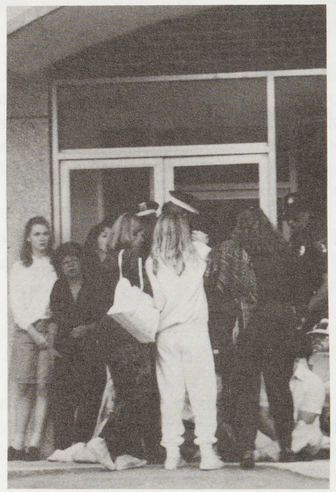
14 Rescuers Arrested Outside Southside Clinic

Reprinted from the Birmingham News, 9-30-90

Birmingham, AL—More than a dozen abortion protesters were arrested by Birmingham police and charged with trespassing at a Southside clinic Saturday, September 29.

Those arrested were part of a group of 80-100 people outside Summit Medical center of Alabama, Birmingham police Lt. Charles Trucks said.



Abortion-bound mother tries to enter killing center with police help.

The 14 were blocking an entrance by sitting on a sidewalk leading to the clinic, with their backs to the door, he said. The rest of the group stayed on a public sidewalk near the street, he said.

Birmingham City Jail records show 14 people were charged with criminal trespassing, with one of them charged also with resisting arrest.

Those who chose to block the entrance were following their consciences in a peaceful protest of clinic activities, he said.

John Williamson stiffened his arms and did not go limp when officers lifted him out of the doorway, Trucks said. Williamson was charged with resisting arrest for that action, he said.

Douglas Scofield, a Birmingham attorney who has represented clinic protesters before, said he was in the crowd Saturday but stayed on the sidewalk near the street.

Those who chose to block the entrance were following their consciences in a peaceful protest of clinic activities, he said.

Rescuers link arms as police try to force their way into the clinic.

The arrests took place between 9:47 a.m. and 10:24 a.m., jail records show.

"We know of two women who arrived for abortions, but talked with sidewalk counselors and then came back outside and said they had decided not to have abortions," Scofield said.

He said he has not advised those arrested Saturday on how to answer charges when they appear in city court.

In the past, a clinic employee has come outside to ask the protesters to move before police begin arresting them, he said.

"This time nobody came outside to give a warning to move...," Scofield said.

Notes: 1) All were released on Property Bond. 2) One father went into the clinic to ask his girlfriend to reconsider but was too late. This young man asked for forgiveness and prayed with counselors to receive Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior. ■

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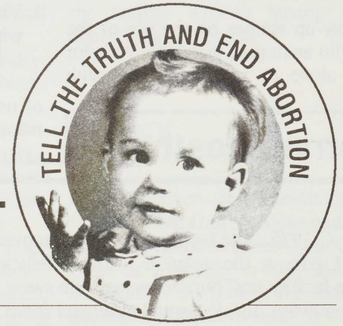

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Paralyzed Abortion Victim Files Suit

Quoted from the front page of The Washington Post, August 13, 1990. Reprinted from the Abortion Injury Report, November 1990

Suitland-Silver Hill, MD—Susanne Renee Logan was three months pregnant when she went to Hillview Women's Medical Surgical Center for an abortion. She was given Brevital, an anesthetic meant to lure her to sleep during the procedure.

Minutes after the drug entered Logan's system, her throat tightened, restricting her breathing and cutting off oxygen to her brain, rescue records show. Eight minutes later, paramedics at the District Heights Volunteer Fire Department received a high priority call: a woman was unconscious; she had no pulse.

In sworn statements contained in a lawsuit Logan has filed, paramedics said that the 32-year-old woman was blue and in cardiac arrest when they arrived. Paramedics said clinic personnel attempted to revive her with a medicine that medical experts say has no effect no reversing the reaction to Brevital. Clinic workers had tried to resuscitate her with oxygen equipment that was not working. An oxygen mask placed over her nose and mouth was upside down.

After four months in a coma, Logan, who suffered extensive brain damage in the September 9, 1989 incident, is almost completely paralyzed. The former waitress cannot walk or talk and communicates by tapping out her messages on an electronic keyboard with her left hand, over which she has limited control.

Logan and her family have filed suit against clinic owners Barbara P. and Benjamin Lofton and physician Gideon M. Kioko, alleging that clinic workers were not sufficiently trained to treat and monitor her while under the anesthetic or to resuscitate her during an emergency. The suit also says that emergency equipment was not available or working.

Minutes after the drug entered Logan's system, her throat tightened, restricting her breathing and cutting off oxygen to her brain.

Kioko and Lofton said they have also been interviewed by board investigators about the death of Debra M. Gray, a 34-year-old woman who, according to a medical examiner's report and paramedic records, went into cardiac arrest while under general anesthesia at the clinic.

Today, Logan lives at the Inns of Evergreen, a rehabilitative nursing home in Baltimore, after spending three months at Good Samaritan Hospital. Her father and stepmother, Robin and Peggy Logan, are trying to make arrangements to move her back to her home in California. Her medical bill, according to her father, is approaching $500,000; Medicaid will pay part of it.

In 1986, the Loftons opened a family planning clinic on the site of their closed mental health clinic, and in March 1987 they began offering abortions, according to city records and Lofton. In an investigation, officials found that the clinic did not have a license required under city law to perform surgery, particularly abortions.

Suzanne Logan, comforted by her stepmother, is paralyzed due to a "safe-legal" abortion.

Three months after the District inspection, Hillview Clinic opened at its new location on Silver Hill Road in Suitland. ■

Woman's Suit Says Abortion Botched

Clinic quits procedure during mid-abortion over client's failure to pay higher fee

Reprinted from the Dayton Daily News, 8-18-90

Dayton, OH—A Dayton couple charge in a lawsuit that a doctor halted an abortion at the Dayton Women's Clinic and released the bleeding patient because she could not pay an additional fee of $225 when it was determined she needed a more expensive procedure.

The woman left the clinic and later that day admitted herself to St. Elizabeth Medical Center where induced labor resulted in a fetus without a leg or intestines, her attorney said.

However, an attorney for the clinic said his investigation showed the fetus and the membrane around it were intact when the woman was released from the clinic.

Clinic attorney William L. Havemann said Teresa Perrine had misrepresented her pregnancy to clinic staff as being within the first trimester. He said an examination on the day of the surgery showed she was in her 14th or 15th week.

"The clinic was not equipped to perform abortions beyond the first trimester at that time, although the equipment was on order," Havemann said.

He said an ultrasound examination was performed after the procedure was stopped, and it showed that the fetus and the amniotic sac were intact and not injured or torn.

"She was told to go to her family physician," Havemann said.

In addition, the small amount of material that was removed from the woman was sent to a laboratory that determined it was placental material, not fetal tissue, Havemann said.

"We consider this case groundless," he said.

But Ronald Margolis, who represents the Perrines, said an expert for his case determined that the medical records show Mrs. Perrine paid $250 before the procedure, and Dr. Raymond Robinson began the procedure.

"In order for the leg to be gone and the intestines, they had to pierce the membrane," Margolis said. "Once you pierce the membrane, it's a violation of medical standards not to complete the procedure."

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