-Family Feminism

Aside from the personal hatred, there is an ideological animus that dominates the secular media so pervasively that even reporters who are not personally committed to abortion are unable to challenge the prevailing media orthodoxy in respect to abortion, careers for women, acceptance of homosexuality, and the new family. Many people perceive that the media is totally unrepresentative of the country as a whole and that there is a peculiar left-liberal-feminist-faggot ambience which predominates in the media. But few people know the historical reasons for the fact that this peculiar ideology is so firmly entrenched in the American media establishment. One reason people don't know it is that the media has always worked to conceal it.

Television networks, book publishers, and national magazines are concentrated in New York City, from where they assert a nationwide influence, directly and indirectly. A TV station in Denver may be owned by a New York based media conglomerate. The left / liberal bias is built into the media and it has a long history. The intellectual and literary circles of New York City were a stronghold of the socialists before World War I. After the Bolshevik revolution, they became strongholds of the Communist Party. During the heyday of the Communists in the 1930's and 1940's, many of them moved into the publishing and broadcasting industry where a kind of freemasonry of reds was established. That is the reason there were so many women's magazine writers in the late 1930's and early 1940's who pushed the idea of careers for women. The American Newspaper Guild in New York City was a Communist-controlled union.

The old red network extended to the bureaucracy in Washington D.C., to the film industry in Hollywood and to other media centers like Chicago and Los Angeles. This pattern persisted when the old left gave way to the new left and the new left gave way to the women's liberation movement and the homosexual liberation movement of the late 1960's. The result is that television fare with feminist themes has appeared relentlessly on American television since the 1970's.

The Communist Party greatly declined in the 1950's and never really recovered, even in the 1960's. The new left mostly despised the subservient and conformist Stalinists in the old Communist Party. But those who left the party usually kept their jobs and some remnants of leftist ideology. And the new left revived the *women's liberation* and *sexual liberation* ideology that had been abandoned by the American Communist Party because of Joe Stalin's orders. The "old boy" network in New York and Washington media circles eventually became also an "old girl" network. The **WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT** and their allies in the homosexual liberation movement gradually moved into the places of the old left.

The Women's Liberation Movement

The older wing of the women's liberation movement was the National Organization of Women and it actually grew out of the radical feminist bureaucracy that was entrenched in both federal and state government by 1966. It is a curious example of a revolutionary group growing out of the upper circles of government itself. Their aim was an anti-family, anti traditional woman, radical feminist **CULTURAL REVOLUTION** and they have had a substantial success, not because of their numbers, but because of their position and influence.

The routine concealment of their real ideology behind liberal slogans was part of the price they paid for influential positions in government and in media. It is the characteristic habit of concealment that has marked the Communist movement all the way back to the 1820's and before. They perpetuated the secret society tradition of the 18th century Freemasons who launched both the French Revolution and the American Revolution. For more than two centuries this habit of concealment and secrecy has persisted in the organizations and movements which grew out of the original anti-family movement. It was also a sexual liberation movement.

It has also been a pro homosexuality movement, which required even greater concealment except for rare times like the period following the French Revolution or the late 1960's in the United States. The **ANTI FAMILY BELIEF** is hidden behind the idea of **EQUALITY FOR WOMEN**. The glamorous propaganda and the economic necessity that pushes **CAREERS FOR WOMEN** effectively forces women to give up on staying home with their children. What the radical feminists have so far failed to achieve by government coercion and the defeated Equal Rights Amendment has been at least halfway achieved by media influence and economic coercion.

The *women's liberation movement* was originally part of the Socialist / Communist movement. Most of the feminist founders in the 1960's were *red diaper babies*--that is, they had Communist Party backgrounds. They or their parents or even their grandparents were once party members and belief in Communist ideals became the substitute for a family religion. But more and more it developed as an independent movement because, during World War II, under the pressure of fighting a war of national survival, the Communists in Russia, followed by those in the United States, had

moved away from the **BASIC PRINCIPLES OF WOMEN'S LIBERATION:** 1) abolish the family 2) raise all children in public child care centers 3) encourage free love, including homosexual love. 4) women must have careers instead of wasting their lives raising children. But easy divorce and abortion, introduced after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, had made a mess of Russian society and forced Stalin's government to put some restrictions on both.

