

Abortion controversy draws 'foot soldiers' from suburbs

By Wayne Peal
staff writer

John Yurko of Plymouth said he spent Saturday outside two abortion clinics to save children.

"I'm here for the children," he said, carrying a brochure depicting photographs of aborted fetuses. "How can you look at that and say it's not a human life?"

But Marysue Long of Farmington Hills wondered what kind of choices her own children would be forced to make if abortion were outlawed.

"I'm concerned we're going backward on the issue," she said.

Yurko and Long, as well of hundreds of other area volunteers, formed the back bone of grassroots campaigns that met head on, as the national abortion controversy spilled over into suburban Wayne and Oakland counties.

THE DAY began with songs and sloganeering outside Women's Center, 23770 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills, and ended with the arrest of an estimated 40 pro-life volunteers outside Womancare of Livonia,

27834 Five Mile. Additional protests were held outside a Sterling Heights clinic.

Pro-life and pro-choice heavyweights, including Joseph Scheidler, founder of the Pro-Life Activist Network, and Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women, were active in weekend events. But it was the local volunteers who served as foot soldiers in the on-going abortion rights battle.

Those in favor of outlawing abortion estimated that at least 400 people demonstrated outside one or both of the centers.

Those in favor of its continued legalization estimated at least 150 people were involved in counter demonstrations.

Both sides said the bulk of their ranks was drawn from metropolitan Detroit volunteers.

"We have some people from out of state, but I'd say most are from somewhere around here," said Bob Hoy of Troy, who participated in both area demonstrations.

WETA NOT protesting against

them," Hoy said, referring to the pro-choice forces nearby. "Really, this is a repentance for our own inaction for so long."

Pro-choice advocates also said they were making up for past inaction.

"Our voices might not have been heard in the past, but now they are," said Carol King of Detroit, an organizer for Metropolitan Detroit Action for Choice, a newly formed coalition of NOW members and members of Planned Parenthood and the Michigan Abortion Rights Action League, among other groups.

Yard, also present at both sites, agreed. "If we didn't show up, the news media would present one side and that would be very, very misleading," she said.

Leaders on both sides of the issue gathered in the Detroit area this weekend, as the U.S. Supreme Court reviewed Roe vs. Wade, the controversial 1973 high court ruling that prohibited state interference with abortion during the first three months of pregnancy.

Pro-life forces heard speeches and

viewed films during a two-day meeting at a Livonia motel.

Meanwhile, pro-choice advocates gathered at NOW's Southfield headquarters to discuss their own strategy.

Approximately half the pro-life forces gathered at the Madonna College parking lot, but said their early morning meeting wasn't under the auspices of the Livonia liberal arts college.

"We've used Madonna as a launching pad before," said pro-life advocate Al Kresta of Detroit. "But it wasn't under their auspices." A college spokeswoman, contacted Friday, said she had no knowledge anyone would be using the college's Schoolcraft Road lot.

Pro-life advocates said they were supportive of Operation Rescue, the group that organized the Sterling Heights demonstration, but added most weren't formally aligned with that group.

"We're more of a loose organization," Hoy said. "Most of these people found out about it in some way and wanted to help."

Right to die

Senate OK's bill; House barriers await

By Tim Richard
staff writer

A patient's "right-to-die" bill sailed through the Michigan Senate but may be doomed in the House because it tries to protect the unborn.

"Right to Life wants to use this as a way to get fetal rights into law. It has no chance in the House," said Rep. David Hollister, D-East Lansing, who recently abandoned his efforts for a patient's rights bill after 15 years.

"It could be muzzed up by pro-choice people," said the bill's sponsor, Sen. Fred Dillingham, R-Fowlerville.

THE 29-5 VOTE for Senate Bill 293 — with all area senators voting yes — failed to reflect the deep division over a section to protect the unborn and the "nutrition and hydration" issue.

Here are the basic provisions:

Under common law, a person's grant of power of attorney loses effect when the person becomes incapacitated. Dillingham's bill, an amendment to the probate code, would allow a patient to grant a "durable power of attorney" to make medical treatment decisions after the patient becomes incapacitated. Usually, the power will be granted to a close family member.

But pro-choice senators such as Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, fought a provision to protect an embryo or fetus. It says that if a patient were pregnant, a patient's advocate decision to withhold medical treatment would have to be reviewed by a probate court. The judge would have to appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the unborn's interests — which would include its survival.

"IT'S BEING entangled with the

abortion question," said Pollack, one of the "no" voters.

Added Sen. John Kelly, D-Detroit, another "no" vote: "I'm opposed to a guardian for a fetus or embryo. We invite a stranger in, in derogation of a mother's wish."

Senators narrowly defeated, 16-18, an amendment by Sen. William Sederburg, R-East Lansing, to drop the rights of the unborn section.

"With advancing technology," said Sederburg, "how do we handle the political rights of the embryo? . . . The extension of that argument (a guardian for an embryo) staggers the mind."

Sponsor Dillingham argued against Sederburg's amendment but conceded the section has little chance in the House, where pro-choice Rep. Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor, chairs the Judiciary Committee.

"What is the case where there's an

inheritance in question? Shouldn't an embryo have the right to enjoy money?" said Dillingham, defending the section.

Here is how Observer & Eccentric area senators voted on the key Sederburg amendment:

Yes — Doug Cruce, R-Troy, William Faust, D-Westland, Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, and Richard Fessler, R-Commerce.

