CAROLE NOVIELLI

Pro-abortionists taunt praying pro-life protesters.

Pro-life impact teams train in Florida

Melbourne, FL — January marked the start of a new phase of training for members of the pro-life group, Operation Rescue.

Impact Team training will consist of three months of high-intensity, pro-life education, where select pupils will learn how to organize pickets, and be effective in their communities for the pro-life cause. Pupils will also be subject to intense Bible study mixed with deep prayer. The group will focus on central Florida and particularly Melbourne, where they will be based for the majority of the training.

Local police have been alerted to the on-the-job pro-life training classes. They have held seminars to train law enforcement officers in how to handle both sides of the abortion debate. Police suspect that the Impact Teams will make the Melbourne Aware Women's abortion facility the focus of their protests.

Patricia Windle, owner of the Aware Women's Clinic commented, "No matter what they call it or how they dress it up, it still speaks of 'school for conspiracy,' a way to practice new and old nasty illegal tactics against abortion clinics."

Over a dozen pro-life pastors from local and statewide churches met in Melbourne recently to kick off the "Impact Team" training. Pastors led hundreds of pro-life attendees at the kick-off rally in prayers for repentance and revival to sweep Florida. George Callahan, pastor of The New Covenant Church in Pompano prayed these powerful words, "Lord Jesus, raise up an army that will not be defeated by the intimidations of government, but will stand accountable before you. Raise up an army who would be willing to give up their tax exemptions for justice: that when these four years are over, regardless of who is still in office, that this nation will know...the glory of Jesus Christ marching on before us.

"Wake up your church, raise up your leaders and let these four years declare to the nations that no man in the White House, the Supreme Court, the Congress, can defeat the army of God...the Church of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen!"

Immediately following the rally, pro-lifers gathered in front of the Aware Women's Clinic, where they began several hours of reading of the New Testament, and prayer.

The reading began Friday evening at approximately 11 p.m. and continued throughout the next day until they had read through the entire New Testament. Bruce Cadle, Operation Rescue Southeastern director, and coordinator of the Impact Teams stated, "Pro-lifers should read the Bible, believing that the power of prayer and the word of God is a powerful weapon."

Saturday morning groups from both sides of the abortion debate had fixed themselves at the clinic.

Sidewalk counselors approached vehicles of potential abortion patients, while pro-abortion escorts waved the cars not to stop. The patients were greeted by the contingent of pro-abortion escorts who began laughing and singing songs such as, "Row... Row ...Row ...your boat..." and, "Old McDonald had a farm..." as a means of trying to drown out the pleas of pro-life counselors to reconsider their decision. Pro-abortion opponents even taunted praying pro-lifers by dancing around the kneeling men, women, and children and chanting, "Abortion is legal...we will not go back" and "Thank you President Clinton."

Operation Rescue leader Keith Tucci made very clear what the group's message to Melbourne and to Florida over the next few months was to be: "If you are in a crisis pregnancy, two wrongs don't make a right. We are here to love you, support you, and pray for you. Having someone destroy your child for profit is not going to escape the problem."

Cadle encouraged the group to continue to attend the weekly rallies throughout the next several months. Cadle has arranged several prominent pro-life speakers for future rallies. March 5 the guest speaker will be Operation Rescue founder, Randall Terry. Pat Mahoney, Flip Benham, Paul Schenk and a host of other speakers will also arrive in the coming days.

Cadle summed up the protest and the future Impact Team plans this way, "Christians across America need to merely stand at the very place of death, and the gates of Hell. Unfortunately only 1% of the church is out today. Christians need to 'Do unto others as they would have others do unto them.'" Cadle remarked that if he were being led away to his death, he would hope that Christians would intervene to try to save his life.

Cadle encouraged Christians from all over Florida and the surrounding states to participate in the Impact Team rallies and protests.

For more information call: Operation Rescue National, (407) 259-9557.■

Man sues state, stops funded abortions

London, AR — Ralph Forbes, a 51-year-old Arkansas taxpayer, was appalled when he heard that state-funded abortions were being performed at the University of Arkansas Medical Center (UAMS). Such abortions, he believed, were a direct violation of the Arkansas constitution's Amendment 68 which states, "It is the policy of Arkansas to protect life from the moment of conception until birth..." The Amendment also specifies that public funds will not be used for abortions unless the mother's life is in danger.

Ralph Forbes, a non-lawyer, whose pro se *suit stopped Arkansas from using state funds for abortions.*

When pro-life groups, despite his urging, would not take legal action, Forbes personally filed suit against the state in the summer of 1991. Forbes asserted that he had standing in court as a taxpayer and that he represented unborn children as a "Brephos class" in a class action.

