of war prisoners may have made the shows less feasible.

Nonetheless, with the exception of some liberal scholars who would rather rewrite history than credit Christianity with any social good, most historians acknowledge that the Church's unrelenting opposition to the arena games led to their abolition One explains, "the opposition of the church...began to affect legislation and succeeded at last at banishing at least the bloody gladiatorial games from the civilized world." [12]

Even one liberal historian has written, "There is scarcely any other single reform so important in the moral history of mankind as the suppression of the gladiatorial shows, and this feat must be almost exclusively ascribed to the Christian church...it is impossible to regard without the deepest admiration the unwavering and uncompromising consistency of the patristic denunciations." [12] In other words, the century-spanning perseverance of Christians influencing their culture with a strong voice of opposition brought these horrific games to an end. Though it's not known for certain to what extent they actively intervened (with the exception of Telemachus), Christians boldly stood contrary to the sweeping tide of popular opinion even in the face of much persecution.

Seeming as but a weak and fanatical voice among the masses, in the end, Christians saw their belief in the sanctity of human life triumph over the world system which made a mockery of it.

The abortion war is not over

What Roman Christian ever thought that those games, loved by the people and endorsed by the government, would one day be eradicated from the culture and eventually deplored by the civilized world? Though it seemed unlikely at the time, the games eventual prohibition proved once again that it is possible for the masses to change their opinion of certain culturally embraced practices — especially when that practice involves the oppression of a certain class of people. Or worse yet, genocide.

After all, are there any Roman citizens today calling for a reinstatement of the games? Anyone in Europe? Anywhere in the world? No, a culturally ingrained evil was rejected and spit out — permanently.

In light of this, the possibility that the future may hold the same fate for our nation's abortion practice seems less unfathomable. The pro-abortion crowd may feel secure at the moment — their agents are in power and a crushing blow has been dealt to those who oppose their agenda — but history shows that popular rulers and national sentiment can change with the flip of a calendar page.

Roman governors sought to meet the demands of their public by giving them the blood-and-gore shows they craved, while enlightened intellectuals rationalized these actions with pathetic attempts at logic. One of their brilliant logicians even claimed the games were beneficial to participants as "excellent schools of courage and contempt of death."[13] Maybe so, but with convenient oversight he neglected to mention that over half of the "beneficiaries" had no choice in the matter. Sound familiar? As is typically the case with proponents of a death culture, the rationalization could go no further than a tinkering with the issue's particulars rather than addressing the core of the matter — respect for human life.

In this same tradition, the agents of the abortion industry carry on today, throwing up veiled pragmatism to give their practice an aura of virtue while sidestepping the baby's humanity. When justification for such activities is based on faulty logic — and someone has his rights violated in the process — it will only be a matter of time before the whole shaky edifice comes crumbling down. That's exactly what happened to Rome.

Today, as many battle-worn advocates for the unborn see little hope while trudging through the muck of this Clinton-era gloom, the heritage left us by our spiritual forefathers should serve as encouragement to many. Their perseverance in upholding truth only proves once again that although those who shed innocent blood may feel secure amidst their masses, confident that their "majority" opinion will secure their agenda, and unthreatened by a small opposing voice, the witness of God's truth will never go away, can never be completely stamped out, and has a way of overcoming all odds.

With disgust, America may one day look back on the days when baby carnage filled it's dumpsters and ask, "How could anyone ever believe it was all right to shred a child in a suction machine?" Impossible as it may seem at the moment, history shows it can happen.

