Baby dumped after premature birth, police look for mother

Bakersfield, CA — Kern County sheriff's homicide detectives are looking for a woman who dumped her baby west of Meadows Field Airport. The child was between five and seven months gestation and was found complete with placenta.

Detectives are not sure whether the child was a live birth or stillborn but are conducting tests to determine that.

If the autopsy reveals that the child had inflated lungs — meaning it had breathed after birth — the case becomes a homicide. If not, it is a case of "illegal dumping."

Police say they are concerned for "mental and physical condition of the mother" and will continue the search for her.■

Mississippi consent law to stand

The Supreme Court let stand a state law requiring women under 18 to obtain both parents' permission before having an abortion.

The Mississippi law was enacted in 1986 but had been tied up in court since a federal judge barred its enforcement that year. The law requires doctors most often to obtain written permission from both parents before performing an abortion on a girl who is unmarried, under 18, and not supporting herself.

A bypass provision allows such girls to avoid telling either parent if the girls get a judge's permission.

Burke Balch, state legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, said the court's order was not a great win for pro-life activists. Rather, calling the judicial bypass a "rubber stamp," Balch said his group is pushing legislation in various states to get rid of the bypass.

The justices, without comment and with no public dissent, refused to interfere with an appeals court ruling that the Mississippi requirement involving unmarried teenagers is constitutional.

The court's order is consistent with its posture in recent years that parents have a role in a daughter's abortion. It also is part of a larger pattern since 1989 of giving states more room to impose restrictions on women who want to abort their children.■

Bounty money raised to stop clinic burners

Los Angeles, CA — Pro-abortion forces have established national reward fund of $2.5 million to help solve 25 crimes that have occurred against abortion clinics during the last five years. Abortion enthusiasts and federal officials from the Bureau of Aclohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) announced the fund on November 18.

The money given to the National Abortion Federation comes from an anonymous donor who "decided that they too were tired of the violence," said Marcela Howell, executive director of the California Abortion Rights Action League.

The BATF will co-administer the reward money with the federation and Planned Parenthood.

"It sounds like the pro-aborts have hired the government as their own private army," one pro-life leader said.

A toll-free number has been established to receive information about the incidents. For each solved case, the informant, who can remain anonymous, will receive $100,000, said Josie Corning.

In order to qualify to be a part of the new program, clinics must have had at least $20,000 worth of damage, be a member of Planned Parenthood or the National Abortion Federation and be within the statute of limitations for the crime committed, Howell said during a joint news conference with the BATF and abortion rights activists.■

Cut-outs of Bill and Hillary Clinton with bloody hands stand before a wall of tombstones of women dead from "safe-legal" abortion. The display drew the Secret Service to question pro-life demonstrators.

Clinton display at picket draws federal attention

Pensacola, FL — Operation Rescue members joined for prayer and demonstration outside the Ladies' Center abortuary as approximately 30 pro-aborts linked arms across the entrance to the property on November 19.

The renewed protests were without confrontation but were attended by almost a dozen law enforcement officers.

Part of the protest, erected by local activist John Burt, consisted of a wall of tombstone-shaped placards commemorating the deaths of women who had been killed by legal abortions. In front of the wall were two life-size cutouts of Bill and Hillary Clinton. Each had the number 666 on their foreheads and red paint, symbolizing blood, on their hands.

The Secret Service, which checks any perceived threats to the president, came to the site and inspected the posters and questioned Burt.

Burt explained that the red paint was to signify the blood of the innocent babies.

"Good thing I didn't put a [rifle] scope on their heads like I started to," said Burt.

Local activists say that this is only the beginning of a renewed opposition to abortion in the area.

Johnny Hunter, a black pastor from Buffalo, New York, and an Operation Rescue director, joined the local event. He denounced abortion as racist and stated that abortion had taken more black lives than the Ku Klux Klan.■

African nation to crack down on "backstreet" abortions

Harare, ZIMBABWE — "Our main concern is the number of patients who have died or who are permanently gynaecologically damaged as a result of illegal abortions," said Zimbabwe Health Minister Timothy Stamps.

