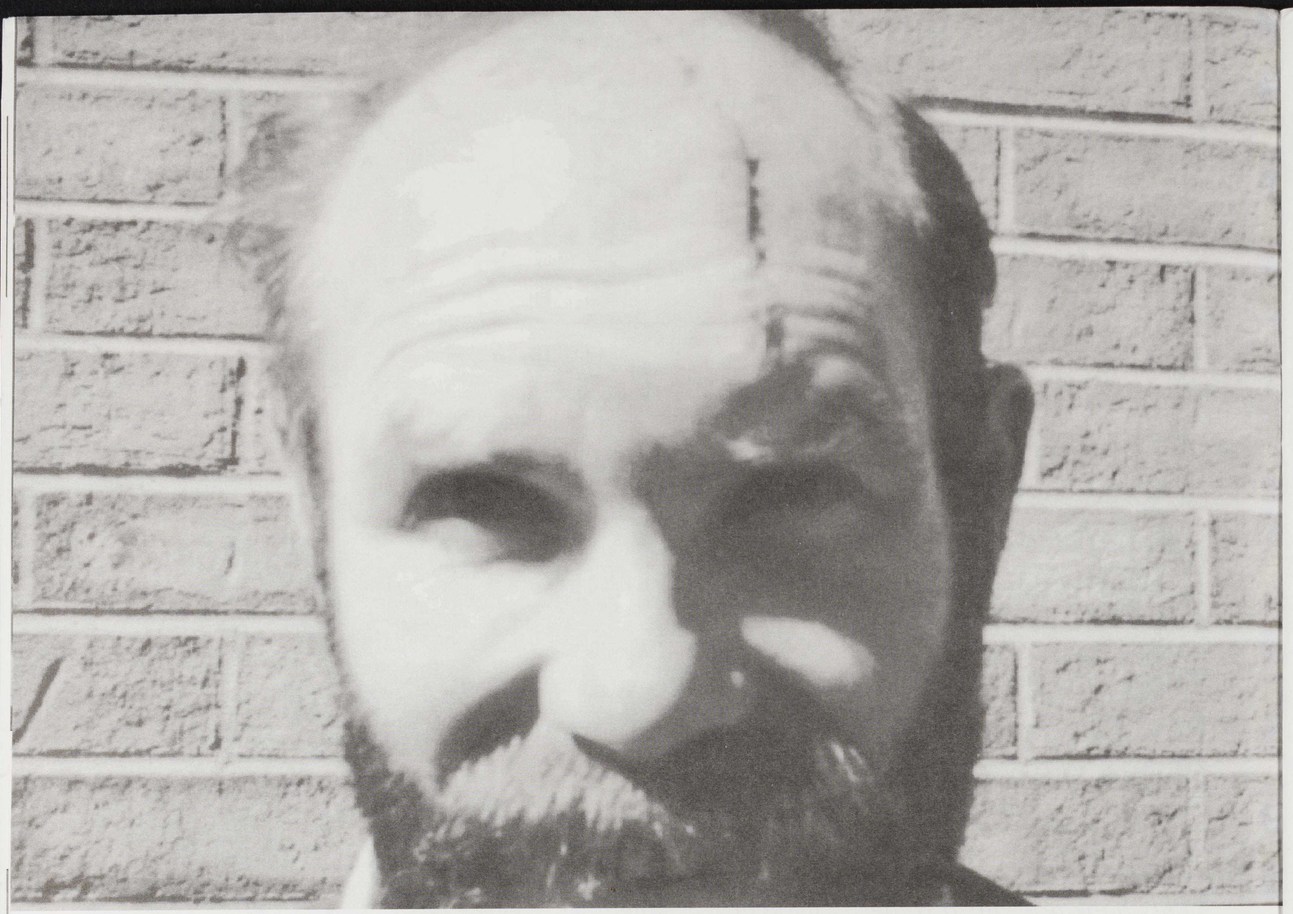


Denver clinic declares open season on picketers

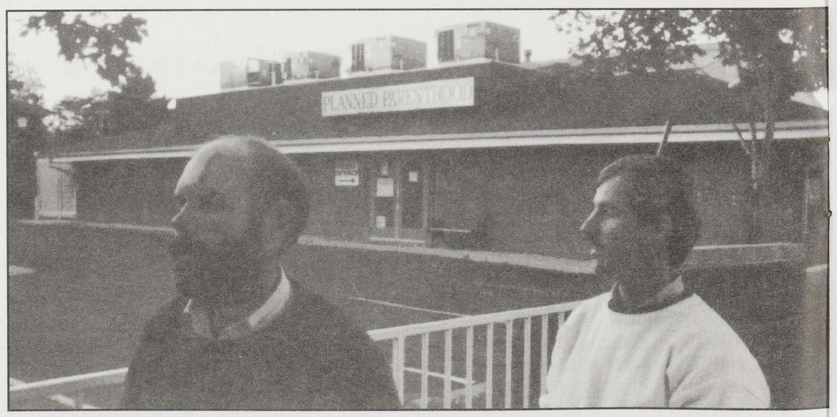
by Paul deParrie

Denver, CO — Over the last several months, the abortion battle had escalated. Regular picketers had begun to place crosses, signs, and posters along the grass strip between the sidewalk and the street in front of the Planned parenthood abortuary at 20th and Vine.

And clinic workers would steal them — when they could. The pro-lifers have lots of video of this activity.

Complaints to police were fruitless in most cases. The clinic claimed they were responsible for "maintenance" of the strip and that the items were trash. Police, despite being told that these were legal "symbolic protest" and private property, to boot, told picketers that it was a "civil issue" and — all but one time — would do nothing to retrieve the signs and crosses.

But no one expected the escalation brought



Clifton Powell (left) and David Lane walk the sidewalk outside the Planned Parenthood where they were attacked just days before.

Opposite Page: Clifton Powell had twelve stitches as a result of Michael Newell's attack.

Left: David Lane's injury and stitches can be seen here.

about by Associate Clinic Director Gary Jamieson and Michael Newell, head of clinic security, on October 5.

The two came out together to grab signs just as the picketers were beginning to pick them up to leave.

"The mothers were all in," explained Clifton Powell, 38, "and the killer was in too."

But the picketers were taken by surprise, as the two came from the opposite direction as usual. Suddenly, the pair collided with the group. Confusion reigned.

Both Newell and Jamieson began to push the group of pro-lifers, trying to knock them over. The picketers tried to push the two away.

Two of the witnesses then say they saw Newell first draw a handgun, then replace it, before bringing out a collapsible steel baton and snapping it open. Powell, otherwise occupied, did not see the gun.

