

The Abortion Underworld

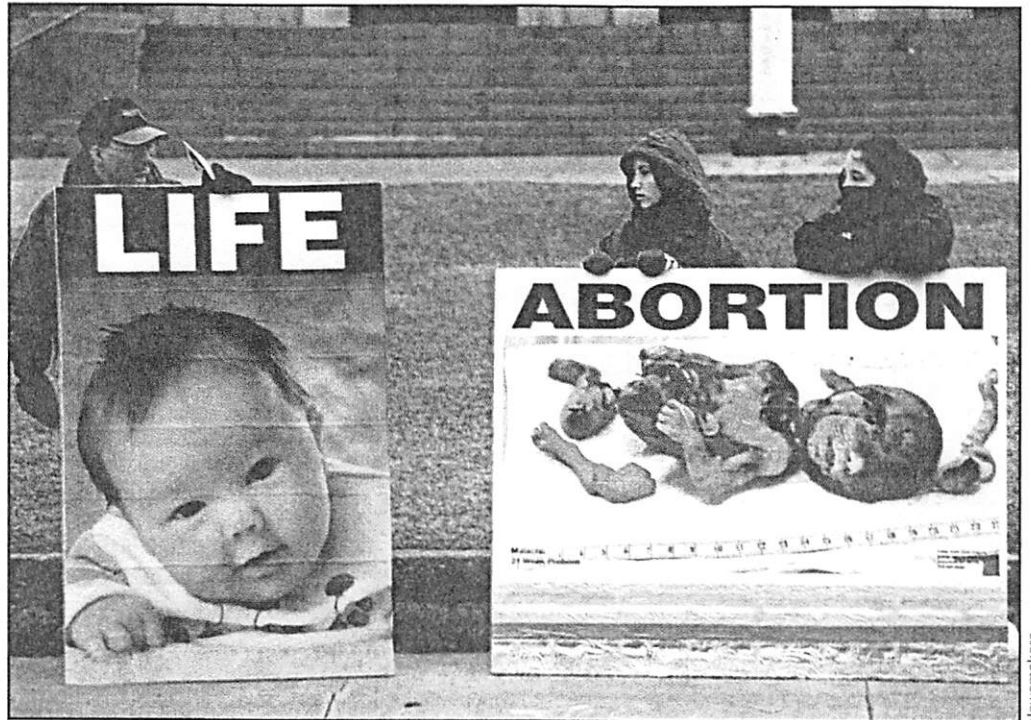
The abortion industry is riddled with violence, corruption, and crime and is guilty of committing vile deeds outside as well as inside abortion clinics.

by William Norman Grigg

Two human beings died as a result of a December 1996 abortion performed by Bruce Steir: The 20-week-old unborn child carried by 27-year-old Sharon Hamplton, and the mother herself. "I think I've pulled bowel," Steir informed an attending nurse during the abortion — a comment indicating that Steir had punctured the uterine wall. Under established medical procedures, Steir should have sent Hamplton to a hospital. But Steir — a notoriously inept practitioner who had mangled several women in Washington and Florida during his 23-year career as an abortionist — had been on probation with the California medical board since 1988, and an emergency room visit from a customer would have imperiled his license.

Rather than calling an ambulance, Steir sent Hamplton home from the Riverside, California, abortion clinic. As her mother and her three-year-old son looked on, Hamplton — a black single mother — bled to death in the front seat of the car. By this time Steir was on a plane to San Francisco. As a circuit-riding abortionist, Steir had a busy schedule; there were other "clinics" to visit, and more babies to abort.

