

**SAM KEPFIELD**

# Killing abortionist not a solution

**M**urder is wrong. Having said that, we are presented with an interesting moral, ethical and legal quandary when a person uses prevention of murder to justify committing one.

Such is the case in Pensacola, Fla. Dr. David Gunn, a doctor employed by an abortion clinic, died at the hands of Michael Frederick Griffin, who justified shooting Gunn by claiming that he was doing it to save the lives of the unborn. Griffin now plans to represent himself at trial, using the Bible as his defense.

The reaction from the pro-choice movement and the media was predictable. News features on the ugly future of the pro-life movement abounded. Pro-choice advocates are urging Congress to approve legislation that would criminalize blocking the entrance to abortion clinics — never mind the First Amendment's "right of the people peaceably to assemble."

The reaction from the pro-life crowd was, to be blunt, irresponsible. Randall Terry, leader of Operation Rescue, called the murder an "inappropriate, repulsive act," but went on in the next breath to say that, "We must remember that Gunn was a mass murderer." Similar sentiments were echoed by other, but not all, pro-life leaders.

Speaking as one who believes in the pro-life stance, I am outraged by Terry and company's statements. They ought to be the ones condemning this louder than anyone, and they should be showing respectable, middle-of-the-road folks that they're not a bunch of wild-eyed, Bible-thumping zealots who think that murder and bombings are just politics by other means.

The pro-lifers have missed an opportunity here to demonstrate their rationality and compassion. Instead they've done just the opposite. But, given their history, particularly over



**The pro-lifers have missed an opportunity here to demonstrate their rationality and compassion. Instead they've done just the opposite.**

the last decade, it should come as no surprise.

This is the group, you may remember, that went to the Democratic National Convention last year and handed out dead fetuses as party favors to pro-choice leaders. They also praised ads run by Congressional candidates in Indiana and Georgia that showed pictures of aborted fetuses in living color and during prime-time television. In the summer of 1991, they laid siege to the city of Wichita, Kan., blocking clinics and forcing mass arrests.

Add to this other actions like putting up "wanted" posters of abortion doctors (Gunn's face was on one), picketing not just the clinics but the physicians' homes, harassing women who go to the clinics by phoning their friends, relatives, ministers and parents, and you have a rather vocal and committed group that is rapidly making itself a pariah in our society.

What drives them? I listened to a radio talk show last week and listened to a call from a man

who actually supported the killing of Gunn. The caller compared abortion to slavery and the Holocaust. People were correct and courageous in opposing those things, so Operation Rescue should be seen as morally right in opposing abortion and doing whatever necessary to stop it.

The caller was very sincere, not a raving lunatic. I am sure there are plenty of normal, unremarkable folks out there who would agree with everything this man said. Of course, they fail to stop and recall just what slavery and the Holocaust led to — the Civil War and World War II. They ought to choose their precedents more carefully.

I came to my pro-life position several years ago in spite of people like Terry. While I agree that abortion is the taking of a life, I am not about to condone the taking of another life to remedy that. That, I suppose, is why I am so angered by the murder of Gunn and the reactions of Terry.

We live in a society governed by the rule of law. We do not recognize justifiable homicide except in cases of self-defense. What Michael Griffin did was cold-blooded, premeditated murder, pure and simple. If Terry and the other pro-life extremists can't accept that fact and give it the condemnation it deserves, they hurt their own cause. Worse yet, they hurt by association the millions who are personally opposed to abortion, but trying to work rationally within our system of laws for a solution. If being conservative means anything to me, it is respect for the law and for life.

Regardless of personal beliefs on abortion, this ought to be the one thing that the two sides can agree on without equivocation.

Kepfield is a graduate student in history, an alumnus of the UNL College of Law and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

**DEB McADAMS**

# 1993 already sculpting history

**1**993 is shaping up to be a year of historical precedents for the good old U.S. of A. Things are moving along at such a hasty clip that Americans have almost forgotten that pesky gap in the atmosphere. Our concerns are focused a bit more locally.

Among the history makers of 1993 is a new crop of sociopaths who have reinterpreted religious freedom.

For a wild and crazy prophet in Waco, Texas, religious freedom has meant stockpiling semi-automatic weapons, practicing statutory rape and setting a record for a standoff with the police. Initially, this long-haired geek claimed to be Christ. A whole lot of people didn't believe that Christ was Christ, and no one believes that he would show up in Waco, Texas. Elvis doesn't even show up in Waco, Texas.

