

**Opinion****Abortion rights still under extreme attack**

by Judy Andronici

Dr. George Tiller's death May 31 brings to light a major risk to a woman's fundamental right to choose abortion: the availability of health care providers to provide the medical services to which she is entitled by law.

Thirty-five years ago *Roe v. Wade* held that a woman may terminate her pregnancy for any reason up until the point at which the fetus becomes viable. In *Roe*, the Supreme Court also held that abortion after viability must be available when needed to protect a woman's life or health.

In the firestorm of vehement debate about abortion, we sometimes forget that a

woman's right to choose abortion is the law of the land.

It is not enough, however for the rights to exist if women cannot exercise them. The rights embedded in *Roe* must be protected by law enforcement at all levels.

When anti-choice fanatics interfere with a woman's right to choose by harassing women at clinics, by vandalizing clinics or by murdering doctors who have dedicated their



careers to helping women, they must be stopped with the full force of the law.

Violence against abortion providers is a critical national issue deserving of attention at the highest levels of government.

As Dr. Warren Hern, one of the last remaining doctors willing to help women in need of a late term abortion, suggested on "The Rachel Maddow Show" following the murder of Tiller, "President Obama should publicly confront the fact that safe abortion is a fundamental component of women's health care, that women have a right to safe abortion, and that the violence has to stop."

The protest that surrounds abortion clinics in this country is often not merely a matter of

free speech. The harassment of women seeking to secure health services, their doctors and staff often crosses the line into threats and, as we have just been reminded, even abhorrent violence.

The threat of violence is real. Doctors who perform abortions should not have to fear for their lives. Tiller's is the eighth murder of an abortion provider in 15 years. There have been 17 attempted murders of doctors, 41 bombings of clinics and 175 cases of arson in the past 30 years.

This violence rarely occurred under a

see **Abortion**, pg. 30

**Letters to the editor****Onusic's fluoride story falls short**

I received a copy of *Voices* in today's mail.

Since I first worked for a committee in Bethlehem, Pa. in the early '50s dealing with fluoridation of their water supply, I have been interested in the topic.

My following comments do not argue the pros or cons of fluoridation, but do concern the author's statements in paragraph two regarding that industrial fluorides are more toxic than lead and slightly less toxic than arsenic according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

To start, NOTHING is toxic until the substance has been absorbed by the skin, ingested or inhaled in large enough quantities to cause adverse health effects.

Is oxygen considered toxic? Not by Ms. Onusic's standard. However, oxygen when delivered to premature babies in oxygen tents, caused blindness.

Is potable water toxic? Of course not. However, there have been many observed children with serious kidney problems because they drank an excessive amount of water.

How about the sand at our beaches, which are made up of free silica (silicon dioxide)? There are no reported cases of sil-

icosis amongst lifeguards (because of the large particle size). However, thousands of quarry and foundry workers have died from silicosis because of the micron-sized particles that have lodged in their lungs. In short, when going to the beach, one does not receive warnings that the sand is toxic.

In summary, for any substance, there is an exposure concentration below which there is no adverse health effect—even arsenic.

I have a story regarding arsenic from in a toxicology course I took at University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health, taught by Henry Field Smyth, Jr., one of the nation's leading toxicologists at that time (he died in 1987).

Smyth told the story of his father, who was a medical doctor in Philadelphia. His father had prescribed a medicine called Fowler's solution to patients who had low red blood cell counts. Fowler's solution, which was made up of potassium arsenite, was developed by Thomas Fowler in England and reported on in a publication called "Medical Reports of the Effects of Arsenic" in 1786.

The solution was effective, and Smyth used this example to show that every substance can be absorbed, ingested or inhaled in concentration below which there is no adverse health effect.

Incidentally, I heard Donald Brown's lec-

ture at Schlow Centre Region Library and came away with a new slant on an old problem. Thanks for writing it up in your publication.

