



The Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) involves the exhibition of twenty-five huge display panels depicting aborted babies beside photos of victims of more widely recognized forms of genocide. The objective is to offer facts and arguments supporting the proposition that abortion is a moral wrong on the same plane as every other crime against humanity. The display is surrounded by warning signs which permit passersby to choose a different route or avert their gaze if they must walk past the exhibit. The display also includes prominently featured toll-free phone numbers offering local crisis pregnancy help and post-abortion counseling and referral.

How successful was (GAP) at the University of Tennessee (UT)? In answering that question, a good place to start is the following letter from Pat Job, director of the Pregnancy Support Center of Knoxville, TN:

Two weeks after ... [CBR] left campus, a total of twenty-six girls have come into our office to have a pregnancy test ...and we are sure that five of the girls were pro-abortion and changed their minds as a result of your [GAP] display. They were fussing about the vivid pictures but admitted that these pictures changed their minds about abortion. They were pro-abortion until you came to town Gregg. Three other girls were undecided about what their decision would be until we offered our alternative. All three were pregnant and will parent their babies .... Gregg, I want to encourage you and CBR – it [GAP] encouraged us.

GAP only works with viewers who are confused about abortion but have (or will develop) a functioning conscience. It does not work with any viewers (confused or knowledgeable) who are indifferent to right and wrong (and will remain so). Blessedly, more Americans are confused than evil, but even if the entire population were too depraved to be converted by GAP, we would be no less obligated to proclaim the truth as a witness against baby killing.

CBR's new Southeast Region staff members, Dr. Fletcher Armstrong and Jane Bullington of Knoxville, TN, played major roles in organizing one of the best campus visits GAP has ever experienced. Thanks must also be extended to Kathy and Bob Proctor, in whose home several of the CBR staff have stayed in connection with GAP. The Proctors are both architects and Kathy teaches at UT. She is also a faculty advisor to the student pro-life club. Their work is saving lives.

Another student approached Lois Cunningham, my wife and CBR's Director of Crisis Pregnancy Outreach, to explain that her UT classmate was also pregnant and had intended to abort until seeing the GAP signs. She said it was the

pictures which changed her mind. The student added that this pregnant friend had just called her parents to disclose her condition and her decision to carry to term and place for adoption. But she also tearfully confided to Lois that she herself hated abortion because she had learned that her mother had aborted the only sibling she had ever had.

These are real moms, who by their own accounts, would have killed real babies had they not seen GAP. And yet many were mad at us for showing them a truth they didn't want to see. Because social reform is impossible without confrontation, criticism of our tactics is the inevitable plight of effective reformers. Had pollsters measured public reaction to Martin Luther King's activism, they would have often found opinion bitterly opposed to both his methods and his message. Many African Americans recoiled from the persecution King's tactics forced them to endure and white racists, of course, rejected his demands for justice.

"I WANT THEM OFF MY CAMPUS"

But the civil rights movement ultimately prevailed precisely because it tormented, troubled and horrified a culture in denial – and it was unrelenting – until the rights of blacks were taken seriously. Societies which are complicit in injustice don't like being forced to face the evidence of their guilt. Consider the following letter, published in the campus newspaper, *The Daily Beacon*, November 18, by UT student Steven Marchese, a senior, majoring in broadcasting (naturally, an aspiring journalist, heaven help us):

It seems that the disgusting Pro-life [GAP] exhibit will be with us for the entire week. I want them off MY campus, as do the majority of my fellow classmates, as well as most of the faculty.

Unfortunately they are within legal limits and can not be removed by any law. So that means we have three more days to be distracted from our studies.

Therefore, we must all band together, students and faculty. This is our campus, it is our duty to keep this offensive trash out – especially if the law can't.

Like I said WE are in the majority here, and that will work in our favor. If it means skipping or for you teachers out there canceling class, so be it.

WE must silence them with our presence, surround them with our numbers. We must kick them out.

These people go from school to school throughout the country. It is up to us to send the message that UT does not support this stupidity.

If we don't, it will look like we southerners [sic] buy into this nonsense. So please get out there and do whatever you can. Please.

"KILL THOSE CBR F\*@\$#!S"

Did this guy cut a lot of class or did he just sleep through the First Amendment lectures? But another student went much further. He was so enraged by the message that he urged the slaying of the messengers. In the UT electronic "Student Government Association Discussion Area" there appeared a posting whose topic was entitled "Let's kill those CBR f\*@\$#!s." The author's pseudonym was "Extremist Org Bigot" and his (her?) organization was listed as "orghaters." The topic description read "Extremist organizations should be dispersed with extreme violence. Let's tie up the CBR sub-humans and burn them alive. Then we can take pictures

and post them at the UC [student union].”

The vast majority of students are responsible in their reaction to GAP. It is the hard core pro-aborts – and only a small fraction of those – who threaten violence. But however small, this constant undercurrent of pro-abort violence necessitates the presence of campus police to protect CBR every minute of every university visit. That the pro-aborts have never actually rioted is a tribute to the civility with which CBR conducts this project and this consistent police presence. Had pro-life activists threatened UT pro-aborts in any way, even in jest, the incident would have made national news and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno’s thugs would have rumbled out of garrison. But when the pro-aborts make threats, even homicidal, they are shrugged off as mere rhetorical excess.

