

Explosions blast buildings in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) — Two explosions rocked a building containing an abortion clinic an hour apart Thursday, and police said it appeared the clinic was targeted by an "explosive device." Six people were injured.

The explosions, which came as abortion rights advocates were announcing in Washington that anti-abortion violence had declined slightly, shattered windows across the street and terrified bystanders.

President Clinton condemned the explosions as "a vile and malevolent act" of terrorism.

"Make no mistake: Anyone who brings violence against a woman trying to exercise her constitutional rights is committing an act of terror," Clinton said.

The first explosion was reported at 9:30 a.m. at the Atlanta Northside Family Planning Services, located on the ground floor of a five-story building that houses offices of lawyers, dentists and other professionals. No injuries were reported.

An hour later, an explosion erupted from a trash container outside the building, injuring six people.

"It appears that the clinic was the target of (that) explosion," said police Lt. C.C. Cass. "We can't confirm, but it appears to be some kind of explosive device."

A Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent investigating the first explosion had to be helped from the building and was taken to a hospital for observation. Two other people were treated and released, while three more were hospitalized for observation.

"I saw a couple of guys that were hurt," said Mitchell Swain, who was sitting in his car outside the building when the second blast came. "They were on the ground. One guy was bleeding. Another guy was holding his head."

A half hour after the second explosion, the Piedmont Clinic, an abortion center about a half-mile from the Atlanta Northside clinic, was evacuated after receiving a bomb threat. Police officers have been sent to other abortion clinics around the city as a precaution; the clinics said they would remain open.

Geralyn Thompson, a counselor at the Northside clinic, said she believed the first explosion occurred in the ceiling of the first floor. A co-worker, Antoinette Sims, said she saw ceiling tiles falling.

"It shook the entire building," Sims said. "The clinic was in ruins." Both women said they knew of no threats or protests before the explosions. Outside, two cars near the trash container were heavily damaged, and police evacuated everyone within 500 yards of the building.

Witnesses who had gathered outside after the first explosion heard a loud boom and felt the concussion when the second one went off. They could see a bright flash and debris flying in the air.

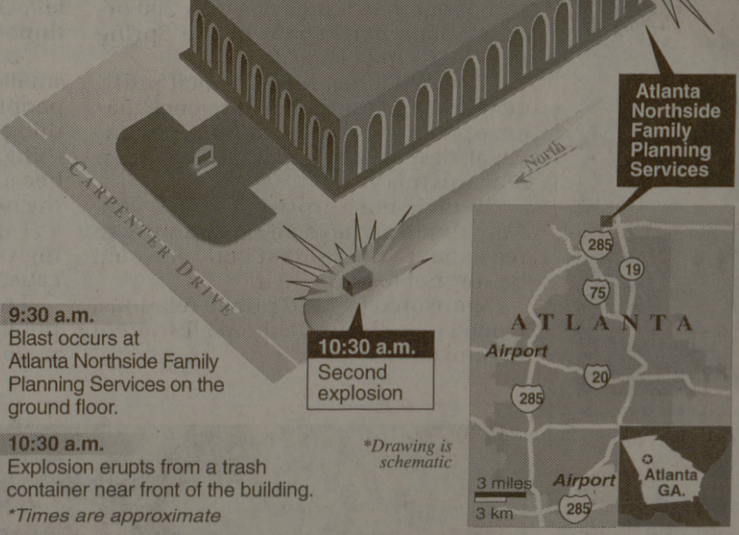
The first explosion rocked nearby buildings as well.

"It shook the actual wall of my office, and I have a lot of glass around me," said Craig Harris, sales manager at Auto Data Inc., across the street. "It definitely scared me. It sounded like an extremely close thunder strike ... but there was no rain. My second thought was that it was an explosion."

In Washington, at a news conference scheduled before the bombing, the Feminist Majority said there were fewer violent acts or threats against abortion clinics last year than in 1995.

Abortion clinic building explosion

A pair of bombs exploded at a building housing an abortion clinic in Atlanta Thursday morning. The five-story structure:



Source: AP research AP/Tracie Tso, Wm. J. Castello

A survey of 312 clinics showed about 30 percent of clinics reported acts or threats of violence last year, down from 39 percent in 1995. The groups also noted that Wednesday will mark the 24th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

Vicki Saporta, executive director of the National Abortion Federation, said the explosions showed "that abortion violence is a problem that is continuing at unacceptable levels."

Last month, there were three arson attempts at the A-Z Women's Center in Phoenix, Ariz.; an armed robbery at Planned Parenthood of Dallas and North-east Texas; and a doctor was stabbed at a Baton Rouge, La., abortion clinic.

In 1994, John Salvi killed two receptionists at abortion clinics in Massachusetts and former minister Paul Hill used a shotgun to kill two men outside a Pensacola, Fla., abortion clinic. A year earlier, Dr. David Gunn was shot to death at another Pensacola clinic.