Russell Ruhf  
State College

**Framing fundamentalists**

I would like to present to those who can identify with freedom and liberty, as I do.

There is a threat of religious extremism to our freedoms here in the homeland.

A grievous example of what extremists will do here in this country if given the chance is the fact that Liberty University's leadership has seen fit to ban a democratic students' club.

Now, I realize that this was done on a "private campus," and the leadership has the right (freedom) to do that. I do not argue that point, but this action does indicate this group's extremist values and its willingness to exercise its power.

These radical fundamentalists have a value system, which seen in this light, shows that they would and could legislate the very "living God" into the nation. Of course, it is their own interpretation of what the God wants, and it ignores the fact that the Creator does not need either these extremists, their justification of its exist-

tence or their help in carrying out its will.

Regardless of these theological fallacies, if voted into power by conservatives, they would proceed with the power of the government to intervene not only in whom you could marry, but they would eliminate divorce and prevent those who are already divorced from marrying again.

If given enough power they would press "divine right" to see who you have been sinning with in your own bedroom (eliminate privacy), infringe on your freedom of association (Liberty University) and deny school prayer to other religions such as Islam and Buddhism and possibly Judaism and other Christian sects that they don't agree with.

In all, they would determine an individual's rights based on their interpretation of "the will of God."

I beg you, my fellow freedom lovers, not to ignore the historical fact, as we celebrate the Fourth of July, that the U.S. has received from Europe some of the most radical religious fanatics of the Christian faith, and they have but grown in number since.

If I am to be damned, better to be so by my own free will at the hand of the Creator, than the dictates of religious fanatics who claim God as their own.

Kevin Handwerk  
State College

# Fight between senate & governor threatens park closings

by Tom Thwaites

The names of 35 to 40 state parks threatened with closure have been released. The threats result from a conflict between the Pennsylvania Senate and the governor's administration, both trying to come up with a budget after the economic crash.

This news was buried on page six in an editorial of the local paper. Our 117 parks are the jewels in the crown of Penn's woods. The threatened parks are mostly in the central portion of the state.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has been promoting this same region as a tourist attraction under Pennsylvania Wilds program. Wild country east of the Rockies is rare, unexpected and well worth a visit.

What will happen to a park that is closed? Hikers will still be permitted to cross the park to continue their treks, but there will be no drinking water, restrooms, swimming, camping, safe parking or law enforcement. Already, vandals sense the reduced patrolling and have come out from under their rocks (I apologize to honest snakes).

Once a park is closed, the facilities are likely to be vandalized. It will be expensive to reopen a closed park, as this damage must first be set right, so once a park is closed, it is likely to stay closed for the duration of the depression.

It is unlikely there will be any bailout or stimulus money available for our parks. Closed parks may become toxic, too expensive to reopen but unusable in their damaged state. Eventually, they may be sold to private operators, who will collect user fees, or to private developers, who will convert them to gated communities of second homes. Public access will be a thing of the past.

## Swine flu to the rescue

by David Silverman

The other day I was talking to Whitey Blue, longtime Centre Region resident and hardnose.

Swine flu seems to be on the increase in Pennsylvania, even here in Centre County. Any ideas on what we should do?

"Yeah, do nothing."

Back in the 20th century Maurice Goddard, secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Forests and Waters thought state parks were something people should get in return for their taxes and every citizen should have a park within 25 miles. To this end, he arranged for multiple road access to most parks making it difficult to charge user fees. Today the notion that people should get something for their taxes seems hopelessly naïve.

One of the best kept secrets of our time is that maintenance of hiking trails on public lands is performed by volunteers, not by taxpayer paid crews. These monthly expeditions are organized by Keystone Trails Association or other hiking clubs and are usually based at a state park where the trail crew camps for the weekend while they work on a nearby trail.

If the proposed closures take place, there will be fewer places for trail crews to camp and many trails may become difficult or impossible to maintain.