The Riverside County District Attorney's office charged Steir with second-degree murder through "gross negligence." In May 2000, just prior to the trial, Steir accepted a plea bargain on a charge of second-degree manslaughter. Steir was spared a prison sentence: His punishment for killing Sharon Hamplton was a year in the county jail, 60 months of probation, and 1,000 hours of community service. The sentencing judge suspended 180 days of the sentence, thus reducing the term to six



Moral stance: Pro-life activists peacefully attempt to expose the reality of the abortion industry by unveiling the life-ending consequences which are promoted and protected by advocates of women's "choice." The pro-life movement, by definition, does not condone violence and murder as a means to further an agenda, despite the media-induced belief that the movement is suffused with a violent ethic. Indeed, most abortion-related crimes are committed by people involved in the abortion industry itself.

months. On September 16, 2000, after serving 114 days, Steir was released. This was done for his ostensible good behavior, which apparently did not require expressions of remorse. "I'm absolutely not sorry," Steir stated in a jailhouse interview shortly before his release. Qualifying that declaration somewhat, Steir stated: "I'm sorry I ended up in jail. I'm sorry I had to surrender my license, and I'm sorry a woman died." His order of priorities is telling; he apparently sees himself as the primary victim in the matter.

The abortion industry, and its allies in the medical establishment, have extolled Steir as a martyr in the cause of "choice." Following Steir's arrest, the Feminist Women's Health Center (FWHC) in Chico, California, which was Steir's primary employer, orchestrated a campaign

depicting Steir as a persecuted champion of women's rights. The National Organization for Women (NOW) followed FWHC's lead. "It is an inequitable tragedy that a doctor, who has dedicated so many years of his practice to providing abortion services, now faces such unjust harassment," stated a letter of support from the Sacramento chapter of NOW. "The charges against Dr. Steir must be dropped, not only because we believe that he is not guilty of murder but also because we must send the message that we cannot be bullied by the anti-choice movement."

A 1998 letter from the National Abortion Federation (NAF) urged that the murder charge be set aside and that any action against Steir be taken through "medical peer review and civil court." The NAF, which "sets and maintains quality care

Brian Clowes, a researcher for Human Life International, has assembled a 200-page report documenting crimes — including murder, rape, child molestation, drug dealing, extortion, assault, embezzlement, and various violent actions against pro-life activists — committed by abortionists and their supporters over the past 28 years.

standards for abortion services,” insisted that there was no evidence that “Dr. Steir deliberately put aside all his years of training and experience in order to cause harm to this patient.” The NAF pointedly declined to elaborate upon Steir’s “years of ... experience,” which include the following achievements, according to documents filed with the California Medical Board in 1988:

- While working as an abortionist in Washington State during the 1970s, Steir failed to remove all of the fetal remains from his client, forcing the woman to undergo emergency treatment.

- Another Washington woman discovered that Steir had left behind a four-inch piece of wire in her abdomen during an abortion. She suffered for 13 years before the wire, and the abscess that surrounded it, were surgically removed.

- In 1985, Steir, who at the time was a Naval Reserve physician “moonlighting” as an abortionist, botched a cesarian section by leaving a placenta fragment inside his patient. In response, the Navy revoked his license to practice medicine.

- In 1987, the Florida Department of Professional Regulation ordered Steir to relinquish his license to practice medicine in that state and “never again to apply for licensure as a physician in the State of Florida.”

- In 1988, while under probation with the California Medical Board, Steir perforated the uterus

of an abortion client. An official review found that Steir “made no operative report or post-operative report [of the incident] until approximately eight months later, and this was in response to an investigation.” Steir’s behavior in that case prefigured, in detail, his actions in the death of Sharon Hamplton.

- A 1990 malpractice suit filed by one of Steir’s clients recounted how the abortionist had “informed [the woman] that there was a fetal mass that could be aborted when in fact no such mass was present.” Despite the absence of a child to abort, Steir proceeded with the abortion, causing permanent uterine damage and a condition known as Asherman’s Syndrome.

Steir’s Supporters

Based upon his curriculum vitae, one might conclude that Bruce Steir embodies the image of the “back-alley butcher” who plied the abortion trade prior to *Roe v.*

Wade. Nonetheless, the abortion industry and its allies eagerly rallied behind Steir.