And the threat of violence against CBR was in the news Monday, November 16 when *The Daily Beacon* featured a front page story headlined “Abortion protesters bring graphic crusade to campus.” The article quoted pro-abort leader Ann Black. “Black said the [pro-abort] group wants to prepare the community for what GAP will display and prevent anyone from getting hurt or prosecuted for violence against CBR.” Notice that Ms. Black isn’t worried about *CBR* being victimized by violence, she is worried about *pro-aborts* being injured or prosecuted because they victimized CBR with violence.

Oppressors always unfairly blame peaceful activists for the unrest which follows opposition to injustice but the tension created by our pictures was compounded when UT Chancellor William Snyder reportedly told pro-aborts that CBR’s purpose was to provoke violence among students. As Dr. Snyder circulated among our opponents on the first

morning of the GAP display (he would not deign to commune with pro-lifers) he was besieged by pleas to put CBR off campus. When I confronted him on the false statement he allegedly made, he refused to disavow the remark -- or defend it. In contrast, an anonymous civil libertarian noted on the above-mentioned bulletin board that conservatives had not demanded the removal of a picture of two women wearing nothing but body paint, prominently displayed in the student union shortly before CBR exhibited GAP at UT.

At any rate, the demeanor of our slanderous Chancellor was far more controlled than that of a female faculty member who, upon seeing the signs, literally went incoherent and shrieked endless profanity that eventually embarrassed even the pro-aborts. In fairness, however, most UT administrators were quite professional (as were the excellent campus police) though as usual, most faculty kept their distance.  
EVEN-HANDED PRESS COVERAGE

Unlike their older colleagues in the working press, student journalists have generally tried to be even-handed in their coverage of GAP, and UT's school paper was also commendably fair. As the following lead editorial demonstrates (November 17), the editorial board grasped the concept of free speech even though they don't understand the dynamics of social activism.

If the Center For Bio-Ethical Reform is searching for shock value with the large and vivid posters on the Humanities Plaza this week, they are succeeding.

\* \* \*

Unfortunately for them, however, many of the people who visited the exhibit were turned off upon seeing the posters.

Essentially, they are harming their own argument with the posters. And that's a shame because the people running the exhibit are very knowledgeable and articulate about the subject matter. They are thorough and interesting and, at least during times *Beacon* staffers were on hand, did not incite any "blow-up" arguments.

\* \* \*

No matter how graphic the posters are or how intimidating it might be to step up and argue, this is an important issue that needs to be tackled now. With the pro-life Center For Bio-Ethical Reform and the hundreds of pro-choicers and pro-lifers alike surrounding them, today is as good a chance to begin the discussion as ever.

It doesn't have to be violent. We don't even need to raise our voices. But we should definitely talk – about the posters, about genocide, about religion, about abortion and about life.

This is a thoughtful analysis but it incorrectly assumes that pro-lifers must be popular to be effective. When eight UT students thought they were pregnant, GAP signs persuaded them to go to the crisis pregnancy center instead of Planned Parenthood, despite their having been "turned off" by those very signs. These women could no longer maintain the fiction that their babies really weren't babies or that abortion really wasn't a savage act of violence. CBR cares much more about what women think of abortion than what they think of CBR.

We had literally hundreds of stimulating, insightful discussions with thoughtful students of all persuasions during our week at UT. Most of those exchanges were carefully audited by thousands of bystanders. Our attempt to

encourage dialogue succeeded beyond our most optimistic expectations. But we obviously had our detractors. And the UT/GAP controversy raged on.

Campus news columnist Darrell Carson (dcarson@utk.edu) remarked on-line, that pro-aborts should not "...insult the entire student body by suggesting that the administration needs to baby sit us so that we aren't exposed to ideas we may not like."

On the front page of *The Daily Beacon*, November 17 there appeared an article headlined "Students react to graphic display:"

Graphic images of an alleged decapitated head alongside the images of the Holocaust and black lynchings are enough evidence to prove abortion is genocide, according to the Center For Bio-Ethical Reform.

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CBR has been counteracted by another display sponsored by a coalition of students, faculty, clergy and community members who are against violence taken against abortion clinics and graphic images displayed by CBR.

\* \* \*

SGA Senator for Central Programming Council, Ayappa Biddanda said, "I am revolted (by the display) but I don't think it helps their cause at all. In fact it further polarizes the debate."

However, some students including Crystal Jones, a junior in finance, said the display was a good idea for awareness.

“I definitely see the correlation between the three, (black lynchings, the Holocaust and abortions) but I definitely can’t make a choice for anyone other than myself,” Jones said.

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...[I]f they [CBR] encounter violence ...they will extend their stay, Cunningham said.

Ms. Jones saw the truth and embraced part of it (don't kill babies) but remained under the powerful spell of "choice" (don't outlaw baby killing). Oh well, it's a start.

