

Persistent Man Is Arrested In Abortion Protest

By Victor Volland

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John Patrick Ryan was arrested again Saturday by Bridgeton police for trespassing at the Women's Clinical Group Inc., an abortion clinic at 3394 McKelvey Road.

Police say Ryan has been arrested 80 to 100 times since 1981 in weekly demonstrations that he and other members of an anti-abortion group conduct outside the offices of Dr. Martin J. Roitman and Dr. Allen S. Palmer, who operate the clinic.

Despite his frequent arrests, Ryan has never been convicted in Bridgeton city court on any of the charges stemming from the protests.

Dr. Roitman attributes Ryan's seeming good luck to a prejudiced city prosecutor and city judge. He said prosecutor Thomas P. Howe and Judge Harold Johnson had refused to prosecute Ryan fully because of their own personal and religious beliefs opposing abortion.

Howe, a Catholic, says he believes abortion is murder. But he said he had duly issued informations against Ryan based on reports and bookings by police.

Judge Johnson, who is also a Catholic, said he had dismissed numerous pending charges against Ryan because of First Amendment rights of free assembly and speech and whether the trespassing had been criminal in intent.

But Judge Johnson said that
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