New Yorkers joined Texas in the "wackiest religious fanatic" contest when they got a big howdy from Islamic fundamentalists at the World Trade Center.

One wonders what took them so long. Apparently they weren't busy waiting to renew their visas. Perhaps the New York City Port Authority could use the immigration officials from Omaha who jumped on the impending threat of non-naturalized children. No ornery terrorists would get past these guys.

In yet another exercise of religious freedom, Michael Griffin shot a man who wore leg braces because of polio point-blank in the back. This act of utter courage was motivated by the victim's propensity for providing a legal medical service — abortion — to consenting citizens.

In a wealth-ridden nation that ranks 20th among 23 developed countries for infant mortality rates, one might wonder why more effort isn't made to keep babies alive and healthy rather than simply forcing them to be born.

Also, if Griffin has ever had unprotected sex with a woman whose possible pregnancy didn't concern him,



**New Yorkers joined Texas in the "wackiest religious fanatic" contest when they got a big howdy from Islamic fundamentalists at the World Trade Center.**

then wouldn't he have been equally creative by shooting himself?

1993 will not only be a year of unprecedented religious violence, but also one of unprecedented law enforcement. Aside from finally having a president who doesn't qualify for the American Association of Retired Persons, we have our first female attorney general.

Janet Reno was confirmed by a 98-0 Senate vote. Go figure. They were ready to confirm Laverne and Shirley provided that the two had never hired a illegal immigrant baby sitter.

The 54-year-old Reno, who does not resemble a Barbie doll, is a nonsense kind of gal. In her 15 years as chief of the attorney general's office in Dade County, Fla., that office obtained 103 death sentences. When they say death sentence in Florida, that's pretty much what they mean.

Women also gained ground in Congress this year, with more female members than ever before. One might see a new dimension at certain types of Senate judiciary hearings:

"Judge Thomas, did you feel like a real man when you came on to Professor Hill?"

"Judge Thomas, what do you suppose 'no' means?"

"Judge Thomas, did you invite Mrs. Thomas to watch 'Hot Naked Space Alien Bimbos' with you?"

But women were not the only ones to make advances in society. Drill sergeants around the country are searching for new demoralizing terms to scream into the faces of recruits since they can no longer yell, "What's wrong with you, boy?!? Are you some kind of a faggot?!?"

On other gender fronts, a transvestite was nominated for an Oscar. It may not be an historical precedent, but it's certainly the first time that no one was left with any doubts.

A few remaining historical precedents made newsprint in 1993. In the former Yugoslavia, the United States engaged in a first-of-its-type food bombing, giving new meaning to the concept of manna from the heavens. Some Serbs reportedly waited for the Bosnians to retrieve the food and then fired on the hungry people.

These people need to control their anger. They probably just have low self-esteem. Maybe we should be air-dropping daily affirmations from Stuart Smalley.

Food made the news in forms other than bombs, most notably, the genetically engineered tomato. It may just catch on if you don't need a hacksaw to slice it.

Squishy vegetables in general will see a bigger market in self-expression in 1993. Opponents will be able to pitch them at baseball's new expansions teams. Miami, after finally obtaining a major league team, will outfit the players in smashing teal uniforms. Stand by for the underwear ads.

And this is only March.

McAdams is a sophomore journalism major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

**UPC**  
needs volunteers  
for the  
**Sawyer Brown**  
concert on:  
April 23, 1993  
Fifteen Security  
Five Stage Hands  
Twelve Ushers

Sign up at the  
Student Involvement Office  
Room 200 NE Union

They Got Here  
Yesterday

New Releases by  
**Coverdale  
Page**  
from Whitesnake &  
Led Zeppelin

**Pickles**  
CD'S & TAPES

CD'S  
\$10.97

**First Anniversary  
SALE**

66th & Holdrege  
466-7766

in the  
Picadilly Shopping  
Center

**Comics  
Take**

**THURS\*\*FRI\*\*SAT\*\*SUN**  
March 18-21  
60% off overstock  
Savings and drawings every day  
All Figures \$1.99  
T-Shirts \$7.99

**Women's NCAA Basketball**

**University of Nebraska vs.  
University of San Diego**

**First Round West Regional**  
Cheer the nationally ranked Huskers  
as they host for the first time an  
NCAA first round women's  
basketball competition.

**Wed., March 17, 7:30 P.M.**  
**Devaney Sports Center**

**Admission**  
\$5 - Adults  
\$3 - All Students

For ticket information, call 472-3111.