

Anti-Abortion Violence Watch

Reporting on Domestic Terrorism Against Women's Health Clinics

A Project of the Feminist Majority Foundation's National Clinic Access Project

July, 1997 #2

There have been **12** women's health clinic bombings or arsons in the first 7 months of 1997.

Clinics Arsoned/Bombed 1997



Status of Investigations

January 1 & 19, 1997 • Tulsa, OK

Reproductive Services

Greg Paul, Diane Dona Alleva charged and their teenage son convicted

January 16, 1997 • Atlanta, GA

Nothside Family Planning Services
No Arrests

February 18, 1997 • Falls Church, VA

Commonwealth Women's Clinic
James Mitchell charged

March 6, 1997 • Greensboro, NC

Piedmont-Carolina Medical Clinic
No Arrests

March 7, 1997 • North Hollywood, CA

Family Planning Assoc. Medical Clinic
No Arrests

March 17, 1997 • Bakersfield, CA

Family Planning Assoc. Medical Clinic
Peter Howard charged

April 2, 1997 • Bozeman, MT

Mountain Country Women's Clinic
John Yankowski charged

May 7, 1991 • Yakima WA

Planned Parenthood Central WA
No Arrests

May 27, 1997 • Portland, OR

Lovejoy Surgicenter
No Arrests

July 22, 1997 • Tuscaloosa, AL

West Alabama Women's Center
No Arrests

Anti-Abortion Actions Planned

Milwaukee, Wisconsin • September 11-13

Pro-Life Action Network (PLAN) convention organized by Rescue America and Missionaries to the Preborn. A direct "field action" (blockade) at a local clinic has been announced for September 14.

Tuscaloosa, AL Abortion Clinic is the 12th Arson/Bombing of 1997

Highest Rate of Arson & Bombings Since 1984

The July 22nd arson of the West Alabama Women's Center in Tuscaloosa, AL marks the 12th abortion clinic arson or bombing of 1997 — the highest rate of arson and bombings since 1984. The Tuscaloosa clinic sustained massive damage, estimated at more than \$250,000, due to the early morning fire. The clinic has been plagued in the past by threats of anti-abortion violence. Federal law enforcement officials issued an alert to clinics throughout the region to increase security measures in the wake of the Tuscaloosa fire.

Alarmed by the resurgent wave of abor-

tion clinic arsons and bombings, Feminist Majority Foundation President Eleanor Smeal called for the Tuscaloosa arson to be immediately classified as an incident of domestic terrorism. "These incidents of violence must not be examined in isolation, but as part of a larger pattern of terror and violence against women's health clinics," said Smeal. "More investigative resources are needed to determine whether the double bombings in Atlanta claimed by the "Army of God" and the string of arsons at clinics across the country since are connected," continued Smeal.

Operation Rescue National Harasses Doctor and Clinics in Southern Ohio

The Tuscaloosa firebombing came just as Operation Rescue National (ORN) ended a week of clinic blockade attempts and harassment of doctors and clinic workers in Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio July 13-19. ORN had billed the Ohio activities as a follow-up to Wichita, Kansas where for several weeks in 1991 ORN engaged in aggressive abortion clinic blockades involving thousands of anti-abortion protesters. The group's "Show the Truth" campaign in southern Ohio was far smaller, drawing only two to three hundred anti-abortion protesters from around the nation. Cincinnati/Dayton is home to Dr. Martin Haskell who has become a focus of anti-abortion extremists around the issue of late-term abortion. ORN followers blockaded Dr. Haskell's clinic on July 15. Four of the protesters were arrested for blocking the entrance to the clinic.

As they have increasingly in recent years, protesters encircled the home of a second doctor in the Cincinnati area, having leafletted his surrounding neighborhood

the day before with flyers describing him as a "Child Killing Abortionist." The flyer provided his home address and the address of the Aware Woman Center for Choice clinic in Melbourne, Florida where the doctor travels each week to perform abortions. The flyer also indicated the days of the week the doctor is at the Melbourne clinic.

The Aware Woman clinic has long been plagued by anti-abortion extremists and violence. In 1993, Melbourne was the site of the IMPACT Team Training of Operation Rescue National. For months, ORN followers from across the country staged blockades and demonstrations. The clinic's doctors and staff were stalked and threatened. A buffer-zone injunction secured on behalf of the clinic by the Feminist Majority Foundation in Florida state court, eventually was upheld by the US Supreme Court in *Madsen v. Women's Health Center, Inc.*, establishing the constitutionality of buffer-safety zones at abortion clinics. (continued on reverse)

ORN Harasses Cincinnati Doctor

(continued from front)

This same doctor who was the focus of ORN's activity in Ohio is featured on an anti-abortion Internet site called "Jay's Killer Web Page" (<http://www.forerunner.com/killer.html>) published out of Melbourne, Florida. The "Jay's Killer Web Page" contains descriptions of the doctor's physical appearance and characteristics, features a photograph of the doctor, publicizes his home address in Cincinnati, and the location of the clinic in Melbourne where he works. The web page also contains extensive personal biographical information on the doctor, including previous employers. The author of the web page owns and lives in the property across the street from the Aware Woman Clinic and regularly harasses clinic staff and patients.

