

Abortion clinics increase security for anniversary

DALLAS (AP) — Abortion clinics stepped up security Sunday, the 16th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, as authorities continued to investigate recent fires at three Dallas clinics.

In the landmark suit, Norma McCorvey, alias Jane Roe, of Dallas challenged in federal court a 19th-century Texas law banning abortion except to save the life of the mother.

The nation's high court ruled 7-2 for McCorvey on Jan. 22, 1973, and said she and others have a right "to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child."

On Christmas Day 1988 — less than a month before Sunday's anniversary of the ruling — three abortion clinics in Dallas were damaged within a 40-minute period by fires set with the same flammable mixture of gasoline and other solvents, authorities said.

Abortion rights activists say the fires at the North Dallas Women's Clinic, the Metroplex Gynecological

Group and Fairmount Center Clinic were the worst outbreak of violence against abortion clinics anywhere in the nation last year.

Investigators with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms continue to probe the fires, which they say are linked and were deliberately set.

Workers at the three clinics said security had been stepped up since the fires and was increased even more this weekend.

"This will not affect our patients, though," said Danniece Smith, a registered nurse at Fairmount Center. "We have not had a drop in patient loads. In fact, we've had an increase."

Smith said some clinics that were not hit by the Christmas Day rash of fires also increased security.

"Two have received bomb threats since the fires," she said.

Employees from the two other clinics hit by arson said they too will be alert for possible problems, but they declined to specify what security measures they may take.

Chris Nelson, deputy agent in charge of ATF's Dallas office, said evidence collected from the three fires has been presented to a federal

grand jury but investigators have no suspects.

"It's very difficult to investigate these cases unless the people involved leave physical evidence at the scene, because normally, from what we've seen, the people involved are not the types with criminal backgrounds," Nelson said.

As the Roe vs. Wade anniversary arrived, pro-choice groups mobilized to try to save the decision from being crippled or even reversed.

Meanwhile, anti-abortion groups were preparing to bid good riddance to the 1973 decision — a ruling, they contend, legalized murder. About 3,000 anti-abortion protesters marched through downtown Austin Saturday and claimed imminent victory at a rally near the state Capitol.

Pro-choice activists conducted a rally and candlelight vigil on the Capitol steps later Saturday.

Just as President George Bush was sworn in Friday, a group of pro-choice advocates gathered in Dallas to sign a petition defending legal abortion.

Regents

(Continued from page 1)

of his accomplishments.

"The best is yet to come for each part of the Texas A&M University System," he said. "I'm proud of you and I'm proud to say that through your help, I'm leaving Texas A&M just a little better than when I got here."

"They've been tough, exciting, happy, sad and meaningful times, but tomorrow must always be approached eagerly and with enthusiasm."

Reynolds, a graduate of Baylor University called himself a "transplanted" Aggie and referred to his wife and himself when he said, "We are the Aggies / The Aggies are we."

"The thing that makes A&M so great is its traditions," he said. "That's the way it started out and that's the way it will continue."

Reynolds, who was strongly against women joining the band and the eventual recognition of Gay Student Services, jokingly said he heard a rumor that Regents would build a parking garage on the golf course and allow co-ed residence halls as soon as he was gone. Reynolds voted against the golf course in July 1988 and opposes co-ed dorms at A&M.

Reynolds offered glowing praise for his replacement.

"If the governor's other two choices are as good as Billy Clayton, A&M is going to be in good hands."

Clayton returned the compliment. "It's an awesome thought to realize I have to fill the shoes of Joe Reynolds," he said. "I will never fill those shoes. Joe has set a mark for

A&M people to look at for a long, long time."

John Coleman has attended all but two of the 23 Super Bowls, Regent John Mobley of Austin said. He missed his second Sunday.

"He has brought an intense interest, a sense of fair play and an extraordinarily good humor to the Board," Mobley said. "It's been a pleasure to sit next to him and to work with him for the last four years."

"He doesn't say a lot, but when he does, people listen. They know that what he has to say is worth listening to."

Coleman was emotional as he said his career as a Regent had taken top-billing in his life.

"I have placed the activities of this Board and this System as my highest priority," he said. "My life has been greatly influenced by several on this Board. Thank you for allowing me to enjoy your fellowship."

Coleman, the only black member of the Board, said he was most proud of A&M's accomplishments in minority recruitment and minority retention.

"Minority retention is such that A&M ranks higher than any state school in Texas," he said. "Texas and our country needs more Fred McClures as well as Darren Lewises."

Regent Douglas DeCluitt of Waco found this Coleman quote while going through a list of awards the out-going Regent had received.

"I won't be perfect / I'll just be me / Perfectly / John B."

Soviet rocket lights up sky during re-entry

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A spectacular light show that some mistook for a crashing airplane or a comet when it lit up the night sky over several states was just the body of a derelict Soviet rocket burning up in the atmosphere, officials said Saturday.

