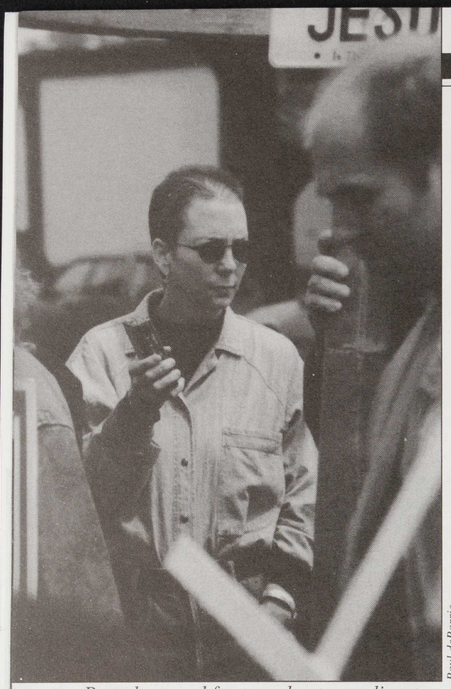


Paul deParrie

Pro-abort and former abortuary director, Roxanne Meyer, records the praying ACLA activists at the end of a picket.

On at least one occasion, two separate clinic "escorts" called in to the Pro-Choice Action League (PCAL) hotline reporting sightings of pro-life protesters.

"They were both our folks," said Peggy Jarman, a spokesman for PCAL.

But ACLA activists did show up at noon at the Kansas University Medical School which provides training in performing abortions. Later, as part of a continuing project of Wichita activists, George Tiller's home was the site of a protest and prayer vigil for the 92nd consecutive week. A picket was also held at Foliage, the exclusive "gated" neighborhood where Tiller is constructing a new home (see sidebar).

ACLA also held a press conference announcing their list of Wichita's "dirty dozen" businesses — businesses which supply abortionists in town. Among them was American Cab Company, which has a contract with George Tiller to ferry his late-term, out-of-town abortion-bound mothers to and from his office and the various motels where they are housed during the abortion procedure.

Activists also hit the airport with flyers exposing the cab company's complicity in the abortion business and calling for a boycott of American Cab.

On Saturday morning, the pro-abortion forces—about 50 in all despite a massive nation-wide call for clinic "defenders" — finally caught up to the pro-life activists. They did it by staying where they had been —at Tiller's clinic.

Very early, a local group called Spiritual Resistance held their usual weekly prayer vigil there. Police barricades kept them across the street from the clinic and the pro-abortion forces.

An hour later, scores more joined them from the ACLA contingent and the numbers went over 100 continuing a quiet, orderly prayer and protest.

While abortion enthusiasts screamed and chanted from across the street, pro-lifers carried crosses and signs and sang hymns.

The rest of the day was taken up by the Firestorm seminar given by Mark Crutcher of Life Dynamics and a final rally addressed by Joseph Scheidler of Pro-Life Action League of Chicago.

Paranoia betrayed

It almost seemed as if the local press and the pro-abortion representatives felt betrayed by the lack of any violent episode on which to pounce during the conference. After noting that the first day's activities had "open[ed] on a peaceful note," later media stories grudgingly admitted that none of the predicted mayhem had come to pass. The tone was an admixture of relief and disappointment.

"We told them all along that there would be no problems," said Denise Billings, one of the conference organizers. "But they wouldn't believe us."

Representatives from the several dozen pro-life activist groups in the south-central region expressed interest in becoming active associates in the ACLA in the future and promised to look over the group's constitution. ■

Constant attention dogs Tiller, motel refuses his business

Wichita, KS — Wichita pro-lifers have not been absent since the end of the Summer of Mercy in 1991 where more than 2,600 arrests were made at abortion clinic doors.

More than anything, locals have focused on George Tiller and his third-trimester abortion practice.

Almost two years ago, a band of pro-lifers committed themselves to prayer and protest outside Tiller's home every week. As of the ACLA conference, they have been there weekly for 92 consecutive weeks. This has caused Tiller to look for another abode — in a sealed-off, exclusive housing community called Foliage. But no sooner had construction on Tiller's 30-room mansion inside the gated community begun, then pro-lifers uncovered what was happening.

Foliage is a housing area where each home is worth more than $250,000 aside from the land, which is located on private streets and accessible only to residents and their invited guests.

Wichita picketers soon began to have a regular presence outside Foliage's electronically monitored gate.

"Some of the residents were really angry," noted one picketer. "They had bought these places precisely to escape the outside world. But I just told them that I sympathized but that they and their neighborhood committee should have been more careful in their choice of who was allowed to buy property in there."

One of the most successful operations against Tiller has been to get him and his practice out of the motel where his out-of-town abortion patients were staying. Tiller had arrangements with a local motel — once the Williamsburg, now the Day's Inn — for late-term abortion patients to stay while they were giving birth to dead babies. Tiller would prepare them, inject them, and then send them back to the motel where he and his staff would come by and monitor the process of the child's death.

