Police and pro-lifers guard the front entrance of the Ashford Avenue mill while others are arrested at another entrance.

Taking on Goliath...

350 Rescue, 189 arrested for closing Dobbs Ferry mill

by Cathy Ramey

Dobbs Ferry, NY — While New York City police prepared for an onslaught by Operation Rescue, approximately 350 anti-abortion rescuers, picketers, and sidewalk counselors converged on the Women's Medical Pavilion mill in the village of Dobbs Ferry, New York. Under cover of heavy fog and tight security, rescuers from New York, New Jersey, Colorado, California, and a number of other states passed through the Lincoln Tunnel and into the locale of one of New York's most egregious baby-killers.

Rescuers arrived shortly before dawn and began closing off access to the Stephen Kaali owned mill. Dozens climbed across bushes, through poison ivy and over Cyclone fencing to reach a back lot parking entrance most commonly used by clients seeking child-killing services. Within moments after the rescue start time another hundred people clogged the front entryway facing Ashford Avenue. Scores of protesters held signs reading, "Abortion Kills Children," while others held up graphic photos of aborted babies.

Police were called to the scene as the rescue commenced, but were unable to bring in significant numbers until the intervention was well underway. At least half of the approximately 30 officers on site appeared to have been borrowed in order to affect arrests and keep pro-baby killing advocates under control.

At least one abortion zealot charged through the crowd of pro-lifers early on. Police forced a member of the radical Refuse & Resist group away after she attempted to climb over several layers of people blocking the doors. Later another half dozen members of the group responded to the rescue with angry chanting and singing and threatened to cross police barricades to remove pro-life opponents from the mill.

One advocate of child-killing was arrested by police after he was ordered to stop beating a trash can with sticks. The can was property of a nearby delicatessen. After refusing to stop, police attempted to pull the sticks from his hands and he responded by shoving an officer. Four officers eventually wrestled him to the ground in the middle of the street and placed him in custody. He was released approximately two hours later.

The arrest process for those jamming the entrances took nearly four hours with rescuers being carried away and thrown into waiting buses. All arrests occurred at the back entrance, with rescuers being siphoned off from the front and sent to the back as police appeared to be near opening the door.

The Women's Medical Pavilion mill has been the site of intense protest over the past four years with the most significant activity centered around a pastor-organized effort called Operation Goliath. The project, extended over several months, included a massive educational effort to inform Dobbs Ferry residents about the killing occurring at the mill, and resulted in a number of arrests for child-saving throughout 1990 and 1991. Pro-aborts attempted to get a four block bubble zone order from the courts, but were only successful in acquiring a 50 foot injunction.

In addition to levying jail terms and fines for trespass in the past, judges also hit individuals who were arrested with what is termed an "Order of Protection." The order increases the jail term possibilities for those with more than one arrest in Dobbs Ferry within a one year period. According to pro-life attorney Ray Mylott, one of those who was arrested, it is different than an injunction in that it does not require civil litigation by the abortionist. It is part of the sentence given by the judge at sentencing. It is assumed that several of those involved in the rescue were violating an Order of Protection stipulation placed upon them during a prior rescue within the past twelve months.

In all 189 Christians were arrested on a charge of simple trespass. The charge carries with it a maximum of 15 days in jail or a $250 fine. Those who rescued after having been placed under an Order of Protection risked an additional 30 to 90 days in jail.

One group headed up by Fr. Norman Weslin, Lambs of Christ, refused to give their names or fingerprints. They were arraigned six days after the rescue on October 14 and released "time served," while over a hundred others, released the day of the rescue, are expected to begin going through hearings within a four-week period following the rescue. According to Mylott, the hearings will be a "stipulated facts" type of plea that will not involve a full length jury trial.

Kaali and his facility manager, Randall Foucher, were not seen at the Ashford Avenue abortuary, however other staff remained on site throughout most of the rescue. Rescue leaders had a last contact with them for the day at 11 a.m. when four staffers left in a car and stopped to remark, "Thanks for the day off. We'll be back to kill on Tuesday," according to Chris Slattery who runs a Pregnancy Center for women who are in crisis.

Sidewalk counselors reported that there were "quite a few encountered in counseling," two children were confirmed to have been saved in the effort, and one Hispanic couple agreed to rethink their decision to

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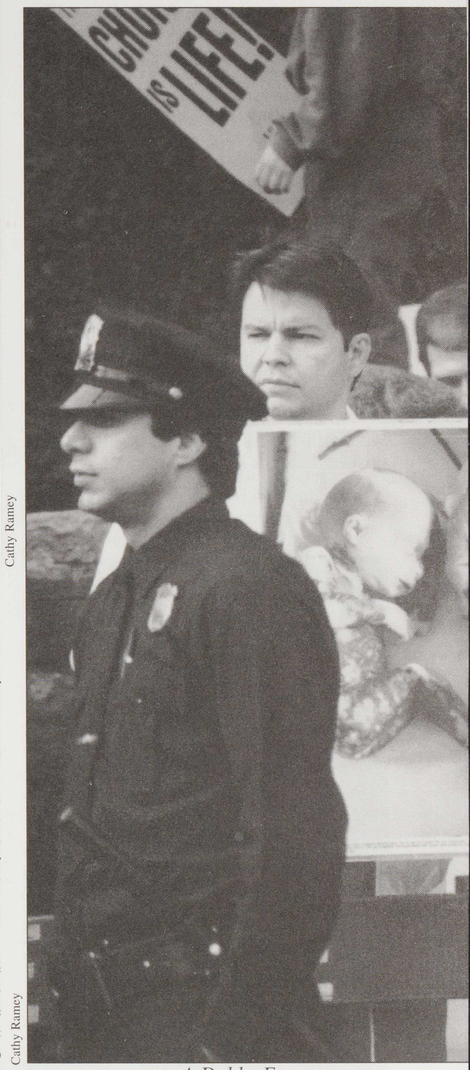
Pro-aborts "vent" by singing "God is a lesbian. She's for abortion. God is a dyke" to the tune of "My Country 'tis of Thee."



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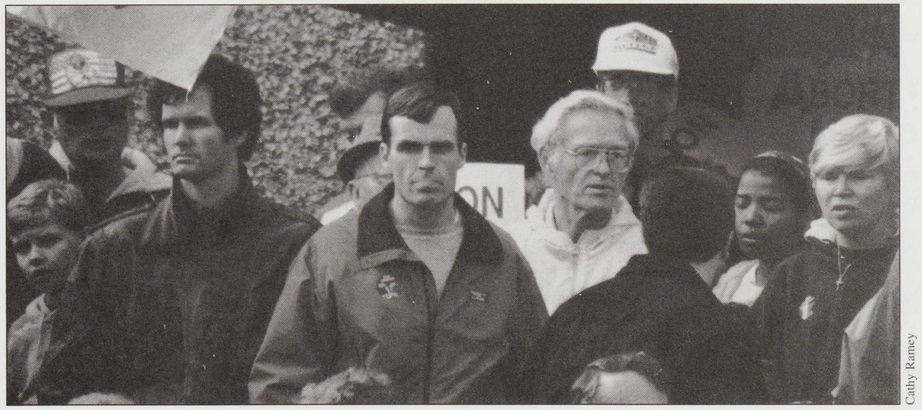
A Dobbs Ferry policeman "just doing his job" outside abortionist Kaali's mill turns away from pro-life sign showing aborted baby.



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Despite his recent release from a two and a half year sentence, Boston rescuer Bill Cotter (center) joined in the Dobbs Ferry blockade that closed the mill for a day.