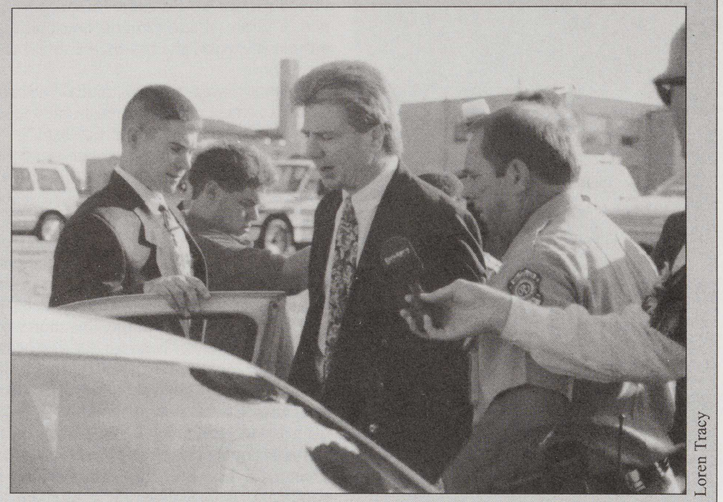


Loren Tracy

Keith Tucci, Director of Operation Rescue National, is arrested while trying to attend an open meeting with attorney General Janet Reno in Wichita.

OR Follows Reno to Wichita Crime Meeting

Wichita, KS — While the furor over the Tiller shooting raged, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno came to Wichita ostensibly to discuss gangs, drugs, and violence. Operation Rescue and Christian Defense Coalition, who had been trying unsuccessfully to get a meeting with Reno for five months over the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) bill, met her there in hopes that additional publicity over her refusal to meet with them might accomplish what letters and calls could not.

Pat Mahoney, representing The Joshua Project and Christian Defense Coalition, and Keith Tucci, of Operation Rescue National, said they hoped to confront her at an open meeting at a local Baptist church.

"Contrary to media reports, we are not going to disrupt the meeting," Mahoney reassured.

When 50 pro-life activists joined the meeting in the 1,200 seat church, local police assisted by federal agents picked up Tucci claiming outstanding warrants left over from the Summer of Mercy. Tucci's attorney said those warrants had been taken care of, but it still required a $2,500 cash bond for his release.

When one of the panel in the church threw the forum open, Denise Billings, of Godarchy Productions, to a chorus of boos, stood and asked the Attorney General why she would not meet with Operation Rescue.

Reno replied that she would meet with any "responsible, thoughtful" group and that all they had to do was make an appointment with her secretary.

"We finally got what we wanted," Mahoney said. All earlier attempts had been met with no reply from the Attorney General's office. She had already met with Planned Parenthood, National Abortion Rights Action League, National Organization for Women, and other pro-abortion groups.

Myrna Shaneyfeld

Shelly Shannon (left) stands with others in the Atlanta City Prison during Operation Rescue's Siege of Atlanta in 1988.

was charged with first-degree attempted murder and bail was set at $1 million.

Back in Oregon, Advocates for Life Ministries, with whom Shannon had rescued on numerous occasions, refused to denounce or "distance themselves" from her.

"We refuse to pay the 'pinch of incense' and abandon our sister in Christ in order to reinforce the media notion that Killer George Tiller's life is more valuable than the unborn babies," said AFLM's Cathy Ramey.

