Three Men and the Babies

by Susan Alder

Roanoke, VA—Very few people in Roanoke seem to care that approximately 40 babies die there each Wednesday as personnel from the Roanoke Medical Center for Women dismember the preborn by suction and rearrange the little arms, legs, head, and other body parts to make sure that the procedure has been completed.

The few who do care stand outside the clinic every Wednesday. John Saul of Boones Mills, and Lewis Kugler, of Roanoke, are among the faithful who offer women entering the clinic an alternative to the suction machine. But the abortionists have their faithful witness too. He is Robin Ruegg.

Ruegg told a local paper that he is disturbed by the tactics of the pro-lifers who yell to patients, "Don't kill your baby!" and encourage them to watch a videotape of an abortion before making their decision. Ruegg said, "They are trying to horrify and lay a guilt trip on people. They're not trying to save fetuses, they're just trying to prevent people from having sex." Ruegg frequently calls the Christians hypocrites and "natal Nazis." Abusive language, cursing, violence and the reading alound of erotica have played a part in his counter demonstrations.

On August 29, as Saul and Kugler were talking, Ruegg approached them with a small tape player. He called them hypocrites and much more. With each remark, he would stick the tape player in the Christians' faces ready to record their reaction.

At one point, Kugler stepped between Ruegg and Saul and brushed against Ruegg in the process. Ruegg began screaming, cursing, shoving Kugler and spitting on him. According to Kugler, "He was hitting me with his forearms on my shoulders, pushing me and spitting on me. I backed up about 20 feet and then I quit. I told him, 'That's enough.'" Ruegg then went over to another Christian who witnessed this and began to push him.

As a result of this incident, Kugler brought a lawsuit against Ruegg and the abortuary. The lawsuit pointed out that the pro-lifers had been the victims of a "pattern of continual harassment and intimidation" by Ruegg and asked that a temporary restraining order be issued against him. The lawsuit also claimed that Ruegg—who called himself a volunteer at the abortuary in a published editorial—was in "active concert and participation" with the clinic.

This allegation was denied by the clinic's director Mary Nottingham. She told the *Roanoke Times* "Robin was clearly an independent agent." Nottingham had previously been charged with assault of the pro-lifers for spraying them with a garden hose.

Nevertheless, faced with the lawsuit, in mid-September, the abortion mill banned Ruegg from demonstrating on clinic property. The abortuary also agreed not to hire anybody to harass the pro lifers and not to allow anyone to come out of the facility to harass them.

After this settlement, Ruegg applied for and received a permit to demonstrate on a public sidewalk outside the clinic and the City of Roanoke has erected a barrier to keep him from the pro-lifers. Although the abortuary has denied that Ruegg is in any way affiliated with the clinic, Mary Nottingham and others from the clinic have come out of the clinic to visit with Ruegg.

Ruegg's harassment has now taken another turn. In October, he went before a magistrate and swore out a warrant for Lewis Kugler charging him with assault and battery for the August 29 incident! Kugler has been summoned to court in late November. ■

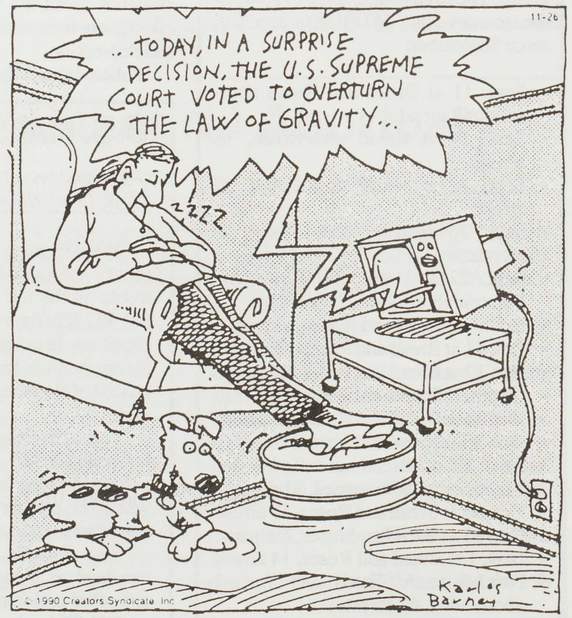
The Unsilent Scream???

(The following is an excerpt from a New Age publication called The Clarion Call *(vol. 2, no. 2, 1989)— ed.)*

Karlstad, Sweden—Dr. Mats Waktel, a strong advocate of abortion, who for years has routinely made a living through the trade, has had a change of heart. While aborting a fetus no bigger in size than a large peanut from the womb of 22-year-old Else Kallstrom, he, Else, and several nurses and assistants saw the fetus tremble and then heard it shriek, before it was dropped into a bucket of formaldehyde.

