Iowa rescuers lock-in at Planned Parenthood

by Dave Shedlock

Des Moines, IA — On Thursday, October 29, 15 rescuers entered the Planned Parenthood facility in Des Moines, Iowa at about 9:30 a.m. They sat within 10 feet of the killing area, where five of them interlocked with Kryptonite bike locks around their necks in order to give the babies a reprieve. Although the locks didn't hold out as long as anticipated, the death camp was closed for at least an hour and 30 minutes.

Commotion at the abortuary may have been at an all-time high. Police, firefighters and paramedics were called in to remove the bike locks with saws and bolt cutters. Many police cars, fire trucks, rescue squad vehicles, TV news reporters and photographers swarmed the area.

Several mothers were seen leaving the scene and a Planned Parenthood board member admitted on TV news that one woman left "in tears." Attempts were made to counsel women inside the facility before they were led away to another area of the building. Rescuers also attempted to witness to police and fire department members, and prayed that those who left the scene would decide for life that day. Police officers hauled the rescuers to a paddy wagon by placing them on canvas stretchers.

"BABIES DIE EVERY DAY. IT'S NOT POLITICAL."

Jill June, president of the local Planned Parenthood, said, "It's no coincidence that this happened five days before Election Day." But a rescuer replied, "Babies die every day. It's *not* political." As expected, a Planned Parenthood spokesman stated that "business went on as usual. They are not preventing Iowa women from exercising their reproductive rights."

Rescuer Don Nelson wore an oxygen mask and accompanying oxygen tank, showing his determination to participate in spite of his medical condition.

Nine of the 15, including two juveniles, had never rescued before. All were released without bond, after being charged with "resisting arrest" and "loafing and loitering."

Appointments canceled at Florida mill

by Mary Gratton

Fort Walton, FL — In the early morning hours of Friday, November 20, vehicles began to converge on the town of Fort Walton in northwest Florida.

Rescuers met and prayed before moving onto clinic property. They carried with them three pieces of plywood large enough to cover the doors, which, being the type that opened inward, were effectively shut. Approximately 60 protesters blocked the front, back, and side entrances.

Shortly after the protesters blocked their entrances, the clinic personnel called the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department. When officers responded it was determined that they would have to locate the Chief Deputy and talk with him before they could proceed.

A long period of time elapsed before he was found; while they were waiting a report came that the clinic personnel had called and canceled all appointments. Protesters talked among themselves and decided that since there were no appointments left they would leave peacefully when asked.

The sheriff's officers began approaching each protester individually and asking them to leave or be arrested.

The protesters left the clinic property, but remained close by praying. When a car tried to enter the parking lot 30 minutes later, several protesters blocked the driveway while others ran back onto clinic property to once more block the doors. The sheriff's officers managed to intercept a few of the rescuers before they got to the clinic. Those who made it to doors were also arrested a short while later. All those arrested were taken to the jail in Shalimar by bus, where most of them were booked and released on $200 bond each. Six protesters, who, because of prior rescues, had to make an appearance before a judge, were released later on $500 bond each. Among those arrested were: Rev. John Bart and Rev. Don Gratton of Our Father's House, Inc., Chet Gallagher, Missionaries to the Preborn, Eva Edl, a Holocaust survivor, Sharon Glass, National Deborah Movement, Randy Hinesley, Parents Against Child Killing, and Eric Olson. Only one minor injury occurred when Olson ran back onto clinic property. The official report said he "fell" and injured his left arm. However, witness accounts were different. Also, three protesters who were blocking the second story back door were dragged downstairs head first for refusing to walk.

At least one baby, whose mother was a Christian, was confirmed saved and others were believed to have changed their minds. There were only two appointments kept where there would normally be 12 to 15. An 82-year-old man committed his life to Christ during the rescue.

"Hard Truth" creates conflict in high school

by Cathy Ramey, staff writer

Racine, WI — Controversy over a high school teacher who allowed an unauthorized video to be shown to students ended in an official reprimand after two weeks of heated debate.

Calling the presentation of a pro-life video "tantamount to child abuse," a Wisconsin school board member and one irate parent demanded that the teacher, William Eaton, be fired. Eaton, head football coach at Horlick High and in charge of four health classes, authorized the showing of the video, "Hard Truth," as part of a "Family Life" curriculum that includes material on a number of human sexuality, issues.