In accordance with the original ideology, child care centers where children may be left indefinitely have been established in many Communist and socialist countries as pilot programs to change the way that children are raised. Government child care centers is still a major program of the feminists although the modern alternative to the government-funded public child care center is abortion. Either way the woman escapes having to take the responsibility for the baby, so both are pushed by modern feminists.

This anti-family crusade was actually the central program of the Communist movement in the early 19th century. It became an international movement in the wake of the French Revolution, a generation before Karl Marx came along. (He seems to have adopted the idea of *community of women* [= sharing his wife] with some reluctance and only because he was financially dependent upon Frederick Engels.) They believed in a communist society which would **abolish the family** long before they came to believe in *the workers* or *the revolution* etc. and it has remained a fundamental principle of Communist ideology, although usually a half-concealed one, until modern times. After Karl Marx's death, Frederick Engels wrote *The Origins of Private Property, the Family and the State* an anti-family treatise which became the bible of the Women's Liberation Movement of the late 1960's.

Capitalist Communism

One of the original founders of the Communist movement, Robert Owen, was a successful capitalist who appealed to other capitalists to finance the new society as a sure fire investment. America became the place where a number of early Communist experiments were attempted in the 19th century. Robert Owen's New Harmony Indiana colony was an attempt to achieve a society which had effectively replaced the family. Typically, he neglected to spell out some of the key radical characteristics of this social experiment, when he addressed joint sessions of the American congress in February 1825 and again in March 1825, at the invitation of President John Quincy Adams, although these were formal addresses in which he expounded his vision of a new world order. It wasn't until his July 4th oration at New Harmony in the following year that he spelled out his program for abolishing the traditional family as a key to the new social order. He also condemned religion and private property.

The same program came to us again in the early 20th century as a Russian import, and it is still with us disguised as the modern or liberated family which tends to mean anything and everything except the traditional family. It is the reality behind the code that Congresswoman Pat Schroeder uses when she talks about **CELEBRATING THE GREAT**

AMERICAN FAMILY! Two pedophiles who have just been allowed to adopt a boy by modern social services is what is meant by a "family" in this new world order parlance.

The original intellectual model for the idea of free love, abolishing the family and raising children away from their mothers is found in Plato's *Republic*. He provided a model of society which was preserved down through the centuries as an alternative to a Christian society based on families. His communism was linked to the disappearance of family ties. His animus against family ties derived from his homosexuality, which most Plato scholars overlooked, or pretended to overlook, until the success of the "gay liberation" movement of the late 1960's made it more acceptable to notice it.

Not surprisingly, the **abolish the family** part of Communist ideology has drawn most of its support from homosexuals, especially those from left / liberal families. But there is also a conservative, right wing variant of free love ideology which shows up in writers like Ayn Rand and in the Nazi party. Many of the early Nazis were homosexuals and the original ideology of the Nazis was as anti-family as that of the Bolsheviks. Both moved away from it under the pressure of achieving political support to fight a patriotic war.

Margaret Sanger was a believer in anti-family socialism. She started out as a left wing socialist. Then her eugenics movement allied her with right wing German socialism (Nazism). Morally, it is the same ideology. They are ideological twins who are enemies only in the way that one mafia is the deadly rival of another mafia. Later, she achieved a measure of success when she learned to conceal her anti-family crusade behind the facade of respectability that "Planned Parenthood" still uses. She married a millionaire Episcopalian for his money and posed with her two boys for a formal photograph. (Actually she abandoned them when they were still toddlers-that's the kind of mother she was.) It is the camouflage that Planned Parenthood still uses. Behind the pretense of family planning and religious respectability are Sanger's old programs of careless love and getting rid of lower class humanity through abortion and contraception.

The Communists and their radical feminist successors often concealed the anti-family program, from outsiders and even from their own members--the rank and file comrades found it a difficult doctrine to accept--and the Communist Party finally abandoned it altogether. So it is often hard to tell whether individuals have actually abandoned or modified these ideas or whether they are just concealing them for public relations purposes. Just as Communist ideology persists as watered-down generic leftism, so a vague and illogical feminism persists among many men and women who don't understand the necessary basis for women's liberation.

