## Dutch doctor charged in death of deformed baby

Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS — A doctor who admitted to the mercy killing of a deformed newborn was charged with premeditated murder in a case expected to test Dutch euthanasia laws.

Dr. Hank Prins was charged in the 1993 death of Baby Maartje, said Prins' lawyer, Eugene Sutorius. The four-day-old infant was born with hydrocephalus, spina bifida and leg deformities in Purmerend, nine miles north of Amsterdam.

Dutch guidelines require that patients who receive euthanasia be suffering from irrelievable pain and ask for death repeatedly and lucidly. Doctors must seek professional consultations before proceeding.

The law makes no provision for cases in which patients cannot ask to die.

With the parents' approval, Prins injected the girl with a muscle-paralyzing drug that stopped her breathing. Maartje died in her mother's arms 15 minutes later, Prins said.

The prosecutor's office has refused comment on the case. ■

## Boycott against RU-486 company

Washington, D.C. — The National Right to Life has announced a boycott against the products of Hoechst and Roussel-Uclaff companies after they signed over the rights of RU-486, the abortion pill, to the pro-abortion Population Council.

The drugs that anti-abortionists announced Thursday they will boycott are made by the U.S. sister companies of the French manufacturer of the abortion drug RU-486:

—All 65 generic prescription drugs manufactured by Copley Pharmaceuticals.

—Four over-the-counter Copley products: Bromatapp decongestant and antihistamine tablets; Doxylamine Succinate, a sedative; Miconazole nitrate two percent cream, for vaginal fungal infections; and Tolnaftate one percent solution for fungal skin infections.

—Seven prescription drugs made by Hoechst-Roussel Pharmaceuticals: Altace for high blood pressure; A/T/S erythromycin for acne; Claforan, an antibiotic; Lasix, a diuretic; Loprox, for skin infections; Prokine, for bone marrow diseases; and Topicort, for skin rashes. ■

## Michigan judge strikes down 24-hour wait

Lansing, MI — A judge struck down a state law on July 15 that mandates a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion and requires that the woman first receive detailed material about risks and alternatives.

The informed consent law violates a woman's privacy rights and forces local governments to spend money without repayment from the state, Wayne County Circuit Judge John Murphy said.

The law was supposed to go into effect April 1, but Murphy had blocked it on state constitutional grounds and U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds had put it on hold while she considered its constitutionality.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a similar Pennsylvania law, the state challenge was the best hope for abortion-rights activists.

State attorneys argued that the Michigan constitution doesn't specifically provide for the right to abortion. They said abortion rights are provided only by the U.S. Constitution, and therefore the state law doesn't interfere with that right. ■

## Singapore abortions decline after government encouragement of larger families

SINGAPORE,— According to the Singapore Ministry of Health, the number of abortions reached a low of just over 16,400 last year. This is 20 percent lower than in 1989, when it was more than 20,600.

The number of abortions in Singapore continues to decline, according to the *Straits Times* newspaper.

The ministry said abortions have been falling since 1986, after a peak of 23,512 in 1985. But there was a slight increase of 484 abortions between 1988 and 1989.

The fall is said to be due to "the change in the government's policy of encouraging Singaporeans to have three or more children if they can afford it," said the ministry. The policy was introduced in 1987 with income tax incentives. Before that, Singaporeans were urged to have no more than two children. ■

## Parental decision law overturned

San Francisco, CA—A California State Appeals Court ruled on July 1 that a law requiring women under 18 to obtain a parent's consent to have an abortion violates the state's constitution.

The three-judge panel of the California Court of Appeal, ruling on an appeal by state Attorney-General Dan Lungren, upheld a lower court's decision to overturn the law.

The panel found unanimously that legislation "restricting the right to procreative choice" for minors invaded their right to privacy protected by the California constitution.

In 1987 the California legislature passed a law stating that a woman under age 18 may not have an abortion without first having obtained the written consent of one of her parents or a legal guardian. The state legislature justified the law by saying that minors often lack the ability to make fully informed choices, and that parents who are aware that their daughter has had an abortion may better ensure that she receives adequate medical care after the abortion.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and other health care providers challenged the law, and a San Francisco Superior Court judge found it to be unconstitutional.

The law was never enforced because opponents won an injunction delaying its implementation. ■

## Surgeon pickets Croatian clinic

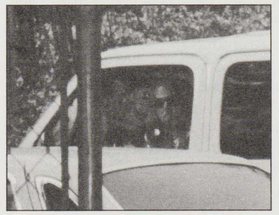
Zagreb, CROATIA—On June 30, Dr. Antun Lisec lead a group of thirty Croatian young people accompanied by two priests from St. Anthony's Church in Zagreb, the nation's capitol, to the Kajfes abortion clinic where they picketed and held prayer vigils for five hours. In the course of the vigil, they were joined by several health care workers from a nearby hospital. The pro-life picket/vigil received extensive coverage from the leading Croatian secular newspaper, *Vercernji List*, and from the largest Catholic journal, *Glas koncila*. It was featured on radio news programs, as well. Dr. Antun Lisec is a surgeon who gave up his practice several years ago in order to work full-time as the leader of the Croatian pro-life movement. ■

## European parliament candidate arrested at clinic

Manchester, ENGLAND — A candidate for the parliament of the European Union was recently arrested in England for taking part in a pro-life rescue at an abortion clinic near Manchester.