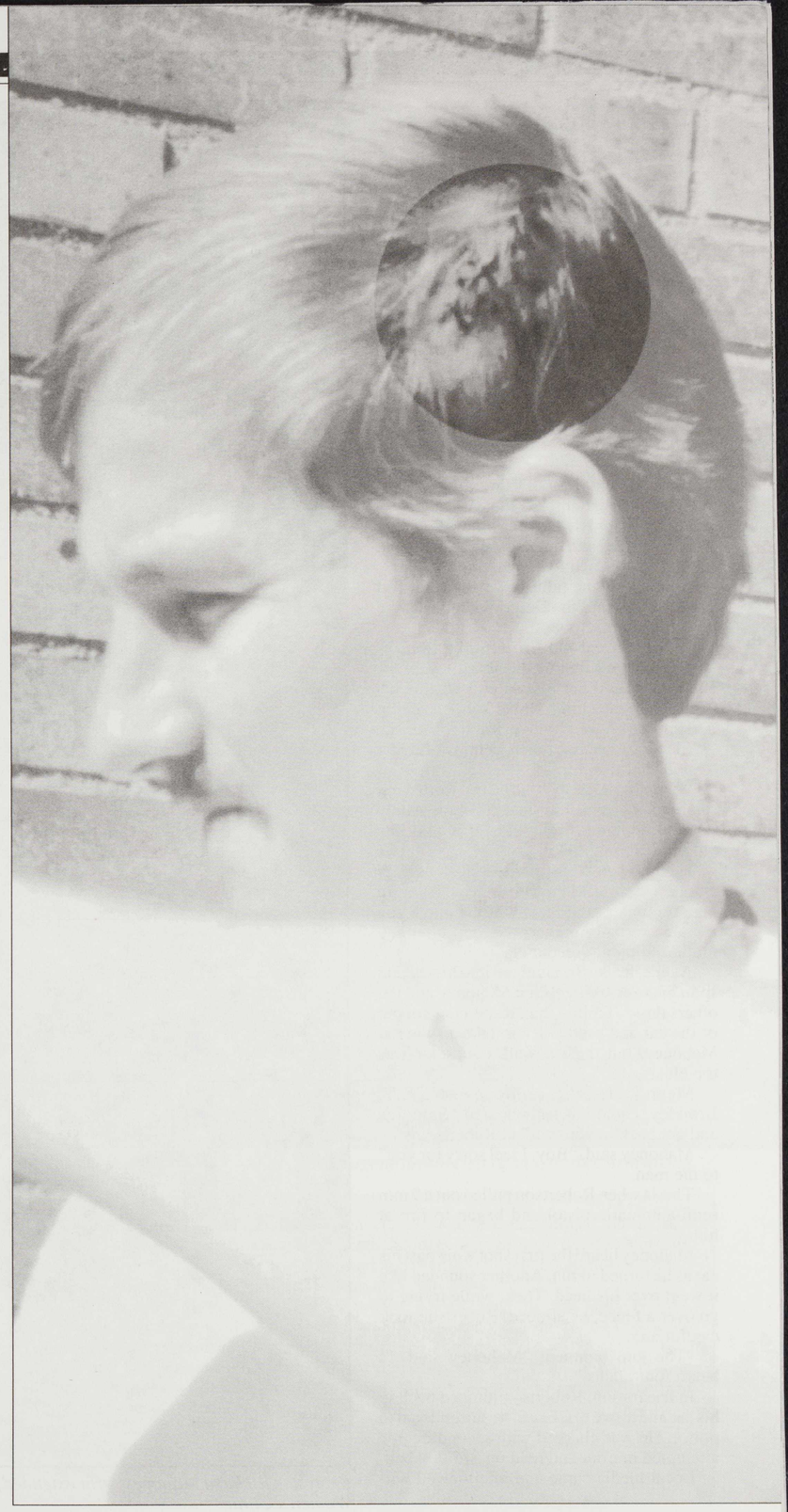
The baton's presence is not in question — as Newell hit David Lane across the face. He turned on Powell when he tried to help Lane and struck him repeatedly before returning to Lane — now on the ground. He then handcuffed Lane, dragging him on to Planned Parenthood property and cuffing him to a fence. Then he went after Powell again.

In the process he hit 51-year-old Diana Cordova and her daughter, Bernadette.

Terry Sullivan, another regular picketer, was also caught up in the fray.

Two pro-lifers ran and called 911. When police arrived, they found two badly bloodied pro-lifers and several others complaining of injuries. The two bleeding, Powell and Lane, were taken to the hospital — but were handcuffed to the gurneys as suspects. Lane received nine stitches and Powell twelve.

Michael Newell, director of Risk International Securities and sometime instructor in defense techniques for the Denver Police Department, was arrested, but there are sources saying that the charges will be dropped.

A warrant was issued for clinic director Jamieson which was later dropped — as was one issued for the picketer, Sullivan.

Two attorneys from the American Family Association in Tupelo, Mississippi are conferring with area pro-lifers about possible legal action aganist both the clinic and the city.■