

Rights issue

Area moms, daughters march

First-time marchers joined veterans of many causes to swell the ranks of women's rights and pro-choice advocates marching elbow-to-elbow Sunday down Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. Residents from throughout the Observer & Eccentric area joined the more than 300,000 mothers, daughters, granddaughters and other supporters who came from around the country to congregate on the rain-soaked Washington Monument grounds.

"WE'VE gone backwards in the last eight years," said Beverly McAninch, former mayor of Plymouth and president of the Michigan League of Women Voters.

Originally planned by the National Organization for Women (NOW) and Planned Parenthood in support of the Equal Rights Amendment, the event took on the added theme of pro-choice when the U.S. Supreme Court decided to hear arguments later this month on the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

"Since 1973, the highly organized right-to-life movement has held an annual march in Washington on the Jan. 22 anniversary of Roe v. Wade to protest the court decision and to call for a constitutional amendment against abortion.

"This year, for the first time, pro-choice groups coordinated their efforts with the March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives.

"I'm mad enough now to march for the first time," said McAninch. "Being given the opportunity at this time in my life, I just had to go while I could, to show how strongly I feel about women's issues."

McAninch was joined by daughters Barbara of Ypsilanti, a criminal justice senior at Eastern Michigan University, and Karen, who drove from Providence, R.I. in a snow storm with 6-year-old Emily, for a three-generation gathering.

HEATHER SIEGEL of West Bloomfield describes herself as strong supporter of women's issues. But up until the march she felt herself to be an inconspicuous type of person. She got on the charter bus at Tpl-12 Shopping Mall in Southfield Saturday, with a banner and plans to meet her daughter, Lisa, coming in from New York. Lisa has marched before.

So has Sandy Parker, a counselor and former head of Birmingham Women's Center, now in private practice. She and daughter, Pam, now living in Washington, D.C., were with friends, Diane Clark of Royal Oak, whose daughter had traveled from Arkansas.

"It's another step we just had to

take," said Parker. "We had to do it now."

THE SENSE of urgency was echoed by Marian McCracken of Farmington Hills, who sits on the national board of NOW for the Great Lakes Region.

"This is the most dangerous time of all. The right to abortion is symbolic of all women's rights. When someone else decides when and how many rights you can have you have no right at all," she said.

For the first time since Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 decision

coming. Now that I'm here, I feel better, seeing this beautiful crowd."

In the Michigan delegation were groups and banners representing NOW chapters, Michigan Nurse Practitioners, Michigan Republicans for Choice, Catholics for Choice, Michigan State University and Michigan Women's Commission.

Also joining the Michigan delegation were Helen Milliken, former co-chair of ERAmerica, former national NOW leader Carol King and Pat Curran, head of the Michigan Office of Women and Work.

As pro-choice supporters marched

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— Marian McCracken
Farmington Hills

that made abortion legal nationally, the outcome is far from certain.

Roe v. Wade was decided by a 7-2 vote. The Supreme Court last reaffirmed Roe in June 1986 by a 5-4 margin. Since then two justices have taken seats on the court, Antonin Scalia and Anthony M. Kennedy. Neither has previously voted on an abortion case.

A participant in "more marches than I can remember," McCracken returned from a vacation in Egypt in time to be part of a "reminder to the Supreme Court that it doesn't live in a vacuum in 1989."

McCRACKEN was pleased, but not surprised at the large numbers of people.

"The chips are down. People know it," she said.

Leaders on both sides of the abortion issue say it is likely that the court will neither overturn Roe nor write a ringing affirmation of it. But both sides also say that a step in either direction — supporting limits or suggesting fewer restrictions in state law — could lay the groundwork for future court or legislative action.

MANY OF those who marched believe that marches do affect change. They referred to those demonstrations against the Vietnam War, for civil rights and other issues.

Karen Johnson of Rochester said, "We're serious. We can't be taken lightly."

"The Michigan vote (to refuse Medicaid funding of abortions) was demoralizing," said Barbara Rosalik of Rochester. "I had to be talked into



JEANNE PALUZZI

Sandy Parker, (right) a counselor and former head of Birmingham Women's Center, now in private practice met her daughter, Pam, now

living in Washington, D.C., for the march. "It's another step we just had to take," said Parker. "We had to do it now."



Students win Merit awards

Five area students have won corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships.

They are Travis L. Hein of Birmingham, Brian C. Hill of Bloomfield Hills, Alan L. MacNeill of Farmington, Jason R. Hirsch of Southfield and Thomas S. Bowman of Troy.

Hein, a student at Brother Rice High School, has won a Charles Devlieg Foundation scholarship. He is looking toward a career in mechanical engineering. Valedictorian of his class, he won the Harvard Book Prize, is a Big Brother student organizer, a member of the National Honor Society, where he was junior class representative. A varsity football player, he was named to the Scholastic All-Catholic Team and was the football team's scholar-athlete.

Hill, a student at Seaholm High School, also has won a Charles Devlieg Foundation scholarship. He is headed toward a career in computer science. He has been active in the Model United Nations, is an Eagle Scout and a national gold medalist in the Science Olympiad. He was a Recreational Medalist as the "Outstanding Junior in Math and Science." He is a member of the National Honor Society.

MacNeill, a student at Clarksville High School, has won the Unlays Corp. scholarship. He will pursue a career in law. He was state committee chairman of Michigan Youth in Government and vice president of Students Against Drunk Driving. He is a varsity tennis player and has appeared in the school musical for three years.

Hirsch, a Southfield-Lathrup High School student, has won a Merit scholarship given by Prudential-Bache Securities, N.Y. Aerospace engineering is his chosen field. He is a varsity debater and won the National Forensics League degree of excellence. A member of the National Honor Society, he was invited to the National Congressional Youth Leadership Conference. He plays intramural volleyball.

Bowman, a Troy High School student, has won a Rockwell International Corp. scholarship. His is looking toward a liberal arts degree with a leaning toward law. He is a member of the varsity tennis team, serves as the newspaper's opinion editor and won second place in the Woman's Press Association state competition. He writes for the school's literary magazine, was precinct captain in the Dukakis for President campaign, was a state mids prize finalist, a member of the National Honor Society and a Safe Rides volunteer.

THIS IS THE first of three groups totaling more than 6,000 high school seniors who will be named Merit Scholars in 1989. They have been selected from among more than 1 million students, who took the National Merit Scholarship qualifying test in their junior year of high school.

Winners of all Merit Scholarships are chosen on the basis of outstanding scholastic attainments, abilities and extracurricular accomplishments. Those who win the corporate-sponsored scholarships have qualifications of particular interest to their award sponsors.

The majority are children of employees or members of organizations supporting their awards, but some are residents of communities served by a sponsor company or who have career interests a grantor wants to encourage.

Most corporate-sponsored scholarships are renewable for up to four years of college undergraduate study and provide between \$55 and \$8,000 annually.

Two other nationwide announcements of Merit Scholars will be made this spring. On April 26, 1,800 winners of National Merit \$2,000 scholarships will be announced, the awards for which every finalist competes on a state representational basis. On May 17, 2,900 winners of college-sponsored Merit Scholarships for finalists who will attend the schools financing them will be announced.

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