What Ayappa Biddanda failed to realize is that “polarizing the debate” is one of our most important goals, because debate is vital to the success of social reform. Abortion has become “yesterday’s news” and few people have a compelling inclination to discuss it critically. Many mistakenly imagine themselves to be “in the middle” on this issue and must be pushed one way or the other (polarization) if the law is ever to be changed (being personally opposed to baby killing but not wanting to outlaw the killing of a baby is not the “middle” any more than being personally opposed to rape is the “middle” if you think sexual assault should be legal).

In the November 18<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Knoxville News Sentinel*, the caption on a photo headlined “Activists square off over antiabortion display” read in part, “...‘This is a moral ambush,’ said [a pro-abort student named] McKelvey, who objected to the graphic pictures of abortions.”

In his November 19 *Daily Beacon* column, Darrell Carson weighed in again:

About that display from the Center For Bio-Ethical Reform

group early this week, I've got to say that it wasn't subtle, but it was really effective in getting the group's point across. Whether you support or oppose abortion or lie somewhere in the middle, you've got to admit that those were some very disturbing photographs. Of course, that was the point.

Mr. Carson is a man with a social conscience.

#### ADMINISTRATORS AND LAW SUITS

On November 19, *The Daily Beacon* published a front page story headlined "UT administration not among CBR display's sponsors."

Dean of Students Tim Rogers opened the UAC meeting Tuesday night with assurances that the administration did not sponsor the display brought to the campus this week by the Center For Bio-Ethical Reform.

Rogers said the group was allowed on the campus because of their first amendment [sic] rights, and the administration does not take an official position on the issues CBR presents.

Rogers announced the CBR display ... should remain there until the end of the week.

However CBR has said they will remain longer if they are met with any violent reactions to the display.

On a related note, an unnamed student posted this electronic note:

I gather that many students would have preferred that the administration refuse CBR permission to hold their protest on our campus. Would these students want UT to spend money and other precious resources defending itself against

the lawsuit CBR would (probably) give UT, a lawsuit that the University would probably LOSE? (Of course, since I am not a lawyer, I don't know for sure that we'd lose ... but it's reasonable to assume that the administration did discuss this with attorneys. If you know an attorney that says we would not lose, let us know.)

This student apparently doesn't know that Dean Tim Rogers is himself a lawyer, as are three of CBR's staff members. He is right, however, in speculating that any university which attempts to interfere with the exercise of CBR's First Amendment rights will be sued. He is also correct in speculating that the offending university will lose. Schools don't let us in because they want us there. They let us in because they have no choice. Thank God that we live in a country where civil liberties are enforceable in courts of law.

## THE PARTY OF DARKNESS

The cultural context in which CBR must operate on college campuses can best be understood by reading the following *Daily Beacon* editorial, November 20, entitled "Throwing their hats in the ring:"

Would you vote someone for SGA [Student Government Association] president if they wanted to change UT mascots such as the Volunteer into cyborgs [science fiction creatures supposedly synthesized by fusing man and machine]. What if their slogan was "Dry Campus My Ass?" Crazy as it may sound, the Party of Darkness [POD] is betting that ideas such as these will persuade students to elect them into office.

POD's platform is, well, interesting. Apart from the cyborg and dry campus ideas, POD hopes to, in the words of vice-

presidential candidate William Kotas, “un-quo the status.”

To do this they are pushing Tom Millar for president – again.

Running for the third consecutive year, Millar is looking to rally votes from the on-campus residence halls to work on legislation to increase parking and to keep anti-abortionists off campus.

## A PASTOR WEEPS

From the ridiculous to the sublime, while conducting GAP at The University of Tennessee, I was privileged to speak during Sunday morning worship at Ridgedale Baptist Church in Knoxville. I also showed a graphic abortion video along with my message and in preparation, Pastor Mike Kinkead placed the following message in the bulletin:

A few months ago [Associate Pastor] Kevin [Rogers] and I sat in my office with a young woman who said to us, “Don’t hate me for what I’m about to tell you. I got pregnant and had an abortion.” Then we saw her emotionally unravel right in front of us. We assured her that we loved her and did not condemn her. We sent her to get support with Hope Resource Center. I’m grateful to report that she is doing well. I tell you this story to say that I had the chance two years ago to present ...[the abortion video you will be shown this morning]. If I had not lacked courage to do that then, I may not have had to sit in my office and hear that tragic confession.

As Pastor Kinkead repeated this story before the congregation, he wept openly. He is a great man of God, but as he is now painfully aware, the price for covering-up the horror of abortion can be high indeed. Many pastors care more what parishioners think of them than what parishioners

think of abortion. They also care more about the feelings of born people than the lives of the unborn.

Back on campus, a member of the radical environmental group Earth First approached me late in the week, accompanied by companions who evinced anarchist inclinations. A few weeks earlier a group calling itself the Earth Liberation Front (a spin-off of Earth First) had burned a \$12 million ski lodge to the ground at Vail, Colorado, in the costliest act of eco-terrorism in U.S. history. In an obviously planned outburst, our Earth First visitor became so belligerent that two police officers immediately stepped forward to deter violence. After listening patiently to his long and loud condemnation of our exhibit, I affirmed CBR's commitment to environmental consciousness and asked if he had ever done anything extreme to dramatize eco-injustice? After a pause, he acknowledged that perhaps he had. As he admitted chaining himself to trees, his attitude seemed to change and we began to find some common ground. The rest of our conversation was largely constructive and we parted with a handshake.