Hill was the first person convicted of violating the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law, and was sentenced to two life terms.

Campus Support groups meet with women

Women who survived sexual abuse as children can turn to the Brazos County Rape Crisis Center for support.

On Jan. 14 the center began offering free weekly support groups for adolescent and adult female survivors of childhood sexual assault or abuse.

The adolescent group will meet on Mondays and the adult group will meet on Tuesdays.

The group for adolescent female survivors of childhood sexual assault or abuse will hold its first meeting Jan. 20. The adult female survivors group will meet for the first time on Jan. 21.

For more information on meeting times and locations, contact the Brazos County Rape Crisis Center at 268-7273.

Gov. appoints new regents to board

Gov. George W. Bush announced the appointment of three members of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents Wednesday.

Anne L. Armstrong, a rancher from Armstrong and former U.S. ambassador to Great Britain, is among the nominees.

Bush also appointed Erle Allen Nye of Dallas, president of Texas Utilities Company, and Dionel E. "Don" Aviles of Houston, owner of Aviles engineering company.

The appointments must be confirmed by the Texas Senate.

The regents will serve six-year terms and will replace Chairman Mary Nan West of Batesville, Alison Briscoe of Houston and Royce E. Wisenbaker of Tyler, whose terms expire this year.

State County rules hellish greeting

KINGSVILLE (AP) — In this little ranching town, "Hello" wearing out its welcome.

And Leonso Canales Jr. as heck.

At his urging, the Kleberg County commissioners on Monday unanimously designated "Hello" the county's official greeting.

The reason: "Hello" contains the word "Hell."

"When you go to school and they tell you 'hell' is negative, 'heaven' is positive," said the 60-year-old Canales, who owns the Kingsville Flea Market. "I think it's time to set a new precedent, to tell our kids that we are positive adults."

Crime scene has no sign of intruder

KERRVILLE (AP) — A crime scene consultant who toured Dallas-area home after the murder of her two sons says she found no signs of the intruder she says committed the crime.

Routier, on trial for capital murder over her sons' stabbing deaths, says a truder broke into the house, wounded her and killed 6-year-old Devon and 10-year-old Damon last June 6.

But prosecution witness James Cron, a 39-year law enforcement veteran, testified Wednesday that he saw no evidence of that.

Cron said he entered the home with police officers on the morning of the murders to look for any unusual, including pry marks on doors or blood on walls.

He testified that he saw no marks or other evidence that someone broke into the house and left debris, blood or other signs of Routier claims.

This day in history

Today is Friday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 1997. There are 348 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 17, 1945, Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw during World War II. The same day, Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.

In 1706, Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston.

In 1893, Hawaii's monarchy was overthrown as a group of businessmen and sugar planters forced Queen Liliuokalani to abdicate.

In 1961, President Eisenhower warned in his farewell address of "the military-industrial complex."

In 1966, an Air Force B-52 carrying four unarmed hydrogen bombs crashed on the Spanish coast.

In 1994, a 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck Southern California, killing at least 61 people and causing

\$20 billion worth of damage.

In 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe, Japan.

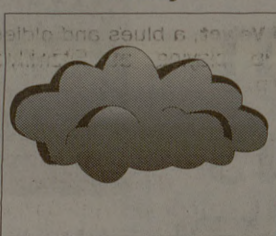
Ten years ago: Hundreds of Ku Klux Klan members and supporters disrupted a "brotherhood anti-intimidation march" through all-white Forsyth County, Ga.

Today's birthdays

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty White is 75. Ballerina-actress Moira Shearer is 71. Hair stylist Vidal Sassoon is 69. Actor James Earl Jones is 66. Ventriloquist Shari Lewis is 63. Talk show host Maury Povich is 58. Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali is 55. Rhythm-and-blues singer William Hart (The Delfonics) is 52. Singer Steve Earle is 42. Actor David Caruso is 41. Singer Paul Young is 41. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 40. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 35.

Weather

Today



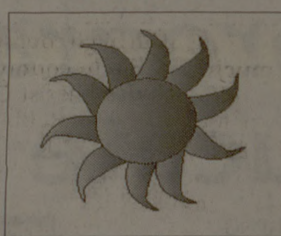
Cloudy and cooler with north winds 10-15 mph.

Tonight



Mostly cloudy and cold with light winds.

Tomorrow



Clear and warmer with north winds 10-15 mph.

Highs & Lows

Today's Expected High: 41°F

Tonight's Expected Low: 25°F

Tomorrow's Expected High: 50°F

Tomorrow Night's Expected Low: 32°F

Information courtesy of TAMU.

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For More Information, Please Contact:
Melissa 846-7188

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