There are still young people who enjoy camping out with their parents and sitting around a campfire actually talking with them. Let's not send these kids to the mall with all the others!

If we make the investment now to redo the roads around many of our parks, we can collect user fees. This should keep our parks from continuing to be used as political footballs between the legislature and the administration. Trying to avoid user fees may mean we will lose our parks forever.

*Tom Thwaites is the author of Fifty Hikes in Central PA and Regional Manager of the Mid State Trail.*

But it's known that better and more thorough hand washing habits may reduce the run. Don't you think we should educate people about that?

"I think it's the kind of disease that hits mostly low-income people."

Shouldn't we be concerned about them?

"No. Population is increasing too rapidly for our food and energy supplies. A little epidemic would help reduce the demand."



**Instructions:**  
Fill in the grid so every row, every column and every three-by-three box contains the digits 1 through 9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reason and logic.

Thanks to Peter Morris for contributing this puzzle.

The solution to this month's puzzle can be found on page 30 of this issue.

Sudoku								
9	2							
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from Abortion, pg. 28

Republican administration and has escalated under Democratic ones. This is evidence that the attacks may be a coordinated effort.

The Department of Justice will conduct a special investigation into Tiller's death on the possible basis that there was a conspiracy to commit the murder.

There have been national initiatives to stem the tide of violence against clinics and abortion providers, but they have waned in the recent past.

The National Task force on Violence Against Health Care Providers was created under the Clinton administration. Initially funds were made available for law enforcement to tackle the violence targeted at doctors and clinics that provide abortions.

However, under the George W. Bush administration, funding for the task force was drastically reduced, and enforcement of federal laws designed to protect clinics from violence, including the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, also waned.

The perpetrators of clinic violence are not simply deranged individuals who abruptly engage in a heinous act. Often they have a long record of threatening violence against health care providers, as did the murderer of Tiller, Scott Roemer. They also are often members of a network of similar persuasion, people who openly advocate the murder of abortion providers under the banner of a "justifiable homicide" philosophy.

Before he murdered Tiller, Scott Roemer was arrested in 1971 in Topeka, Kan. for having bomb-making paraphernalia in the trunk of his car and sentenced to 16 months in prison. The judge in his case said that he rep-

resented "a threat of danger to the public." Roemer posted on an anti-abortion Web site "Tiller needs to be stopped." Later, he posted on an Operation Rescue site, "Sometime soon, would it be feasible to organize as many people as possible to attend Tillers church (inside, not just outside) to have more of a presence...?"

One day before he shot Tiller, Roemer was caught attempting to pour glue into the locks of an abortion clinic in Kansas City. He had done the same thing the previous week. Although this was reported to the FBI, authorities told the clinic that nothing could be done before a grand jury was convened.

What would have happened to Roemer if he was gluing the locks of a government building and had a record of carrying bomb making paraphernalia? Domestic terrorism has a different, seemingly lesser, penalty when the terrorist is attacking abortion providers and women seeking a service which is rightfully theirs under the law.

Perhaps the permissive climate of extreme anti-abortion rhetoric contributes to the complacency of law enforcement. For 35 years since Roe, many U.S. presidents and members of Congress have also been making incendiary remarks about abortion providers.

The violent rhetoric and misrepresentation of the facts about abortion has been relentless. It is an organized campaign. It is illegal and pervasive, and the funds to stop the murder, intimidation and harassment of women and those who help them have dried up.

The pressure has had a profound effect on women's rights. Eighty-eight percent of U.S. counties do not have identifiable abortion providers, according to National Abortion Federation statistics. Among these is Centre County; the closest that provides abortions is

in Harrisburg.

While quietly demonstrating in silent support of women's individual choice at the State College Medical Center a few years ago, I saw first hand how the women seeking services rushed to the door near kneeling men reciting the rosary in loud voices on the sidewalk and how among the anti-abortion demonstrators, there were a few who continually walked around to individuals in our group in what appeared to me to be an attempt to intimidate us from standing there.