A report by the Northern California chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (which had filed amicus briefs on Steir’s behalf) insisted that the prosecution of Steir was part of a vast conspiracy by “anti-choice” activists. “Through harassment and violence, anti-choice groups have tried to frighten women out of seeking abortions and to frighten doctors out of providing them,” insisted the ACLU report. “Recent years have seen the rise of another tactic: using the legal and regulatory systems to intimidate abortion providers and drive them out of business.” From this twisted perspective, trying to hold abortionists legally accountable is tantamount to terrorism.

Refuse & Resist!, a radical Marxist group headquartered in New York’s Cathedral of St. John the Divine, designated Steir “a true hero” as it conferred its supposedly coveted “Courageous Resister” award upon Steir during its March 10, 1998, “National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers.” Emmy award winning filmmaker Dorothy Fadiman, who at-



Marching Marxism: Headquartered in New York, the socialist activist group Refuse & Resist! conferred its “Courageous Resister” award upon abortionist Bruce Steir. Steir’s track record includes several botched abortions which resulted in permanent injuries to his patients, the revoking of his license by the Navy and the state of Florida, and the death of one of his patients. Despite the overwhelming evidence that Steir is professionally inept, supporters of the abortion industry have tried to protect him from being held accountable for his actions.

tended the Refuse & Resist! ceremony in San Francisco, described Steir as “part of a sacred circle who have put their lives on the line for us.”

As the abortion industry beatified Steir, it resolutely ignored his victims — not only the unborn children who had been killed by him, but the women who had been maimed by him as well. Steir’s defenders dismissed the death of Sharon Hamplton as a “tragic complication,” rather than another episode of gross negligence on Steir’s part. What was really important, maintained the abortion establishment, were the supposed motives of Steir’s opponents.

“We believe the murder charge against Dr. Bruce Steir is part of an orchestrated campaign by anti-abortion extremists that targets health care workers and continues to harass them until they quit,” declared a letter from Eleanor Smeal’s Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) to the California Medical Board. “We urge you to consider the possibility of ulterior motives of those accusing Dr. Steir and to respond accordingly.” The FMF’s invocation of “ulterior motives” brings to mind Christopher Hitchens’ observation that under Stalin, the Soviet Communist Party “replaced all debate about the merit of an argument or a position ... with an inquiry about motive.” In any case, it is a telling fact that none of the supposed champions of women’s rights, including the supposed right to “legal and safe” abortion, considered it worthwhile to hold Steir accountable for his gross ineptitude.