## SPIRITUAL IMPACT

And there was more progress. Kevin Scott (kjscott2@juno.com) E-mailed us the following note:

I am convinced that God used your ministry and the GAP itself to not only make people realize the horror of abortion but also to present Christians at UT with countless opportunities to openly discuss ethics, morality and ultimately their faith with unbelievers. At the time of your visit I was working on staff with an interdenominational Christian campus ministry at UT. I am aware of (as well as observed and participated in) many discussions throughout the week

that for myself personally, and others in our ministry, were some of the best evangelistic discussions of this past year. I also wanted to say that I was very impressed with how Gregg and the rest of your staff interacted with people to discuss the issues in a well-informed and loving way.

Student Andrew Brock (andy-brock@utk.edu) went even further in describing GAP's spiritual impact:

...I think your program was tremendous. I know for sure that the business major folks were talking about it and if it only opened doors for those types of conversations, then it was worth it alone! But, as you know, it accomplished much more than that. Secondly, I believe that it kind of woke up Christians on the campus to bring back a much needed ...[breath of fresh air] to our own beliefs on the abortion issue and it actually caused me to receive a little push. I realized how stagnant I had become (without knowing it) on standing up for the rights of the unborn. I know that the Lord's heart is truly with this issue and I can say that on top of it all, the "unseen" spiritual realm impact won't fully be noticed for awhile but I do believe that the program brought a supernatural force to break something in the spiritual realm. I could just feel that! Something truly happened spiritually on this campus and I believe that it will play a vital role in the up-coming revival at UT. We'll probably be able to trace it back to a chain of significant spiritual events, one of which was CBR. Thanks for being obedient to the Lord and please send my gratitude on to the organization!!

#### HOLOCAUST DENIERS

But another student, obviously a pro-abortion, anonymously E-mailed us (they seldom have the courage to identify themselves) the following drivel:

Tell people about the provoking tactics used by your group to provoke violence. You leave people with these graphic FALSE images of aborted fetuses and call yourself doing something positive [sic]. You are doing nothing but making yourselves look bad. (hummingbird@asa.utk.edu)

There is a pathetic sameness to the pro-abort assertion that we shouldn't expose the facts about abortion because people who can't handle the truth might become violent. Further, the last refuge of the trapped is always to deny the authenticity of the photos because what they depict is impossible to defend. That is what Holocaust deniers do even now as they refuse to acknowledge the historicity of the "Final Solution." They deflect criticism by disingenuously arguing that the photos are faked and genocide against Jews is a myth. But then, short of a *mea culpa*, what else can be done by supporters of systematic savagery? So in rebuttal to those desperate pro-abort falsehoods, CBR offers scaled photos from medical textbooks with which skeptics can verify the accuracy of claimed ages of the embryos and fetuses we display. And since miscarriages don't tear a baby's body to shreds or scald its skin with chemical burns, the accusation that our photos depict still-births doesn't even pass the snicker test.

## EUTHANIZING MAN AND BEAST

Pictures are indeed powerful but their injudicious use can backfire. Shortly after our return from UT, Dr. Jack Kevorkian was charged with murder for euthanizing a Mr. Thomas Youk. Mr. Youk was in the terminal stages of Lou Gehrig's disease and the video of his euthanasia was broadcast on the CBS news program "60 Minutes." The prosecution relied heavily on Dr. Kevorkian's own pictures to convict him. The founders of the euthanasia movement openly credit the *Roe*

v. *Wade* abortion decision with creating the privacy right to kill the unborn which they are now expanding to include the right to kill the born.

But the euthanasia crusade has also taken some twists that are beyond bizarre. Just a few days later (November 30), *The Dallas Morning News* reported the creation of the \$200 million Duffield Family Foundation started to "...end the euthanasia of millions of unwanted dogs and cats." The article went on to say that "Although their goal of a 'no-kill nation' has been nearly universally lauded, skeptics in the fractious animal welfare movement question whether such a plan is realistic." The article also reported that:

...Richard Avanzino, president of the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ... will leave his post to become the first chief executive officer of the Duffield Family Foundation....

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Mr. Avanzino, who became nationally known for his \$7 million plush adoption facility where dogs and cats loll in their own apartments, staring at reruns of Lassie or tanks of live fish, said the \$200 million gift was unprecedented.

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According to the American Humane Association, 5.17 million dogs and 4.18 million cats are taken into American shelters each year. Of that number, 2.9 million dogs and 3.01 million cats are euthanized, the association said.

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Mr. Avanzino said the first national goal will be to save those

healthy animals that are killed because there isn't space to house them. Next will be an effort to save those animals with minor treatable problems, then those with major illnesses.

How about a "no-kill nation" for people (even those with "major illnesses")? The San Francisco Commission of Animal Control and Welfare has also voted to ban rodeo calf-roping and steer-wrestling within the city because the rodeo animals "are not willing participants." Neither are the babies being aborted in San Francisco and Knoxville, TN.