On November 15 the government of Zimbabwe announced it would crack down on backstreet clinics to curb illegal abortions which currently average around 70,000 a year.

Stamps said the number of clinics had mushroomed over the years to offer abortion services, which are unlawful in Zimbabwe except on health grounds.

Stamps told Zimbabwe's official news agency ZIANA that hundreds of people, mainly teenagers, were dying annually from complications caused by illegal abortions.

He gave no specific figures for these or comparative statistics on the growth of illegal abortions.■

Abortuary arson attempt leaves few clues

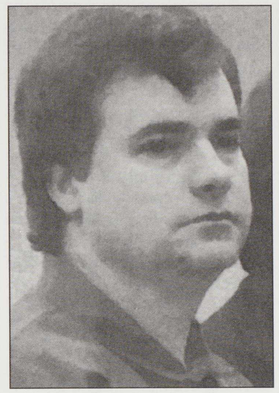
York, PA — "They tried to start the fire by throwing candles in. Little ones, like birthday candles," said Fire Lt. Richard Halpin about the person who threw gasoline-filled bottles and lit birthday candles into an abortion clinic on November 20. The attempt failed to set the building on fire, authorities said. The bottles lacked the lighted wick that makes Molotov cocktails explosive.

Some of the Hillcrest Women's Medical Center's windows were broken by the bombers, and the gasoline saturated curtains and supplies.

Representatives of the abortuary declined to comment.

Earlier this year a building operated by Planned Parenthood in nearby Lancaster was destroyed in a fire started by a bomb thrown through a rear window.

Police have made no arrests.■



Griffin trial delayed, new evidence to be examined

Pensacola, FL — Michael Griffin's murder trial has been delayed because of the discovery of another bullet at the scene of the death of abortionist David Gunn.

The trial was scheduled to start December 6, but Circuit Judge John Parnham on November 30 delayed it until February 21. This is the fourth delay of the trial.

Robert Kerrigan, Griffin's attorney, said he wanted the delay so defense experts could examine new evidence he later identified as the last of three bullets the prosecution claims struck Gunn on March 10. The bullet was found near the clinic on Nov. 21.

Griffin, 32, a former chemical plant worker from Pensacola, is accused of shooting Dr. David Gunn, 47, in the back outside an abortion clinic where the physician worked. Gunn, of Eufaula, Ala., was killed as he arrived to perform abortions.

Police say Griffin admitted shooting Gunn. Griffin denies this. Prosecutors intend to seek the death penalty if he is convicted.■

Justice Department forced to withhold $20 million to United Nations population control fund

Washington, D.C. — In a late afternoon emergency appearance on November 17 before Federal Judge Norma Johnson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and prompted by a Rutherford Institute lawsuit, attorneys for the Justice Department filed a written agreement to withhold $20 million from the United Nations Population Fund until Feb. 1,1994.

"We are encouraged by this temporary victory. On the eve of President Clinton's meeting in Seattle with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, we can only hope that China and the Clinton Administration will face up to the human rights atrocities in that nation," said Craig Parshall, the Rutherford Institute attorney handling the case.

The settlement agreement filed by the Justice Department lawyers, who represent the Clinton Administration and the Agency for International Development (AID), came in response to a motion for a temporary restraining order filed by the Rutherford Institute approximately an hour before. The Justice Department agreed to the settlement just minutes before the expiration of a prior agreement withholding the funds.

The lawsuit began on Nov. 9, 1993, when the Rutherford Institute filed suit against AID on behalf of U.S. Congressman Smith and two citizens of the People's Republic of China who are seeking asylum in the U.S. because of China's brutal population control program.

According to the lawsuit, the Clinton Administration illegally determined that congressionally allocated money for population control assistance should be made available to the United Nations Population Fund. Such funding had been stopped since 1985.

The lawsuit stated that U.S. funding of the United Nations Population Fund would enable Chinese authorities to continue its policy of forcing abortions on women who already have one child. Chinese parents who violate the forced abortion policy are routinely sterilized.

"It remains to be seen whether this administration has the moral courage to denounce China's oppressive anti-family philosophy," said Parshall. ■