

Editorial

Abortion Activists Prove They Are Hypocrites

The recent assignment of U.S. Marshals to protect abortion doctors is reminiscent of the 1950s deployment of the National Guard to ensure the safety of blacks in the recently desegregated educational environment.

Over the past two years the incidents of violence outside abortion clinics in the United States has risen sharply.

Pro-life activists believe the killing of abortion clinic physicians and employees is justified. They argue, the killing of one doctor saves thousands of unborn lives which would be killed at a later date.

This line of reasoning, while deplorable, is irrational and inconsistent.

Pro-life activists, most who follow a fundamentalist reading of the Bible, say they are correct in following the Bible strictly. But they continue to interpret the book to fit their actions.

The Bible states, "Thou shalt not kill." Yet, pro-life activists have rewritten that statement to say "Thou shalt not kill, unless it is an abortion doctor." Does their hypocrisy have any bounds?

If you are pro-life and believe abortion is wrong, that is fine. To advocate the killing of another human being because his or her beliefs differ from yours is against the law. The Supreme Court, in 1973, gave women the freedom and legality to get an abortion, if that was their choice.

As law-abiding citizens we must live by this judgment or work within the legal system to alter the law.

No matter what your opinion on the abortion issue, the killing of abortion doctors is morally and socially wrong.

Adding to the level of violence in America and condoning the outright murder of physicians in order to bring about a change in the abortion law is a grossly irresponsible, misguided effort.

The above is the opinion of *The Rebel Yell*. All other inclusions on the opinion page reflect the opinions of the author or artist indicated and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of *The Rebel Yell* staff.

The Rebel Yell

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Nobody Seems Nice Anymore!

Whatever happened to common courtesy?

In a world that seems to be falling apart, people have given up on each other. No longer do people smile at one another and exchange greetings at the grocery store.

If you say hello or act personable with a stranger, you're considered "weird" or a possible child molester. The thin layer of trust that used to exist between most Americans has disappeared and been replaced by a sense of distrust and fear of strangers—no matter how nice you are.

I first noticed this phenomenon in all its glory this past holiday season. Growing up, the holidays were a time when everyone put aside their differences to celebrate the season.

Boy, have things changed.

Cruising through the parking lot at a local mall doing some last minute Christmas shopping, I witnessed how bad it has become. I saw a man, angry because he missed an opportunity at a parking space, intentionally crash into a woman's car in protest. Is a parking spot close to the front door of the mall worth causing injury to another human being? Or is it worth increasing the price of your car insurance? I think we all know the answer to that.

Straight From the Gully



SCOTT GULBRANSEN

This attitude has permeated our whole society. Everywhere you go, there are signs of Americans' bitterness toward each other. One of the places this is most apparent is in the service industry.

Bad service has become contagious. Whether it's a restaurant or a department store, employees in re-

tail and the service industry have also become one of the biggest groups of bitter people in America.

No longer is it "the customer is always right." Instead it's "don't tell me your problems, it's not my fault." No wonder most Americans stay in and rent movies or anchor themselves to their computers. Who wants to pay for bad service?

My suggestion to those who work in the service industry and don't like dealing with problems—get out! You're there to serve, not be served!

The media (which I am a proud member of) also must shoulder the blame for some of this "let's be a jerk" movement. News accounts of violence and negative news tends to make people prisoners of fear. Garbage television like *Inside Edition* and *Current Affair* deaden our senses and show us the absolute worst side of mankind.

To insult our intelligence even

more, the multitude of talk shows instill a sense of distrust. Tuning into an episode of *The Ricki Lake Show*, I was floored to hear the title of the show: "Is Your Boyfriend a Serial Killer?" Trust in a relationship is something hard enough to build. The last thing people need is to wonder if their loved one is a closet Jeffrey Dahmer!

I say we tune out talk shows and start tuning into our own problems and our own lives.

These factors are what I believe make us weary of one another. When I watch this crap, I tend to feel disgusted with mankind. I can't imagine what people who watch them religiously think of the inhabitants of mother Earth. Tune into the good in people and we'll all be better off.

Maybe the way people are acting has something to do with the factors I've mentioned. Either that or the world is rapidly coming to an end.

With reports of carjackings and child murders becoming an everyday occurrence, it's easy to think people aren't as nice as they used to be. But we can't give up hope in our fellow man.

So next time someone shows you some kindness, don't assume they're Ted Bundy in training. Just say hello and make the world a better place.

—Scott Gulbransen is the Opinion Editor at *The Rebel Yell*.

Keeping Your Dreams Alive

Violence is all around us.

It seems like whenever I watch television, all I hear about is someone getting shot or stabbed, and yet, it doesn't seem real to me.

I live in a nice home in a good neighborhood. I've never been afraid to go to the store or walk to school. I've never seen drug dealers doing their thing on the corner or witnessed someone being shot outside my house. These things happen to other people, right?

I was planning on writing about something else this week until I saw a special on television about violence in America. It was so powerful and riveting that it moved me to write about it and express my feelings.

Most students at UNLV are extremely lucky. They live in a town where very few areas are dangerous enough to worry about losing your life. But don't kid yourself, there are people living this nightmare. More importantly, there are children living this nightmare.

Visions

SHIFON FOSTER

According to the report aired last week, children are the number one victims of crime in America. Most are under the age of 19, and are acutely aware

their mortality is in jeopardy everyday. This is the primary reason why so many of our youth have chosen crime as a way of life. They feel that they would rather be an offender than a victim.

It's a shame they are not aware that these are one and same. These children have no hope. They believe that they will never see 21, so why think about the future. There is only today.

As students, we hold dreams and hopes for our future. For many of us, it is what we base our whole lives on. How lucky we are to be here. I feel lucky. I have the opportunity to write for *The Rebel Yell*. So many people, young and old, don't have the resources that I have. Worst of all, they believe they never will and, therefore, stop dreaming.

I now realize I am so fortunate to be able to afford my dreams,

not in the sense of money, although that is a factor, but in the sense that I am in charge of my destiny.

There are no crack-heads, drug dealers, or other psychos squashing my dreams for happiness. I'm the only one that can stop myself from making my dreams come true.

Maybe you should think about that the next time you think you can't do some homework. It's only a challenge — a hurdle to get over. It's not a criminal that may shoot you or a drug dealer trying to get you hooked on drugs. Do you know how many kids out there in the middle of the violence would love to be in your place right now?

Our dreams are the most important things we own because they belong exclusively to us. Always remember that. Never give up on them. Because, right now, today, there is a child somewhere that doesn't have any dreams.

—Shifon Foster is an opinion columnist at *The Rebel Yell*.

UNLV Student Senate Meeting Schedule

The Rebel Yell encourages all students to attend UNLV's Student Senate meetings.

Monday, Feb. 6,
6:30 p.m. MSU

Monday, Feb. 13,
6:30 p.m. MSU

Monday, Feb. 27,
6:30 p.m. MSU

Monday, Mar. 6,
6:30 p.m. MSU

Monday, Mar. 13,
6:30 p.m. MSU