## IGNORE WAR NO MORE

Which brings us back to CBR staffer Paul Kulas, who reports that one student told him that "CBR got what they wanted. They got us debating abortion in all our classes." I can personally attest to that fact. On my way into a class room building I passed the door of a large lecture hall which was filled with students whose instructor was just assigning them a paper in which they are to discuss five ways abortion was similar to traditional forms of genocide and five ways that it was dissimilar. How's that for influencing the curriculum without ever attending a meeting of the curriculum committee?

Another student told Paul "I grew up listening to all this talk about abortion in school and I kind of got sick of it. I didn't want to hear about it any more. But I still never realized what abortion really was until I saw your pictures."

Scott Cunningham (scottcun@utk.edu) (no relation) E-mailed us the following observation:

I have been pro-life for a long time; even before I came to know Christ. It was not until I saw "Harder Truth" [a CBR video production] and your group coming to my campus

(Univ. of Tenn. at Knoxville) wherein I was able to talk to many abortion advocates, that I quite appreciated that profound horror that is actually going on in this country. Even as a pro-life citizen and concerned about what I felt was murder, I did not truly realize it as anything other than an intellectual notion, a parlor game that one could debate about.... Thank you, CBR, for the humiliation and persecution which you gladly endure for the sake of those who are dying.

Well, we do “endure” it but perhaps not as “gladly” as Scott may think. At least our position can be persuasively defended.

## REFUSING TO DEFEND THE INDEFENSIBLE

*The Daily Beacon*, Friday, November 20, carried a front page article headlined “Vigil honors victims of abortion violence.” It detailed the refusal of pro-aborts to defend abortion.

A group of students, faculty and community members gathered in front of the Humanities building Wednesday night for a candlelight vigil to protest the violence surrounding the abortion debate.

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One member of the community, Julie Bunch, said she was there because she didn’t think the Center For Bio-Ethical Reform, which has displayed their Genocide Awareness Project at UT this week, should be allowed on campus.

\* \* \*

The vigil lasted for about 30 minutes, while CBR sat inside

the Humanities Building holding a debate about issues surrounding the abortion [sic] and arguing the CBR stance that abortion is genocide.

\* \* \*

[Angela] Hill [sophomore, sociology] announced she is a UT dancer, and in order to give students something else to look at, a group of dancers would perform improv dances at the UC Plaza Friday where the CBR display will be set up along with the counter demonstration.

'We are not going to talk or make obscene gestures; we're just going to dance,' Hill said.

Ms. Hill was obviously frightened by the possibility that anyone was going to discuss abortion ("discourage fellow pro-aborts from debating and then banish CBR") and she was speaking for most pro-aborts in America. Student Camila Wright posted an electronic bulletin board note which addressed this same point:

I have heard and read many complaints about CBR's presence on campus and their use of graphic pictures to promote their cause but I have still not heard a rational defense of the pro-choice position. Would someone please defend abortion?

Of course, no one did. Another student made the same point on line but in a different way:

In the hours I stood with the counter protest [pro-aborts] (and I can only speak on behalf of myself, not the counter protest as a whole), a small number of persons (a majority of which were white males) approached members of the counter protest and tried to engage them in discussion/argument over abortion. Again and again and again I heard counter

protesters clearly state “The issue here is not abortion but the revisionist history and divisive tactics of CBR.”

He was largely correct. One of the most humorous sights I witnessed at UT was two second year law students asking the CBR staff a series of interesting questions about abortion and then, in absolute good faith, repeating them to the pro-abort “counter demonstrators.” The pro-abort women became so flustered that they finally summoned the campus police to lodge a complaint against their inquisitors for “harassment.” The poor legal scholars walked away in obvious bewilderment. It was a bad week to be a pro-abort at UT.

More students than we have room to quote noticed the reluctance of the pro-aborts to debate abortion. Jarod Pearson (lepearso@utkux.utcc.utk.edu) wrote:

One interesting point I must make is that the opposition never openly opposed the subject matter of the display. Their only point of opposition was that CBR ‘promoted violence’ with their graphic displays. That comment implies that pro-choicers are prone to violently oppose people who express a different view.

At least in this respect, the pro-aborts are robotically consistent. Thomas Webb, a member of the student acting club sent this dreary epistle:

I am sure that by now all of you have seen the anti-abortion posters that have been around the HSS building and the UC. Tomorrow, we are going to stage a silent protest at the UC. The purpose is not to show that we are pro-choice or pro-life but to prove that we are intelligent people who find these extreme and virtually misleading tactics to be very offensive.

Our plan is to all dress in blue jeans and black shirts, sweaters, jackets, etc. and then form a line facing away from the display. We will not be talking to anyone, not each other, or people who may come up to argue, question, or even compliment .... Again, let me stress that we aren't taking a side in the issue, only on the tactics used by these people.

Just like their friends the pro-abortion dancers, these pro-abortion actors didn't want to argue and who can blame them? How would you like to stand in front of a giant picture of an aborted baby and explain why what's depicted should be legal?