While Else claimed to be psychologically devastated by the experience Dr. Waktel vowed never to perform another abortion for the remainder of his life. He commented. "I'll never forget that scream...It screamed when I aborted it. I'll never get over what I heard."

Meanwhile pro-choice groups were quick to respond. The report was condemned as "abortion propaganda of the worst kind." Eva Hanson of Mothers for Mothers, Not Children told reporters: "I don't care if that thing did scream—they shouldn't have said a word about it." She went on to say, "Every woman has the right to control her life and body. ■



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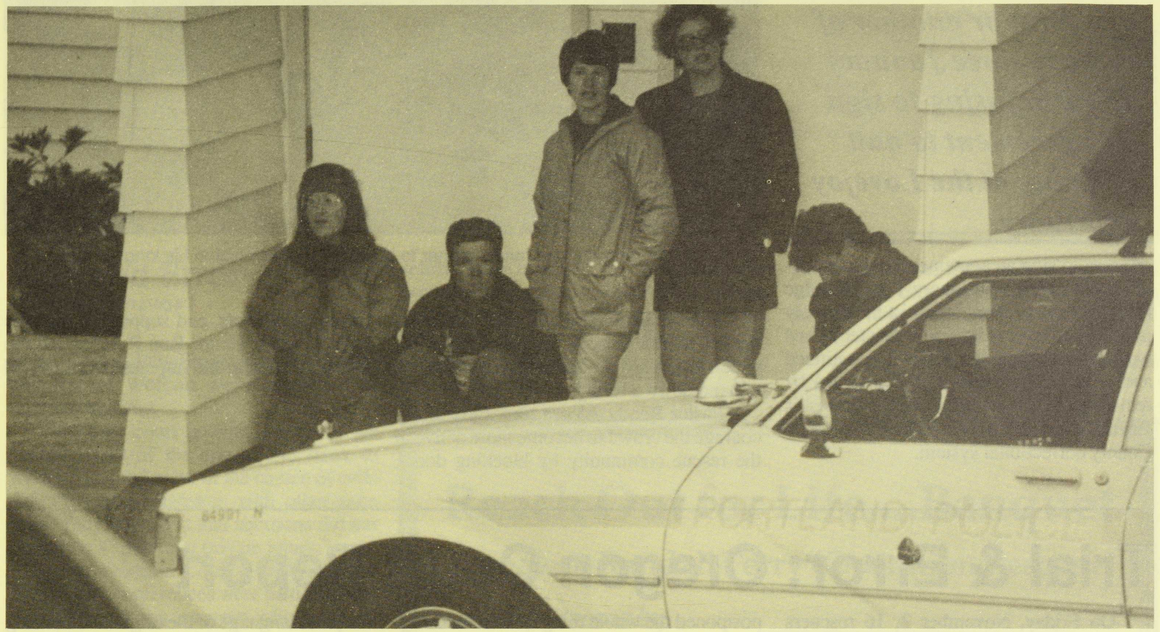
November Fem Center Rescue



Rescuers block main door to Feminist mill. (photo: Paul deParrie)

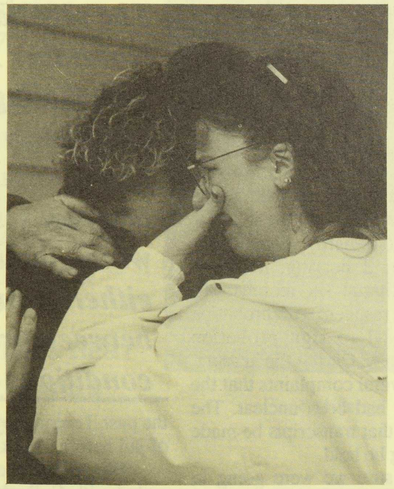
Portland, OR—Twelve rescuers divided themselves among the four entrances to the Portland Feminist Women's Health Center on November 10 just two weeks after the close of the RICO suit brought by the Center against AFLM and seven local activists. Rescuers held the doors despite the presence of more than 40 escorts and 20 police who milled around for almost two hours before beginning arrests.

Andrew Burnett, AFLM Director, celebrated his birthday at the doors trying to insure the birthdays of others who were scheduled to be killed that day.

Police seemed reluctant to arrest. Most of the officers were new to rescue duty and some expressed support for the rescue activity. After having cleared the south door, police only had three people in custody and managed to keep the rest of the rescuers out of the area as abortion-bound mothers were escorted into the abortuary.

About 30 prayer supporters and sidewalk counselors maintained a vigil around the block where the clinic sits one block from the new Portland Convention Center.

After Burnett was released from the police station, many of the pro-life activists gathered at a local pizza parlor to celebrate his birthday with him. ■



Mother and daughter counselors cry after abortion-bound mother gets in the abortuary. (photo: Paul deParrie)