

# Abortion Activists React to Recent Violence

BY ERICA BESHEARS  
STAFF WRITER

As the 22nd anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal approaches, fear and debate still surround the issue, especially in light of recent acts of violence at abortion clinics.

In late December, John Salvi walked into two separate abortion clinics in Brookline, Mass., and allegedly shot the receptionists to death, injuring a total of four others.

He was arrested in Norfolk, Va., on Dec. 31 after a nonfatal shooting at a clinic there. This follows a double murder at a clinic in Pensacola, Fla., last summer by Paul Hill, who is currently under a death sentence.

Janet Colm, executive director of Planned Parenthood of Orange and Durham counties, said reactions to the violence were a mix of horror and shock.

"We have mixed feelings: shocked, horrified; some people are afraid, angry," Colm said.

Beth Ising, executive director of the North Carolina chapter of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, said the latest shootings were difficult to understand.

"Basically, these violent incidents are extreme acts of violence. We're shocked, and we're looking at these as cold, calculated assassinations," Ising said.

"We find it appalling that people are standing in front of John Salvi's jail, calling out to him. That only serves to continue the violence."

Although groups like Operation Rescue are anti-abortion, these groups do not support Salvi, according to Reverend Flip Benham, director of Operation Rescue.

"All life is sacred. One does not overcome the problem of killing children by killing someone else," Benham said. "Since 1988 when we started, there has not been one convicted act of violence."

"We are Christians. We love the abortionist. We hate what he does. We hope he will repent," he said.

Just what the latest acts of violence will mean to the struggle over abortion in the long run is unknown. NARRAL tells pro-choice advocates that the struggle is not over, Ising said.

"First, it sends the North Carolina pro-choice majority a message. With the election of a pro-choice president, people thought there was no need to be as vigilant. That is completely wrong," Ising said.

"Regardless of political gains, some people are encouraged by the anti-choice movement," she said. "Second, this debate shouldn't be happening. The 22nd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade is Sunday, and look where we've come in 22 years."

Colm said that despite scaring people, the shootings would not do anything to stop abortion.

"I think the people who are killing inno-

cent people are extremists. I don't think in the long run it will stop abortion, though there is a fear factor," she said.

In an effort to curb protesting techniques, including blocking entrances by pro-life groups, the federal government last summer passed controversial legislation against protesting at clinics.

Many consider the legislation unconstitutional, a violation of free speech, and others, including Benham, say it opened the door to more violence.

"We made a statement at the congressional hearing. We said, quoting John F. Kennedy talking about Martin Luther King, 'If you make peaceful revolution impossible, you make violent revolution inevitable,'" Benham said.

"If you take away peaceful protesting, vigilantes step in, fill the void. Since the legislation, violence has increased," he said.

Colm said that the legislation helped but that it also raised the stakes for protesters.

"It's making it easier to prosecute. They're getting more desperate," she said.

Ising said the laws made a difference on a day-to-day basis. "It's made a difference in terms of daily, constant assault on clinics, blocking entrances, harassing on a daily basis," she said.

"This is not to end free speech. Unfortunately, there are people crazy enough to resort to violence. It certainly threatens a democracy," Ising said.

The main response to the shootings has

been increased security at abortion clinics. Jamie Combs, administrator at Raleigh Women's Health Organization, said the clinic did everything it could to ensure its patients' safety.

"We have a metal detector and an armed guard. Patients are not allowed to bring anything with them, coats or handbags," Combs said. "It's inconvenient but a major safety precaution. It's hard to conceal a weapon passing through a metal detector not carrying anything."

She said the clinic did not have any problems with protesters.

"We have protesters, but no real problems. Raleigh has strong picketing ordinances; you have to register with the police so they are aware."

Combs said the clinic could ensure its patients' safety partly because it worked closely with the Raleigh police.

"First, we're half a second away from the north Raleigh precinct, and second, we back up to a major highway—there are 50 police cars driving by all the time," she said.

"The police are really on top of things. We've met with them. They don't plan to lose control in North Carolina, in Raleigh," she said.

Colm said the main response to the violence should be outrage from all sides.

"The real response needs to be an outcry from everybody," she said. "People who are opposed to abortion have a responsibility to condemn the violence."