The idea of *CAREERS FOR WOMEN* has been pushed as an entering wedge for the whole radical feminist program. It leads to the necessity of government child care centers; it demotes the father, promotes divorce, and undermines the family. So by pushing the more acceptable idea of careers for women, you push the whole program without

provoking the reaction that results from directly promoting the other ideas. (See the article *Roots of Abortion II: Careers for Women* in bulletin # 4) Sometimes the moderate feminists are sincere proponents of the modified feminist program (and many of them have been kept ignorant of the real feminist program) and sometimes they are radical feminists who consciously conceal the whole ideology behind their advocacy for part of it. There is a tradition of secrecy in the feminist movement that can be traced all the way back to the secret societies, before the French Revolution, which originally nurtured communist, anti-family ideals and then promoted them in the political free for all that was created by the Revolution.

The Revolt of the Eunuchs

Even though the ideology is submerged and the political movements defeated that once promoted it, the anti-family movement persists. In fact, it has deep roots and substantial influence in our society--in our churches even. When it is entirely out of sight it persists as an undertow. It persists because it is driven by a deep emotional and spiritual pain which seeks a cure it cannot find. Fundamentally, it represents an attack on the natural family by those who are excluded from the natural family, and so they are excluded from the family love without which it is hardly possible to live. They are the products of loveless families and they emerge too crippled emotionally to function in families of their own. So, in the natural order, they are excluded from the love and happiness of the family.

The natural family is a narrow and select society which accepts only its own familiar members. The emotionally damaged are excluded from ever starting families of their own, by the natural process of mate selection. If they persist in doing it anyway, the results are predictably disastrous. We are naturally indignant at the idea of homosexual couples calling themselves "families" and trying to raise children in these peculiar households, but what alternative does the Christian community offer them except to spend their lives living alone and without family love?

And it isn't just homosexuals. Homosexuality is one possible symptom of the failure to grow and develop into an emotionally potent adult, which is actually a very common disability--in some societies more than others. Conditions of extreme poverty make family life impossible and lead to dysfunctional families whose children grow up to be emotional cripples. The curse often persists to the next generation. Poverty may cause it but money can't cure it.

The failure of the Christian church to be the spiritual family it was supposed to be means that those who have been made "eunuchs" by nature or by society (cf. Matthew 19.12) have no family to belong to, and no where to turn for relief. They turn for relief to a **MONEY AND POWER** trip, that is, I will buy or command what I need. So when the eunuchs and their allies achieve positions of power in the government or in the media--or in the church bureaucracy--they take their revenge upon all of us, as best they can. We partly deserve it.

The underlying purpose of the forced sharing of Communism and the abolition of private property was the destruction of the economic basis of family life. It was an attempt to dissolve the boundaries of the natural family so as to create a community--an enlarged family--that would include the outsiders. Clearly, economic justice is better served by the assertion of a **UNIVERSAL AND THEREFORE LIMITED RIGHT TO PRIVATE PROPERTY**--every family should own its own home--rather than by attacking it. But the hidden agenda of the eunuchs changed the direction of the movement for economic justice, just as it changed the movements of the 1960's.

So the basic principles of the anti-family ideology are entrenched within the media even when they are kept back stage and out of sight. The influence of the media, the subtlety of it, has always attracted people who had an ideology to promote which they could not set forth honestly in the light of day. So they work steadily but stealthily at what they regard as liberating the culture. That "liberating" is a **SLOW POISONING** in relation to traditional Christian values.

8 The Addiction to Unreality

We have to recognize that the secular media is the enemy. It is the senior partner in the anti family, anti traditional woman, and anti life conspiracies that have gone forward under its banners. But what is worse than the watered down and half hidden ideological content of the media is its lack of content. You can at least argue with a serious enemy but the media is a mass narcotic that trivializes all arguments by turning everything into transitory entertainment. All convictions, beliefs or lack of beliefs are put into a kind of blender which turns them into entertainment for passive viewers who are whiling away idle hours. It promotes amorality rather than immorality. It doesn't convince anyone of anything. Rather it steadily washes away the moral and mental ground on which convictions stand. Convictions are turned into opinions which provide the entertainment between the commercial breaks. Today's opinions are consumed as entertainment and forgotten by the time tomorrow's opinions come along.

The media has to sell things. They have to serve those with things to sell and money to pay for advertising. So the media rarely launches a serious and sustained attack on basic Christian and family values. They don't have the courage to do it. But every day it erodes all values by immersing them in that constant stream of entertainment which also has to sell things on a large scale.

