

Opinion

Your turn

Invisible victims of abortion

Lisa Schroeder
Colby

Jan. 22 marked the 33rd year of legalized abortion in America. According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, there are 1.31 million surgical abortions performed annually in the U.S., or about 3,500 every day. This means 24.5 percent of all pregnancies end in abortion. Add up the total yearly abortions since the legalization of abortion and that comes to almost 44 million people lost, in the U.S. alone. This is several times more than all people killed in all wars the U.S. has fought in combined.

These figures are staggering but only tell a small part of the story. We will never know how profoundly our society has been affected by the loss of these children. But the unborn are not the only victims of abortion. Mothers and fathers who chose abortion also bear the wounds of this terrible tragedy.

These mothers and fathers suffer in silence, loneliness and pain. Their pain is often kept secret from those who could help them with their guilt. Without healing, these wounds can lead to substance abuse, promiscuity and suicide. But, there is hope for all that suffer.

Rachel's Vineyard is a weekend retreat to heal the wounds of abortion — www.rachelsvineyard.org. Retreats are offered throughout the United States and Canada and we are fortunate to have a retreat offered in Kansas. The next retreat is March 3-5. More information is available at (785) 623-7531. All calls are confidential.

As a mother, father or even a grandparent, it is natural to feel deep pain and loss for a child and it is never too late to seek help. God desires to heal us and restore us to wholeness.

About those letters . . .

The *Free Press* encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive or libelous.

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- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521
- U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124
- State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building, 303 SW 10th St. Rm. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e-mail: jmorrison@ink.org web: www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison
- State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol, 300 SW 10th St., Rm. 128-S., Topeka, Kan. 66612, 785/296-7399 ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

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Yes, Kansas goes west of Hays

It seems western Kansas residents will again have to educate a politician that the state does not stop at Hays or Dodge City.

When Overland Park resident Ken Canfield released his itinerary for announcing his bid for governor it frustrated me he didn't find it necessary to speak anywhere west of these two towns.

Announcing in Wichita Tuesday, Canfield went to Hutchinson, Dodge City, Hays, Salina, Manhattan, Topeka, Kansas City and Overland Park Wednesday and today.

I know candidates can't make it to every town in the state, but I think WaKeeney, Colby, Goodland, and Garden City should have been part of Canfield's first state-wide swing.

Canfield apologized to northwestern Kansas voters Tuesday during a telephone interview. That softened the blow, but thinking back to his press secretary's answer "there just wasn't enough time in two days," and the frustration returned.

Instead of cutting northwest Kansas short, Canfield needed to have planned a three day campaign junket.

I don't know who said it, but it goes back to someone's comment of a few years ago about politicians wanting not only our vote, but our money too. Over and above his lack of coming way out west, it should be an interesting race between Canfield and Gov. Sebelius.

Canfield's pro-life position could very well rank top on the list of what some voters will be looking at. Time will tell.

I'm not a football fan but I get a kick out of finding out how much money will be spent on Super Bowl commercials.

A 30-second spot in 1967 cost an advertiser \$42,000. This year the same spot will cost \$2.25 million. For those of you who will be watching the pigskin being kicked, carried and otherwise



Jan Katz Ackerman

• From Where I stand

moved around a perfectly good marching band field, I found this partial list on the Internet of advertisers you'll be watching.

After America Online's reported 600,000 subscriber loss last year it's spending \$7.5 million to sponsor the halftime show. AOL's also paying for three 30-second spots to promote technology for both broadband and dial-up users.

Speaking of the halftime show for the Feb. 5 game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Seattle Seahawks, I'm sure Mick Jagger will be a sight for the sore eyes which haven't yet recovered from Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction of 2004.

Anheuser Busch has reportedly bought 5-minutes worth of ads for the first quarter, one after kickoff and two others during the first quarter and two each other quarter for nine spots.

General Motors wants to sell you cars and will air a 60-second spot and two 30-second spots before the game. Saturn is scheduled for a 30-second ad prior to the game.

Cadillac has signed up as the post-game sponsor and will air three, 30-second commercials. And I guess the most valuable player will get the Caddy of his choice.

The National Football League is going to buy three, 30-second spots, one each for the United Way, the NFL and the importance of being a volunteer.

