

Pro-choice motive not freedom

At the heart of the pro-choice argument lies a dollar sign.

For the people of Lincoln, that ugly truth began to surface about a month ago, when Planned Parenthood of Lincoln announced that more than a dozen sub-contractors had withdrawn their proposals to renovate Planned Parenthood's proposed abortion clinic.

Upon the announcement, Planned Parenthood's executive director, Chris Funk, attacked Lincoln Right to Life, which had urged city contractors not to bid on the clinic.

"We are outraged," cried Ms. Funk, "by Lincoln Right to Life's recent tactics in harassing and intimidating potential contractors. They are threatening people's livelihood by threatening to cause economic harm to their business."

Funk's sentiments were echoed by Lois Hansen, Planned Parenthood president.

"Lincoln Right to Life has injured Planned Parenthood financially with its efforts to scare business people, because it has reduced free market competition for our business."

Let's get this straight: For years, abortion rights' advocates have insisted the central issue of the abortion debate is the "reproductive freedom" of women — not the profits of abortion clinics. However, the chiefs of Planned Parenthood have put that myth to rest.

Indeed, abortion is big business that rakes profit from the legalization to kill the unborn. And although it has been surprisingly shameless about its profit motive, Planned Parenthood still sees the need to bang and blame. Lincoln Right to Life seems to be the perfect target.

Determined to make their dream abortion clinic a reality,



Jamie Karl

Funk and gang are whining again. This time, the crying is over a Lincoln Right to Life list that named businesses involved with the clinic's construction.

Funk complained to a sympathetic media that the Right to Life's list preyed on the recent abortion clinic shootings in Florida and Massachusetts.

"They know perfectly well what kind of environment exists with violence, and they continue to create fear," Funk said Tuesday.

And for Chris Funk, even the church was fair game.

"I think we should require all priests to take History 101. They should be reminded this is not a theocracy, and this country has its roots in separation of church and state."

Save it, Chris. The Planned Parenthood gang just doesn't get it. The reason abortion clinics are going out of business in this country — while no new ones are being built — is not because of economic sabotage, violence or theocracy. The abortion business is suddenly struggling because of a change of heart.

Yes, what happened in Florida and Massachusetts are heinous tragedies and should be dealt with swiftly and with full retribution.

But these tragedies occur every day in abortion clinics all over America. Since Roe vs. Wade,

there have been more than 30 million "terminated pregnancies" in the United States. That isn't reproductive freedom; that's a national crisis.

It's no surprise most people aren't shedding many tears if these slaughterhouses are closing shop. And it's no wonder most ignore the over-references to the recent clinic shootings.

After 22 years of activism over America's most emotional issue, the right-to-life movement has the best record of nonviolence. Better than the war protesters of the '60s and '70s. Better than the civil-rights protesters of a generation ago.

That's commendable, considering Right to Life is the most worthwhile cause in America today. Its good people must never walk away from defending the innocent and defenseless. Pro-lifers should never back down to those spouting outrage to disguise their guilty conscience over what they do — and why they do it.

As far as Lincoln Right to Life, it has done its job admirably. Along with uncovering the motive behind abortion, Lincoln Right to Life has reflected the new moral conscience of this city.

From the thousands who line O Street every October in the "Life Chain" to the protestors at the businesses doing work for the clinic, the moral majority of Lincoln has made it clear: Here, in the heart of the nation, the abortion argument really needs no persuasion tactics, no in-depth discussion. The federal government may give a woman the legal right to kill her own child, but she will not be able to do it in the Star City.

Karl is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan night news editor and columnist.

Rewrite of history luckily blown away

Fifty years after the end of World War II, the Enola Gay has dropped another bomb. This one fell on the political correctness movement that sought to rewrite history and portray the decision by President Truman to unleash the atomic bomb on Japan as unnecessary overkill.

The Smithsonian Institution, guardian of the nation's history, drastically scaled down a controversial exhibit about the atomic bombing of Japan after a barrage of charges from the American Legion and other veterans groups that the exhibit depicted Japan as a victim and the United States as guilty of an evil act.

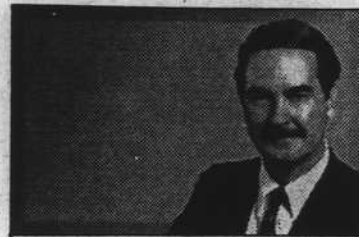
Smithsonian Secretary I. Michael Heyman said, "I have concluded that we made a basic error in attempting to couple a historical treatment of the use of atomic weapons with the 50th anniversary commemoration of the end of the war." Actually, the basic error was in allowing those who think the word "hero" refers only to a sandwich to rewrite history.

Some modern historians are uncomfortable with those who once recognized that evil exists and must be defeated, not accommodated, and with great leaders who did what was right without consulting opinion polls or gurus to help them get in touch with their feelings.

David McCullough's magnificent biography of President Truman offers the kind of authentic history that should have been part of the Smithsonian exhibition. Truman and an advisory committee wrestled with the moral question and decided to use the bomb to save lives. As strange as that may sound now with hindsight, it was the right decision then — and it remains defensible 50 years later.