The prostitute may be loyal to her pimp in a way, but she still has to take care of the customers. The feminists long ago captured the media, to the degree that any ideological party can capture something which has to continue to be servile to anyone with money, power or influence. But there is no entertainment value in the grim dogmas of radical feminism. To convey the feminist message they have to wrap it in the unreality and the farce cliches of situation comedies. The result is messages that are trivialized by comedies that aren't funny.

Even the news has to be packaged as entertainment. The spectacular disasters of the world are condensed for short attention spans and clipped to fit around commercials. It inoculates people against any real knowledge of the world they live in. It gives them just enough information so that they can talk about everything while they continue to know nothing.

Like trash literature, television provides a steady diet of escapist fantasy. It panders to the **ADDICTION TO UNREALITY**. Football is about the only "real thing" that television presents. All the other violence it portrays takes place in the context of fantasy land. The moral struggle over abortion is also packaged as entertainment, and the life and death questions become as unreal as TV shootings.

Even if they wanted to, there is no way that the unreality of television can handle the reality of abortion. The viewers insist upon their TV right to be insulated from reality. They don't want to know about abortion, nor think about it and all they have to do is switch away from a channel that presents intrusive realities. The imperative of television is look sexy, feel sexy, be sexy. But nothing is less sexy than abortion. Television sells day dreams. It sells the new car that is essential to the American Dream. But how can you keep up the payments on that new car unless the woman goes to work? And how can she go to work if she is pregnant, if she has kids to take care of? So abortion is the foundation of the American Dream of affluence and ease, of pleasure and luxury as presented on television, but it can't tell you the real price of that new car nor admit that abortion turns the American Dream into the American Nightmare.

Even if the secular media was willing to deliver our "message" for us, even when they do it now because people with a pro life message are allowed to buy time, it is morally impossible for them to convey the Truth we must convey to people. Your pro life ad is forced to keep company with dirty movie ads and compete for attention with lingerie ads. Is that how we "sell" morality, chastity & Christianity? We mix our pearls in with the Daily Swill and hope that people will somehow snuffle it all up in their daily intake?

What a forlorn strategy! What a terrible admission that the church is deadier than Vaudeville! We give up on trying to convert people or convince them. Instead we hope to influence their opinions a little. People won't come to church so we take the church to them disguised as entertainment. But if you load in a moral message, you drag down the entertainment value.

While we are paying for a pro life message, someone else is paying for a new car message which cancels ours. By encouraging people to continue watching TV to see our message, we encourage them to drink in that propaganda for the new car which is propaganda for the affluent American lifestyle of which abortion is an integral part. If that new car has become a necessity then that baby has become a luxury that you cannot afford. What we have to teach people, beginning with ourselves, is the exact opposite: that baby is a necessity and the new car is therefore a luxury that you cannot afford.

We have to teach people simple living. Television teaches luxurious living. We have to teach them how to escape from the American lifestyle. Television persuades them to become enslaved to it.

We have to re-learn a Christian lifestyle which necessarily rejects materialism because it is rightly centered upon a spiritual God. Television doesn't just teach materialism, it takes it for granted.

The addiction to the media is a sure sign of that which is destroying us. If we are to have a terrorist campaign, let it begin with raiders on roof tops, snipping TV antennas to force people to at least turn to the Ultra High Frequency channels where some sort of Christian message is found. Or we force them to take responsibility for what they are seeing by putting a videotape into the Video Cassette Recorder. At least we have temporarily blocked that sewer of mental and moral garbage that is constantly emptying itself into our living rooms. But the best thing is to establish an alternative.

To build a Christian society we have to wean people away from television just as we have to wean them from drugs, alcohol and pornography. Or else we have to abandon them to their fate. What is useless is to think that we can ever trust our message to that secular media which blots it out and dilutes it with pornography and materialism even while it pretends to deliver it. Pro life Christians, serious Christians, must recognize that we need to build an alternative society, a morally separate society, and that it will require an alternative media.

9 Alternative Media

After the shootings in Boston, Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life drafted a statement of fidelity to *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION* which was signed by every legitimate pro life leader in the country. It was invisible to the media. They only wanted to hear from "pro life" representatives who will say something supportive or equivocal about the violence.

