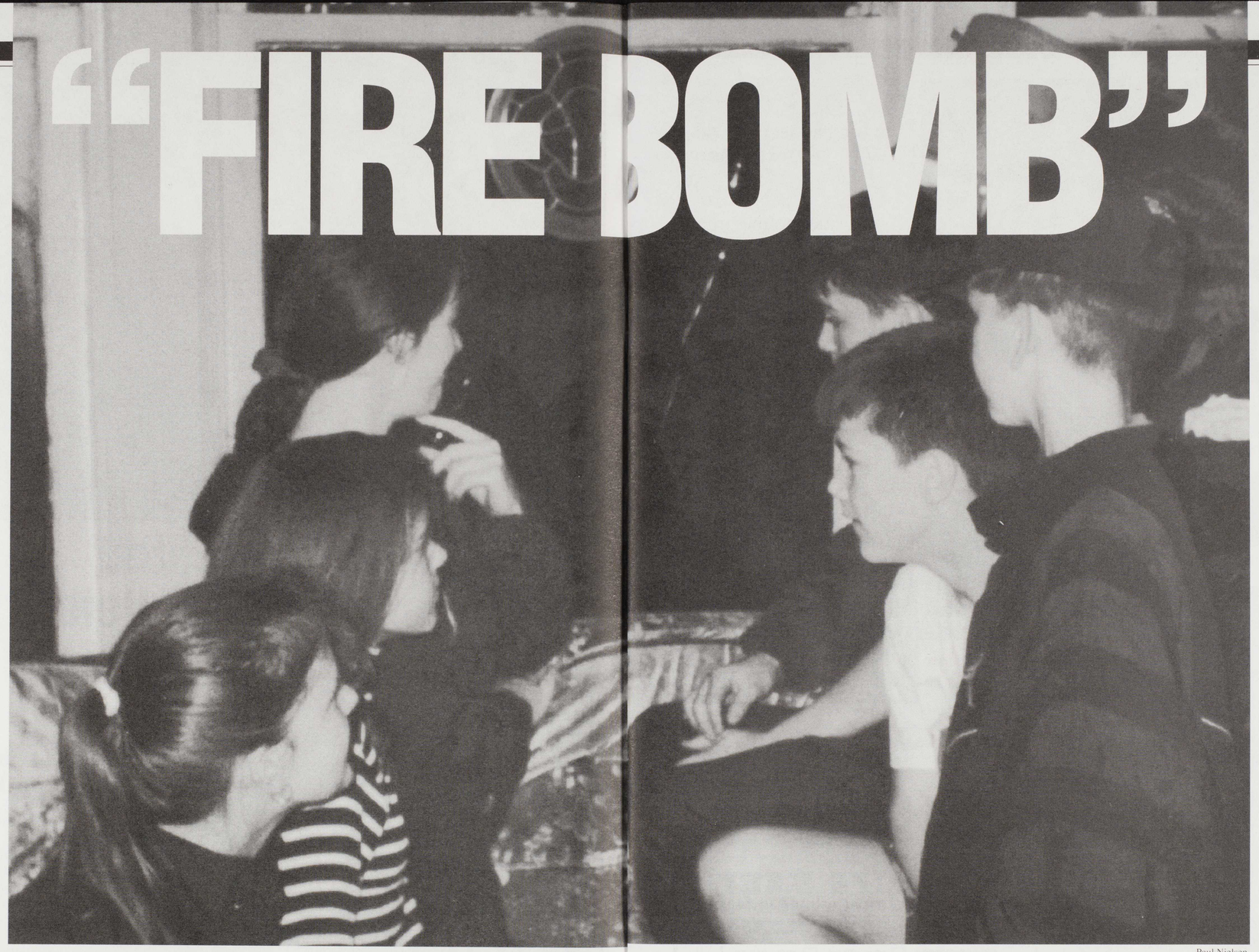
"FIRE BOMB"

Pro-aborts' bomb nearly kills pro-life leader, family

by Ted Gerk



Six of the Nielsen's 12 children examine the hole in the window where the bomb entered.

Vancouver, BC—Somewhere in the head office of the National Abortion Federation, a chart records alleged incidents of pro-life "violence" throughout North America. It is a safe assumption that no such chart exists in this same office for incidents of violence perpetrated against pro-lifers. But as every pro-life activist knows, it's on the increase . . . and it's growing fast.

In British Columbia, the abortion debate has always been volatile. Two abortion mills operate in Vancouver in a province that has one of the highest abortion rates in Canada. Rescues, peaking in large numbers in 1989, have continued, but with much smaller numbers. Never really more than just a handful.