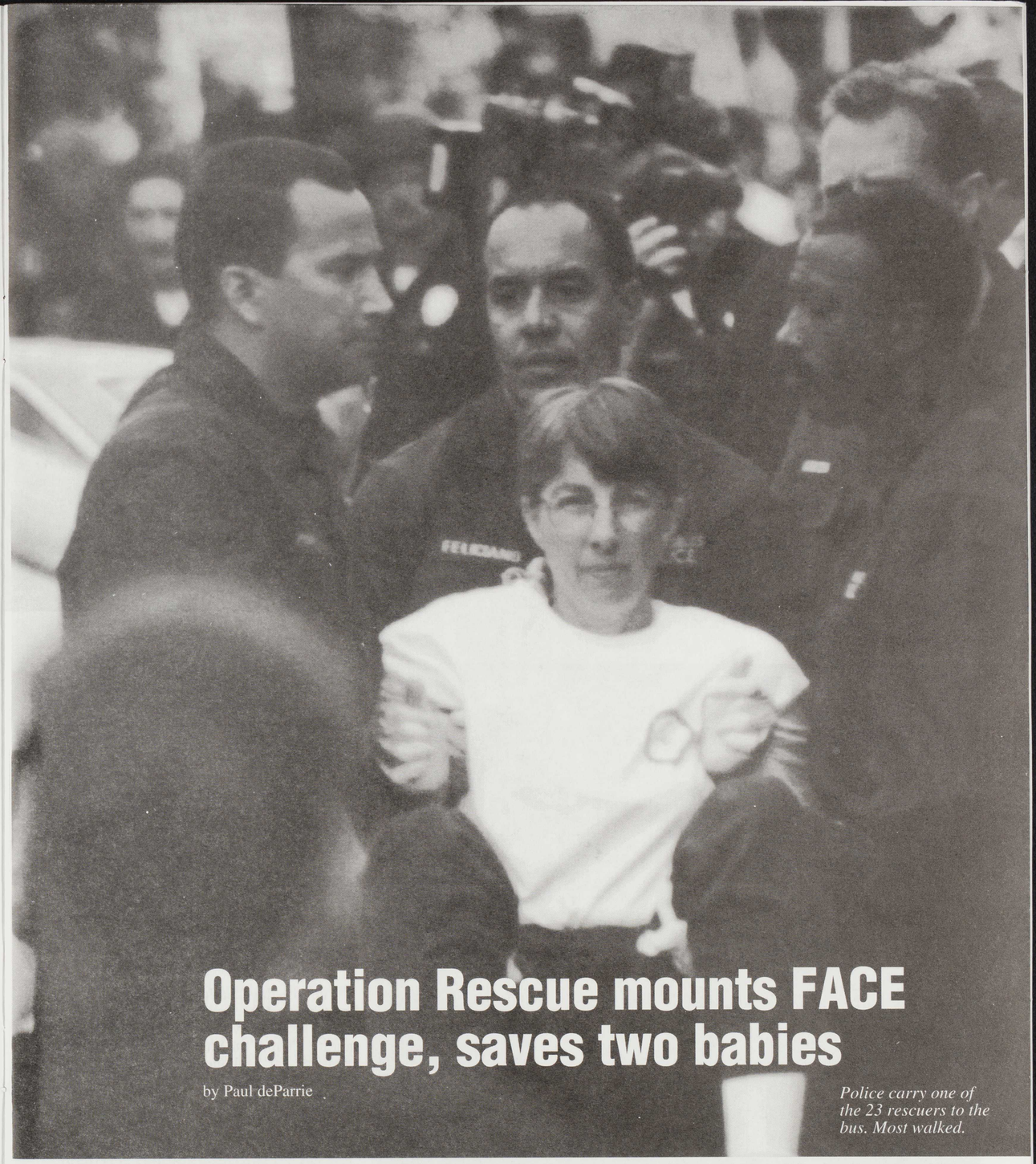
Day's Inn used to house abortionist Tiller's patients while they waited for their babies to die and be born.

Local activists persisted in trying to get Tiller ejected from the motel.

"Over time, we've had him out three times," said Michael Dodds, founder of Wichita Rescue Movement. "Now he's out for good."

During the time that Tiller still had use of the motel, pro-lifers picketed and went surreptitiously from room to room passing out fact-sheets about the babies dying inside the motel's rooms.

When the motel became affiliated with Day's Inn, Dodds and others contacted Clinton Day, Jr., the son of the founder of the chain and the current director, who immediately pulled the name from the location. The name was restored after the motel refused tiller's business. ■



Operation Rescue mounts FACE challenge, saves two babies

by Paul deParrie

Police carry one of the 23 rescuers to the bus. Most walked.

Los Angeles, CA — Under a hazy morning sky, nearly 100 abortion enthusiasts raucously shouted and chanted on front of the Family Planning Associates' abortuary on 6th and Westmoreland on May 27. Bright yellow police-line tape webbed the streets and dozens of riot-helmeted police formed a line between the screaming mass of pro-aborts and the praying pro-lifers.

Thus began the central event of the Operation Rescue Challenge to the FACE of Pro-Choice America in which Operation Rescue/California led the charge for a new legal challenge to the one-year-old law which made it a federal crime to participate in rescue missions at abortion clinics.

Operation Rescue (OR) designed the event to elicit a criminal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act charge from the federal government that could be used to mount a court challenge to the law's constitutionality.