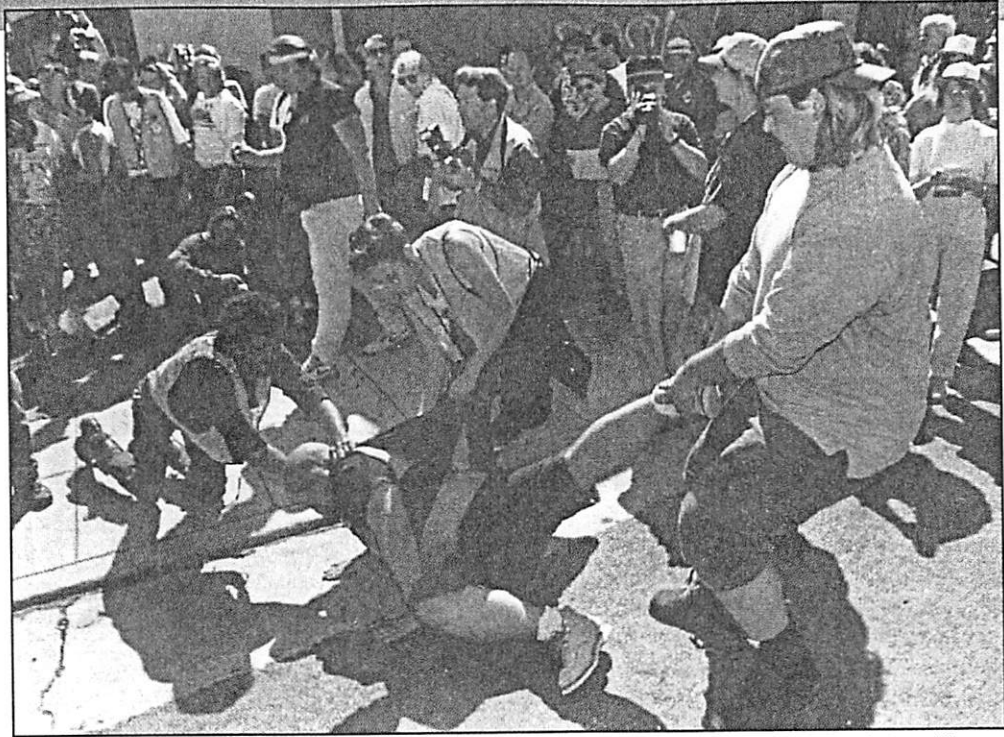
Abortion and Agitation

As reported in these pages several years ago (see “Meet the ‘J Street Five’” in our May 16, 1994 issue), pro-choice advocates have been successful, through judicial rulings and street-level agitation, in gagging pro-life activists. In a pioneering 1989 decision, Superior Court Judge James Long created a “bubble zone” in front of the FWHC abortion clinic in northern California. This zone was a selectively “speech-free” area from which pro-life counselors (but not pro-abortion

agitators) were banished.

Prior to the creation of the “bubble zone,” however, the FWHC had retained the services of a contingent of “clinic escorts” — a team of activists whose sole purpose was to clear pro-lifers from the sidewalks. The “clinic escorts” were led by activist Alison Gude, who at the time was associated with both the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) and the Bay Area Coalition against Operation Rescue (BACOR). The BACOR “clinic defense handbook,” written by Gude states: “Our best work is done before police arrive, or when there are not enough police there to prevent us from doing what we have to do.... Get in place before cops can mess with it: establish balance of power early, do key acts requiring physical contact with [pro-lifers] as much as possible before the cops have enough people to intervene.”

Videotapes of BACOR confrontations depict Gude and other activists taunting, spitting, shoving, body-blocking, and throwing punches at pro-life sidewalk counselors. Although the BACOR manual describes pro-life protesters and sidewalk counselors as “violent” and “vicious,” it



Politics of harassment: “Clinic escorts” assigned to “protect” the areas around abortion clinics utilize tactics outlined in the Bay Area Coalition against Operation Rescue (BACOR) handbook. In the handbook, activist author Alison Gude declares: “Our best work is done before police arrive, or when there are not enough police there to prevent us from doing what we have to do.” As documented in video footage, these tactics include taunting, spitting, shoving, body-blocking, throwing punches, and removing pro-life sidewalk counselors.

admits that they are “much less likely to physically beat people up” than the clinic “escorts.”

“Chivalry is not dead with these people ... and that means they have an inordinate sense of ‘honor’ about being accused of touching women,” continues the BACOR manual. Apparently unhindered by such scruples themselves, clinic “escorts” are free to employ violence against pro-lifers. “There are innumerable instances of clinic defenders neutralizing male [pro-lifers] by shouting ‘get your hands off me, don’t you dare touch me’ all the while they are tugging or pushing [pro-lifers] out of line.” Specialized “escorts” called “doggers” are deployed for the purpose of getting into “loud, expletive-filled physical confrontations” with pro-lifers.

It is important to recognize that while Gude and her associates were being portrayed and accepted as fighting for “women’s right to choose,” they were also creating a blockade to protect Steir and other abortionists from exposure. Their success, both judicial and tactical, served to conceal Steir’s ineptitude from his clients — among which was the late Sharon Hamplton.