But Mother Angelica's Eternal Word Television Network, which can be received on Ultra High Frequency channels all over the country is getting Father Pavone do a series of programs about abortion and about the necessity for Catholics to participate in *NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION* to stop abortion. Watching people say the rosary may not be your idea of riveting television, but if they can do that, they can do anything ! It is AN *ALTERNATIVE* and that is what we need !

The rescue movement of 1988-89 received a major boost because Randall Terry was allowed to come on the 700 Club to talk about it. Doctor James Dobson, whose Focus on the Family and Family News in Focus programs are heard on dozens of Christian radio stations in every state has regularly reported on pro life events. It has often been the only nation wide carrier of important pro life stories.

USA radio news carries pro life news. The Christian radio stations and newspapers here can usually be counted on to carry announcements of pro life events.

With a few honorable exceptions, the Catholic press has ignored the pro life direct action movement. But they aren't hostile in the same way as the secular media and as more Catholics come out to witness, the diocesan papers will carry more stories. The *National Catholic Register* has regularly carried pro life action news and *The Wanderer* has been a reliable carrier of pro life action news as well as a unique source of information on the struggle within the Catholic Church which is an important part of the wider moral struggle we are all caught up in.

We need an **ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK** ! We already have one but it could be ten times better than it is, without straining the limits of the possible. The Christian radio stations sometimes carry pro life news. But they are often so infected with secular Christianity that they have no idea what a Christian perspective on the news is. They do a pathetically inadequate job of reporting on the world around them from a Christian perspective. They are oblivious of the great moral struggle going on. They are completely secularized in one way and then, in the other direction, they present the church as organizational doings and the faith as otherworldly fantasy and escapism. The "news" they carry is indistinguishable from what the secular stations carry: what the President said; what the stock market did; what the jury decided in the murder trial. Supposedly, it is a "Christian" news broadcast because they read a bible verse at the end. Too often they accurately reflect the **sorry spiritual condition** of today's worldly church.

One of the most important ways we can communicate is through pro life newsletters like this one which carry news about direct action projects from people who are personally involved and committed. Technically and financially it is possible for anyone and it reaches those who are really interested, who are most likely to come out and help.

We don't need the media ! Despite secular media that ignored them or smeared them, the rescue movement grew and grew until 60,000 people had risked arrest and three times that number had participated as prayer supporters. It isn't TV that gets people out to life chains. They come because they hear about it at church. What's wrong with that? Nothing! During the first critical weeks that the rescue campaign was developing in Wichita Kansas, there wasn't a word about it in any of the news media, except in Kansas itself. There was next to nothing about it even on the Christian radio stations. The only ones that heard about it were those who already knew about it from pro life newsletters and personal contacts. Eventually, all of the news media were forced to do a story about what was happening in Wichita, because the rescue campaign there was just too spectacular to ignore. But, if we didn't need the publicity when the campaign was small and growing, then we didn't need it! That tells you something important: We don't need the mass media!

What we have to do is build Christian societies in the moral ruins of the pagan American empire, just as the first century Christians built their communities in the moral wreckage of the Roman Empire. Not only do we not need the secular media, we are better off having it as a real enemy than as a false friend. We are blessed when it vilifies us.

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (Mt 5.11-12) So be glad, not mad, when the pagan press tells lies about us. It is an old Christian tradition !

The media was a false friend to the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's. At first it publicized the nonviolent civil rights movement. But when the riots and the Black Panthers came along it spotlighted them instead because it sold more newspapers, because the media had no understanding of the way of the gospel and no belief in it.

The media of the 1960's picked our leaders for us, just as they are trying to do now. They spotlighted Martin Luther King and ignored 100 others who did more for the Civil Rights Movement, who were faithful to it and to their wives as King was not. They helped to create a movement in which one man was deified for the passive admiration of the masses. The real effort to change the way that America treats its underclass was abandoned in the shadows of the spotlight.

The media will pick our leaders for us if we let them. It will feature those who endorse violence and make the rest of us invisible. It will play up those who learn how to cater to it. They will turn it into a "movement" where a few showboat "leaders" posture for the cameras while millions of passive "supporters" participate in it by watching it on television. That is what happened to the civil rights movement. That is what destroyed it. That is what created people like Jesse Jackson.