According to Eaton, "Hard Truth" is not a film owned by the school, whose policy is to show only films purchased by the district. The video was brought to him by a student teacher and was approved for showing in order to open a discussion on the curriculum segment covering abortion and birth control. Students in the class were required to obtain signed permission slips from parents in order to participate in viewing the video. Slips indicated that the film was "anti-abortion in tone and contain[ed] six minutes of photographs of aborted fetuses." At least a dozen students were not allowed to watch the video because they did not have a parent's permission.

Jim Dechenne, father of a 14-year-old student, filed the initial complaint after hearing about the video from his daughter. He and his wife are divorced and share custody. Mrs. Dechenne had signed the permission slip, but at least one school board member lobbied with Dechenne for Eaton and another teacher to be terminated over the issue. Dechenne stated, "This is disgusting. This is a crime against children," referring to the nine-minute video. "I feel used and I feel violated."

Wisconsin rescue leader Gary McCullough countered Dechenne's claims of abuse by stating, "The real abuse is that these kids are being forced to attend classes that delve into very private matters that they aren't mature enough to handle." McCullough's group, Missionaries to the Preborn, made copies of "Hard Truth" available throughout the controversy, and protested against efforts to fire Eaton, along with hundreds of others, including parents who "applauded his [Eaton's] courage" in using the video.

Eaton noted that the film "didn't produce much of a response" from students in his class, and that later classes did not view "Hard Truth." The Horlick teacher stated it was his assessment that the lack of response may have been because of a reluctance on the part of students to share their feelings about sex-related information. Many students were disappointed at not being shown the video.

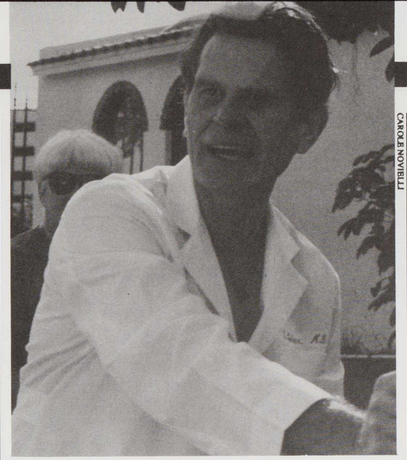
Arrests made at church

By Carole Novielli

Sunrise, FL — An October 30 rally at the First Baptist Church of Sunrise left many pro-lifers surprised and confused. The rally, which was held to benefit a Miami Crisis Pregnancy Center which was destroyed by Hurricane Andrew, ended with the arrest of Operation Rescue leader, and emcee for the night, Bruce Cadle. Guest speakers, Chet Gallagher and George Callahan, were barely finished with their speeches when a commotion broke out inside the church foyer.

Apparently Sunrise police were tipped off by pro-abortion activist William E. "Chip" Sams IV and the son of an abortion clinic owner, Todd Wendell, that there was an outstanding warrant for Cadle from West Palm Beach.

Cadle, a long-standing pro-life activist and leader, had failed to appear in court this past summer to face misdemeanor charges for a demonstration he had engaged in at the WPB Aware Women's Clinic over one year ago. Cadle had requested that the court grant him a stay for the hearing, since he was out of town. The court refused Cadle's request and when he failed to appear they issued a warrant for his arrest. Cadle apparently tried to straighten out the problem with his attorney before the warrant could be enforced. According to Sams, pro-abortion forces had tried unsuccessfully to have Cadle arrested within his home county of Brevard. When police in Brevard failed to see any justification for the cost of arresting and extraditing Cadle for a misdemeanor charge, the pro-abortion duo decided to follow him to Broward County, where they finally succeeded in their arrest attempt.



CAROLE NOVIELLI

Clinic owner Dr. Theodore Lehrer storms out of the All Women's Clinic.

Two Sunrise police officers entered the First Baptist Church of Sunrise carrying a photo of Cadle. After escorting Cadle from the church foyer, they handcuffed and arrested him in the church parking lot. Cadle was transferred to the Broward County stockade and held without bond for six days before he was extradited to WPB where he could see a judge. He was released the following day pending a later court appearance.

