A WORD ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS

Because of the advance bookings for the Pope's visit, there are currently no motel rooms available within 150 miles of Denver. We are on a waiting list to get first take of the rooms not used by the World Youth Congress attendees, but these rooms will not be released until we are closer to the actual program. If you want to attend, but require a motel room, please check off the appropriate block and we will confirm a room for you later.

We do suggest, however, that you consider this a "vacation" for the family and bring them to the mountain ranch site in the beautiful Rockies. While our rallies will be held in Denver at several churches, all of our seminars will be at the ranch. The entire family will enjoy the scenery and activities at the ranch during our "working vacation."

These lodging in the campgrounds or in the bunkhouse will have the use of a shower house and a large cook shed, which has several refrigerators and cooking ranges to prepare meals. Pro-lifers staying in the Lodge will have meals prepared for them. You will, however, need a sleeping bag in both the bunkhouse and Lodge, as only a bed and mattress are provided.

Remember that Denver in August is still hot in the day. Because of the altitude, you can burn easily, so bring a hat and sunscreen. At night it will get very cold in the mountains, so bring a heavy sweater and / or a jacket .... and a blanket.

REGISTRATION

(Please check off appropriate block and remit registration fee and first night's lodging fee to guarantee a place)

[ ] Yep, I'm a dude tenderfoot. Put me on the list for a **motel room.** and send me information on the room later. There will be ____ people in my party.

[ ] **Campground** - best rate for families. $5 / night per person, children under 10 no charge. (Use of shower house and cook shed)

[ ] **Bunk House** - for men only, $5 / night, dormitory bunk, bring your own sleeping bag. (Use of shower house and cook shed)

[ ] **LODGE** - $20 / night, includes three meals/day in the dining room. Dormitory bunk, bring your sleeping bag. Inside showers.

[ ] **Conference Registration** - for the week, $25 / adult - no charge for children.

(Please Print)

Name:_____ Number in your group:_____

Address:_____ Apt. # _____

City:_____ State_____ Zip _____

Phone: (____)_____ Dates you plan to be here:_____

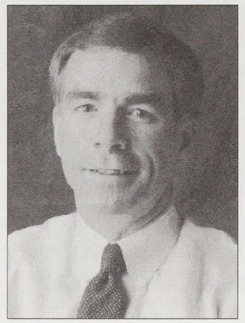
Mail check and completed form to:

Pro-Life Action Network
1526 E. 35th. Ave.
Denver, CO 80205

For additional information, please call Terry Sullivan at (303) 295-6891

Polarize or be Pulverized

by Gregg Cunningham


Gregg Cunningham

I spoke recently during the general session of a bizarre medical ethics symposium near Los Angeles. I say bizarre because meaningful discussion of ethics is problematic among health-care providers who snicker at the mention of substantive moral absolutes; imagine attempting a lecture on navigation at a meeting of the Flat Earth Society. Having entitled my talk "Bio-ethics and Intellectual Honesty," I nonetheless advanced the iconoclastic thesis that "spin doctoring" has become a sub-specialty of medicine. Medical "ethicists" now make their livings twisting the meanings of words to obscure inconvenient truth, to provide cover, to impart a veneer of civility to primitive, barbaric behavior. Snicker, snicker. John 18:38.

The fact that the conference had been certified for continuing medical education credit contributed to a turn out of some two hundred fifty physicians and nurses. I was so amazed to receive my invitation that I thought it ungracious to complain that I was the program's only pro-life speaker. Registrants who had expected to spend the day reinforcing one another's ill-informed biases probably found my presence even more amazing than I. It is unlikely that many had ever heard a coherent recitation of the pro-life point of view and most appeared shocked at serious challenge to cherished conventional wisdom. Though I never feared for my personal safety, my presentation did create a certain, shall we say, hysteria?