Double Standard

“Although I think the RICO [Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations] Act is unconstitutional, I’d have to say that the abortion industry meets its definition of an ‘ongoing criminal enterprise,’” Mark Crutcher of Life Dynamics told *THE NEW AMERICAN*. Crutcher’s group has the unenviable task of documenting and cataloging corruption, crimes, and cover-ups waged by abortionists and their accomplices. “For all of the focus upon the occasional act of violence by abortion opponents, there is far more violence carried out by abortion supporters. But in the aftermath of the Clinton-Reno era, the Justice Department has become almost a private police force for the abortion industry, so there’s little official interest in addressing the realities of the issue.”

To understand those realities, consider this contrast. When opponents of abortion have committed crimes against persons or property — such as killing or wounding

abortionists, or committing acts of vandalism — the pro-life movement, with near unanimity, has condemned such acts as immoral. When Bruce Steir killed Sharon Hamplton, the abortion industry, with similar unanimity, came to his defense — and condemned the pro-life movement for making an issue of the crime.

“On those rare occasions that an abortion clinic is bombed or vandalized, or a crime is committed against an abortionist, the pro-lifers all but grovel at the feet of the media, begging the public not to blame the entire movement for the incident,” Brian Clowes, a researcher for Human Life International (HLI), told *THE NEW AMERICAN*. “But nobody ever seems to ask about the crimes and acts of violence committed by abortionists and pro-abortion activists against pro-lifers and others. There seems to be very little media interest in the fact that ‘safe and legal’ abortion kills hundreds of women, or about the corruption that is common throughout the industry.”

“The relentless focus upon the occasional shooting or bombing diverts the public’s attention not only from the more than 40 million babies that have been killed inside these so-called clinics, but also from pro-abortion violence that is committed outside of them,” continues Clowes. On behalf of HLI, Clowes has assembled a 200-page report documenting crimes — including murder, rape, child molestation, drug dealing, extortion, assault, embezzlement, and various violent actions against pro-life activists — committed by abortionists and their supporters over the past 28 years. His sources include contemporaneous local media accounts and police and court records.

In the February 2000 edition of Clowes’ report (which is a work in progress), he documents 69 instances of murder, manslaughter, and infanticide (not including children killed during abortions) and lists 245 women killed during “safe and legal” abortions. By way of contrast, during the

Inside the Underworld

by William Norman Grigg

Because violence committed by abortion opponents is uncommon, it could be considered newsworthy. However, the single-minded focus directed upon such incidents by the media is not intended to inform, but rather to indoctrinate, the public. It is a forced, unnatural marriage of images in which pro-life convictions are wedded in the public mind with violence, vandalism, and murder.

The October 1998 murder of Buffalo, New York, abortionist Barnett Slepian by a still-unknown sniper offered the mass media its most recent opportunity to smear the pro-life movement. Dan Rather informed the audience of the *CBS Evening News* that “rhetoric from the anti-abortion movement is helping to incite this kind of violence.” *USA Today* opined in its October 27, 1998 issue that the murder of Slepian “offers yet another example of the terrorism that festers at the edges of the pro-life movement.” The November 9, 1998 issue of *Newsweek* alleged that in recent years “arsons and bombings have been a larger part of anti-abortionists’ agenda.” This wholesale propaganda line was retailed by scores of newspapers and local television affiliates nationwide.

However, as Merle Terlesky points out, almost all of the violence being perpetrated in the abortion controversy comes from the pro-abortion side. Terlesky should know: Until a few years ago, he was one of North America’s most visible street-level combatants on the pro-abortion side.

Terlesky is a short man of slight build who is recovering from leukemia — hardly the type of person who would normally be con-

sidered a threat. Yet as Terlesky approached abortionist Henry Morgenthaler’s Toronto “clinic” on September 21, 2000, he was intercepted by what he described as a “wall of police.” “There were riot police, two huge private security guards, lawyers, and security guards across the street in unmarked black cars,” Terlesky told *THE NEW AMERICAN*. “And the clinic worker who came out to talk to me was shaking quite a bit. I said to them, ‘Good grief — is this what you do when UPS drops off a package?’”

