

# Remove humanity and 'tasteless things' become acceptable

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To the editor:

Over the past few weeks, several people have written to newspapers about how outraged they are over the anti-abortion protests that took place recently outside several Peterborough high schools.

Several others were interviewed by the press and also expressed grave concerns.

I was not one of the demonstrators. I am confused, however, by the language of those who complain about the demonstrations. Several have said things like "gruesome pictures of dead babies" and that the public display of such pictures shouldn't be legal. Sort of "children should not see blood," especially not dead "babies."

What are they saying?

We kill babies but we shouldn't look at this? Are you kidding me?

It's fine to kill babies? The real problem is showing pictures of the deed, especially to the group most likely to be involved in the activity?

The demonstrators should be outside the lawn bowlers' club?

The real problem with the posters is they remind us abortion is a dead baby and it's almost impossible to depersonalize it when actually seen.

"Out of sight, out of mind" is much easier. It seems to me to grant the fetus any shade of humanity opens a Pandora's box of doubt. That is what the demonstrators did. They dared to raise the issue of the humanity of the fetus.

Some have also said they can't understand how abortion can be compared to Hitler's Holocaust. I can not only make that case but add another.

In 1852, the vast majority of white folks in the

American south thought Harriet Beecher Stowe should be publicly whipped for daring to portray black slaves as "people" in her novel Uncle Tom's Cabin. Southerners thought that slaves weren't people but rather "property," just like any cow or pig. That is why they weren't allowed to testify in court — they weren't people.

The Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court said, "A black man has no rights any white man is obliged to respect."

So, the South got real angry because it was no one's business what they did with their "property." The owners alone decided and no counter views should be allowed.

Today, only the mother decides if the fetus is a "baby" or her "property." No pictures should be allowed.

The same argument carried the day in Nazi Germany in the 1930s. Jews were no people, they were "sub-human." Pictures of their treatment were not legal. Many Germans, not to mention Canadians, might have had doubts about their beliefs had Jews been seen as humans. That, of course, is why we never did get to see those tasteless pictures until after the war, so upsetting they would have been for our children and for ourselves.

When I was a history teacher, I was sometimes asked by students how it is that humans can do such terrible things to fellow humans? My only answer was first we take away their humanity and then we are free to do what is in our self-interest. Even tasteless things.

**Eamon Anderson,  
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*History has indeed proven you correct.*