But on the nights of October 23 and October 31, the nature of the abortion debate in B.C. changed forever. Pro-abortion activists, tiring of the continued hospital, abortion mill, and home picketing, raised the stakes in their battle to try to silence abortion opponents when they tried to kill a well known pro-life activist and his family.

Paul Nielsen, father of twelve children and a well known pro-life columnist was at home with his wife and six of their children. In the dead of night, on October 23, around 3:30 A.M. a smoke bomb was hurled through his front window, with such force, that it landed clear across his dining room and rested under a table.

"I don't know what woke me up", said Nielsen. "All I remember is thinking that our pet bird was making an awful racket . . . I went to investigate and was shocked to see thick toxic smoke spreading through the entire house."

Nielsen woke his wife and together they managed to wake and get the six children out of the house—all in their nightclothes. The fire department was on the scene about 3 minutes later. One fire official stated that the outcome could have been fatal if Nielsen had not managed to evacuate his family as quickly as he did.

On October 31 their worst nightmare happened again. Under the cover of Halloween, another smoke bomb was thrown through a window at about 1:00 A.M. Paul's wife was awake and in the room. She immediately picked up the device and hurled it back outside, where it "burst into flames." The blistering on her hand is testimony to what could have happened if she had not acted so decisively.

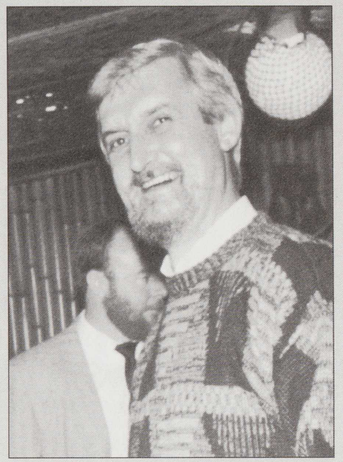
It's not the first time that Nielsen, or the pro-life movement, has been the target of violence. Every year on Mother's Day, Vancouver Right to Life, headed by Betty Green, holds a baby shower outside Vancouver General Hospital, the largest abortion mill in the province. Last year saw the peaceful event "crashed" by a pro-abortion group called CUFO (Coalition United to Fight Oppression). The group, made up of members from abortion mills, the B.C. Coalition for Abortion Clinics and the international socialist movement has brought in speakers who have worked in opposition to Operation Rescue in Buffalo. This "rent-a-crowd" group has been known to try to intimidate LifeChain participants and has obviously received their training from pro-abortion activists in the United States.

On this particular Mother's Day, pro-lifers were physically attacked by the group, Paul Nielsen being a specific target. Betty Green was unable to leave the truck they had rented for the purpose of collecting baby clothes, diapers and formula for expectant mothers.

Since that event, Nielsen has had the windows of his home broken on a number of occasions. Pro-lifers picketing a physician who performs abortions were attacked last year with a slingshot by the son of the doctor. And at LifeChain this October, Victoria, B.C. participants had their signs ripped up and were attacked by a group similar to CUFO.

All of this has gone on while the Attorney General of the province, a socialist, had met with pro-abortion groups demanding a province wide injunction against peaceful picketing by the pro-life movement. He has not met with pro-life groups who are concerned with the violent campaign mounted against the pro-life movement in B.C.

The response of the media in B.C. to the growing violence, has been typical. Most media outlets in Vancouver refused to even air the story of the first attack on the Nielsen home, but were forced into covering the



Paul Nielsen

Who is Paul Nielsen?

Paul Nielsen is no stranger to controversy. The fifty-year-old father of twelve is a designer by trade, having retired to take up the pen. Nielsen learned by experience that, indeed, "the pen is mightier that the sword". Having written for the Vancouver weekly newspaper known as "The Echo" for six years, Nielsen learned quickly how far "liberal tolerance" actually goes (and it's not a long distance). In his column, he was not afraid of tackling controversial issues, ranging from abortion to free-masonry, and the civil rights movement, which made him the frequent target of much criticism.

In 1988, Nielsen ran in the Federal Election for the Progressive Conservative Party. His campaign office was firebombed on two occasions. Nielsen took the attacks in stride, noting that "when you throw a rock into a pack of dogs, the one that barks the loudest is the one that got hit".

Nielsen's appeal to truth did not have the support of his newspaper, however, which canceled the column. He now writes for Canada's monthly pro-life newspaper, "The Interim". Nielsen has been married to the same woman, Rosemary, for thirty years. And as every gracious and knowledgeable husband knows, courageous men have only their wives to credit for having the guts to take a stand when it is not popular to do so.

Nielsen also has served on the boards of a number of public service groups, somehow managing to raise his quiver of children while maintaining an involvement in making his community a better place to live.