



### Rousing runners

McQuaid's Brad Sumner took three races at the sectional qualifiers at Franklin last weekend, but he wasn't the only winner among diocesan high school athletes. Page 6.



### Rhythmic recollections

A number of local '60s performers took the stage once again for St. Margaret Mary Parish's fourth-annual sock hop, entertaining parishioners and visitors alike. Page 16.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 Cents

Thursday, May 26, 1988

16 Pages

## Pro-life activists sit-in at hospital, gynecology clinic

By Richard A. Kiley

"Rescue missions" at a Greece gynecological clinic and a Rochester hospital are only the beginning of more aggressive efforts by pro-life activists to stop abortion and get the moral issue back into the political arena, according to Project Life of Rochester Director David E. Long.

Long said the rescue missions, in which pro-life activists enter an abortion clinic and refuse to leave, will become an integral component of anti-abortion protesters' strategy as they seek to overturn the Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion.

"We're creating an upheaval across the county; we need to create enough tension to bring the issue back into the political arena," Long said.

On Saturday, May 21, 42 anti-abortion protesters were arrested at Highland Hospital in Rochester and removed in wheelchairs after occupying the Ambulatory Care Unit on the hospital's fifth-floor for more than four hours. Long said the group, which stationed itself in the unit when it opened at 7 a.m., prevented nine women from having abortions that morning.

"It's one of the largest abortion clinics in the county, so it was a logical target," Long said. "The rescue mission was great; we prevented all nine abortions, and although we're not able to follow up on all the girls, we did shut the place down for over four hours."

Officers from the Rochester Police Department's Highland Section were called to the scene and negotiated with protesters for nearly two hours before handcuffing and removing the activists. Many of the group members refused to assist police by leaving the hospital, thus forcing officers to use wheelchairs to remove them.

All 42 were charged with criminal trespass and resisting arrest before being released on their own recognizance. According to Long, protesters were arraigned in Rochester City Court on the morning of Monday, May 23, on misdemeanor charges of resisting arrest and third-degree criminal trespass.

Lawyers for Highland Hospital tried to get Judge John Manning Regan to impose an injunction barring anti-abortion activists from hospital property — except for a medical emergency — but the judge refused.

Earlier in the week, nine clergymen staged what Long called the first rescue mission involving only pastors. The ministers, who represent various non-Catholic religious denominations, were arrested on Wednesday, May 18, after a sit-in at the offices of West Ridge OB-GYN at 3101 W. Ridge Road in Greece. The offices belong to Drs. Victor Poleshuck and Victor B. Ogden.

Despite Dr. Poleshuck's claim that abortions are only a small portion of the doctors' practice, Long said his group will not



Bonnie Traflet/Courier-Journal

Greece police carry out one of nine ministers who protested at the West Ridge Ob-Gyn clinic on Wednesday, May 18.

overlook any clinic.

"This wasn't a protest; this clinic was one of the few clinics that does (abortions) once a week," Long said. "We're trying to save lives."

His words were echoed by Scott Dawson, one of nearly two-dozen people who began protesting in front of the doctors' offices early Wednesday morning.

"We're putting all (abortion clinics) on notice," said Dawson, who — along with Long — is awaiting the outcome of a civil suit pressed by the Genesee Hospital in an effort to bar activists from entering the hospital or its grounds.

Pro-life activists sang and displayed pictures of aborted fetuses during the rescue mission. They also displayed a small model of a 10-week-old fetus to the crowd that gathered outside the clinic.

According to Long, the protest stopped two abortions from occurring — one permanently.

"One girl went in while I personally talked to her mother," he said. "I told her that this was her granddaughter and that she couldn't let this happen. She's not going back."