When contemporary racists are challenged about the meaning of the Confederate flag flown over the South Carolina State Capitol, they deny that the issue is racism and try to change the subject by arguing that the flag is a symbol of "Southern heritage." They are merely following the example of their Civil War ancestors who asserted that Confederate soldiers weren't defending slavery, they were fighting for "state's rights." Racists didn't want to defend slavery for the same reason pro-abornts don't want to defend baby killing. Like abortion, the ownership of blacks was a matter of "personal choice" -- for whites that is. Blacks didn't "choose" slavery anymore than babies "choose" abortion. Both are indefensible. So their perpetrators change the subject.

## DEBATE CHOICE OR DEBATE SLAUGHTER

But pro-lifers are also trying to change the subject. As I have noted in other essays, Michigan Right to Life and an organization calling itself The Caring Foundation are running subtly pro-life TV ads in various regions of the country. One of the many problems with their campaign is that the ads

seem to vaguely dispute a woman's "choice" to abort. "Choice" is an argument we lose with most Americans. GAP, on the other hand, forces the pro-aborts to debate baby-killing (or look silly by default) which is an argument we win big (the partial-birth abortion debate proved that fact beyond dispute).

## TRIVIALIZING FREE SPEECH

Another student identifying himself as "David W." posted this juvenile note:

I don't like it when people try to influence my views about abortion by placing photos of baby parts between me and my classes. And avoiding them should not disrupt my daily routine in any way whatsoever, that means I shouldn't have to cross the street when I usually take the bridge over it just to avoid offensive material. And if you call that trivial, than you've missed my point. GAP (Genocide Awareness Project) is like a bad commercial, they negate their cause by crossing the line of common decency.

Actually, anyone with a functioning conscience would call Mr. W.'s selfishness "trivial" but we do get his selfish point. Our pictures *are* "indecent" because *baby killing* is "indecent" and some UT coeds who now know that -- only because they reluctantly viewed our pictures -- have decided to not kill their babies. That seems, to us at least, an important enough matter for which to cross the street. But if Mr. W. won't cross the street to save a baby, perhaps he will cross it to save free speech. Because if he is given the power to censor our point of view, someone else will eventually use that power to censor his. If Mr. W. says he wouldn't object to that, Mr. W. is either untruthful or undeserving of liberty.

Student Byron Earnheart responded with this posting – “rock on” Mr. Earnheart:

What is the deal with this university? We consider ourselves to be well-educated, open-minded, progressive students and we get this outbreak of disgust for people with another viewpoint. Obviously, there is the GAP awareness thing this week. However, there was that day when the Gideons passed out Bibles to the students. People were upset with this and thought that the Gideons were forcing their beliefs on others. Did anyone get a Bible forced in their hand? Also, isn't a university a marketplace for ideas, a place where we, as individuals, can learn other ideas and opinions and decide which is better? Or is a university a place where we say we are open-minded and then when an unpopular group comes in, we talk about kicking them off and prohibiting their ideology from campus? The point is if an idea offends you, look away.

Student Sam Quinn (elvis@utk.edu) doesn't want to expend the energy required to look away and he has a very fuzzy understanding of constitutional law.

Don't like the crap spread on the humanities lawn? Wonder why and how it got there? Thank our administration for giving CBR permission. Just think, if the administration allowed an extremist group like the Center For Bio-Ethical Research [sic] to agitate, divide, infuriate and insult the student body, what other groups would the administration allow on campus?

In the spirit of an administration which allowed this sickening distortion of history and science, this side-show of the far-right agenda to usurp our frisbee yard, on behalf of [administrators] Joe Johnson, Phil Shuerer, Bill Synder [sic]

and especially Tim Rogers, I invite the Ku Klux Klan to come and burn a cross on the humanities lawn; the neo-Nazi party to erect a swastika on the humanities lawn (hey wait, CBR already did that ...) and every other abomination of the human imagination to come to our campus to agitate the student body.

Mr. Quinn also fails to appreciate the difference between Nazis “erecting a swastika” to glorify genocide and CBR (including two of our five pro-life Jewish staff volunteers) “erecting a swastika” to condemn genocide. It would be silly to interpret the display of swastikas by Jewish director Stephen Spielberg in his movie “Schindlers List” as a veneration of evil. And it is no less preposterous to interpret CBR’s use of that same symbol as anti-Semitic. Either Mr. Quinn is ignorant of the purpose and context for our use of this sinister emblem or he knowingly twists both – not unlike the swastika twisting the cross.

## CBR TO THE GULAG

Mr. Quinn wasn’t done being silly:

Damn straight I have a double standard. I am a hypocrite .... I am prejudiced .... Groups that preach hate, groups that support groups that preach hate and groups which incite people to hatred ... are groups I hate. They have no place in a progressive humanistic society and should all be sent to a nice cold *Gulag* in Siberia (if they can’t be re-educated, that is). BUT! If a pro-life group (such as Priests For Life or the possibly now bankrupt Operation Rescue) came to campus with a pro-life information and education drive, you would not see me out protesting, you would not see me posting to this discussion page, you would not see me demanding their removal from campus. With CBR on the other hand ...well,

you'll sure see my 'hypocrisy.'

