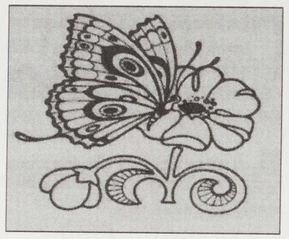
"Project Choice" Abortionist Survey released

Undercover pro-life work reveals abortionists misery

Lewisville, TX—Life Dynamics, a pro-life research and education group, recently released the findings of a survey of 285 abortion providers across the country. Going under the name of Project Choice, Life Dynamics sent surveys to 961 abortionists, receiving a remarkable 30% response. The name was intended to make abortionists feel they were participating in a survey by a pro-abortion group.



The results were first released to the pro-abortion community and were accepted well enough that numerous pro-abortion groups published the results. Later, the analysis of the poll was sent to pro-life groups.

"We went undercover to get the information," said Mark Crutcher, director of Life Dynamics. "They obviously accept and believe the data, but we blew our own cover so they would not later accuse us of being dishonest."

The survey asked abortionists questions that dealt with their personal profile, motivations, social environment, and about "harassment and violence" from pro-lifers. It is the most comprehensive study of abortionists' attitudes known.

Of the responders, 69% said they were not respected in the medical community, 65% feel ostracized by the medical community, 61% have been verbally confronted by an anti-abortion physician, and almost half have trouble recruiting staff because they perform abortions.

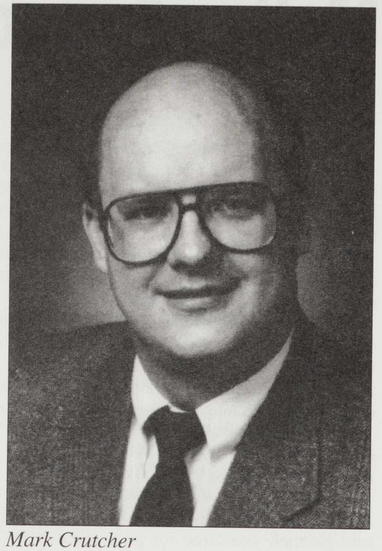
Almost nine out of 10 claimed to have been the victims of pro-life "harassment or violence."

"The research confirmed what we always believed," said Crutcher, "that being an abortionist is a miserable way to live your life. It is unreasonable to believe that any legitimate physician would put up with this if they could have a regular medical practice."

In related findings, 38% expressed moral misgivings about abortion. Of those, the data indicates that these "moral misgivings" are not founded on the anti-abortion activity surrounding them, but rather from "the nature of the act itself."

The survey also showed that the pool of abortionists is aging and not being replaced by younger abortionists. Those currently performing abortions were dismayed by the shrinking number in their ranks and 90% said they would be willing to train others in doing abortions. Nearly 80%, however, objected to the suggestion that non-physicians perform abortions.

"No legitimate physician would endure these conditions," said Crutcher. "These people are obviously from the bottom end of the medical field." ■



Mark Crutcher

City drops residential picketing charges against pro-lifers

Tustin, CA — City officials dismissed residential picketing charges against three pro-life demonstrators due to lack of evidence.

"This is a great victory for the First Amendment. These types of ordinances are popping up all over California and the rest of the country. They create a chilling effect on the free speech rights of pro-lifers because what they are protesting is not politically correct," said Clarence Lowder, The Rutherford Institute attorney handling the case.

According to Lowder, three pro-life demonstrators were cited for violating the city's residential picketing ordinance when they and approximately 15 others of the Tustin Pro-Life Coalition were demonstrating in a Tustin neighborhood on April 17, 1993.

Lowder, who was present at the time of the arrests, said that the protesters were not targeting any particular residence as they marched with signs up and down Prospect Avenue and South 17th Street, entering and exiting cul-de-sacs on the west side of Prospect Avenue.

Tustin Police Sergeant Jim Peery told the pro-lifers that they were in violation of the city's new residential picketing ordinance and ordered that they disperse immediately.

Lowder said Peery arrested three men who stayed to talk with police. Both sides of the controversy were present with videotape cameras according to Lowder.

On Friday, May 14, Wayne Winthers, deputy city attorney, told Lowder that the city dismissed the action against the three demonstrators due to lack of sufficient evidence beyond a reasonable doubt.

"When the opposition is so desperate to divert attention from their abortion activities, they turn their focus to restricting the fundamental free speech rights of those who wish to expose their true agenda," said Lowder. ■