Judge Robin Mays of the Pulaski County Chancery Court, a known liberal appointee of then-Governor Clinton, presided over the initial hearing where Forbes sought a preliminary injunction against the state's continued performance of funded or subsidized abortions.

Forbes, who first began to get involved in self-help law in the 1960s, argued first that the attorney general's office had a conflict of interest in representing the state-run clinic's position because they were sworn to uphold the Arkansas constitution and its stated policy.

Judge Mays, however, overruled the motion to remove the attorney general as counsel for the state.

The state's attorney, Chad Ferris, then argued that many of the women paid for their abortions in full and that profits from the overall operations of the clinic, not taxpayer funds, paid for or subsidized other abortions.

Forbes argued that the facility, its equipment, and staff were paid for by state funds and claimed that the monies were state funds whether they came from profits or from the general fund.

After taking the matter under advisement, Judge Mays shocked the Arkansas legal community and pro-abortion groups by issuing an injunction against the state to cease all state-funded abortions. "UAMS is not free to obligate these funds without approval," she said, "or to spend these funds in any manner that it may see fit due to its nature as a publicly operated facility." She also added that once the profits from the medical facility were taken in and deposited in a state account, they became state funds.

The injunction covered all state funding of abortions, not only those performed at the University clinic.

"All UAMS wanted to do all along was to represent the facts of the case and their position on the case to a factfinder," Ferris, the state's attorney, said. "We're satisfied that we've had an opportunity to do that."

The trial for the suit is still pending. In the year and a half since the victory, Forbes claims that the state has refused to respond to legal interrogatories—a cause for the case to automatically be decided in the favor of Forbes. Forbes, on the other hand, has sought to bring the matter to a jury trial. "I want a permanent injunction and a declaratory judgment that life begins at conception," he explains.

The preliminary injunction is still in force and the state's Right to Life affiliate has joined the action for the purposes of seeking a permanent injunction.

During the 1992 election cycle, Forbes ran unsuccessfully for Arkansas' 3rd Congressional seat. During the campaign, he was refused the right to join a debate sponsored by public broadcasters and had network affiliates in Arkansas refuse to run his pro-life ads in violation of FCC regulations. Forbes has formerly been successful in a Republican primary for Lieutenant Governor.

Forbes filed suit on these issues in the federal courts. Action is still pending on these two matters.■

Omaha abortionist arrested for assault

Omaha, NE — On December 17, 1992, Omaha abortionist G.W. Orr was arrested by Omaha police. Local rescuers filed a formal complaint against Orr for his activities on the morning of October 21, 1992 during a rescue at his abortion mill. Based upon the videotape evidence supplied to the Omaha city prosecutor's office by Missionaries to the Preborn/Omaha (MTTPB-Omaha), formal charges were filed on December 10, 1992.

MTTPB learned that the charges were sent before Judge Swartz on Friday, December 11. Normally a warrant is issued within 24 hours. Based upon this, MTTPB waited outside Orr's clinic the morning of December 14 until the abortionist arrived. They then called police to report a disturbance at the mill. When police arrived they were asked to run a warrant search against the doctor. Nothing turned up. "It appears that the judge sat on the warrant until December 15 before signing it," said one MTTPB leader. MTTPB's original intent was to have the doctor arrested out of his mill preventing him from killing that morning.

MTTPB learned on the afternoon of December 16 that the warrant had been signed the previous morning and was now in active status. The missionaries hoped their plan for Monday could be replayed. Deciding the police would not respond to another disturbance call placed by the missionaries, they decided to picket Orr's house Thursday morning, December 17, before he left for work that day. In the past, every time they have picketed Orr's house, he called the police to remove them. The missionaries arrived at 7:45 a.m. in below 10 degree wind-chill weather to expose the abortionist to his neighbors. Orr called the police, but not before he attempted to videotape the missionaries. He pushed and ripped a sign out of the hands of one of the missionaries.

Police arrived about 8:45 a.m. at which time Barry Kilbane, leader of the missionaries, alerted the police that Orr had a warrant out for his arrest. Police responded that running a warrant check was "not their job." The police remained in Orr's house for about 30 minutes and emerged at 9:15 a.m. with Orr in handcuffs. Orr was booked on three counts of assault and one count of disorderly conduct. He was released within an hour on a signature bond.

Orr's co-killer, Dr. Labenz, covered for him that day. The arraignment, originally scheduled for January 4, 1993, was postponed until January 21. The prosecutor's office has come under a lot of pressure to drop the charges against Orr.■

JENNIFER SUPENCHEK

Dr. Orr, in handcuffs, is picked up at his home by police.