Under most circumstances this reception would be considered excessive, especially since the sole purpose of Terlesky’s visit was to deliver a letter expressing the desire that Morgenthaler “will one day find peace and comfort in your soul and end the pain you cause yourself.” What is remarkable about this letter of hope is that, despite his unremarkable appearance, Terlesky was once a militant activist engaged in spreading the “pain” that Morgenthaler and others continue to inflict.

Prior to Terlesky’s conversion to Christianity and pro-life activism, he was a “clinic escort” with the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics (OCAC). Terlesky traveled across Canada and the northeastern United States to confront pro-life activists. On several occasions he led rent-a-mobs that disrupted parliamentary debates. On one occasion he joined with homosexual activists to break up a pro-life prayer meeting in Toronto that was held nowhere near an abortuary. To these tasks Terlesky — at the time a member of Canada’s Communist Party — brought skills that had been refined during a 1990 stint at the Soviet Communist Party’s *Komsomol* school in Moscow. “I was taught how to walk into a demonstration of several hundred people

same period (1973-2000), six abortion industry workers have been killed by abortion opponents. The other categories of violent crimes compiled by Clowes include rape (18 instances) and other sex crimes, such as child molestation and similar offenses (253 incidents), assault (395 episodes), drug crimes (24 incidents) and seven instances of arson and firebombing. The gruesome details catalogued by Clowes come through in an examination of some of the individual cases he cites.

• In the fall of 1993, pro-abortion activist Eileen Orstein Janezic murdered Jerry Simon, a pro-life minister and radio talk-show host. During her six-hour armed standoff with police following the murder, Janezic recited passages from Anton LaVey's "Satanic Bible."

• In 1987, pro-abortion and homosexual rights activist Frank Mendiola was arrested for making phony bomb threats against abortuaries in the name of the pro-life movement. He explained to reporters

that his intention was "to have you people, the media, come down with a harder line on those people who are harassing the clinics."

• Milan D. Chepko, a Jackson, Mississippi, abortionist, was arrested in 1990 on several charges related to the production and distribution of child pornography.

• Vilis Kruze, an abortionist for Kaiser Permanente facilities in Ohio and Hawaii, was once a card-carrying member of the Nazi SS. When he wasn't killing unborn children, Kruze was giving young girls drugs in exchange for sexual favors. After serving a brief term in a prison for the criminally insane, Kruze was tracked down and murdered by the brother of one of the girls he had seduced.

• Los Angeles abortionist Ivan C. Namihas is also a serial sex offender. By the time the state board revoked his license in 1993,

The "legalization" of abortion in 1973 merely allowed the "back-alley butchers" to move their operations into the daylight — while leaving the inescapably criminal nature of the abortion industry untouched.

more than 100 of his clients had accused him of various forms of medical or sexual misconduct. He allegedly raped several of them on the examination table; after one of them, "Janette J.," discovered that she was pregnant, he aborted the child "after hours" without the necessary equipment or personnel.

• In 1988, abortionist Barnett Slepian, who was eulogized as a kindly family doctor following his 1998 death at the hands of a sniper, assaulted pro-lifers who sang Christmas carols to him outside his home in Amherst, New York, beating one se-

and become the focal point," Terlesky recalled to THE NEW AMERICAN. "I was taught how to shift the focus of a demonstration, how to make it more militant."

Until his conversion, Terlesky was a "full-time, taxpayer-supported Communist activist" who could materialize at a moment's notice in cities across Canada and the United States: He could be found working with Queer Nation in Toronto on one evening, and show up a few nights later manning the abortion barricades in Buffalo with street thugs from Refuse & Resist! He also helped organize "Anti-Racist Action," which he describes as "a really active and violent group of anarchists" that often does battle in the streets with skinhead and neo-Nazi groups.

