Pro-lifers challenge newspaper, police lie

by Mary Gratton

Pensacola, FL—The day after a funeral held for two aborted babies in Pensacola, (see *Life Advocate*, March 1993) an article appeared in the *Pensacola News Journal* in which Police Sergeant Jerry Potts, apparently believing the babies were artificial, was quoted as saying, "They were two baby dolls," and reporter Sara Lamb called the babies "grey masses."

Mary Gratton

Rev. John Burt pickets outside the offices of the Pensacola News-Journal after they refused to print both a retraction and a paid ad.

Monday, following the appearance of the article, John Burt of Our Father's House sent a photograph of Baby Austin — one of the children buried — to Dr. William Drake, Jr. a forensic pathologist from St. Louis, Missouri, and requested his professional opinion as to the contents of the coffin.

Dr. Drake sent his report back to Burt and in part said, "I...have come to the conclusion that this is indeed a partly or completely decapitated human fetus..." He also reported, "The white color of the head, neck and extremities is characteristic of formaldehyde preservation. The only white dolls I can recall were porcelain—glazed or bisque..." He then went on to describe how the baby had most likely been decapitated. In closing he stated, "Perhaps the doll clothes deceived the Pensacola Police, but it is considered indecent to bury human beings naked."

The day after receiving Dr. Drake's letter Burt went to the newspaper to try and get the doctor's letter printed. They refused to print it even when Burt offered to pay for it as an advertisement. He was informed that not running an advertisement came under a "Manager's Discretion" policy.

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Picketers demonstrate opposition to the untruthful comments of Sgt. Jerry Potts about the babies buried in a January memorial service.

Days later Burt and pro-lifers from around the area picketed the newspaper and the Pensacola Police Department demanding that the truth be told.

Burt said, "They won't print the doctor's letter because they would lose face. They've already said they weren't babies. They don't want to admit they were wrong."

Another protester, Rev. Donald Gratton, said, "There were about 125 people at the funeral including about 10 ministers besides Rev. Burt and myself, and the paper and the police have called them liars and planted a seed of doubt as to their honesty and their credibility. I think they should apologize or at least print a retraction." ■

Fifteen-year-old Dallas rescuer faces delinquency charges

Houston, TX—At only 15, Jamie Tellier has lost count of the number of times she has been arrested for rescuing at abortion clinics.

Familiar with the police, she now faces another legal obstacle to her efforts to rescue and witness at clinics. The teenager has been ordered to appear in state District Court on March 11 to determine whether she is a "juvenile delinquent, habitual offender," who should be taken from her mother.

The judicial proceedings could take months and possibly establish a precedent. If convicted and judged delinquent, she could be placed in a Texas Youth Commission institution until she is 21.

The girl's mother, their lawyer, John Williamson, and an Operation Rescue official contend that no other Texas juvenile has been prosecuted for trespassing or obstructing a street or passageway—the typical offenses that have led to the girl's arrests and the specific charges she now faces.

Jamie, an eighth-grader from Dallas, insists that she is old enough to willfully engage in rescuing children for religious reasons. Nothing has stopped her efforts. "Right now, the only thing that could stop me is death," she told the *Houston Chronicle*.

So far, she has faced few legal consequences for her actions. Because of her age, police typically have released Jamie within a few hours of her arrests.

The youngster says the only time she was jailed for as long as three days was last summer in Atlanta. She was released and came home to Texas, avoiding whatever the Georgia judicial system had planned for her and other rescuers.

"They said that our trial was going to be postponed till December 1, when of course I wasn't there, and they wrote me a letter saying a bunch of stuff like if I'm ever in Atlanta they'd arrest me and put me in jail and take my license away," said Jamie, who is not old enough to have a driver's license.

Most frequently, she has been arrested in Dallas—20 or 30 times by her own estimate. But she never has been prosecuted.

The Harris County District Attorney's office is forbidden by the laws that apply to juveniles from discussing the girl's case outside of the courtroom. So they cannot discuss why the delinquency case is being pressed now.

Normally, young nonviolent offenders who promise to cooperate are placed on probation and allowed to remain with their parents. Jamie says she won't make any deals.

"If I am fined and found a juvenile delinquent and they threaten to put me on probation, I'm not going to take it," she said in an interview last week after school.

"I'd have to promise I won't rescue again and, of course, I won't do that. Jail won't stop me from rescuing. I don't care how long it is."

Jamie's trial is scheduled to take place on the same day that a civil suit against five Dallas pro-lifers will begin. Those five and others have targeted a Dallas abortionist through a neighborhood picketing and exposure campaign.

Pastor and rescue leader, Rev. Flip Benham, who heads up the Dallas/Fort Worth Operation Rescue, states, "Christianity is on trial in the city of Dallas." ■

Abortion industry benefits from Catholic investments

From Human Life International

Washington, DC—While millions of Catholics pray and work fervently to end abortion, an organization that annually handles approximately a billion dollars in Catholic funds invests in companies that profit from killing unborn babies, according to Human Life International (HLI), a Washington-based pro-life group.

