Rogue IRS operations target pro-life activists

by Joshua B. McKern

Since February, IRS Internal Security officers based in the Midwest have been using Gestapo-like techniques to investigate pro-life activists. Indications from inside the federal bureaucracy suggest it is a poorly run "rogue" operation that has bypassed normal law enforcement routines and personnel. The collaboration of at least one abortion mill is known with certainty.

Some of the participants in the rogue operation are as follows:

Abortionist Susan Marie Wicklund, formerly Susan Marie Mitchell. She has been an abortionist in Bozeman, Montana (Mountain Country Women's Clinic); Fargo, North Dakota (Fargo Women's Health Organization); Duluth, Minnesota (Duluth Women's Health Center); St. Paul, Minnesota (Planned Parenthood); and Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Summit Women's Health Organization).

IRS Internal Security officer Liz O'Brien, sometimes known as accountant Liz O'Brien of the Eikill & Schilling accounting firm. She has been based at various times in the Twin Cities and in Omaha, Nebraska.

IRS Internal Security officer John Irvin, who is based in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Freelance "security" man Paul Braun, whose whereabouts are currently unknown.

And **Rod Hagenstadt**, an IRS agent who "doesn't exist."

On the afternoon of Friday, February 12, 1993, a telephone call was supposedly made by one Rod Hagenstadt, either to Wicklund's Duluth Women's Heath Center or to the Duluth accounting firm of Eikill and Schilling (accountants for the Duluth killing center). The man calling himself Hagenstadt identified himself as an IRS man and requested tax forms W2 and 1099 relating to Wicklund's employment at the Duluth kill site. Further inquiries to IRS by the abortion mill revealed that there is no IRS man known as Rod Hagenstadt. A complaint was filed by the abortion mill.

During mid-March, Liz O'Brien began making surreptitious phone calls from her office in Omaha to pro-life activists around the country. Her cover story was that she was an accountant working in the main office of the accounting firm of Eikill & Schilling. Her ruse went further — she asked the pro-life activist about his request for the W2 and 1099 tax records of the abortionist Wicklund, pretending to be a tired, overworked accountant following up on some routine request. However, it appears that she was secretly tape-recording the phone conversation without the knowledge and consent of the activist at the other end of the line. This appears to have been the opening gambit of Liz O'Brien.

However, there were large holes in the cover story of Liz O'Brien. The number she gave out to answering machines is (402)221-3773, supposedly a line to the accounting firm, is actually on a federal government exchange. Other "firms" at the 221 exchange are BATF, FBI and US District Court. Also, there are no Eikill & Schilling offices in Omaha, not a main office, not even a branch office. The only offices for that firm seem to be in Duluth.

Department of the Treasury
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The phone number for the mythical Omaha "main" office is almost never answered during normal business hours. When asked, O'Brien refused to identify the location of her office so that mail could be sent to her, even though she does give out the telephone number. During one phone call, O'Brien was asked point blank whether she worked for IRS, and though denying it, she noticeably lost her composure for a few minutes.

To follow up her phone work, O'Brien and her assistant, John Irvin, make a practice of showing up on the doorstep of unsuspecting pro-life activists, trench coats unbuttoned, for surprise night time "interrogations." According to other citizen activists around the country, this "knock on the door in the middle of the night" ploy is commonly used by other federal agencies, too. It is meant to entrap and bully citizens without the assistance of legal counsel. A number of tough-minded, well-trained federal prosecutors have agreed that this technique is way out of line and ought not be practiced by IRS or any other federal investigator.

Questions surround this "rogue" IRS operation, especially concerning the shadowy figure of Rod Hagenstadt. Is there really a person somewhere in the Midwest with this name? Was there actually a telephone call made, or is the whole complaint the result of some back room scheme put together by the abortionist Wicklund? Is it another case of "round up the usual suspects" or did O'Brien have some plan or reason to target specific activists?

Several friends of pro-life activists, who asked that their names not be used, have launched an investigation into the matter. ■

Missionaries hit New Hampshire Clinic

Greenland, NH — On Wednesday, April 28, three Missionaries to the Preborn and one other rescuer engaged in a rescue effort at the abortion mill in Greenland, New Hampshire.