The trouble began with my insistence on leveling the playing field (and, it turned out, the opposition) with the showing of a short but graphic abortion video. The conference director's reflexive resistance was eventually overcome by my admittedly adrenal claims to rights of academic freedom. But the victory proved short-lived. As happens even with pastors who agree to this video and then cave in to pressure from panic-stricken elders, several conference organizers persuaded the director to reconsider his approval. They seemed horrified that people might be shown "abortion" when they had come their to discuss "choice." As a "compromise," they generously offered to permit the tape to be shown during lunch, when the auditorium was certain to be empty.

To their credit, the director and moderator grudgingly overruled their censorious colleagues, but only after I engaged them in much spirited "dialogue" (a liberal euphemism for "shouting-match"). The video would be shown to the entire conference, but the lesson was clear: discussions over permission to use disturbing visual aids as an adjunct to presentations on abortion are usually reminiscent of negotiations with the former Soviet Union — they're never really over. You preserve only those agreements over which you remain demonstrably ready to go to war.

All of this head-butting (arguably validating the oft-repeated accusation that I am a "butt-head") compelled the pro-abort presenters to spend much of the rest of the day responding to visual images which became the meeting's defining moment, a moment every participant will recall longer and more vividly than any words. There is something both pathetic and comedic in the frenzy of pro-abort speakers struggling to regain credibility with people who have just watched abortion kill babies before their very eyes.

The day had started with an infomercial from Sarah Weddington, who was selling her book. Ms. Weddington is the lawyer who represented Norma McCorvey, the pregnant plaintiff in *Roe vs. Wade*. She was forced to acknowledge the embarrassing truth that the case had arisen from a lie concerning the origins of her client's pregnancy (*Washington Post*, September 9, 1987). But this truth mattered no more to an audience eager to lionize Ms. Weddington than it would have to a Court anxious to legalize abortion.

As she dutifully recited the usual litany of pro-abortion clichés, the adoring conferees listened as though hearing them for the very first time, uncritical as breathless school-girls. I found myself imagining the fawning crowds which must once have cheered the lawyer who argued before the U.S. Supreme Court that Dred Scott and other African-Americans should be stripped of their rights of personhood. I wondered how many people remember his name today, and outside of hate-groups, in what contempt would they hold him if they did?

Then came my turn and with it, Ms. Weddington's mood soured markedly. After demanding the right to respond to my presentation, she proceeded to question me directly concerning the legitimacy of the video. After a rather unconvincing expression of gratitude that the audience had had a chance to see this tape, she accused me of misrepresenting miscarried babies as having been aborted. I explained that most of these babies were removed from garbage bags and taken from a dumpster behind an abortion clinic and that women don't typically go to abortion clinics to have miscarriages and that miscarriages don't typically tear a baby's face off or cover its body with saline burns. She thereupon decided that all further questions would be rhetorical and that I was no longer to respond.

As Ms. Weddington's composure unraveled, her attacks became increasingly personal. She attempted to link me to violence at abortion clinics by hinting darkly that I was often in particular towns at the same time at which attacks were directed toward abortion clinics in those communities. Ignoring her desire that I not respond, I explained that officials of Planned Parenthood were known to have been in New York City on the day that the World Trade Center was bombed, but I didn't think they had anything to do with it.

She next intimated that my strident rhetoric had contributed to a climate of hostility which made incidents like the killing of Florida abortionist Dr. David Gunn inevitable. I countered that the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform had, at my direction, made a financial contribution to the trust established for the doctor's family as an expression of our condemnation of senseless violence.

Attacks by Ms. Weddington and others became so appalling that one of the pro-abortion panelists later sent me a letter expressing "surprise" at the "viciousness of the reaction to the pro-life side." The note went on to say that "the disrespect and even hatred shown toward you today was repugnant to me."

My point is simply this: Numerous surveys have long established the proposition that 20% of the American people are solidly pro-abortion and some 20% are reliably pro-life. The remaining 60% are essentially in

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