

# Deadly dispute

## Violence plagues clinics as debate rages on

# Christians Unite for Change

Columnist



Jon Appgar  
 Junior  
 Journalism major

Bombs serve one purpose — destruction. Susan Nennery, a worker at Planned Parenthood in Houston, said the bombings are domestic terrorism, and should be dealt with in the same manner as the Olympic Park bombing and the Oklahoma City bombing. "Planned Parenthood clinics provide more services than just abortions, including adoption,

birth control and family planning. Planned Parenthood in Houston provides abortions for only 6 percent of its clients," Nennery said. Nennery said abortion clinics operate on high alert at all times, and in response to the bombings, Planned Parenthood in Houston has contacted the ATF and local law enforcement officials in order to maintain high security around the building.

Those who oppose abortion must realize that in the 24 years of legalized abortion, opinions on the subject have changed little. After all the propaganda and campaigns to outlaw abortion or keep it legal, after all the presidents and politicians who have promised (and failed) to pass a constitutional amendment against abortion, the situation is still the same — abortion is still legal and the population is split on the issue. Meanwhile, some individuals believe that even though violence and murder has not changed people's position on abortion, terrorism will speed a constitutional amendment through Congress.

Those individuals responsible for bombing the abortion clinics in Atlanta and Tulsa have not done people in the pro-life group a great service. Pro-choice activists now see people opposed to abortion as radical terrorists, when in fact it is only a few who fit the stereotype.

The best way to make a position known on abortion is through non-violent protest, as has been the practice for many years. The best way to go to jail for the rest of one's life is to bomb an abortion clinic.



The cowards have struck again. Last week a building in Atlanta housing an abortion clinic was hit with two bombs, injuring six people. In Tulsa, Planned Parenthood clinic was the victim of a bomb as well. These attacks came within weeks of the Jan. 22 anniversary of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion. Those who continue to target and terrorize women, doctors and nurses who perform abortions are not making any progress towards their assumed goal — a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion. Abortion is a tricky subject, contrary to popular ignorance, abortion is not a political issue for the White House or for Capital Hill to legislate on. Abortion, rather, is a moral issue that must be decided on the individual. Many are fanatical with their opposition to abortion. There also are those who do not agree with abortion but do not think the government has a right to legislate on morality and individual freedom. A small minority within this first group causes the problems. They believe not only the practice of abortion to be a mortal sin, but feel they must terrorize, bomb and murder those who perform abortions or have an abortion. They claim that abortion stops a beating heart. Then they drop a bomb in a garbage dumpster or they shoot an abortion doctor. Ironic, isn't it? The way to get a point across effectively is not through violence. It is through non-violent direct action. Bombs will not make someone change his or her view from pro-choice to pro-life.

In January, 2,300 college students attended an Austin conference called Passion '97. The mission of the conference was to unite Christian college students' across denominational lines, rekindle a passion for Christ, and renew a vision for spiritual awakening on various school campuses. It was obvious from the whoops in the air there was a strong Aggie presence. It was difficult to walk two feet without seeing an A&M shirt, or go through the parking garage without noticing Aggie bumper stickers.

Columnist



Courtney Phillips  
 Junior  
 Psychology major

Despite the involvement of Aggies at an event like Passion '97, we fail to hear their voices on campus. One might think, after attending a day of classes at this university, relativism rules the A&M campus and "free thought" reigns supreme. Christian musician Steve Taylor said the problem with free thought is, "our minds are so open that our brains leak out." We are blinded by our fear of being less than politically correct and we forget to think for ourselves.

Colleges have always been hotbeds for revolution and change. Passion '97 encouraged Christian students to start their own revolutions and not to stand by as humanistic thought consumes universities. America is clearly at a religious cruc, a point at which we could see a spiritual awakening or simply dissolve into a hodgepodge of half-hearted theologies. With spirituality in the news these days, whether it is the pope's views on evolution or the accuracy of the Bible, it is not uncommon to see religion plastered across the cover of the latest news magazines. Last month's issue of *George* magazine was completely dedicated to what America believes. Its survey of a cross-section for 800 Americans found some interesting statistics.

Judging from the climate of most college campuses, one would never guess 60 percent of Americans believe in seven-day creation, 49 percent are pro-life, and 51 percent do not believe humans evolved from lower life forms. But since 67 percent of the people surveyed believe other religions are as legitimate as their own, it's easy to see why we allow our beliefs to become diluted. Why would people put their faith in any one religion if they consider others to be equally valid?

There are approximately 47,000 students on this campus, which is a lot of different beliefs, but I think most people are willing to talk to others about their beliefs. Almost everyone is seeking something, regardless of their religious persuasion. They are searching for answers to the mysteries of the universe, something to put their souls at peace. Though the nation's campuses have become spiritually dampened over the past few decades, there are incredible things happening on the A&M campus.

I talked about these changes with Jason Post, the financial director and intern at Breakaway Ministries and an A&M student who attended Passion '97. As a student ministry leader he has insight into the campus' spiritual climate. Over the past few years Jason has seen Christians on this campus becoming bold.

"Christians now sense the urgency in stepping up," he said, "when one Christian stands up and says something, other Christians stand up and echo their thoughts." This is encouraging news for Christians on campus, but there is a standard of boldness we have been called which has yet to be realized at A&M. It makes it difficult when the media is hostile towards Christianity. Christians are often stereotyped and written off as "right-wing Bible beaters" who are hateful, bigoted, abortion clinic bombers. Christianity is about life, not death and hate. It is a sad fact we will be stereotyped and hated, but that is a small price to pay.