When abortionist Jeanne T. Hubbuch of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts arrived as usual at 9:30 a.m. to kill some 24 children, veteran missionary Daniel Bramwell of Rochester, New Hampshire and missionary novice Steven Mears of Portsmouth, New Hampshire ran down either side of the building, converging at the back door — main entrance — where they sat down and locked themselves to each other at the neck with Kryptonite bicycle locks. Missionary novice Denise Lamoureux, and the fourth rescuer, Michael Gagnon, both of Nashua, New Hampshire, attempted to save lives inside the building.

Meanwhile, abortionist Hubbuch did gain entrance to the building through the front door, though with difficulty. Police from Greenland, North Hampton, Stratham and Newington, as well as Rockingham County sheriff's deputies and state police, were called to the scene.

All four rescuers passively refused to cooperate in their own removal from the site, and were carried away to waiting cruisers by police. They were handcuffed and taken to the county jail in Brentwood, where bail was set at $1,000 each. Gagnon was released on bail, while Bramwell, Mears and Lamoureux spent the night in jail, awaiting pre-arraignment the next morning.

In Portsmouth District Court, Mears and Lamoureux were released on $7,500 personal recognizance by Judge Alvin Taylor, with the condition that they stay off the clinic property. Bramwell, however, remained in custody, and was transported back to the House of Correction, where he remains incarcerated, awaiting sentencing on June 1 for his rescue mission at the abortion mill in Concord last September.

The 3 Missionaries to the Preborn, along with Gagnon, have requested separate jury trials to be heard in Portsmouth District Court.

Purchase of house beside clinic proceeds

Cemetaries to unborn at area churches "close the circle"

by Stephen Enjaian

Greenville, SC — Pastors for Life, a local coalition of dozens of ministers in Greenville County, South Carolina is moving forward with plans to buy the building next door to one of their state's largest abortion mills. This action follows the controversy caused by the group having leased the building (*Life Advocate*, June 1993).

Prayers completely encircle the cemetary of the innocents in a non-denominational service.

Campaign 1000, whose goal is to raise the $100,000 needed for the purchase, was announced on May 28. Pastors for Life is seeking 1,000 individuals or churches to give $100 each. After one week of the 40-day campaign, $20,000 has been received.

A Crisis Pregnancy Center has accepted the invitation to use the new building. Piedmont Women's Center (PWC) already operates next door to the county's largest abortion mill. Over 3,000 women have received help there in two years of operation. PWC board chair Tommie Gautsch hopes the new satellite office will be at least as effective in saving babies and helping women.

Meanwhile, the abortion mill, Palmetto State Medical Center, seems to have lost the legal battle to stymie the weekly prayer vigils that had resulted in over 1,000 arrests. The picketing ordinance used to make arrests has been rescinded and all charges have been dismissed.

Failing the legal effort, Palmetto State is attempting to build a 7-foot high fence in the driveway between the abortion mill and the new CPC. Pastor Michael Cloer, chairman of Pastors for Life, considers the fence a failure too. "Walls have never stopped the prayers of God's people before. This one will be no different."

In conjunction with Campaign 1000, at least 40 churches throughout Greenville County displayed symbolic "cemeteries for the innocents." Beginning on Memorial Day weekend, each church erected a field of 50 small white crosses for the approximate number of babies killed by abortion in Greenville county each week. A large sign of explanation accompanied each display.

One church went further. Southside Baptist Church erected 2,424 crosses along the busy road in front of its building to symbolize the number of babies aborted in Greenville County in 1992 (down from a high of 4,405 in 1988).

Southside's Community Action Council, a group of laymen who organized the display and a special service to highlight it, designed the effort to bring home the effect of abortion on the community in a visible way.

The special memorial service included speakers Tina Huffman and her daughter Heidi, who survived her mother's suction abortion 1978. Ladies in the church displayed over 70 symbolic tombstones for women who have died from legal abortions. Church members participated in a candle lighting ceremony symbolizing the giving of life and, at the conclusion, the snuffing out of life by abortion.

At the end of the service, the nearly 700 in attendance silently filed outside to the crosses. Joining hand-to-hand, the crowd completely encircled the three-acre memorial. A prayer was offered. As taps were played, the hope of many was that as the ritual is repeated in future years, "the living circle would close" on a steadily shrinking field of crosses until, finally, no more crosses are needed. ■

Thousands of crosses represent the babies killed in local abortuaries over one year's time.