A similar web page called "The Nuremberg Files" also features doctors who perform abortions and clinic staff from around the country. The authors indicate their purpose for "collecting dossiers on abortionists in anticipation that one day we may be able to hold them on trial for crimes against humanity." The authors urge anti-abortion followers to "help collect evidence" against "persons who perform abortion, persons who own or direct abortion clinics, and persons who provide protection to abortion clinics," including law enforcement officers and judges. The web site is seeking photos and videotapes, including car, house, friends; personal data; notes by "surveillance workers, sidewalk counselors, or picketers" at clinics; and "anything else (to) ... help identify and convict in a future court of law." (<http://www.christiangallery.com>)

The Anti-Abortion Violence Watch is compiled by the staff of the Feminist Majority Foundation and is published monthly. Incidents listed here are drawn from National Clinic Access Project reports and other sources, and are a sampling of anti-abortion violence. To report anti-abortion activities or for more information on the National Clinic Access Project, call Washington DC (703)522-2214 Los Angeles (213)651-0495 or write to 1600 Wilson Blvd #801, Arlington, VA 22209

Recent Clinic Violence Incidents

Arsons/Attempted Arsons

Tuscaloosa, AL • July 22, 1997

West Alabama Women's Center sustained massive damage, estimated at over \$250,000, after a firebombing gutted the interior of the building. A flammable petroleum-based liquid and a lighted flare were dropped down a vent in the roof. The clinic was a target of threats/demonstrations in the past.

Portland, OR • May 27, 1997

The Lovejoy Surgicenter, a frequent target of anti-abortion protests, was set on fire suffering \$250,000 in damage. The clinic received several bomb threats from 5/17-19. The caller left similar threats at the Feminist Women's Health Centers in Portland and Eugene as well as the Center for Choice in Yakima, WA and Women's Health Care in Boise, ID.

Yakima, WA • May 7, 1997

Attempted arson at Planned Parenthood Central WA's Yakima Family Planning Clinic. Clinic sustained minimal damage.

Bozeman, MT • April 2, 1997

Anti-abortion activist John Yankowski was arrested for setting fire to the building housing the office of Dr. Susan Wicklund. Damage estimated at \$2,000. The fire was just minutes away from burning out of control.

North Hollywood, CA • March 7, 1997

A "Molotov Cocktail" was thrown through a window at the Family Planning Assoc. Medical Group causing \$1,000 in damage.

Greensboro, NC • March 6, 1997

The Piedmont-Carolina Medical clinic was set on fire causing \$50,000 in damage. The only other clinic offering abortion services recently shut down after the landlord refused to renew the lease because of fear of arson.

Falls Church, VA • February 18, 1997

James Mitchell was arrested for breaking into a Falls Church abortion clinic and setting it on fire. No one was injured, but the fire caused an estimated \$25,000 in damages. The incident was the second of its kind at the clinic, which had its back door set on fire in '94.

Tulsa, Oklahoma • January 1, 1997

A "Molotov cocktail" was thrown through a rear window at the Reproductive Services and Adoption Affiliates clinic causing minimal damage; a second "Molotov cocktail" started a small fire outside the building.

Bombings

Bakersfield, CA • March 17, 1997

Anti-abortion activist Peter Howard drove a truck loaded with 13 gas cans and 3 propane tanks into the Family Planning Assoc. clinic. Howard has been charged with "detonating a

destructive device" and "terrorism with a destructive device." Howard who was wearing a helmet and earplugs, crashed through the doors and ignited newspapers and rope soaked in fuel. Fire fighters doused the flames before the tanks exploded.

Atlanta, GA • February, 21, 1997

One bomb exploded and another was discovered and detonated by authorities at an Atlanta lesbian nightclub; five people were injured. A few days later, a letter from the "Army of God" claimed credit for both the February 21 and January 16 clinic bombings.

Tulsa, Oklahoma • January 19, 1997

Two bombs were set off at the Reproductive Services and Adoption Affiliates clinic, the same site as the January 1 firebombing. Damage to the interior of the building was severe. On February 2, 1997, intruder shot up office and medical equipment inside the clinic.

Atlanta, GA • January 16, 1997

Two bombs were set off at Northside Family Planning Services. The first bomb destroyed most of the interior of the clinic. The second bomb, one hour later, was placed near the parking lot and appeared to be designed to kill rescue workers, law enforcement personnel, or clinic staff forced outside the building by the first blast.

Assaults/Attempted Murders

New Orleans, LA • December 1996

Dr. C. Jackson was stabbed repeatedly as he entered the Orleans Women's Clinic after self identifying as the doctor. Jackson lost over four pints of blood and his ear was nearly severed. The assailant was apprehended later that day, as he lay in wait to attack a second doctor, having illegally entered a Baton Rouge clinic carrying a knife.

Arrests/Convictions

Cincinnati/Dayton, OH • July 15, 1997

Four anti-abortion protesters were arrested outside the Women's Medical Center in the suburb of Kettering for blockading the clinic entrance. The protesters refused to identify themselves upon arrest, stating their names as either Jane or John Doe.

California • May 30, 1997

Federal authorities arrested Richard Thomas Andrews with setting three arson fires at abortion clinics in CA in 1992 and 1994.

Englewood, NJ • March 15, 1997

Police arrested 17 anti-abortion activists at the Metropolitan Medical Associates clinic after they stormed a police barricade. Those arrested were charged with violating a court order, arrest and criminal trespass.