Following Cadle's arrest, pro-life event coordinators Michelle and Jeff Herzog continued with their original plans to hold a prayer vigil outside the All Women's (abortion) Clinic in Ft. Lauderdale. Within minutes of their arrival at the clinic, at least one woman decided to keep her baby and seek help at a local Crisis Pregnancy Center. This loss of business apparently upset clinic owner Theodore Lehrer. Dr. Lehrer rushed out of the clinic where he paced up and down until he finally conversed with police. The police informed Lehrer that the group's assembly was legal and in order.

Dr. Lehrer has been involved in controversy for some time. With a history of medical board complaints alleging substandard care, Lehrer was also disciplined by the board in 1988 for allegedly forcing an abortion on his wife against her will. Testimony indicated that Lehrer had requested to have sex with his pregnant wife, and when she refused he forcibly handcuffed her hands behind her back and forced her into the bathroom. There he secured her to the floor using tape and forced the abortion on her. Criminal charges were eventually dropped against the doctor when Lehrer's wife determined she could no longer pursue the case for medical reasons.

In apparent contradiction to their rhetoric about "protecting women," two NOW escorts, along with a handful of activists from "Refuse and Resist," marched onto the scene to escort women into Dr. Lehrer's abortion clinic. Sidewalk counselors at the clinic were undeterred by the pro-abortion presence. Counselors testified that at least two women left the clinic that day deciding against killing their unborn babies. The group assembled later that evening for a candlelight vigil at the Broward County stockade where they sang songs and prayed for a quick release for Cadle.

Abortion facility burns in Sacramento

Abortion-rights supporters blame pro-lifers

Sacramento, CA — A fire that may have been started by arson swept through a midtown abortion facility early November 28, destroying a back room and the building's roof.

Local abortion-rights supporters immediately blamed anti-abortion activists for the blaze, but fire officials said they had no suspects.

About 75 people gathered outside the charred Pregnancy Consultation Center at 616 Alnambra Blvd. that afternoon, decrying the violence and announcing a counter-demonstration to be held at Trinity Christian Church.

"It is definitely suspicious because of the amount and the volume of the fire," said Division Chief Bill Bryant, who stopped short of calling it an arson fire. "We will definitely be investigating the possibility of arson," he said.

The blaze began shortly before 1 a.m. in a back room, then spread to the building's roof.

A single room sustained heavy damage, and there was smoke and water damage to the rest of the facility.

On Saturday, the day of the fire, investigators collected evidence, and chemical tests were conducted the following Monday, Bryant said.

But that wasn't soon enough for some of the abortion activists who arrived at the building at 5:30 a.m. for volunteer "clinic escort" duty to discover the facility burned.

"We're out here today because we're really p——d off," said Karen Guckert of the Sacramento Area Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights (SACORR) at the afternoon gathering.

SACORR, among others, provides volunteers to escort abortion customers past anti-abortion demonstrators who gather on sidewalks near facilities, often handing out literature to women entering. "We're going to tell those religious bigots we're not going to tolerate it," she said. "This is a case of violence against all women."

Pregnancy Consultation Center officials could not be reached for comment Saturday.

Charred wood was visible in front and in back of the building Saturday, with several windows and doors boarded up.

A back window was smashed and a cart with the charred remains of a television set and videocassette recorder was in a small parking lot behind the center.

In August 1988, vandals smashed windows and tossed gasoline-soaked rags at the structure. In that incident the rags failed to ignite a fire, and damage was limited to the doors and windows of the facility.

Just four months ago, about four Molotov cocktails were thrown at the Feminist Women's Health Center, 3401 Folsom Blvd., at 3:34 a.m., Bryant said.

At the counter-demonstration at Trinity Christian Church, SACORR members blocked the church doors for about 1-1/2 hours in the morning. The police did not remove the demonstrators, and it appears the pastor pressed no charges. After the pro-aborts moved from the building, the regular worship service was held, with police asking church members to exit out the side doors. Police provided escorts to those wishing to be escorted to their automobiles.

This is the second time SACORR has blocked the doors to the church. Trinity Church has been the site of several rescue rallies, including the first major rally in Northern California. Damage to the Pregnancy Consultation Center has been estimated at $175,000.