The Federal Aviation Administration, National Weather Service and military bureaus and bases across the Midwest and Southwest were swamped with calls about Friday night's display, officials said.

Sightings of the object around 9:10 p.m. EST were reported from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Mississippi and Iowa, officials said.

"It was definitely a Soviet rocket body that was re-entering the Earth's atmosphere," Maj. Dick Adams at the North American Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Colo., said.

He said the rocket body that fell out of orbit was either "destroyed in re-entry, or fragments of it have fallen to Earth and are some place, but who knows where." Most such objects burn up before hitting the ground.

Soviet

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never experienced before. But be careful. Just because they can do things does not mean they are free at all. It simply means they can do certain things they couldn't do before."

One of the stipulations of glasnost is that Soviet citizens cannot criticize the system itself.

"The system depends on an economic and political monopoly," he said. "Once you allow for a weakening of the monopoly, you don't know what forces you'll be pulled to."

"People in power find it difficult to allow freedom, yet Russia is under pressure to do so. What you have then, is young people going to school, becoming educated and wanting to know more about why things are the way they are."

The Soviet Union does indeed lead a different life than the United States. For example, public restrooms in the Soviet Union often lack an adequate supply of toilet paper.

"If you go to a university and use the bathroom what you'll find instead of toilet paper is newspaper, and if you go to the Press Club's restroom you'll find typing paper in place of toilet paper," Pejovich said.

Another example of the differences is that the Soviet Union does not have supermarkets.

"When you do your shopping, you have to go from store to store," he said. "It's a lengthy process. If you want bread, you go to the bread store. You bring it to the counter and the worker gives you a receipt. You leave your bread there and walk to another counter to pay. Finally, you go to a third person and he gives you your bread."

As for medical care, Pejovich said hospitals in the Soviet Union are in poor shape.

"When I was in Russia in 1983 a doctor came to my hotel when I was sick," Pejovich said. "He had to give me a shot, but first he had to do what he thought would be a sterilizing process — he put the needle under a flame. They still don't have disposable needles today."

Restaurant patrons wanting a beer with their meal must walk to the

closest bar and get the drink themselves.

"You also don't get to order your food in a restaurant most of the time," Pejovich said. "You are served what is on the menu and that means they decide."

Pejovich said even where the Soviets live is controlled by the state. Practically everyone lives in state-owned apartment buildings. Three and four room apartments with communal bathroom facilities are frequently shared with another family. Often newlyweds can't live together in an apartment for years — sometimes as many as eight — because of a long waiting list.

"You don't even have a choice as to who your neighbors are," Pejovich said. "Actually, there are not a whole lot of decisions a Russian makes."

That includes education. Pejovich said the Soviets take pride in saying 16421801 that their education is free and that they study harder than Americans. However, that is only true for those meeting certain stipulations.

A university degree is free only for those who score high on a test similar to the Scholastic Aptitude Test. However, only those scoring in the top 20 percent of their graduating secondary school class are allowed to continue pursuing an education.

"So of course they are going to study and try their hardest since their life is on the line, whereas in

Election

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tee that we pursue the suit," Veloz said, adding that he was disappointed with, but not surprised by, Saturday's vote.

Westminster voters decided in an election Saturday to abolish the community's 193-student school district.

Lockhart voters in Caldwell County defeated an attempt by the Good Government League to recall Mayor Maxine Goodman and four City Council members.

America not only does a student have a choice to attend college, but if he flunks, he can take other chosen avenues," Pejovich said.

In many ways the Soviet Union is a third-world country.

Pejovich said, "The quality of life is poor. There's something very nightmarish about the Soviet Union that you don't find in Poland or countries like it. In all those countries you find a measure of hate against the regime, as well as people who like it, but everyone has something to live for."

But in Russia, Pejovich said, there is a resignation to life.

"It's like they have no hope," he said. "People rarely smile and they seem so depressed. They have very few ways to relax."

Pejovich said Soviets rarely go out to restaurants and theaters to relax, instead opting to read a good book. The bookstores are always filled with knowledge-hungry people, Pejovich said.

"On subways or buses you always see them reading — not newspapers, but books" he said. "They carry a book with them everywhere."

The Soviets have a strange blend of rich culture, fascinating sights and misery, Pejovich said. He hopes to make another one of his trips, during which he has learned to appreciate the liberties the United States enjoys, and continue his research on socialism.

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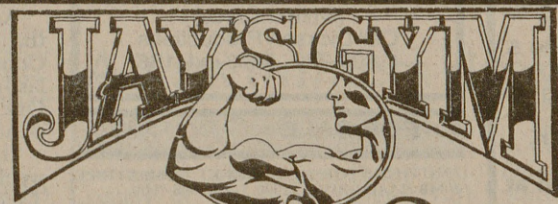
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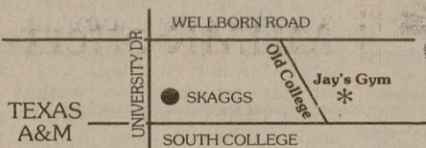
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