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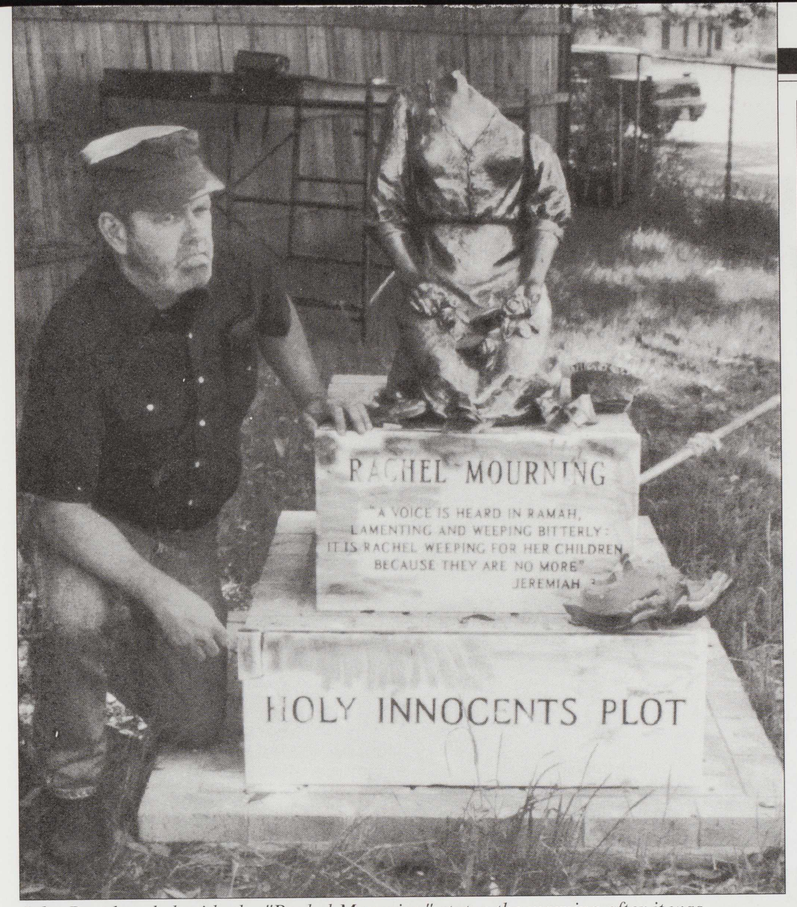

John Burt kneels beside the "Rachel Mourning" statue the morning after it was vandalized.

Pro-life leader John Burt offers $5,000 reward

Pensacola, FL — National pro-life leader John Burt has offered a $5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any persons responsible for the desecration of the graves of two aborted children and the destruction of a pro-life statue in Pensacola, Florida, in May. The graves, as well as the world-famous pro-life statue, were vandalized on the night of May 7 by pro-abortion activists who attended a national abortion rights rally that day in downtown Pensacola.

Among those speaking at the rally were Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women, representatives from radical homosexual groups, such as ACT-UP and Queer Nation, and anti-Christian pagan groups.

The vandalism was discovered at 2 a.m. on May 8 by a Pensacola pro-life activist, Vicky Conroy of Legal Action for Women, who went to the site to pray. The site, Plot of the Holy Innocents, is located adjacent to an abortion mill called The Ladies Center. The site is where Florida pro-life activists last year buried the remains of two aborted children, an act which NOW spokeswomen called "the grossest assault against women ever perpetrated."

Burt replied, "I guess ripping up a human being while it's still inside its mother's body isn't assault."

The memorial next to the graves, "Rachel Mourning," is a bronze statue of the woman Rachel from the Old Testament, weeping over her dead children. Beneath the statue, engraved in the marble pedestal, are the words from Jeremiah 31:15: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamenting and weeping bitterly; it is Rachel weeping for her children, because they are no more." The head of the statue was knocked completely off its shoulders.

The desecration of the graves had a satanic overtone which led some area pro-lifers to immediately suspect that the vandalism was perpetrated by the pro-abortion groups in town. An upside-down wooden cross was thrust into the graves, and an upside-down cross is traditionally a symbol used in satanic worship. Many of the pro-abortion marchers in Pensacola also carried signs with explicitly anti-Christian messages, including "The Christian Fascists Must Be Stopped," "Stop Religious Terrorism," and "Religion is Holy Crap." One demonstrator carried a wooden cross with a stuffed toy monkey on it — a blasphemous reference to Christ on the cross, according to Burt.

Burt, an ordained minister and founder of a home for pregnant women, Our Father's House, is a controversial pro-life activist who has appeared on such national television programs as ABC-TV's "Nightline." He openly questioned why Pensacola officials were silent against the satanic desecration of a grave site and the vandalism of the pro-life memorial when a similar act of vandalism against the statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. last year sparked loud protest. ■

Churches targeted for vandalism

Boston, MA — The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston said several area churches have been the target of vandalism apparently carried out by abortion enthusiasts in the past month.

Archdiocese spokesman John Walsh said glue had been poured into door locks and notes have been left denouncing Catholicism at churches in the Boston suburbs of Brookline, Chestnut Hill, Randolph, Stoughton and Wellesley.

One note left outside a church said, "This building is a breeding ground for hatred of women," Walsh said.

Another message read, "Women are not incubators; abortion is not murder."

Church officials initially treated the acts of vandalism as isolated incidents. But Walsh said there "seems to be a pattern emerging" of anti-Catholicism.

"The archdiocese wishes to protest this anonymous attack on church property as well as the intolerance and bigotry it represents," said Auxiliary Bishop Alfred Hughes of the Boston Archdiocese.

Walsh said that although local police have been notified, there is no coordinated investigation linking the incidents to each other. ■