First of all, it has become fashionable among the far left to dismiss as "hate" any point of view which offends thin-skinned liberal sensibilities. As a means of changing the subject, "hate" allegations are a crafty, if cowardly, rhetorical device but they are no substitute for a well reasoned argument. Secondly, CBR hates only injustice. Mr. Quinn must not realize that he is making our point concerning the indispensability of ugly pictures by admitting that without our GAP signs, he would have ignored our presence. In fact, without GAP, there would be no wide ranging discussion of abortion on any campus – there hasn't been for years. He hates our signs but he inadvertently concedes that it was they which shook him out of his lethargy and motivated him to unwittingly help CBR stimulate dialogue. Of course we aren't going to change *his* mind but his participation in our event helps focus attention on our display and attracts those who are much more open minded than he. Finally, it might interest Mr. Quinn to know that Priests For Life, a group of which he apparently approves, is headed by Fr. Frank Pavone, who not only serves on the board of CBR but has described GAP as the most effective pro-life project in the country. As for Operation Rescue, another group Mr. Quinn lauds, he may be shocked to learn that former and current Rescuers are using GAP signs all over the country.

With a point of view as different as night from day, G. Dunn posted the statement "I will have to say as graphic as the CBR posters were, their [staff's] understanding and knowledge impressed me.... We as Americans need to face the reality that abortions are horrific events."

POST-ABORTION DENIAL

Lori Richardson (lricar7@utk.edu), on the other hand, wrote to say:

I think that this display is potentially harmful to those who have recently undergone abortion and may not be ready to face their feelings, not that all find that this is their experience. But some do – and those people NEED their defenses in place. To take them down (their defenses) by subjecting them to pictures of baby body parts is cruel and indecent. Really. I think that we all know what's going on and for whatever choice we make in our belief systems we have good reasons for them. We are smart and concerned as students and do not need fanciful [sic] display to “help” us along.

Where do we begin with Ms. Richardson? Because the Centers For Disease Control report that 45% of women who abort have had one or more previous abortions, post-abortive women are the very women we most need to reach with the truth that abortion is an act of violence which kills a real baby – so they are less likely to do it again. The whole point of the GAP display *is* to destroy the denial defenses which are allowing America to ignore abortion and or trivialize it as a morally inconsequential “choice.” If Ms. Richardson is correct (she isn't) and women who abort already know the truth about killing their babies and have “good reasons” for killing them anyway, her argument that they need to pretend about abortion to cope with their “choice” makes no sense at all.

Ms. Richardson has an equally lost soul mate in Liz Albertson (ealberts@utk.edu) who also shockingly contradicts herself: “I felt the display in front of humanities is offensive and should not be allowed on this campus. I firmly believe in Free Speech, but this is ridiculous.” Apparently her

definition of “free speech” is speech she finds inoffensive and that, however, is the only speech which *never* requires the protection of the First Amendment. She basically ends by adding the usual allegation that the aborted baby photos were so disturbing that they had to have been “false.” Nothing encourages us more than pro-aborts who are shocked to learn that even the embryo and early fetus really are babies and abortion really is a brutal atrocity. People of this sort can only deal with these revelations by denying them. They are, in essence, conceding that if the pictures are real, their position is indefensible – which, of course, is our point.

Casey Carmical (brick@utkux.utcc.utk.edu) reinforces our perspective with this comment:

I am appalled at the audacity of some of the UT students’ response to CBR. If you do not like the pictures on display, why? Is it because they are gross? I agree but people need to see them, because organizations like Planned Parenthood are lying to the American public and saying that abortion disposes of a blob of cells. Do these pictures look like a blob of cells?

*Beacon* columnist Darrell Carson was back in the paper December 3<sup>rd</sup> with this: “Although the CBR organization has come and gone, it is obvious that they did what they set out to do; get people on this campus to talk about abortion. If you need evidence, check out the student discussion page on the UTK Web site.”

## "FETUS FASCISTS" OR HUMBLE HEROES

Much of the credit for the countless pages of discussion described by Mr. Carson belongs to the above-mentioned president of the Pro-Life Collegians, Camila Wright

(cjwright@utk.edu), who did a wonderful job sponsoring GAP at UT. But not everyone appreciated her accomplishments. Consider the following E-mail from Mark Camara (mcamara@utk.edu):

Let me suggest that by using raw emotion and psychological terror as is clearly evident in your sponsorship and support of the GAP image campaign, that you have earned the moniker of “Fetus Fascists” and that you rename your group as such.

Back and forth went the ebb and flow of public reaction, from ridicule to accolade. Scott Cunningham (still no relation) sent us a second E-mail:

Your coming here was courageous and beautiful and though it was disappointing to see our peers acting the way they did, it deepened the issue in my heart. After the conclusion of this week, though pro-life before, I came away seeing babies as people. Before, perhaps intellectually I did also. But this week, they seem real to me. The babies are alive. They are humans, image-bearers. Real people whose lives are being murdered and taken away from them every day. That will stay with me for a long time.