Mr. Eamon Murphy, a candidate for the Dublin South constituency, entered the premises of the South Manchester abortion clinic in Stockport to counsel the women bent on abortion as they arrived. Eventually, he was removed and arrested by the police. Subsequently, in court, he was fined fifty pounds for breach of the peace.

The South Manchester clinic is notorious for the large number of Irish unborn children killed there each year. Approximately 5,000 Irish babies are put to death in English abortion mills annually. ■



*Thrasher with camera*

## Charges faced by two pro-aborts

Sarasota, FL — Two Tampa men who were hired to videotape and photograph picketers at the Sarasota Women's Health Center abortuary (*Life Advocate*, May 1994) may face administrative charges for working as private detectives without a license.

The two, Robert Thrasher and Albert London, were confronted by police last March and discovered to have a cache of firearms, including a submachine gun, in their vehicle.

They claimed to have been hired by abortionist Philip Keene to photograph and videotape the protesters. The abortionist has since been fired from the clinic because of the death of an abortion customer at another abortuary at which he works (*Life Advocate*, August 1994). The woman, Pamela Colson, 30, of Port St. Joe, died from a punctured uterus and internal bleeding after an abortion performed by Keene.

The charges brought by the Department of State in mid-July were for providing the services of a private detective without a license and for providing the services of a private investigative agency without a license, said Art Varnadore, chief of regulation and enforcement for the department. The first charge could result in a $500 fine and the second could bring a $250 fine. ■

*Pitts-Hames*

## Famous abortion attorney dies

Atlanta, GA — Margie Pitts-Hames, the attorney that argued *Doe v Bolton*, companion case to *Roe v Wade*, in the U.S. Supreme Court died of a heart attack while driving on July 19.

Hames, 60, was driving south on Piedmont Road at about 9:20 p.m. when she suffered an apparent heart attack, ran off the road, and struck a car in a parking lot.

She gained notoriety for winning the *Doe* case which expanded the "health of the mother" exception for abortion to include financial and emotional "health." Both *Roe* and *Doe* were decided on the same day — January 22, 1973.

Sandra Cano, the Mary Doe of the *Doe v Bolton* case says that she never wanted an abortion but that Hames and another Atlanta Legal Aid attorney, Tobi Schwartz, told her they would not help her to get custody of her children back unless she agreed to allow her name and situation to be used as plaintiff in the abortion case. Cano claims that her desperation and naiveté led her to accept the offer and that it wasn't until she saw Operation Rescue on television in 1988, that she realized that she had to speak out.

Hames also served as an attorney assisting the clinics in legal action against Operation Rescue.

"She will be remembered as a real she-ro," said Kay Scott, executive director of Georgia Planned Parenthood.

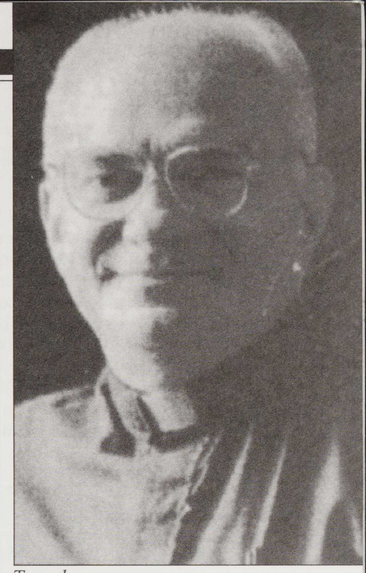
One local pro-lifer, Ginny Dyer, commented, "She might be remembered by pro-aborts that way, but I'd hate to be in her shoes when she met God." ■

## Law allows clergy to petition for abortions

Wisconsin — Many pro-lifers have been shocked by church complicity in the abortion industry. The protection of both abortion clinics and churches in the federal FACE bill was a harbinger.

Wisconsin Act 263, which requires parental permission for abortions on minors, contains "judicial bypass" to allow judges to authorize abortions under certain circumstances. Now it comes to light that, under this law, clergymen of any religion may file the petition for judicial bypass on behalf of the minor seeking abortion.

"This is another link between the baby-killers and the American church," said one pro-life commentator who asked not to be named. "Nothing surprises me much anymore." ■



*Trosch*

## Trosch in trouble again

Mobile, AL — Fr. David Trosch, a Catholic priest noted for publishing a cartoon asking if the killing of abortionists was "justifiable homicide," has surfaced again. This time it is for a letter sent to members of the U.S. Congress.

In the letter, Trosch warns that abortion may result in the equivalent of a new civil war and that pro-abortion congressmen may face death for their position on child-killing. He also said the president, members of the ACLU, and leaders of NOW may be high on the "target list."

"No personal threat is intended," he wrote. "What I am saying is my belief in what will happen."

Horrified responses and calls for Trosch's arrest followed newspaper reports of the letters.

Trosch first gained notoriety for attempting to place an ad in the local paper depicting a doctor about to begin an abortion and a man coming up with a gun pointed at the doctor. Over the picture were the words, "Justifiable homicide?" Trosch's superior, Archbishop Oscar Lipscomb of Mobile removed Trosch from his Baldwin County parish and prohibited him from public ministry in August 1993 for his view that the killing of abortionists is justified. ■