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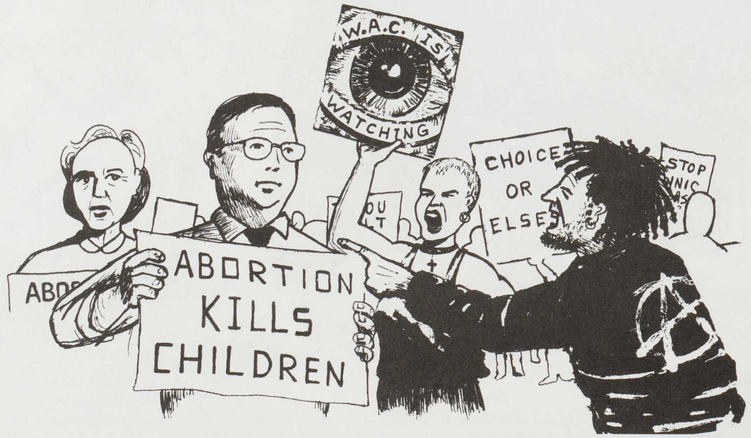
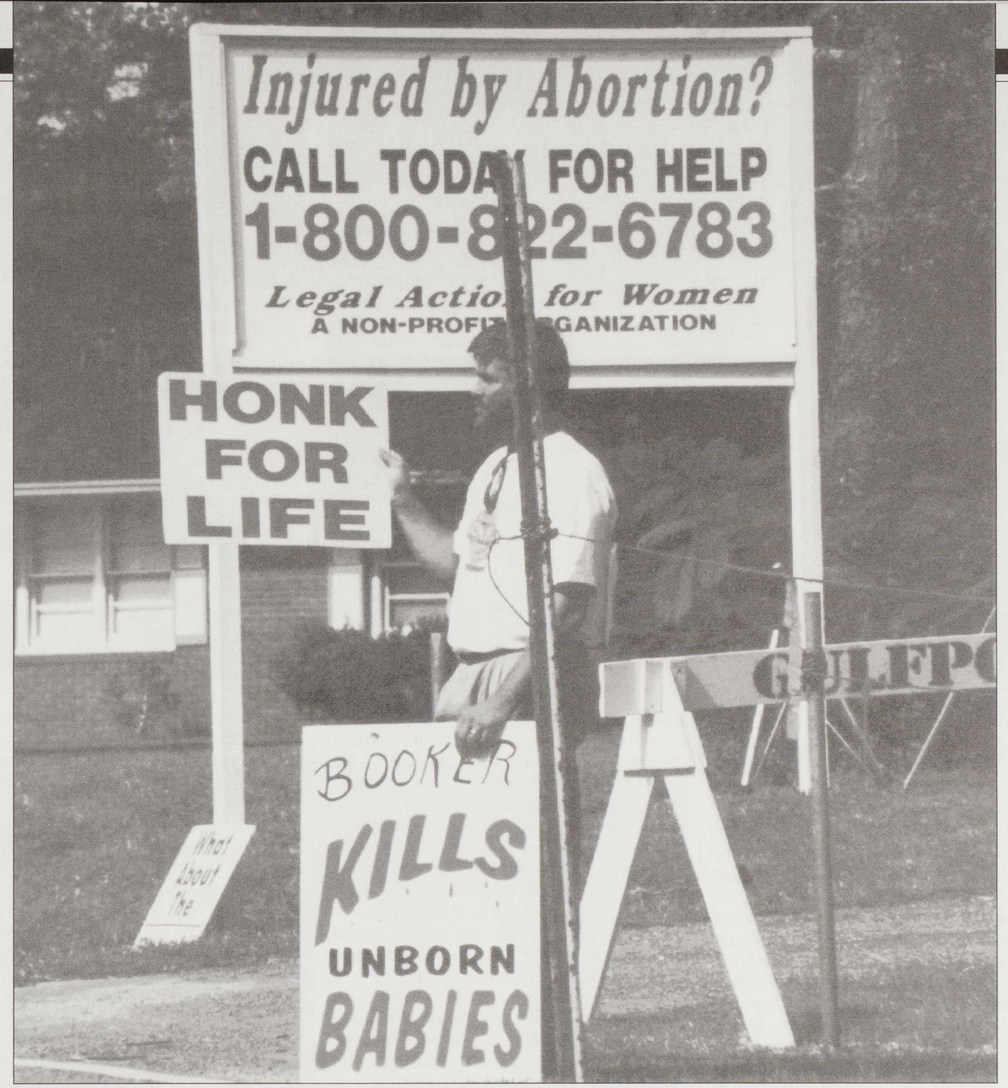


Had pro-lifers picketed outside the Roman Colosseum, they probably would have received a similar reaction.



by Andrew Burnett

Legal Action for Women, which helps women sue abortionists, has a permanent sign outside the Gulfport abortuary.

ACLA: New national activist coalition begins in Mississippi

by Steven Paul Mears
contributors: Paul deParrie and Andrew Burnett

Jackson and Gulfport, MS—From the east coast—Portsmouth, New Hampshire — to the west coast — Portland, Oregon; from the north — Milwaukee, Wisconsin — to the south — Houma, Louisiana, a small handful of leaders and activists gathered in Jackson and Gulfport, Mississippi to help organize the American Coalition of Life Activists, (ACLA) and expose Joseph Booker Jr., the only remaining abortionist in the state.

ACLA's purpose is clear

"We've been exposing abortionists for years nonviolently," said Rev. Joseph Foreman of Missionaries to the Preborn in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and an organizer of ACLA. "We will continue to do so here."

Mississippi already had a remarkably effective husband/wife team of pro-life activism in Roy and Beverly McMillan of Jackson. Roy has been a full-time activist and rescuer, and is the director of the Christian Action group. Beverly, an OB/GYN and former abortionist featured on Joe Scheidler's video, *The Abortion Providers*, now proudly wears the title of "Doctor" and champions the cause of life in her profession.