HLI also says that another organization, one which dominates the ecumenical efforts of churches to confront corporations on social issues, tackles such concerns as apartheid and militarism but remains silent about abortion, officially considered by the Roman Catholic Church to be the dominant human rights issue of our age.

Clients of the two organizations comprise a veritable "Who's Who" of Catholic America.

The allegations are outlined in the lead article in the March 1993 issue of *HLI Reports,* one of the pro-life organization's several newsletters.

Manhattan-based Christian Brothers Investment Service (CBIS), which assists more than 800 Catholic organizations with their investments, considers eligible for investment:

Every manufacturer of contraceptive and/or abortifacient drugs except one.

Every maker of contraceptive devices, including those that make abortifacient IUDs.

Every publicly traded medical facility that performs abortions.

Every insurance company that profits from abortion.

CBIS—which handles nearly $1 billion in investment funds for Catholic groups—claims to adhere to the so-called "consistent life ethic" in targeting investments. "For those groups, it would seem 'the consistent life ethic' starts somewhere after birth and has its most common application in countries 10,000 miles away—South Africa—or in products—nuclear weapons—that haven't been used in 50 years," says the article by Thomas Strobhar. CBIS shuns Salvadoran coffee beans while investing in companies that peddle birth control pills and abortion.

"... it can be said Catholic funds are probably used on a daily basis to promote what the Church calls 'abominable crimes,'" says the article.

The article quotes Brother Gerard Frendreis, director of socially responsible investing for CBIS, as freely admitting that CBIS invests in companies that make birth control pills. Use of contraceptive devices, including birth control pills, to prevent conception is considered a mortal sin by the Catholic Church. Furthermore, experts say the Pill often causes expulsion of fertilized eggs from the uterus, and therefore acts as an abortifacient. In the U.S., the Pill annually causes an estimated nine million abortions of tiny, newly conceived babies.

"Considering the scope and size of the abortion industry and the willingness of CBIS to invest in abortion-related companies, it can be said Catholic funds are probably used on a daily basis to promote what the Church calls 'abominable crimes,'" says the article. Also blasted in the newsletter is the Interfaith Center work-based organization. The ICCR is made up of 22 Protestant denominations, agencies and pension funds and more than 220 Roman Catholic dioceses, orders and pension funds. The members have committed their resources, specifically investments, to holding corporations socially accountable.

Noting that the ICCR has raised its voice against apartheid, Northern Ireland, Third World debt, Star Wars and other "politically correct" rallying points, the article quotes one ICCR member saying, "We are trying to reach the issues of our time and respond to them."

"It might be asked how this organization, with its 90 percent Catholic membership, has responded to 'the human rights issue of our time'," says the article. "The answer is simple: They haven't even tried."

The ICCR has never sponsored a shareholder resolution on abortion, even though they have sponsored or co-sponsored hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of resolutions on a broad spectrum of other issues. Asked why abortion has not been targeted, the ICCR member said, "I don't think it would be very popular."

"The actions of these organizations mock the actions of countless individual Christians who have sacrificed so much so that a few of God's children might see the light of day," says the *HLI Reports* article. "We must tell these groups to change their hearts." ■

Endocrinologist warns RU-486 will worsen breast cancer epidemic

In an open letter to FDA Commissioner Dr. David Kissler, dated January 27, Dr. Joel Brind, a breast cancer researcher and professor of biology and endocrinology at Baruch College, City University of New York, warned that legalization of the French morning after/abortion pill RU-486 could send breast cancer rates soaring.

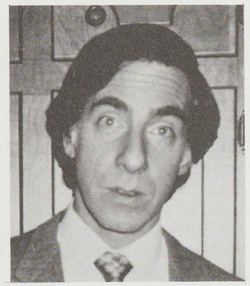
The legalization of RU-486, said Brind, "is virtually guaranteed to increase the incidence of breast cancer by thousands of cases every year, by increasing the availability and frequency of induced abortion."

Citing decades of research from Europe, China, South America and the former USSR, as well as the USA, Professor Brind predicted a "truly staggering" public health impact if this new pill form of legalized abortion is adopted. Current abortion policy has already contributed to the 140,000 new breast cancer cases diagnosed in the US every year, he argues.

Brind is particularly concerned about teenage girls and young women. For a teenager, Brind says, "Having an abortion doubles her risk of breast cancer over what it would be if she has the baby."

Dr. Brind also charged that professional medical associations have been unwilling to publicize the link between breast cancer and abortion because they are preoccupied with population control issues.

Brind concluded his letter by reminding the FDA commissioner of President Clinton's pledge to increase government efforts to stem what Congress has called the "growing epidemic" of breast cancer. He urged Dr. Kessler to "stand firm in refusing to allow the short-circuiting of the FDA's established procedures for assuring the safety of potential new drugs." ■



Dr. Joel Brind