An unnamed student E-mailed a note that was almost embarrassing in the praise it lavished on CBR:

I was really encouraged by CBR’s visit this week. I was also very blessed by being a volunteer and discussing the issue with passersby. The CBR staff was great; they really know their stuff. If anyone could listen to Mr. Cunningham speak and remain pro-abortion, they must be either indescribably cruel ... or brain dead. His arguments were faultless and extremely logical.... Most people on campus did not want

CBR to go home and most who did and who actually had the guts to come tell us, left with different attitudes.

Jarrold Cruz (jcruzl@utk.edu) wrote:

From reading their homepage, I got kind of scared but it was just a pleasure to stand out there talking with the [CBR staff] people for over an hour. It was also great to see the different cultures represented [among the CBR staff] behind the fence, especially when they compare it [abortion] to the similarities of civil rights.... This is a very powerful statement that they make .... I think what they are doing is great.

Another student (christnyou@aol.com) E-mailed us this uplifting little note:

Thank you ever so much for coming to the UT campus today.... Thank you for speaking out and standing up for the oppressed and innocent.

Camila Wright, president of the pro-life student group also experienced anxiety when first considering the GAP concept. She later E-mailed:

I am really excited about the whole thing. I was very nervous and scared at first but then I went up and just started milling around in the crowd. I joined in the conversation with everyone else and before I knew it I was supporting the group.

Nannette Baker (nbaker2@utkux.utcc.utk.edu) was another of our pro-life UT student volunteers and she wrote to say: "I want to thank you again for coming to Tennessee and bringing GAP, our campus will never be the same and our pro-life group really bonded and is even growing." She added:

A lot of Christians came by [the GAP site] and were glad to find out that there was a pro-life group on campus and that there were people willing to travel across the country to give this message of life and hope to college students. I know some were skeptical at first ... but after witnessing the love and patience of the CBR workers many accepted and supported them.... I thank God for CBR and all they do. I know God is with them because they have to look at those babies everyday and are filled with the love of God and are not consumed by hate.

So perhaps CBR isn't so "hate-filled" and "mean-spirited" as some might think.

#### A FINAL THOUGHT FROM A SEASONED VETERAN

Christine Lefebvre has been involved in pro-life activism since 1970 – three years before *Roe vs. Wade* legalized abortion nation-wide. She has seen it all. Here is what she says about GAP after helping us as a local volunteer at UT. Bear in mind that she says she once "resented" Gregg Cunningham " for espousing such confrontational tactics."

I will never forget the breath-taking moment when those hideous billboards were raised.... I had come only to observe, now all of a sudden, I was literally on the frontlines. It was a lonely, scary place to be. Within minutes two hysterical women came by screaming at us. One of them shook her finger in my face and cursed me. I wanted to run, but I didn't. I was riveted to that place. I stayed all that day and came back every day that week.

In thirty years of pro-life work, in nearly every area of the movement, I have never experienced 'confronting the culture' so explicitly, or so effectively, as during that week....

Two incidents stand out powerfully in my mind. A young woman with a shaved head, pierced nose and tight tee shirt sporting a pro-abortion bumper sticker across the front of it, confronted me that first day.

\* \* \*

All of her experiences up until then, she said, made her 'pro-choice.' Then, as she gazed past me to the bloody images, her voice softened, 'But this experience... this I will have to think about for a long time. Maybe I've been premature in taking this position.'

\* \* \*

The other incident happened very early that first day. I was standing alone, in my little cloud of doubt, when I saw a pretty, young black woman coming down the hill, walking purposefully toward the Humanities building.... She never took her eyes off the images, but as she started to cry, she whispered, 'It's just a word – Abortion! It flashes through your mind in seconds ... I will *never* think about it the same way again!' At that moment, my doubts disappeared. I am convinced that *no one* who saw those images that week will ever think about abortion in the same comfortable way again.

## PLEASE SEND MONEY

Cable and satellite TV recently featured a Discovery Channel “educational science” program entitled “The Body Snatchers,” which described the human embryo as an “alien invader” which “takes over” a woman’s body. This adversarial analogy was compounded by the program’s comparison of human reproduction with an attack by a dangerous viral disease. The program has now been seen

by millions around the world. Like the students at UT, most perceive the early unborn baby as a hostile blob. Anti-life propaganda of this sort constantly spews forth from the news, entertainment and educational media. Please help CBR counter this tide of fear and distortion. Please send us the most sacrificial check you can responsibly afford. We will never be funded by the corporate giants which sponsor main stream television. We have only you on whom to rely.

GAP is the only project of its sort in the country and CBR has now brought the indisputable truth about abortion to over 400,000 university students. Countless babies have been saved and will continue to be -- because the word abortion now means something to hundreds of thousands of students for whom it had been a mere abstraction. Because of GAP, as these young people move into positions of influence in our society they will now visualize the horror of abortion every time they hear that word. GAP may be gone from their lives but the pictures will remain in their heads -- for the rest of their lives. And some of those who didn't have a functioning conscience when they first saw GAP will eventually develop a sense of right and wrong. And when that time comes, the pictures will still be there, ready to be seen in a new light -- perhaps even the light of Christ.