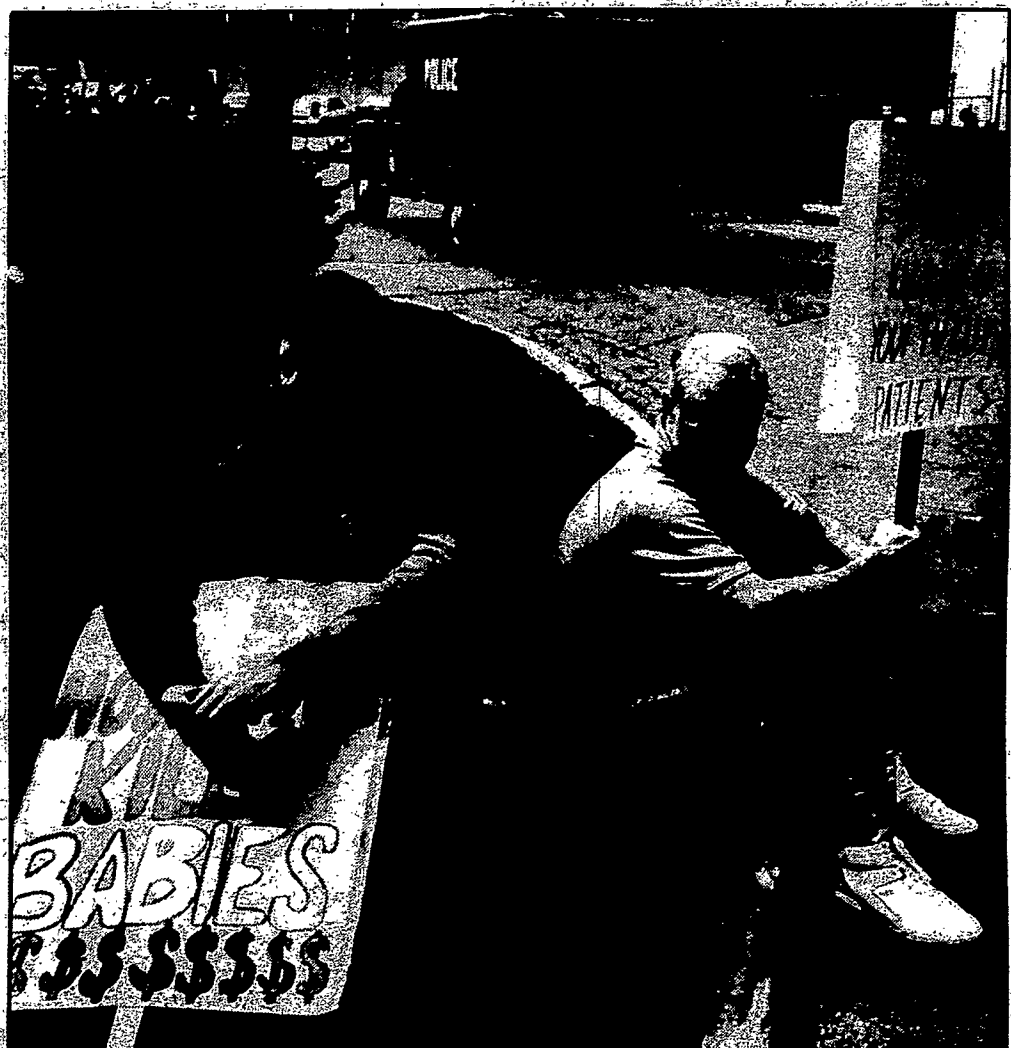
Drs. Poleshuck and Ogden said, however, that both abortions had simply been postponed.

"One (girl) was very embarrassed. Another was quite angry she was put through that," Dr. Poleshuck said. "The abortions will be rescheduled."

Four of the nine ministers who had to be carried out of the doctors' offices by the police will also be charged with resisting arrest.

Long said that another all-pastors' rescue mission is already in the planning stages, but that it will not target a hospital — like the one at Highland last Saturday.

"There'll be another one soon; we're eventually going to get to all local abortionists in our efforts," Long said.



James Delmege of North Chili (left) and William Smith of Webster protest outside the Highland Hospital grounds, as a Rochester police truck returns to pick up another load of protesters from inside the hospital. Forty-two people were arrested at the Saturday 'rescue mission.'

### Index

Around the Diocese	Page 2
Calendar	Page 7
Classifieds	Page 11
Columnists	Pages 12-13
Echo	Page 10
Editorial & Opinion	Page 14
Features	Page 16
Local News	Page 3
Sports	Pages 8-9
World & Nation	Pages 4-6