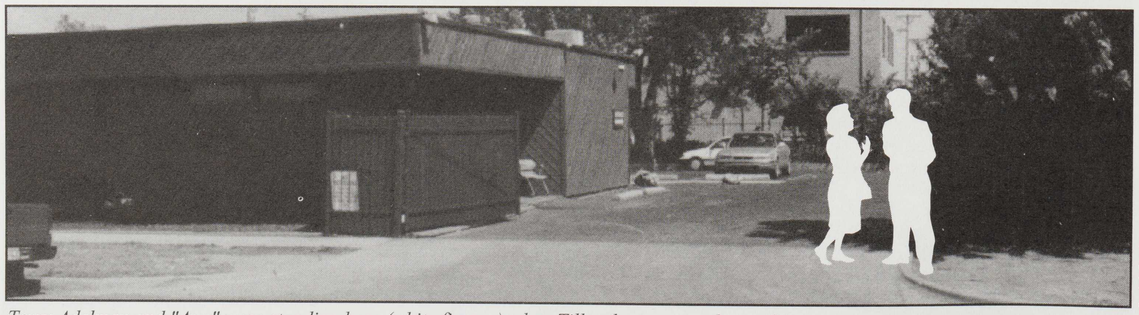
Operation Rescue, however, disavowed any knowledge of her though she had rescued with them in many national events — including Wichita's Summer of Mercy.

"She's never registered at a rally, and anybody involved in our events goes to rallies," said Operation Rescue National's Wendy Wright.

Joseph Foreman of Milwaukee, Wisconsin's Missionaries to the Preborn and a former top lieutenant in Operation Rescue, scoffed at the notion saying that regular rescuers like Shannon never registered.

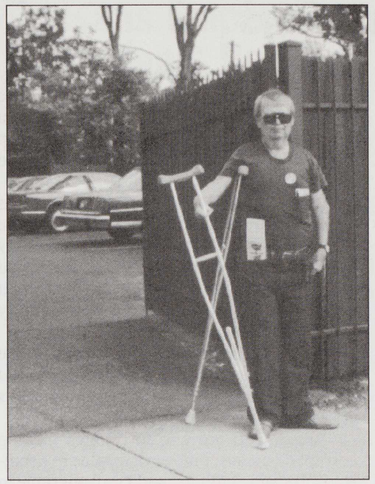
"They think registering is stupid," he said.

As the days continued, the FBI got involved with the investigation. Janet Reno, head of the U.S. Justice department and vocal supporter of federal legislation aimed at shutting down pro-life activism, was coincidentally scheduled for a photo-op meeting with Wichita officials in week after Shannon's



Paul deParrie

Terry Adelman and "Ann" were standing here (white figures) when Tiller drove out and was shot.



Paul deParrie

Terry Adelman, a sidewalk counselor, stands approximately where he stood when tiller was shot. "Ann" stood next to him closer to the street.

return to Kansas (see sidebar). The entry of the FBI, which is under Reno, and Reno's arrival was viewed with foreboding by many local pro-lifers. They felt Reno would use the shootings in Wichita and Mobile as an excuse to shut down pro-life work more vehemently.

But on an individual level, Wichita pro-lifers, regardless of their feelings on the shooting, were also concerned about Shannon — who now had a public defender, Jay Greeno. An inherent distrust of court-appointed attorneys motivated Wichita's most activist-oriented pro-life group, Godarchy Productions, to begin organizing a legal defense fund and to seek another attorney for Shannon. Visitors to Shannon confirmed that she desired other counsel and Charles O'Hara, one of Wichita's pre-eminent criminal defense attorneys, has been tapped for the case.

"He interviewed Shelley and couldn't sleep that night," said one Godarchy representative. "He really has a feeling for this case."

AFLM and others have joined in Godarchy's effort to raise the approximately $10-20,000 the defense is estimated to cost.

Critics have decried the fundraising as "condoning" the shooting. However, the sidewalk counselor, Terry Adelson, who made it clear that he opposed the shooting said, "We're reaching out to [the pro-aborts], we have to reach out to Shelley."

To date, no firearm has been found, but police have confiscated Shannon's diary and a letter written from jail to her husband. Also, among Shannon's things were back issues of *Life Advocate* containing articles about Tiller, a .25 caliber bullet, gun-cleaning paraphernalia, and a spray can of hair coloring.

