"LEFTISTS FOR LIFE"???

ARC activists received another phone call the night before the demonstration. One of our "spies" at the RTL convention had attended a caucus meeting of "Leftists for Life," which planned to disrupt our demonstration the next day and interfere with media coverage of the event. We rounded up as many ARC members as we could who had responsibilities on Saturday that were related to the threatened disruption. With several key people missing, we decided that the best approach would be to make it difficult for the RTL members to enter Washington Park (where the march was to begin) and make it uncomfortable for them to stay there if they did get in. We asked several people to surround them, argue with them, and try to get them to leave.

The only "left" organizations our informant heard mentioned at the caucus meeting had been the Mobilization for Survival (one person) and the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee (one person). Many of the caucus members seemed to have no organizational affiliation and little, if any, "leftist" experience or politics.

At Washington Park, we began blowing up balloons, attaching picket signs to posts, training marshalls and generally getting ready for the big event. The RTLers showed up at 1 p.m. with stacks of professionally-printed leaflets. A quickly-organized line surrounded them, but other people apprcached and seemed to want us to welcome them or at any rate not to deal with them in a hostile way. This confused some of the people who had been recruited to help out, and as a result, the pro-"lifers" began circulating in the park. Some of us then tried to get rid of their leaflets and get them out of the park. Because we didn't (and actually couldn't) have a well-organized response to their presence, we didn't deal with them consistently or effectively, and there was some disagreement and tension about that in our own ranks.

These so-called leftists for life are likely to be a continuing problem for the reproductive rights movement. It's not yet clear whether they actually have any connection with the left or if they are a total fabrication of a "right to life" public relations firm. In either case, we can't be fooled by what they call themselves. They advocate clinic occupations, and they should be treated like any other group that perpetrates and encourages this harassment and violence against women.

--Celia Petty

LESBIAN/GAY PRIDE DAY ON FOUNTAIN SQUARE

Lesbian and gay liberation groups in Cincinnati held a rally on June 30 at Fountain Square in celebration of Lesbian/Gay Pride Day. ARC attended the rally, sent a message of support, and had a literature table, where we collected many new names of people interested in working for reproductive rights. Wendy Winkler of the Lesbian Activist Bureau gave a talk stressing the importance of solidarity between movements to fight oppression, part of which we are reprinting here:

"There are people who wanted the Mayor to take back her proclamation of Lesbian/Gay Pride Day. The Mayor, to her credit, has said 'No.' The Mayor, to her credit, has said 'gay people too have a Constitutional right to freedom of assembly and speech.' We're here to go on record as saying that we gay people, we too have a right to life. We have a right to life, we have a right to liberty, and we have a right to the pursuit of happiness.

"The life they have in mind for us is no life at all. They don't want us to assemble, they don't want us to know one another, to unite with one another. They want to isolate us again in those closets; they want us in solitary confinement in those