

Clinic gunman indicted



NATIONAL

BOSTON (AP) — A federal grand jury Wednesday indicted John C. Salvi III on charges he carried across state lines the rifle he allegedly used to shoot up three abortion clinics in Massachusetts and Virginia,

killing two women.

The 22-year-old student hairdresser, who was being held in a Norfolk, Va., jail, could get up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each of two federal counts.

The indictment should get Salvi back to Massachusetts faster than if he had gone through the extradition process between the states, legal experts said.

Salvi could be returned as early as Thursday to Massachusetts, where he eventually will face state charges that he murdered two receptionists and wounded five other people Friday at two clinics in Brookline, a Boston suburb. Massachusetts has no death penalty; murder is punishable by life in prison.

Investigators who searched Salvi's black pickup truck after his arrest Saturday in Virginia found a receipt in the glove box from a group called "Mass Citizens in Life," according to an inventory filed Wednesday in federal court in Norfolk.

Mass Citizens for Life is the largest anti-abortion group in Massachusetts. It was unclear if it was the

same group listed in the inventory, despite the slight difference in the name. It also was not clear what the receipt was for or the amount of money involved.

Frances Hogan, executive vice president of Mass Citizens for Life, said the group checked its records for a copy of the receipt and found nothing.

The FBI is investigating whether the shootings were part of a conspiracy to attack abortion clinics.

Also found in the truck was a box of .22-caliber rifle cartridges, a plastic bag filled with anti-abortion literature and a target riddled with bullet holes, according to the inventory.

Salvi also faces state charges in Virginia, where he was arrested Saturday after allegedly shooting at a Norfolk clinic. Nobody was hurt.

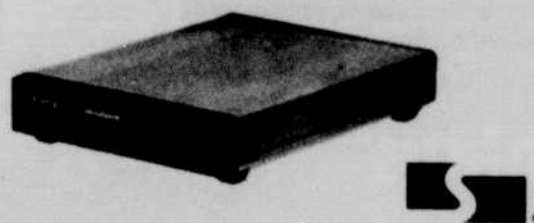
The federal indictment accused Salvi of transporting a .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle from his hometown of Hampton, N.H., to Brookline with intent to injure or intimidate people seeking or providing abortions. He was also accused of taking the gun from Brookline to Norfolk for the same purpose.

After his return to Massachusetts, a decision will be made on who will prosecute him first — the state or the federal government, U.S. Attorney Donald Stern said.

Stern also has said that authorities are considering other federal charges, including offenses carrying the death penalty.

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Former beauty queen sentenced

LEWISBURG, W. Va. (AP) — A beauty queen who set off on a 250-mile journey with a pistol, lighter fluid and a butcher knife was sentenced Wednesday to two years behind bars for trying to kill the parents of a romantic rival.

Tracy Lippard, 23, cried at her sentencing and apologized to the couple attacked last February.

"There's no reason to fear me. I just want to go on with my life," she told Circuit Court Judge Charles Lobban.

Lippard, a 6-foot blonde from Newport News, Va., set out for the Lewisburg home of Rodney and Lynn Weikle the night after

she crowned her successor as Miss Williamsburg, Va. The Weikles' daughter, Melissa Weikle Scott, was pregnant by Lippard's former boyfriend, Todd Scott, at the time of the attack.

Lippard was accused of pulling the pistol on Lynn Weikle and using a hammer to hit Rodney Weikle, the former Secret Service agent who put her in a headlock and disarmed her.

Lippard said she went to the Weikle home to confront her former boyfriend after he failed to show up at the pageant, where she had dedicated a song to him.

She said she became enraged

after Rodney Weikle told her Scott and his daughter planned to marry. They did so in August.

Lippard had faced up to six years for her Nov. 22 conviction on charges including two counts of second-degree attempted murder.

The jury, apparently unswayed by testimony from a cellmate that Lippard said she had wanted to slit her pregnant rival's belly and "flop her baby on a table," convicted her of misdemeanor rather than felony charges.

Defense attorney Paul Detch said he may appeal. Lippard remained free on bail.

School board blames victim of assault

CHICAGO (AP) — A 9-year-old girl was forced to perform oral sex on a 12-year-old classmate under a desk while a teacher read a book.

The Board of Education's response: The girl is to blame for not crying out, and may even have consented.

The girl's lawyer, John Munday, said Wednesday he was astounded by the board's attempt to blame the victim in its response to a lawsuit from the girl's mother. The lawsuit, filed in May, seeks unspecified damages.

The boy forced the girl to have oral sex Feb. 22 at the special education school she attended for a reading disability. Seven other pupils were in the class as the teacher sat reading to himself for about 10 minutes, court records show.

"I didn't want to do it, but he said he was going to beat me up," the *Chicago Sun-Times* quoted the girl as telling a counselor. The girl also said the boy threatened to hurt anyone who snitched.

In a statement released Wednesday, the Chicago Public Schools Law Department said media

accounts of the incident were inaccurate.

"Our investigation reveals a number of inconsistencies and discrepancies about the reported incident by all involved, including the alleged victim, the accused, the students who were named as witnesses and the classroom teacher," the statement said. "Our intention is to get to the truth of this matter."

The boy pleaded guilty in juvenile court in September to sexual assault and was ordered held in a youth detention home, Munday said. The boy had previously been accused in a similar assault.

The teacher, Thomas Wade, said he was unaware of the attack while he was reading a math book. "All I heard was typical children's noises," he said.

The lawsuit accuses the board of "willful and wanton misconduct" for failing to monitor the class. But the board said the girl was to blame.

"Any injuries sustained occurred by plaintiff's negligent failure to exercise ordinary care," according to court documents the board filed in June and quoted Wednesday by the *Sun-Times*.

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