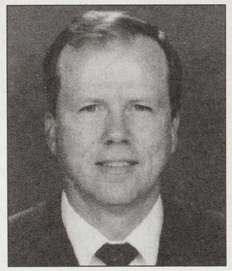
What's Wrong with this Picture?

During the first few days in June, Oregon's governor, Barbara Roberts, signed into law a bill that would make rescuing at abortion clinics a Class C felony, punishable by up to five years in jail and a $100,000 fine.

During the local evening news I happened to notice the story covering the new law. The news reporter said that the bill was necessary because of the "violent" pro-life activities that have taken place at area clinics in the past few years.



One of the film clips that was used during the story was a familiar one to Portland pro-lifers. It depicted a large group of people at the side entrance to one of our local abortion mills with a man in his mid-thirties grabbing a woman and throwing her to the ground. I say this is a familiar film clip because this particular television station seems to relish every opportunity to air this evidence of pro-life "violence."

In fact, this particular clip has been shown at least a dozen times in the past few years. It has even been used as back-up footage for abortion stories that have little or nothing to do with demonstrations of any kind.

To the casual observer, the film clip in question gives the impression that a pro-life man is throwing an abortion-bound mom to the ground. What the television reporters have never told their audiences is that the man in question is the clinic administrator and the woman he is throwing to the ground is a rescuer. They also don't tell you that just a few minutes later the same man bit another pro-lifer because he wouldn't stop holding the clinic door closed.

They also never tell the television viewers that the man doing all of the shoving and biting had tested positive for HIV. These facts seem to be unimportant to the editors of the abortion stories at this local television station. In fact, not only are they "unimportant," but they actually get in the way of giving the impression to the television audience that it is the pro-lifers who are violent and mean-spirited.

Please don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that pro-lifers have never been violent or mean-spirited. What I am saying is that, more often than not, the media have given a distorted view of what really happens at anti-abortion events. If anything happens that can be used to give a negative impression of pro-lifers, they often take the action out of context or blow it out of proportion. And, when the pro-aborts get out of hand, it is often ignored or, worse yet, the unseemly behavior is attributed to the pro-lifers.

This month's cover stories are designed to give a little balance to the charges of violence by pro-lifers. The stories include just a few of the most recent acts of physical violence against peaceful, non-violent demonstrators. One story features a seven-year-old who was kicked in the face by "clinic defender." These stories are just the tip of the iceberg. In the past year I have personally been the recipient of or witnessed more than a dozen acts of harassment or assault on pro-lifers by pro-abortion demonstrators. In none of these were the pro-aborts arrested or charged.

Fortunately, our goal isn't to get our foes arrested. Our goal is to stop abortions, save lives, and speak the truth about the slaughter of the innocents. With God's grace and strength, we will continue to do our job regardless of the media spin on our accomplishments. We have a God who looks down on us and He sees the picture clearly.

Serving Him for Life,

Andrew Burnett

Birth Control Battle

Thank you so much for your hard work! I recently received a copy of the January issue of your magazine. It was great!

My husband and I have been members of a Christian community and inner-city ministry for 13 and 8 years, respectively. But in all honesty, of late we have been disturbed by our ministry's heavy dependence on city and federal funding of its programs, and the increasingly compromising stance on abortion so as not to offend the powers that give money.

My husband and I have four children and another on the way. When we refused to be sterilized or to go along with the ministry's view of birth control, we were shunned. The articles "Christians face birth control debate" by Gerard Garno and "Do you have any other children?" by Betty Smith really touched me in a personal way! At last I could see that my husband and I are not alone in our convictions.

S. Anderson
Chicago, IL

The Aware Woman (Abortion) Clinic in Melbourne, Florida has had its 800 number disconnected. The clinic complained to a judge during injunction hearings that they had received 5,400 phone calls from pay phones in a 20-day period on their 800 number.

It is hard to believe that pro-lifers would stoop so low as to interfere with a pregnant mom's ability to contact an abortion clinic, especially if it would cost that abortion clinic money in the process. I certainly hope that this doesn't catch on across the country.

Meredith Raney
Melbourne, Florida

Your April '93 edition of *Life Advocate* included an article on the rescue in Chattanooga, Tennessee and a picture of my son, Greg Baus, on page 13. Before attending Covenant College, he went to Woodlawn High School in Baltimore County, Maryland. Because of his pro-life stand there, for refusing to take off his pro-life shirt, we went to federal court and won the right to wear the shirt in an out of court settlement.

Greg's shirt displays the truth about abortion and has an impact on those that see it. I've started G.B. T-Shirts so others can have similar impact on people wherever they live.

Madeline Baus
Baltimore, Maryland

Thanks so much for printing our "Pro-Life Scripture" ad. We're getting a great response from all over the country of people wanting to know what God says about abortion. Thanks for making it possible for us to give these to them.