Terlesky explained to THE NEW AMERICAN that his violent, radical activism was animated by "a lot of hatred for Christianity, and for the Catholic Church in particular. The Socialist movement I became involved in gave me a platform for my rage." Since becoming a Christian and a pro-life activist, Terlesky has come to find it ironic that the violent left, which is propelled by undisguised hatred for Christian society, accuses defenders of Christian civilization of "hatred" and "violence." "When I was in Buffalo at abortion protests with Refuse & Resist!, I heard some of them say, 'If we have to drag every priest [among the pro-life protesters] across the street by his hair, we will,'" Terlesky recalls.

Experiences of this sort belie the mass media's relentless focus upon what has been described as "an organized campaign of terror and intimidation" by opponents of abortion. "Almost all the violence I saw came from the pro-choice people, including myself,"

Terlesky told the September 23, 2000 *Toronto Sun*. "I know there have been some terrible cases of abortion doctors being hurt, but I find it very strange that nobody has been caught. It's not as though the pro-life community isn't known, intimately, by the police and the pro-choice people. Goodness me, all the demonstrations are video-taped."

Furthermore, in Canada — as is increasingly the case in the United States — peaceful forms of pro-life protest are being outlawed. "In Vancouver, there's a woman now who's going to prison for giving roses to women entering to have an abortion," Terlesky observes. "The same was the case in Ontario." Although he doesn't profess to know who is responsible for occasional acts of violence against abortionists, Terlesky points out that "they do the pro-life movement enormous harm and ... I [condemn them] and everyone I know in the pro-life movement condemns them and all violence over and over again."

The crackdown on pro-life dissent in North America is a logical outgrowth of the totalitarian worldview behind abortion, maintains Terlesky. "Once the state assumes the power to define human beings out of existence, there are no limits to what it can do," he commented to THE NEW AMERICAN. "When I debate these issues with abortion supporters I always ask them, 'Well, what is the unborn child if it's not a human?' They won't answer the question — not because they don't know, but because the state has told them that the child isn't a person. We've certainly seen in the 20th century where this kind of thinking can lead, in Germany, in Russia, and in other places. It can happen here, and it *is* happening here." ■

“... when one considers the fact that these people support and promote the slaughter of the helpless as a ‘right,’ it shouldn’t be hard to understand that literally nothing is beyond them.”

— Brian Clowes
Human Life International

verely with a baseball bat before smashing the windows out of his van.

• Ronald Tauber was convicted of first degree sexual assault in 1982. He has kidnapped and raped a six-year-old girl, and kidnapped another underage girl with the same intention. He also admits to exposing himself to over 700 women and young girls. He killed a 34-year-old Florida woman through a botched abortion. After attempting an insanity defense, Tauber spent seven years in prison. He is to this day a licensed abortionist in the State of New York.

• Brian Finkel, a Phoenix, Arizona abortionist, told the *Phoenix New Times* in 1999: “This is my abortion machine, where I do the Lord’s work. I heal the sick with it.... Got a Tech 9 [machine pistol]. Every gynecologist needs a Tech 9, so I could have more rounds, ‘cause they’re bringing me more Christians. There’s a Smith and Wesson .40 and a few rifles, for crowd control, down at the [abortuary].” He and his wife Diane aborted their first child, whom they later referred to as “Ernie the Embryo.” Bruce Miller of Arizona Right to Choose has nevertheless extolled Finkel as “an unrecognized hero in our community” who hasn’t “gotten the accolades I think he should get.”