Supporters and Actors

I am indebted to Calvin (the comic strip character, not the Geneva totalitarian) for showing how the mind of a "supporter" works. Calvin decides it is futile to build a snowman--*So instead of wasting my time, I'm going to go inside, pull down the shades and watch TV. That way, in complete physical comfort, I can vicariously experience the activity of actors pretending to do things !* (Calvin & Hobbes Jan 1995)

That already describes much of the so-called pro life movement. A few actor-politicians pretend to be leading the pro life crusade. The rest "support" them by turning on the radio or the television; by pushing a lever once every two years in the anonymous safety of the voting closet. There is a parasitic relationship between showboat leaders and passive supporters. One begets the other. That is why we have to be entirely intolerant of "supporters," why we have to energetically attack those who try to buy their way out of their own obligation to personal Christian witness, with little checks and passive "support." Yes, we need money, so bring your wallet with you when you come out.

Don't buy a tiny share of someone else's Christian work as the substitute for meeting your own obligation.

That is where all the "support" for violence comes from. People who are terrified of coming out in public with a sign will stand up for red revolution by sitting in front of the TV in the quiet safety of their living rooms. A fellow who is afraid to put a bumper sticker on his car is all for slaughtering the abortionist. That is, he is all for somebody else doing it. It is an ancient phenomenon: the further from the battle field, the hotter the patriotism.

You can't be a passive supporter of **NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION**. That is why it is spiritually wholesome. If you talk about it you have to do it--what excuse do you have? That is what makes it unpopular with armchair rebels and living room warriors who are all for war--as a matter of opinion. *I wouldn't do it myself but*--from a safe distance--I support someone else doing it. Verbal warfare is their excuse for avoiding the spiritual war that saves the babies and undermines the foundations of the aborted pagan empire that surrounds us.

The Danger of Publicity

When the media turned the spotlight on to the civil rights movement, it immediately attracted a whole crowd of ambitious people who were attracted by the spotlight, not by the challenge of the work to be done. The same thing happens now on those rare occasions when the media publicizes us. That is why the media is the bane of a movement which is striving to maintain its integrity and its purpose.

When the television lights are turned on, it attracts thousands of people who are drawn like moths to a spotlight. All the people who had no time for the movement when it was a hard and lonely struggle, suddenly have an imperative reason to be there. The movement gets flooded with people who care nothing about the basic goals of the movement. It is amazing how many long lost supporters show up as soon as the TV cameras are turned on. All the people with **something to sell** or with **careers to promote** find the TV cameras irresistible. Suddenly **SPOTLIGHT CHARLIE** and **SPOTLIGHT CHARLENE** have the microphone and are speaking for us.

When your purpose is to build a serious and sustained pro life movement, the media is not only useless but harmful. You don't get the kind of response and commitment you need from a message on TV. I saw many people join the civil rights movement in the 1960's because of the massive publicity, and they destroyed the movement because they had the wrong reason for being there. There was a rapid deterioration in the moral quality of the movement which soon destroyed its social effectiveness.

The same thing will happen to the pro life movement if we let it, if we let the television decide who our leaders are. A person who is picked by the media to be a pro life leader should be automatically disqualified by the rest of us.

11 Opinions versus Convictions

If the success of the pro life movement depended upon the help of the secular media, our cause would be hopeless. We are never going to get it. If we did get it, it would hurt us more than it would help us. *A free ride in the vehicles of the huckster press is a free ride in the wrong direction.* (Karl Meyer)

The success of the political pro lifers does depend upon the secular media and their effort is hopeless. Despite all the evidence to the contrary, they still promote the illusion that pro life morality can be established through conventional politics. They can't be weaned away from it, because they are fundamentally insincere. Their real aim is the pursuit of political power and the fulfillment of their own personal ambitions. People who sincerely seek to rescue the unborn must see that we have to forget conventional politics and that there is nothing else for it but a war, whether that war be violent or nonviolent.

We need a **MORAL REVOLUTION** in America, not a changeover which amounts to one group of lawyers replacing another group of lawyers in the halls of Congress, which amounts to the checks of 35,000 lobbyists going into Republican bank accounts instead of Democratic bank accounts. A change in opinions is useless because we need a change in convictions, in the way we live and in what we are willing to live for and to die for.