Therefore, Christians on the A&M campus need not be afraid to be bold, or to speak out against things they disagree with. They need not be afraid to share their passion, pray for revival and to stop being invisible.

Many A&M students attended Passion '97. If their soul's desire really is the pursuit of God, then Texas A&M had better get ready to see passion and boldness from Christian Aggies like it has never seen before.

32¢  
**MAIL CALL**  
 Texas A&M University

### 12th Man abandons Aggie Dance Team

On Wednesday, Jan. 15, the 'Aggie' Texas Aggie Basketball team hosted the nationally ranked t.u. longhorns. G. Rollie White was filled to capacity and the 12th Man proudly took its stand in support of the team. However, with three minutes left in overtime, the 12th Man decided to call it quits and leave the arena. This was a painful slap in the face for our team who had come back from an 18 point deficit to tie the ball game. I have never seen the Aggie basketball team play with as much grit and determination as it did against the teasips. How great it could have been if the team had looked up in the stands to see their entire 12th Man in full support after frustrating loss. For those of you who forget or just never learned, the 12th Man stays at the game until the clock reads zero. We do this to show our opponents (especially teasips!) that regardless of the outcome, we shall support our team, that is, and Naftanel no matter how much we are whoopscored, we still love our team in Austin school, and that or spirit runs much deeper than the score of an athletic contest. If the 12th Man continues this tradition, we'll find that it frustrates the hell out of our opponents. What can they do? "Well, we beat the Aggies, but at the time they still stand and cheer for their team through every loss, or tie." Keep this tradition alive, it means so much to the spirit of Aggieland!

Steve Walkup  
 Class of '98

### Aggie Dance Team embarrasses fan

I believe the time is long overdue to remind the Dance Team that A&M DOES NOT NEED CHEERLEADERS!! I thought that this was a long standing tradition, but to my horror, during halftime at the men's basketball game against t.u., members of the Dance Team decided that we did. They acted like they were still high school cheerleaders. Their actions were a grave affront to both tradition and the yell leaders themselves. When the Dance Team formed a few years ago the student body was assured that they were not, and would not act like, cheerleaders. That promise was woefully short lived. I believe that unless the Dance Team can stick to just dancing they should be disbanded.

Christina Weston  
 Class of '97

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or fewer and include the author's name, class, and phone number. The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:  
 The Battalion - Mail Call  
 013 Reed McDonald  
 Texas A&M University  
 College Station, TX  
 77843-1111  
 Campus Mail: 1111  
 Fax: (409) 845-2647  
 E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu

# A blessing or a curse?

## A Mother's job doesn't end at birth

Columnist



Kate Shropshire  
 Freshman  
 Meteorology major

Rose Kennedy said, "I have always looked on child rearing not only as a work of love and duty, but as a profession that was as fully interesting and challenging as any honorable profession in the world, and one that demanded the best that I could bring to it." Kennedy's view on child rearing paints a pretty picture, but the profession of being a mother has taken on a different description in today's society.

Children are no longer regarded as bundles of joy. Instead, immature individuals who esteem children as subjects for immediate gratification find children to be burdens, requiring hours of attention and patience. The explanation is the fact infantile individuals are giving birth to children. Darlie Routier, a Rowlett, Texas resident, is now facing capital murder charges for the deaths of her two sons: six-year-old Devon and five-year-old Damon.

Prosecutors claim Routier, frenzied by burdens of motherhood and financial concerns, brutally stabbed her sons, then staged a crime scene. Blood traces were found practically everywhere in the family's house except around the garage window where Routier claimed the supposed intruder fled. New evidence suggests the knife found in Routier's home may have been the only one to actually cut Devon. To prove motherly neglect, Halina Czaban, Routier's housekeeper, testified she found Routier's infant bound in blankets, gasping for breath the day before the murders.

As if Routier had not already proven to be a selfish mother, she then put in a request to have her nails professionally done and the roots of her hair dyed. She rationalized this by saying that if her roots were showing, the jurors would see that she had ignored proper hygiene while in jail and, as a result, eliminate her lily-white image. This does nothing to provide the healthy image a mother should harbor.

Routier, however, is not alone in this type of motherly misconduct. In March of '94, Stephanie Moore, a former

Texas A&M student, gave birth to a baby girl in her dorm room around 2 a.m. That same morning she disposed of her new-born daughter in a rose-colored plastic bag and then dumped the child's body in a Mosher Hall garbage chute. The infant died by suffocating on remnants of food, vomit, and garbage found in the trash bag.

Moore pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to twenty years in prison. This was the first-ever homicide on the A&M campus.

Both of these instances illustrate a grim outlook for our children's future. The burdens of motherhood and financial concerns do not justify the sacrifice of a child's life. Maybe these mothers should've thought twice before undertaking the time consuming and painstaking duty.

If these mothers had attempted to be forbearing, they would have recognized the gift of child-bearing is one that they were not cut out for.

The profession Rose Kennedy spoke of is not easy but is a rewarding and exciting journey with many bumps and turns which strengthens all involved. It is not at the discretion of the parents to decide that the problems they encounter should be avoided with the hasty removal of the innocent.

Unfortunately the child has no choice how or by whom they enter this world. In essence, children become the product of parental supervision or neglect. The value and beauty of our little ones has been undermined, along with the value of family ethics. The principles that were once the foundation of family structure have lost importance and meaning - all for the sake of children who never grew up who can't take the time and diligence to raise their kids.

Granted, the Donna Reed days have been replaced by an era of working mothers, fathers, and latch-key kids. It does not mean, however, that children are disposable. Babies should be embraced and nuzzled by the bosom of families and society regardless of how tiresome the job may be. As the saying goes, "You may have a headache, but don't take it out on the family."