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fall 2000

**Resume Writing**  
Tues., Oct. 3, 2000  
3:30 p.m. Rudder 302  
*Featurized Company:*  
**Price Waterhouse Coopers**

**Behavioral Interviewing**  
Tues., Oct. 3, 2000  
5 p.m. Rudder 302  
*Featurized Company:*  
**Ernst & Young**

# Abortion clinic attacked

*Priest drives car into building, vandalizes with ax*

ROCKFORD, Ill. (AP) — A Catholic priest smashed his car into an abortion clinic Saturday morning, then chopped at the building with an ax until the owner fired two shotgun blasts to stop him, police said.

The clinic was not open and nobody was injured in the attack, which came just two days after federal approval of the abortion pill RU-486.

The man drove through a door at the Abortion Access Northern Illinois Women's Center around 8:15 a.m. He was swinging an ax when the clinic's owner fired a 12-gauge shotgun twice. Neither man was injured.

The Rev. John Earl, 32, was arrested and charged with burglary and felony criminal damage to property, said Deputy Police Chief Dominic Iasparro. Earl was released later Saturday on \$10,000 bond.

Iasparro would not comment on statements Earl made to police about a possible motive.

The building owner, Gerald W. "Wayne" Webster, 56, has rented space to the clinic for 15 years. He sometimes sleeps in the building for security. No one else was inside Saturday morning.

Police said Webster's weapon was legal and no charges will be filed against him.

"He came at me with an ax over his head," Webster told reporters. "He would have chopped my head off if I wouldn't have been armed with a 12-gauge shotgun."

"I thank God and my shotgun that I'm alive," he said.

Earl is the pastor at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Rochelle. Parishioners gathering for Mass on Saturday evening said Earl took over about a year ago and was respected by the congregation.

The Diocese of Rockford issued a written statement saying Earl's ac-

tivities have been restricted while reviews the matter.

"While it is the policy of this diocese not to comment on the specifics of legal matters, it has never been the policy or practice of the Roman Catholic Church to condone, approve or promote violence in any form to achieve a desired end," the statement said.

Bill Cipolla, a parishioner, said Earl sometimes spoke about abortion but he would not have considered him a radical.

"You don't look for priests to be that type of thing," he said.

Abortion providers usually are on alert for violence following abortion-related events in the news, as this week's approval of RU-486 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, said Vicki Saporta, executive director of the National Abortion Federation.

"We haven't received any specific threats, but anytime abortion-related headlines we issue an alert to clinics to take precautions because there is the potential for increased violence," she said.

The Rockford clinic is not one of the NAF's 360 member facilities but "it's just kind of common sense that clinics would be on alert," said Saporta.

## News in Brief

### Ammonia causes town evacuation

BONITA, La. (AP) — Residents began returning to this rural farming town Sunday, about 13 hours after a noxious ammonia cloud released from a fertilizer tank forced an overnight evacuation.

Authorities went door-to-door, urging the town's more than 260 people, particularly those in a one mile radius on the tank, to leave town after the leak was discovered on a cotton farm Saturday night. State troopers in hazardous materials suits were able to close the fertilizer tank's valve early Sunday, and the cloud had dissipated by midday.

The 30,000-gallon tank held anhydrous ammonia, a caustic alkali that can damage the lungs.

No serious injuries were reported, though four people were given oxygen after inhaling fumes, said state police spokesman Cam Douglas.

## Former 'Cheers' stars file lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In one of the most popular TV series ever, "Cheers" was the neighborhood bar where everybody knew your name. And audiences knew the characters by name, guys like Norm the accountant and Cliff the postman.

But what about the actors who portrayed them? Did George Wendt and John Ratzenberger become so closely identified with their fictional alter egos that they should be able to control any commercial use of the characters?

The Supreme Court could decide as early as Monday whether it will hear an eight-year-old lawsuit by the two actors that asks that question. If it takes the case, it could set the stage for a landmark ruling on copyright law.

The court battle evolved from Paramount Pictures' decision to license Host International to open bars with the "Cheers" name at airports across the country. The bars reproduced the "Cheers" ambiance and even featured robots that resembled Norm and Cliff.

Wendt and Ratzenberger objected to their likenesses being used on robots and sued. The studio went ahead with the idea, changing the character names to Bob and Hank.

The actors sued for damages under California's right of publicity law, which protects celebrities from unwanted commercial exploitation. The law specifies that no one has a right to sell a product by using another person's name, signature, photograph or likeness.


Stars including Dustin Hoffman, Bette Midler, singer Tom Waits and game show hostess Vanna White have won damages and prevented use of their voices or images in ads under this law.

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-USVBA rules apply with Intramural exceptions  
-Captain's Meeting, October 5th, at 6 p.m. in 281 Rec

<http://recsports.tamu.edu>

### Pre-Law Society 3<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting

**What: Baylor Law School**  
**When: Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm**  
**Where: MSC Rm. 212**

**Come see what we are all about!**

**For More Info See Our Website at**  
<http://opsa.tamu.edu/pls/>

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