New College "Radicals" Are Rescuers

by Greg Chesmore

Usually when one thinks of protesting college students, thoughts of Vietnam War protests or gay rights marches come to mind, but in Wisconsin, college students are standing up for something different—the unborn.

Although college pro-life organizations number in the hundreds nationwide, Wisconsin college students have added more than the traditional educational tables, debates, and films to their fight against abortion.

"We decided we needed to be more than a social group," University of Wisconsin-Madison Pro-Life Action League Co-President Sheri Johansson said. "There were hundreds of children dying in Madison each week and we didn't want to sit and talk about how terrible it was."

Dozens of college students from such schools as the University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Edgewood College, Mount Mary College, Cardinal Stritch College, and others are now actively involved in the rescue movement. These students join the thousands of college students across the nation involved in direct action to stop abortion.

Although some choose to serve in rescue as sidewalk counselors or prayer supporters, many Wisconsin college students have put their bodies on the line for the pro-life cause.

Jolene Churchill, a University of Wisconsin—Whitewater, goes limp before being dragged away from a March 10 Rescue at Affiliated Medical Services. Two rescues that day resulted in 126 arrests at abortuaries.

"It seems so simple to me," Mary Walsh, a junior at Edgewood College in Madison said. "We must do what it takes to save the lives of both the child and the mother."

Walsh is currently facing her seventh charge for rescuing.

Although the often liberal, pro-abortion attitudes on college campuses sometimes frustrate collegiate pro-life activists, many see rescuing as something which must be done to put an end to abortion.

"I'd love to see even more of us (college students) involved in rescue, but those of us who are involved know how it changes your life, brings you closer to God, and saves children," Jolene Churchill, a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater said.

Churchill cited the February closing of a Madison abortion clinic which was the site of two rescues resulting in over 125 arrests and the Milwaukee clinic which has had hundreds of arrests and several rescues at the clinic.

"Sure we get frustrated, but holding a baby in your arms that was saved because you simply obeyed God's law is worth it," Churchill said. "Saving lives is what it's all about."

While the media often ignores the presence of pro-life movements on college campuses, the message is getting out.

"The other side certainly knows we exist," Johansson said. "They are running scared because they aren't used to having strong pro-lifers on campus who put actions to their words."

Rescues involving college students are not limited to Wisconsin. Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio has several rescuers in its student body and faculty, as do several other private and public colleges

Please see **Radicals**
Continued on Page 19

Necessity Cases Necessary

Advocates for Life, like many other pro-life groups, is forced to spend time in courts defending itself against various charges. Often times opposition attorney's will tell the judge that there are no known cases where the necessity defense has been allowed for rescuers—nor where it has prevailed.

AFL has a small list of successful uses of the choice of evils defense drawn from Joe Scheidler's book, Closed: 99 Ways to Stop Abortion. But we would like to begin a file of such cases. Please send us information—including written decisions and briefs in defense—on these cases. We especially need the name of the case, the name of the court in which the case was tried, and the case number. A brief synopsis of the case would be appreciated.

This file, once made, can be a resource for rescuers and their lawyers in the future. The cases we currently have are listed below.

Commonweath v Berrigan 472 Atlantic 2nd #1099 Superior Court, PA 1984

County of Fairfax v Balch Gen. District Court of Fairfax Co. FEbruary 11, 1978 Judge J. Mason Grove

City of Cleveland v O'Malley #76-CRB 22781, Municipal Court December 15, 1976

People v Kritzka #70-365 (Ill. App. 1980) (Leave to appeal denied, #54663, Ill. 1981) Case written by, Carmen V. Speranza, Esq.

St. Louis County v Klocker Circuit Court Co. of St. Louis, Div. 13 #419096, June 15, 1979

State v Blasch #78 CRD 3701 Ohio Municipal Court, Hamilton County May 1, 1978

Commonwealth v Capitolo 471 Atlantic 2nd #462 Superior Court, PA 1984

Advocates For Life, P.O. Box 13656, Portland, OR 97213. ■

Radicals: College students take stand for unborn

■ **Continued from page 19**

and universities.

Collegiate rescuers admit that their activities do sometimes distract their studying and that pressure from friends and families can add to the frustration, but they say they will not give up their fight.

"We can't just sit back and let the killing go on," University of Wisconsin-Madison sophomore Kristina Mahlum said. "We college students should be the ones sacrificing, we have the time and the freedom."

Despite the sacrifices and frustration collegiate rescuers face, they would not exchange their experiences in the rescue movement for anything.

"I'm the one who always get's put in the strange situations like laying in front of a bus or paddywagon, but rescues have been the most inspiring times in my life," Walsh said.

Johansson agreed. "The first time I was handcuffed and dragged away, I wondered what I was doing," she said. "But then I realized that those children receive no justice whatsoever. Being arrested is a small price to pay for their lives."

Although they remain committed to the rescue movement, college students wish the media would start telling the truth about pro-life students.

"We are not all pro-abortion zealots," Amy Sobczak, an incoming freshman at Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee said. There are many of us who care about women and children and we are willing to be arrested trying to save their lives."

As is the case with most rescuers, the hardest part about being involved in Operation Rescue for these students is seeing the horror of abortion up close.

"It would be so easy to be pro-choice," Sobczak said, "but when you see the women going in and you know what is going to happen to that child if you do not intervene, you realize that rescuing is the answer."

While some rescuers on the UW-Madison campus have been spit at, harassed, threatened with violence, and had property vandalized, they don't view themselves as heroes.

"It is an honor to serve God in such a way as to rescue," Johansson said. It is hard enough being dragged away from an abortuary and seeing classmates screaming in hate at you doesn't help the situation any, but we will not go away. As long as children are murdered and women exploited, we'll rescue." ■

What Every Christian Should Know About the Abortion Pill—RU 486

Reprinted from Last Days Magazine, Feb./March, 1990

As the "battle for the unborn" continues to heat up around the world, abortion advocates are more determined than ever to safeguard their claim to "abortion on demand." As a result, they've shown an increasing interest in a new method which would enable women to abort their babies in the privacy of their own homes: the French "abortion pill"—a chemical compound of mifepristone known as RU 486.

What exactly is RU 486? Many news stories claim it's a contraceptive that "prevents the fertilized egg from implanting in the womb." But this is not true. Implantation occurs at one week of life, and RU 486 is to be taken only after the pregnancy is three to five weeks along.

RU 486 blocks the baby's use of a vital nutritive hormone called progesterone. Without this, the baby starves to death. After the baby's death, the mother usually has severe cramps, vomiting, and bleeding—about three times that of her average menstrual period. But bleeding can be heavier and more prolonged. one woman bled for six weeks! Also on record are 13 cases of mothers who needed blood transfusions and, ultimately, a D&C scraping of their wombs.

A single dose of RU 486 causes an abortion in 80-85% of pregnant women, but administering prostaglandin 48 hours later can increase the likelihood of abortion to 95%. There is a high probability that any baby who is not aborted by RU 486 will be severely deformed by the potent chemicals, and those women who fail to abort by taking RU 486 will have to terminate their pregnancy by surgical abortion.

Please see **RU486**
Continued on page 23

Richmond, VA—Rescuers block the front entrance to one of the city's most notorious abortion mills on April 21. Other rescuers blocked side and rear entrances. Police swooped in without warning, brutalizing and arresting 12 adults—one of whom was 71-years-old, and 2 minors. (Photo: C. Bivins)