People deceive themselves into believing that we can win the battle by a shift in the opinion polls as brought about by some slick ad campaign to create a new image. They want to win the world over in a nice and easy way--their world, their fellow citizens. Because the alternative is to confront the world as Christians arrayed for battle, and they are **not quite** up to it! If all you are asking of people is that they buy your brand of beer the next time they go to the store, or that they push a lever for your candidate the next time they go to the polls, then mass media is the answer. But if your aim is to convince people of a moral doctrine that will change their lives, that will bring them those heavy emotional and spiritual burdens which are the **bane of the American life style** of affluence and ease, as seen on TV, the belief that TV can do it for us is idolatry.

Television is good at selling new cars. It is useless at selling the conviction that you have to give up that new car, that you must live simply, that the life of that baby is a moral imperative which requires you to abandon the attempt to have that glamorous lifestyle for which television provides the window. Television can't convince people of what they don't want to believe. It can sway opinions but it can't create the convictions that only come from conversion and repentance.

Opinions versus Guano

The talk show hosts teach people that their opinions are important, and that their votes can re-establish a moral order. It is a lie. A bird's "opinion" is worth more. Per pound,

opinions are worth less than guano. Guano has some value as fertilizer. Opinions are hot air which only raises the room temperature and increases the air conditioning costs. The talk shows let people blow off steam. But, in the real Christian life, that steam was supposed to drive the engine that started your feet moving.

When an opinion poll focuses on the narrowest of questions--*are you for Jones or are you for Smith?*--they must also ask: *are you registered to vote?* Because an opinion that doesn't even lead to a vote is meaningless. And while a vote may decide whether this lawyer or that lawyer should occupy the office, it is worth nothing in the battle between good and evil.

You can't establish morality by voting for it. The only way you can effectively vote against abortion is by voting with your whole life.

What is wanted to establish a moral order is a conviction that will cause men to live for it, to fight for it and to die for it if they have to. It is not a matter of opinion.

It is no use trying to muster a majority opinion against abortion. We already have such a majority, we have never had anything else, and it is powerless against the usurpation of power by a minority with money, influence and the media on their side, who use it to befuddle and intimidate that cowardly majority.

What is wanted are people who will fight. It is always a minority that believe in something enough to fight for it. But if a man or a woman is willing to fight for what they believe, that is, if they believe in something enough to fight and die for it, to live for it and witness for it on a daily basis, then one such person is worth 10,000 of those who are armed with nothing but opinions.

Politicians have lost interest in the abortion "issue" because the secular media has tabooed the "issue" and because they recognize that it cannot be settled in the little arena of conventional politics. It is no longer a safe and reliable vote getter so they shy away from it.

Abortion is a fundamental moral issue that cannot be brokered through conventional politics. Your opinions about abortion don't matter, and your vote doesn't count. *Roe versus Wade* said that your vote doesn't count and that your opinion is passe and in the 20 years since that decision nothing has happened to convincingly dispute it. The only question now is whether you will fight. If you won't, that is the end of it. The question for those of us who will fight is whether we will have a **MORAL REVOLUTION** or whether we will have a civil war, because we cannot go on living in a society that sanctions baby killing.

The media is only useful for swaying opinions and swaying opinions is irrelevant to the task of building a Christian society. Opinions are not the building blocks of the kingdom of God. Beliefs and passions are. That is why we first have to declare war on that false Christian church which teaches that Christians without the courage to live the Christian

life can be saved by their righteous opinions, by the right and comfortable opinions that they express to the pollster calling on the telephone before they return to watching the TV. In fact they are headed for hell (Matthew 25.31-46) and taking the country down with them. If we don't begin at once to fight against them, they will take us down with them also.

Jesus Christ didn't have any opinions. What he had were passionate convictions that he was willing to die for. We weren't saved by his opinions. We were saved by his passion. We cannot save our society by our opinions. Without passion, without the willingness to fight and die for what we believe in, we are powerless.

Jesus Christ doesn't ask us to **share his opinions!** He doesn't congratulate us for holding the right opinion. That isn't what it means to *"take up your cross and follow me."*

We must do it without the secular media if our aim is to build a Christian society through a **NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT**, through a movement that **BEARS COURAGEOUS CHRISTIAN WITNESS** to the **TRUTH**. We don't need to sway opinions if we aren't selling beer or running for political office. The power of Christianity once meant that a minority with convictions defeated a vast majority without any convictions. (That majority today includes most so-called Christians.) We have to do it again. *Terry Sullivan*