*"If women of color can empower themselves, then the solutions for society will be found much easier."*

CECELIA ZAPATA  
Assistant professor

women's health issues, Zapata, who came to the United States in 1974, said the most rewarding experience had been when she saw a woman who could not read or write teach a class in reproductive physiology because of training she had received.

The woman had taken part in a series of workshops for women given in Colombia in 1992 that dealt with reproductive health. One of the exercises was to give a class to women who had not been exposed to the workshops, Zapata said.

"To see her be a teacher—and a wonderful teacher at that—was amazing," she said. "When women are not educated, they are disregarded as able to do things. This woman overcame the stigma and made me happy. That was empowerment."

On a local scale, the key to improving women's health care is in preventive services such as screening for cancer because those services are minimal for women of color in the state, Zapata said.

The U.S. health care situation is unpre-

dictable due to President Clinton's health care package not crystallizing, and because of this many women will suffer, she said.

But on the global front, Zapata sees an encouraging movement for women. "During the World Population Conference held in Egypt last fall we saw a fantastic example of women coming together to look at life as the core of humanity," she said. "They were strong, clear, elegant and fun. They were women! They respected and liked themselves, but they also they could see the contradictions."

Being a minority helps Zapata bring a different perspective to her work, she said.

"In the past, I was mentored and supported," she said. "I know that if people have the opportunity, then people will rise to the occasion."

Zapata said people who needed change had to be active participants in making that change. "We can't find it for them," she said. "So, to involve them we must teach, provide service and do research, but we must be willing to give up power, lead when we can or take the lead of someone else when the situation calls for that."

Minority women are at the lowest rank of discrimination, Zapata said. She believes that women must assume more responsibility.

"This is why I believe in empowerment," she said. "If women of color can empower themselves, then the solutions for society will be found much easier."

# 104th Congress Begins Term Limit Deliberations

BY ERIC FLACK  
STAFF WRITER

The 104th Congress, now dominated by Republicans, has committed itself to addressing a hot topic on Capitol Hill—term limits.

U.S. Rep. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said term limits would not only change a term in office from a career into a privilege but would also vary the age and tenure of those in office.

"I believe that we need a citizen legislature," he said. "For far too long, many members of Congress have looked at service to the country as a career and not a privilege. I strongly believe that citizens should serve the country and return to the private sector to live under the laws they have passed. Term limits will provide us with a solid generational mix of representatives in Congress."

Ian Valaskakis, legislative assistant to Rep. Toby Roth, R-Wis., said the problems with a term limit-less Congress were twofold.

"The first problem is campaign finance," he said. "Because of interest groups, incumbents have a decided advantage in the amount of money available to them to spend on an election. We must somehow limit how much an incumbent can get."

"Second is the seniority system. We have senators like (Bob) Dole and (Robert) Byrd, both from small, relatively unpopulated states like Kansas and West Virginia. While these states should not have that much power, Dole and Byrd are two of the highest-ranking members of the Senate. Term limits would curb and counterbalance this."

Kay Ryan, press secretary to Rep. Fred Heineman, R-N.C., said she believed term limits would also encourage everyday citizens to try their hands at politics.

"We seem to think it requires a Rhodes Scholar or Phi Beta Kappa to run for political office," she said. "I rather would take five people from a restaurant in Raleigh or Chapel Hill and put them in Congress, and they would probably do a better job. They are the people who have the families, concerns and real genuine virtue."

Robert Wilke, legislative director for Rep. David Funderburke, R-N.C., said that although the issue was around as early as 1981, the climate of the country in 1990 was what had brought this issue to the forefront of the legislative agenda.

"It's a matter of timing," he said. "Right now, Congress is not very popular. It is an



institution which needs clearing out."

Wilke also said Funderburke, as well as the many other freshmen in Congress, reflected the voting public's discontent.

"They are here as a product of voter anger," he said. "There has not been a turnover like this since 1932. This group reflects the anger of the American people."

And while the Democrats were the big losers in the latest election, Burr said he was looking for Democratic support in the passing of term limits.

"I believe that Republicans are committed to term limits," he said. "It is one of the 10 pieces of legislation outlined in 'Contract With America.' Republicans immediately passed term limits for the speaker of the House and committee chairs on the first day of the 104th Congress. I am confident that by working together, Republicans and Democrats will pass term limits."