This is a far cry from violence, but the atmosphere outside that clinic was extremely disconcerting. The bloody pictures and accusatory posters of the anti-abortion groups created an atmosphere for the women using the clinic which they did not deserve in a place where they were exercising their rights over their own bodies.

This fear factor is exacerbated by the incendiary rhetoric spouted by the radical anti-abortion protesters in the media and on the internet as well as the actual bombings, arson, shootings and murders.

It is time to call the anti-abortion radicals who advocate violence by their true name, domestic terrorists, and to prosecute them to the full extent of the law. It is time to fund the task force which has been set up to penetrate the network of terrorists and to pressure our leaders right up to the president to speak out against this activity.

If we truly are a civil society, the harassment and murder of abortion providers must not be tolerated.

Judy Andronici is a member of the local chapter of the National Organization for Women, Ni-Ta-Nee NOW.

9	2	6	3	4	5	7	1	8
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## ASK Cosmo

Dear Cosmo,

I recently saw a man in Schlow Library wearing a shirt that said, "Keep America White." I couldn't believe what I was seeing, so I went back around and read some of the fine print. There was a list with about ten definitions of what it meant by "white." First was Caucasian, and down toward the bottom was "speak only English." I forget the rest. I was going to say something to this man on how I disagreed with him, but I saw he also had oversized keytag on his belt with a Confederate flag on it, and figured he was too far into it. What makes people like him tick, Cosmo? Signed, Liberal Yankee Minority Lover

Dear American Citizen,

You have just encountered another American Citizen. It's his perfectly legal right to wear an offensive T-shirt.

Fortunately for all of us, actually DOING what his shirt proposes—discriminating based on race, creed, religion or lack of religion—is not. Discrimination still happens under the radar, but it doesn't quite enjoy the same legal protection as obnoxious political speech.

Anyway, I've seen that guy you're talking about. The keytag is more like a cheesy metallic bumper sticker you'd get at a truck stop. It looks like he sandwiched two of them together around an existing keytag. I wonder what the original keytag had been before he added his "improvements." I also wonder whether he feels some smug victory over covering it up with the Stars and Bars. Yes, he took something shameful at its core and festooned it with a hate message, ostensibly vanquishing the embarrass-



ing secret lurking beneath. Or perhaps my theory of the keytag makeover is an allegory for human behavior.

I can't begin to answer what makes folks like that tick. I should choose my words carefully, because it might just be the little clock in a rental truck full of diesel fuel and fertilizer parked outside a government building on Hitler's birthday. Confronting people may make you feel better, but it might not enlighten them. Such critters seem to derive pleasure from the attention, and use your criticism to wrap themselves in the cloak of victimhood. Then they may use your confrontation as an on-ramp to dump the rest of their ideological sludge on any passing traffic within earshot.

Folks like that T-shirt wearer—let's call him "Mr. T."—anoint themselves as protectors of racial purity, but they overlook the most obvious race—the human one. I should point out that I have more toes to step on than most people. I'm partly white, but that's one hundred percent to my advan-

tage. It's being liver-and-white—or black and white, or liver, white and tan, or black, white and tan—that makes us who we are, and those are just the Springer Spaniels.

Race-based hate might have a whole slug of Freudian explanations. Perhaps he doesn't relate to women, mainly preferring to focus on male bonding rituals...that's his cross to bear—or burn, with his buddies. Perhaps he's compensating for an exceptionally tiny pee-pee. Perhaps he's rebelling against his mother, or perhaps he's parroting exactly what she taught him. Maybe it's something she did with his incredibly tiny pee-pee. Stranger things have been known to happen. With his public display, he's just trying to bait you. I would say, with some certainty though, that he's probably not gay. Because if you got a load of that keytag, it's as clear as the dog's nose in your crotch that he can't accessorize to save his life. And he's certainly not dressing for success. Master race? Not by a long shot. Just a master baiter.

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