Perverse Priorities

Dr. Bernard Nathanson has made reference to “the Satanic world of abortion.” Nathanson knows whereof he speaks: In the 1960s, alongside of Lawrence Lader, Nathanson, who has since become a deter-

mined supporter of the pro-life cause, co-founded the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (NARAL, now the National Abortion and Reproduction Rights League), which spearheaded the drive to demolish legal protections for the unborn. One of NARAL’s most effective propaganda themes was that the legalization of abortion was necessary to prevent the death, maiming, and molestation

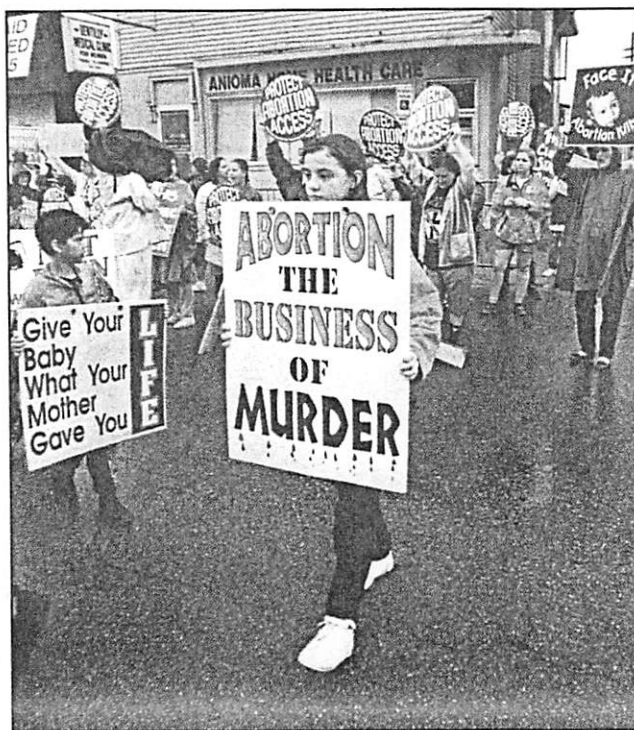
of women at the hands of “back-alley” abortionists. However, as Dr. Nathanson

Mark Crutcher of Life Dynamics told THE NEW AMERICAN. “The Food and Drug Administration was willing to let the abortion industry conduct its own unsupervised clinical trials on the abortion pill, RU-486, and those developing the pill were able to manipulate standards and definitions to suit their needs. The National Abortion Federation [NAF], which supposedly maintains practice standards for the industry, is much more interested in lobbying against any effective regulations than in protecting its patients.”

In a 1991 *60 Minutes* interview, NAF executive director Barbara Radford was asked about a Maryland abortion clinic where at least two women had died. After admitting that her organization had known of the clinic’s problems, Radford declared: “We had hoped that it wouldn’t get national publicity because of the political nature of all this.” Once again, from the NAF’s perspective, it was more important that abortion remain legal and unrestricted than be “safe”: “We want to make sure that women have choices when it comes to abortion services, and if you regulate it too strictly, you then deny women the access to service.” “This is a perfect illustration of the abortion industry’s priorities,” comments Crutcher.

“Although the national media won’t touch the story, the entire abortion industry is riddled with violence, corruption, and crime,” Human Life International’s Brian Clowes asserted to THE NEW AMERICAN. “They are very skilled at putting the pro-life side on the defensive, and the media has been of tremendous help to them by focusing on so-called

pro-life violence. But this is entirely a diversion. It’s meant to misdirect public attention not only from the violence that is occurring inside the abortion mills, but also the violence and crime being committed by pro-abortionists outside the mills as well. But when one considers the fact that these people support and promote the slaughter of the helpless as a ‘right,’ it shouldn’t be hard to understand that literally nothing is beyond them.” ■



Pro-life terrorism? Pro-life activists are frequently looked upon as dangerously violent. But committed pro-life activists demonstrate peacefully, as in this protest in front of a New Orleans “women’s clinic.” On the other hand, says Brian Clowes, a researcher for Human Life International, “the entire abortion industry is riddled with violence, corruption, and crime.”

has repeatedly pointed out, the “legalization” of abortion in 1973 merely allowed the “back-alley butchers” to move their operations into the daylight — while leaving the inescapably criminal nature of the abortion industry untouched.

“It’s quite remarkable to me that advocates of big, intrusive government who want to regulate legitimate business nearly to death lose their interest in regulation when the discussion turns to abortion,”