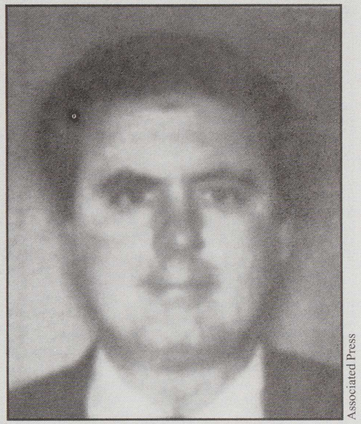
Tiller's pastor, Joel Thomas Schmalz of Reformation Lutheran Church in Wichita said the shooting may be "God's way of challenging" him to stop doing abortions. Last year, a fluke tornado touched down beside Tiller's clinic doing major damage to the business across the street but minor damage to the abortuary. Though local pro-aborts mocked that "God missed," pro-lifers see both incidents as God's grace and a warning.

In that vein, a prayer vigil was held outside Tiller's home on the afternoon of August 28, a week and two days after the shooting. At the time of the vigil, Tiller was having a party around his swimming pool — which immediately broke up. The guests and Tiller all left soon afterwards.

"Tiller won't be able to protect himself if God really wants him," one pro-life activist said.

In the meantime, George Tiller arrives at and leaves his abortuary in an armored car.

Abortionist Slain, May Be a Robbery



Associated Press

Mobile, AL — At dusk on Saturday August 21, George Wayne Patterson, owner of four abortion clinics in Florida and Alabama, emerged from the rear exit of the Midtown Cinema, a well-known adult theater on Dauphin Street where X-rated movies are shown day and night.

Witnesses have told police that a man seemed to be waiting for Patterson by his car, a black 1993 Cadillac Eldorado. The two men struggled, and within seconds, Patterson, 44, lay sprawled on the pavement, dying of a gunshot wound to the neck.

A man has been arrested for the killing of Patterson. Winston McCoy, 42, of suburban Eight Mile was charged with murder in the fatal shooting, police said in a brief statement.

Homicide detectives in this southern port city of 202,000 continued to struggle with the mystery:

Was Patterson's death a random crime, part of an escalating problem in the downtown district of discount stores and nightspots such as the Vincent Van Go-Go? Or is he the latest victim of a wave of anti-abortion action that already had claimed the life of a physician in his employ.

The Mobile Register reported on September 1 that Patterson at one time owed gambling debts totaling $80,000 to three bookies. The debts were reported on his 1990 Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing, authorities said.

David Gunn, 47, who worked at an abortion clinic owned by Patterson in Pensacola, Florida was shot and killed in March by an anti-abortion protester who waited as Gunn tried to enter the facility. Last Thursday night, George Tiller, a doctor who is not affiliated with Patterson, was shot in both arms as he left his clinic in Wichita, Kansas.

"If Dr. Patterson's death is just a coincidence, then it's an extreme, extreme coincidence," said K.B. Kohls, director of the Beacon Women's Center in Montgomery, Alabama, who knew Gunn and, to a lesser extent, Patterson.

"I told a friend yesterday, it has become so violent, it's surreal," Kohls said today. "At this point, we're just in shock. The bad feeling has escalated so much, and particularly, if this latest murder was abortion related. . ."

But Mobile police continued to express reluctance to connect Patterson's death with his profession. "We don't have a clearly defined motive," Police Chief Harold Johnson said at a morning news conference. "We're traveling on three possible motives — one, a robbery; two, that it is related to his job; three, a personal argument between two individuals who knew each other."

Tom Jennings, a city police spokesman, said Patterson's assailant fired twice, one bullet hitting the ground near the doctor's car, the next striking Patterson in the upper shoulder and neck.

The manager of the Midtown Cinema, who gave his name only as Jerry, told the Mobile Register Sunday night that Patterson was a regular customer. "To me, he was a good ol' guy — paid his money, never bothered anyone," the manager said.

Earlier this month, the Rev. David Trosch, a Roman Catholic priest in neighboring Baldwin County, tried to place an ad in the Mobile Register promoting the shooting of abortion doctors as "justifiable homicide." But the newspaper refused the ad.