You are doing a most valuable work and we pray the Lord will bless you for your steadfastness and obedience. And that He will bless you richly!

Russ and Lorre Bowers
Vancouver, Washington

COVER PHOTO

Police officer bandages 71 year-old Patrick Erickson after a savage beating by a pro-abort.
Photo Credit: Ed Luyckx

Human Pesticide

For several years the *Life Advocate* has been on the international "cutting edge" of the movement to stop the murder of innocent people. During that time, we have been exposed to hundreds of photographs and images that portray the feelings of senseless death. No image has been more haunting to me than your picture in June's issue (p. 27) of the can of Zyklon-B gas.

As the article explains, this gas was used by Hitler to exterminate Jews, and was manufactured by a predecessor company of the maker of the RU-486 baby-expulsion pill. Since RU-486 is now being prescribed in this country, it is paramount that we stop its importation, manufacture and use at every possible turn.

Every time that I waver even in the slightest from this conviction, I think of the can of Zyklon-B gas and the possibilities for "efficient" mass extermination. If RU-486 is not blocked, what will the future hold? Will it be available from any doctor or drugstore? Maybe its future will be in school-based clinics or perhaps as an over-the-counter medication next to aspirin and the like.

If this sounds reactionary, find a survivor of the German holocaust and ask him what he thinks of Zyklon-B gas.

Bob Madison
Gresham, Oregon

Moses still a leader

I read your article in the April issue of *Life Advocate* about the abortion clinic fire with enthusiasm. It was a good article.

However, I took exception to two pieces of information you offered. They are not major, but they concern me a great deal.

Instead of stating, "Since 1991 there has been little active protest outside of Reproductive Services," it would have been more accurate to state that "there have been no rescues" or "the secular media has not covered the myriad activities to protect babies." Sidewalk counselors are always active outside the clinic, and picketers and prayer warriors arrive in force almost every Saturday.

My major complaint comes, I think, with two words you used, "one time," in referring to pro-life leader Rex Moses. Mr. Moses was extremely active until he went to jail for four months in Austin, Texas (12/91-3/92). Since that time, he has directed and led or been the impetus behind most of the pro-life activities happening in Corpus Christi.

By the way, the abortion clinic, Reproductive Services, which burned down, will reopen tomorrow. It has moved to other quarters and the place looks like a prison with barbed wire around it.

Dorothy Schuster
Corpus Christi, Texas

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of Life Advocate or the editorial staff. Address letters to Life Advocate, P.O. Box 13656, Portland, OR 97213. Letters may be edited for purposes of clarity or space.

Is Michael Griffin a Hero?

Michael Griffin — A Savior? Give me a break! 30 million to 1? Is not all life sacred?

The May '93 *Life Advocate* is the first one that disappointed me.

What if Dr. Bernard Nathanson had been shot while he was killing babies? What if the Apostle Paul had been killed while he was killing Christians?

Cancel my subscription.

John Buchman
Sunland, CA

Michael Griffin is not the hero that Gary McCullough makes him out to be. If McCullough is right, why doesn't he organize a posse, buy some guns, and go kill some abortionists? The reason he won't is either because his rhetoric is far beyond his level of obedience to God, or he's wrong.

Griffin did not "lay down his life" for the children in a Biblical sense. McCullough would need to find a passage of Scripture that teaches us to lay down our lives through inflicting violence and death on the enemy. No such passage exists.

Let's continue to rescue, harmlessly and nonviolently. This is the way of the cross.

Doug Gwinn
Pasadena, California

On March 10, Michael Griffin saved 12 babies from a murderer and the entire nation rose to condemn him. The reason? In order to save the lives of the innocent babies Michael Griffin killed an abortionist who made his living killing 5,000 babies a year. Sadly, most of the pro-life community has joined in condemning him.

We must not condemn Michael Griffin! To do so is to join with the abortion industry in proclaiming the lie that those in the womb are not as human as you and I. Would we condemn a person who intervened when the KKK was about to lynch an innocent black man, even if saving him meant the death of his attackers? If a sniper was shooting children in a school yard, would you condemn the man who killed him and saved the lives of the children? Would we condemn a man who killed a Nazi guard and led his fellows to safety? Of course we wouldn't! The Law of Love requires us to treat our neighbor as ourselves. God calls us to rescue the innocent. That is what Michael Griffin did. God calls us to do justice and defend the orphan. That is what Michael Griffin did. Before we raise a voice against Michael Griffin, we should first remove the log of guilt of our own apathy to the innocent blood shed every day in our land.

A brother sits in jail while the world reviles him. His wife and children are alone. Please seek God and ask how He would have you respond.

Dan Bray
Mesa, Arizona

LIFE ADVOCATE

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