There are three major term limit bills currently floating around Capitol Hill. Rep. Bob Inglis, R-S.C., would limit House members to three two-year terms. Rep. Tillie Fowler, R-Fla., would limit members to four two-year terms. The bill proposed by Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., allows for the longest stay in the House, limiting members to six two-year terms, for a total of 12 years. All three limit senators to two six-year terms.

While Inglis' six-year limit is the most popular with the American people, with many more than 100 co-sponsors, McCollum's 12-year limit currently has the most support in the House.

Inglis, Fowler and McCollum have formed "Team 290," pledging that all three will work hard to ensure that at least one of the three pieces of legislation receives the 290 votes required for passage.

Many of the freshmen won their elections running on a platform that included a commitment to pass term limit legislation, so, predictably, many have already signed on to co-sponsor one of the three bills.

Burr said freshman support for term limits was uniform.

"I support term limits most definitely," he said. "I have imposed a 10-year limit on myself. All representatives who signed the 'Contract With America' are committed to bringing term limits to the House floor for full and open debate for the first time ever."

HERO  
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Women make up more than half of the world's population and yet are the most discriminated against when it comes to services, and the situation gets worse if they are women of color, Zapata said.

"In order to move into the 21st century, we must find solutions to deal with the problems women face, some being biological but many being social," she said. "If we understand the problems, we can find the solutions. Hopefully the lack of equity that exists will be different in the future if we start dealing with issues in gender and health as part of the public agenda."

Zapata came to UNC in August 1990 after having worked in the California Department of Health Services in the Branch of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology. Now she spends much of her time teaching courses in international health and women's health.

Zapata is also working with Dr. Amy Tsui, an associate professor in the Department of Maternal and Child Health, to create a concentration in international maternal and child health. Tsui said the concentration, not yet approved by the department, would be part of the doctoral and master's degree programs.

When not teaching and devoting time to developing the concentration, Zapata said she was busy writing proposals for research in protective health factors and gender. She is currently involved in developing two projects. One focuses on resiliency and children.

FESTIVAL  
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on to our traditions but we are moving on also," she said.

Barry Lowry, a sophomore from Pembroke, said he hoped the performance was more educational than entertaining.

"Not only do we want to entertain people with the performances but we also want to make them more aware," Lowry said. "People know that Native Americans drum and dance, but they don't know what it means, so if we can tell them what it means, then we are one step closer to our goal."

Southern Sun, a traditional Native American drum group composed of members of CIC, will also be performing in the festival. The purpose of the group is to get as many people involved in traditional Native American drumming as possible, said member Jamie Jacobs, a junior from Clinton.

"We want people to learn about Indian drumming because it is such an important aspect of Native American culture," Jacobs said.

Native American high school students from Robeson County will be touring the UNC campus Saturday and then attending the festival.

"We would like to encourage them to attend UNC by letting them know that Carolina has something for them, too," Goins said.

General admission for the performance is \$7, \$5 for students. Tickets are available through the Carolina Union Box Office.

The second project, Escuela de Madres (literally, "school of mothers") in Siler City, is an adaptation of an intervention project being used in several Latin American countries. The program is designed to empower women to effectively deal with health and well-being as well as family and community health.

"This is such an important project," she said. "If women are empowered, then the whole community will be empowered. Empowerment is such an important aspect."

Milton Kotelchuck, chairman of the Department of Maternal and Child Health, said Zapata had been instrumental in expanding and improving the studies of the department.

"Before Cecelia, there was no one working in this department in international health yet we had a strong following of students interested in the subject," he said. "Cecelia put her energy and soul into developing this department, so now it is attracting even more students. She has been a great asset."

Kotelchuck said Zapata put a lot of her energy into working with students. "She is one of the more dynamic teachers in the department," he said. "Her service to the community is reflected in her service to the students. Among her values, Cecelia is a very inclusive person in an era of everyone going their separate ways. She is concerned with all people of color and all people in general."

Students are the driving force in academic life and our bridge to the future, Zapata said.

"Students are crucial in how academia evolves through time," she said. "We need students to challenge, stimulate and work with us to force teachers to be the best they can be."

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