Pepsi-Cola is going to drop a chunk of change

for 3-minutes of ads for Pepsi and Sierra Mist, including 2-minutes in the second quarter alone. At least one of the ads is reportedly going to promote Apple and Pepsi-Cola's giveaway of more than 100 million free song downloads.

These aren't the only advertisers for Super Bowl XL, but if I've done my math right you'll be seeing close to \$68 million dollars worth of ads during the game.

Speaking of television, have you noticed the continued downward spiral of quality prime time shows and commercials?

For instance take the battle over the show the "Book of Daniel," a show about an Episcopalian priest's dysfunctional family which reportedly ended up with two-thirds of its commercial support yet to sign a contract.

Since "Daniel's" debut Jan. 6, complaints against its airing have been lodged by organizations such as the American Decency Association and other Christian organizations. Geico Insurance Company's advertising pull-out last week must have tipped the scale. NBC announced Tuesday it was canceling the show effective immediately.

But what continues to make me give a major sigh is television's continued effort to interject sex in to commercials.

Take the one from Nissan where a guy is taking a lady home from a date and he stops, lays his hand on her new car and drools. Her comment?

"Not on a first date," after which she asks him into her residence for a drink.

Do the people who create shows and commercials lay awake nights dreaming this stuff up? If so, they, as well as those coming up with the cost for a Super Bowl ad, need to get a life.

Understanding divine revelation

Much of what has passed for debate surrounding the evolution and intelligent design controversy has been either acrimonious or erroneous and, in some cases, it has been both.

For instance, some in the intelligent design camp are not Biblical creationists, yet all are portrayed as such by most of the evolution camp. That is simply untrue, but it is also an effect means of diverting the real argument, the lack of proof for macro-evolution (the evolution of one species into another.)

It is equally wrong, however, to use intelligent design as a thinly disguised veil by which to sneak creation into the classroom. If you believe God created the earth in six days (and I do) come out and say it!

The problem is usually a misguided attempt to make the Bible and science coincide. There is actually no need; they already do and honest, intelligent men will eventually find that out as they always have.

However, until then, we will have those who want nothing more than the merger of the Bible and macro-evolutionary theory (the theory that species evolve into other species.)

To compare the belief in creation to astrology, numerology and other discredited (and sometimes scripturally forbidden) activities while claiming to be a follower of Jesus is most unhelpful by itself. However, to do so and then use micro-evolution (the adaptation within specific species with which no one, including the scrip-



Jay Kelley

• Speaking MyMind

tures, disagrees) as proof for evolution in general is either dishonest or ignorant.

In either case, it reveals a mindset that is unwilling to look openly upon that which might challenge one's traditions.

However, it is equally useless, although perhaps more sincere, to talk at length about what God is able to do in a vain attempt to reduce God's revealed doctrine to human perception. In the end, what God is able to do is simply human conjecture and has about as much relevance as the medieval theological arguments concerning the number of angels that would fit on the head of a pin.

What is infinitely more important is what God has said he actually did and what he has said he will do. When one understands that, there is no question about unifying modern evolutionary theory and the Biblical account of creation. They are mutually exclusive.

Firstly, God has revealed himself to us in the Bible. While it is not a book of science, history

or geography in and of itself, it has nonetheless been proven right every time in those areas every time the facts have finally come in.

Secondly, God has used human language with which to reveal himself. The Bible is written on the equivalent of a sixth-grade level, yet it is often educated people who say we cannot understand it or, even more inane, it can mean anything we want.

The reality is that we can make anything written mean anything we want so long as we are willing to be dishonest with ourselves and others. That is why we have contracts and disclaimers that must be read by a lawyer to be understood!

The problem with that explanation is that God ordained the Sabbath to Moses on the basis of creation on Mount Sinai and they evidently understood it as the seventh literal day. Furthermore, Jesus understood the Sabbath to be ordained in creation and to be a literal day. I don't know about you, but I'll take the inspired writers over an uninspired apologist any day.

In fact, such acceptance of creation by both Moses and Jesus invalidates any attempt to make the creation account figurative.

In the end, the only honest response is to believe the Bible or the evolutionist. You cannot have your cake and eat it, too.

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Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