As McCullough notes, Japan had vowed to fight to the end. Conventional bombs and incendiary devices dropped on Tokyo on March 9 and 10, 1945 (when more than 100,000 people died), did not bring surrender.

Secretary of War Henry Stimson, who had the final responsibility for recommending to Truman whether to drop the bomb, wrote: "I felt that to extract a genuine surrender from the Emperor and his military advisers, there must be administered a tremendous shock which could carry convincing proof of our power to destroy the Empire. Such an effective shock would save many times the number of lives, both American and Japanese, that it would cost"



Cal Thomas

(emphasis mine).

McCullough writes, "The possibility of dropping the atomic bomb on some target other than a city, as a harmless technical demonstration for the Japanese, had been considered by the committee and by the scientific panel, and it had been rejected."

Japanese soldiers knew no fear. Truman had seen what they did on Okinawa. They fought from caves and pillboxes with fanatic ferocity, even after 10 days of heavy air and sea bombardment. More than 12,000 Americans were killed and 36,000 wounded on Okinawa, and Japanese losses were 110,000 killed. Civilian deaths ran to 150,000, one-third of the population.

Gen. George C. Marshall would later explain: "The Japanese had demonstrated in each case they would not surrender, and they fight to the death. ... It was to be expected that resistance in Japan, with their home ties, could be even more severe. We had 100,000 people killed in Tokyo on one night of bombs, and it had seemingly no effect whatsoever. It destroyed the Japanese cities, yes, but their morale was affected, so far as we could tell, not at all. So it seemed quite necessary, if we could, to shock them into action. ... We had to end the war; we had to save American lives."

That's why the atomic bomb was dropped. For those who didn't (or wouldn't) pay the price of war, for those who don't know the meaning of courage and sacrifice — for such people to denigrate the real history, motivations and experience of those who fought the good fight is a smear on every man and woman who gave so much that we might enjoy peace and freedom in our time.

It was right and good that the politically correct view of the end of World War II was aborted. It was illegitimately conceived. Next time, perhaps the Smithsonian ought to consult historians who tell the truth.

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UNL health aide perks abound

In 1957, due to an epidemic of the Asian Flu, the University of Nebraska was forced to enlist and teach its students to care for their peers who were ill. The number of patients coming into the health center each day greatly outnumbered the doctors and nurses available to care for them.

Unknowingly, with each student who reached out to help a friend or neighbor, a communication link between students and the University Health Center was formed, and the first health aide program was initiated. Since then, the health aide program on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus has grown rapidly. There are now more than 100 health aides on staff residing in every residence hall, greek house or cooperative.

Since the fall semester, I have had the privilege of being part of the health aide program. Besides acting as a communication link to the health center, I have been trained in basic first aid, CPR, protocols and procedures, interpersonal skills and diversity issues. As a first-year health aide, I am required to attend a credited two-semester public health course that covers a variety of health-related topics — from upper-respiratory infections and abdominal complaints to sexuality, nutrition and alcohol and drug abuse.

This all may seem like a bunch of boring medical jargon, but for anyone who is a health science major or just interested in modern health care, the health aide program offers a wealth of interesting information.

By now, you are probably wondering what's in it for you if you choose to become a health aide. Well, besides gaining a warehouse of information and



Beth Flinsten

knowledge, health aides are salaried members of the University Health Center and are covered under the health center's liability insurance. On top of a salary and knowledge, the satisfaction of being able to help another human being or possibly even save his or her life makes the health aide program a worthwhile endeavor.

Health aides also are given the opportunity to take part in community service, like this month's Campus Red Cross blood drive, health fairs and screenings. The program has opened my eyes to careers and opportunities in the health care field and the possibility for growth in the future.

Initially, the fact that becoming a health aide might look good on my application to pharmacy school was the only reason I became interested in the program. That fact might still hold true, but the knowledge and experience I've obtained from caring for my fellow students is priceless. You do not have to be a science major to be a health aide. You just have to be willing to care for others and increase your knowledge about health.

If you live in a residence hall or greek house, you have probably noticed the red cross sign hanging on your floor's health aide's door. You have probably noticed infor-

mation sheets on various issues hanging on the bathroom stalls and the health tips in your living unit.

Hopefully, you have met your health aide (without having to receive CPR). Your health aide is there to provide health care for minor physical and emotional problems. These duties range from putting a Band-Aid on a paper cut to performing CPR to save a life.

The next time you see your health aide wandering the halls, hopefully you will see him or her in a different light. A simple "thanks" or appreciative smile is all health aides ask in return for services rendered. Beyond notes on bathroom stalls and health tips on walls, most students never know the full extent of what a health aide does. The program has changed a lot over the years, trying always to keep the students informed about modern health care issues. But the basic principle has never changed: students helping students.

Recruitment for the health aide program will be starting soon, and the more the merrier. The goal of the program every year is to get a health aide for every floor in the residence halls, every greek house and cooperative. Sadly, this goal often falls short, partly because many students do not even know the program exists.

If you have an interest, I urge you strongly to take part in a program that might very well change how you look at life. As a health aide, I hope I have given the program the respect it deserves, and as a columnist I hope I have reached my readers and opened their eyes to a great and unique opportunity that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has to offer.

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Mike Luckovich