Talking with the enemy

For nearly six years, leaders on both sides of the abortion debate have met in secret in an attempt to better understand each other. Now they are ready to share what they have learned.

By Anne Fowler, Nicki Nichols Gable, Frances X. Hogan, Melissa Kogut, Madeline McComish, and Barbara Thorp

On the morning of Dec. 1, 1994, John Salvi walked into the Planned Parenthood clinic in Franklin and opened fire with a rifle. He seriously wounded three people and killed the receptionist, Sharon Leeman, as she spoke on the phone. He then ran to his car and drove two miles down Beacon Street to Peterson Health Services, where he began shooting again, injuring two and killing receptionist Lee Ann Nicholas.

Salvi's 90-minute rampage shocked the nation. Pro-life advocates were gratified, elated, and horrified. Pro-choice proponents were appalled as well as concerned that their cause would be conned with this horrifying act. Governor William F. Weld and Cardinal Bernard Law, among others, called for talks between prochoice and prolife leaders.

We are six leaders, three prochoice and three prolife, who answered that call. For nearly five years, we have met together privately for more than 100 hours - an experience that has astonished and astonished us. Now, six years after the shoot- ings in Franklin and on the 20th anniversary of the US Supreme Court's landmark Roe v. Wade decision, we publicly disclose how our meetings for the first time:

How did the six of us, activists from two embattled camps, ever find our way to the same table?

Are they acting as advocates or appointed rubber stamps?

Missile system's best defense is public opinion...sort of

Inside Today

Lights out California-style blackouts could happen here - again soon? F4
Feel the draft. Adjustments against women registering for military service no longer held up F3

By David Dore

The president's call for service could spark a new wave of conscription, and the Pentagon is already laying plans for draft reform. But the law of unintended consequences may result in a political backlash. In anticipation of a draft, the military is poised to expand the pool of eligible soldiers by draft-mandating women. Now, however, a commitment to gender integration is being reconsidered. How the military muddles through this transition may impact the political landscape for years to come.

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Getting it started

A
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In the world of abortion politics, there is no shortage of impassioned
speakers, passionate protesters and passionate opponents. But when
it comes to the more mundane aspects of the debate, such as regu-
lating abortion clinics, it's often the people in the background who
are the ones who are most affected by the decisions made. For many
people, the issue of abortion is a deeply personal one, and they want
to be sure that their voices are heard. But in the end, it's the people
who are actually affected by the policies that are in place who are
the ones who ultimately make the decisions. It's a balancing act,
and it's one that requires a lot of patience and understanding.

Who's doing the talking

Pro-choice

Appointed to be advocates but acting like rubber stamps?

A group of pro-choice advocates and law students have
recently started a new organization to push for a 45-day
waiting period before having an abortion in the state of
Massachusetts. The group, called the Massachusetts
Abortion Rights Advocates, claims that the current
waiting period of 24 hours is not enough time for
women to make a decision about their bodies. The
organization is currently working on legislation that
would extend the waiting period to 45 days. They say
that this will give women more time to consider their options,
and that it will also give them more time to think about
whether or not they want to proceed with the procedure.

The group is made up of law students and advocates who
are passionate about reproductive rights. They say that
women should have the right to choose what happens to
their bodies, and that they should be able to make decisions
about their own health without interference from the govern-
ment. The group is currently working with members of the
Legislature to introduce the legislation, and they hope to
have it passed into law by the end of the year.

The organization is facing some opposition from anti-
abortion groups, who say that the waiting period is too long
and that it would put too much of a burden on women who
need to have an abortion quickly. But the group says that
they are simply trying to give women more time to make a
decision, and that they are not trying to dissuade women
from having abortions.

The group's legislation would require that all abortion
clinics in the state have a 45-day waiting period before
performing the procedure. It would also require that all
women seeking an abortion be given information about
the procedure, including the risks and benefits, and that
they be allowed to speak with a medical professional if
they have any questions. The group says that this will help
ensure that women are making informed decisions about
their bodies, and that they are not being forced to make
quick decisions that they may later regret.

The organization is currently working with members of
the Legislature to introduce the legislation, and they hope to
have it passed into law by the end of the year. They say that
they are confident that they will be successful, and that
they are looking forward to helping women make informed
decisions about their bodies.
Talking in spite of differences

We have glimpsed a new possibility: a way in which people can disagree, clearly, and passionately, become closer to heart and mind about their actions and, at the same time, contribute to a more civil and compassionate society.

A genuine trust opened a channel of reliable communication between us. The power brokers felt the winds when there was a possibility of violent physical danger.

Prolife

The philosophy of the prolife movement is one of the most influential in the world today. It is based on the belief that human life begins at conception and should be protected from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. The movement advocates for the rights of the unborn and the sanctity of life.

A-TEN-shun: It’s time to register women for draft