No — R. Robert Gagne, R-Northville, George Z. Hart, D-Deerborn, and Rudy Nichols, R-Waterford.

Senators also rejected, 16-18, an amendment by William Faust, D-Westland, to remove a section prohibiting a patient advocate from withholding nutrition and hydration of the terminally ill.

The majority listened to Dillingham, who argued: "We distinguish between 'allow' and 'cause' (the patient to die). If death is due to lack of nutrition and hydration, it's wrong."

UGLY KITCHEN CABINETS?

DON'T REPLACE... 'REFACE'

MODERN & EUROPEAN STYLES

FORMICA Solid Colors and Woodgrain

SOLID WOODS Oak, Cherry and Birch

SERVING WAYNE, OAKLAND & MACOMB

FACTORY SHOWROOM


FREE ESTIMATES

1842 E. 11 Mile Rd., Madison Hgts. Since 1989

1 Block W. of Dequindre Daily 9-5, Sun. 10-4

Cabinet Clinic 541-5252

CAPTURE A RARE BIRD FROM BACCARAT



Our exclusive nesting stork is a legendary symbol of a blessed event. And it's considered a sign of good fortune for a home. In pure lead crystal, Baccarat craftsmanship details the stork's grace and poise in every line. A unique gift for a new or experienced mother. Or for a Baccarat collector. 6" by 2 1/4", \$130. Gift wrapped in our famous silver box.

CHARLES W. WARREN

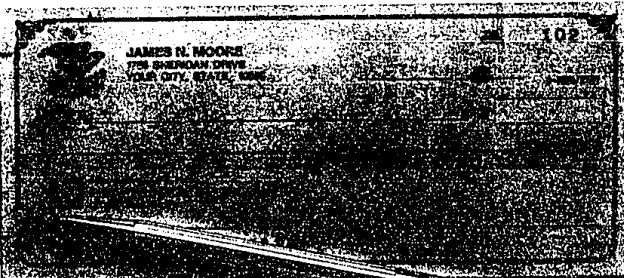
JEWELERS SINCE 1963

ROBERTSON HALL, (313) 849-3411

SOUTHFIELD - FARMINGTON

Use our own Silver Card or we welcome American Express, Visa or MasterCard.

How To Make Money Writing Checks.



Just transfer your checking account to First Federal of Michigan.

That's all it takes to earn 4 1/2% annual interest* paid and compounded monthly.

There's no charge per check. And your first 50 checks are free.

And if you maintain a \$300 minimum balance, there's no monthly service charge.

Open an account now and we'll even pay you for your old checks, five cents per unused check, up to 200.

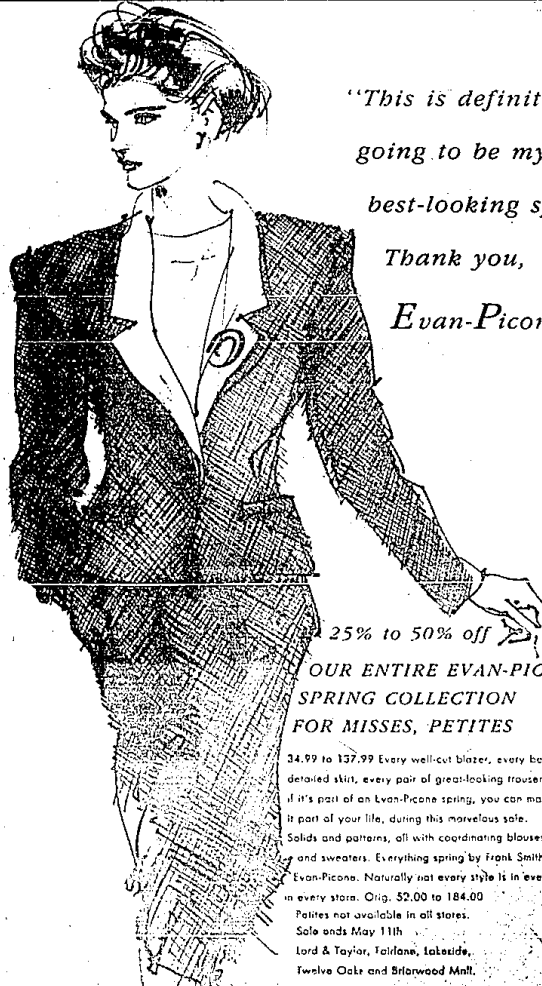
Also, you can use your

First Federal Prestige® Card to access your account through the Magic Line® (ATM) and Plus System® 24-hour ATM networks. And enjoy expanded Saturday drive-up service at many offices.

For more information, call toll free, 1-800-342-5336.

It pays to think First.

*Interest rates subject to change without notice.



"This is definitely going to be my best-looking spring."

Thank you,
Evan-Picone!

25% to 50% off

OUR ENTIRE EVAN-PICONE SPRING COLLECTION FOR MISSES, PETITES

34.99 to 137.99 Every well-cut blazer, every beautifully detailed skirt, every pair of great-looking trousers — if it's part of an Evan-Picone spring, you can make it part of your life, during this marvelous sale.

Suits and patterns, all with coordinating blouses and sweaters. Everything spring by Frank Smith for Evan-Picone. Naturally not every style is in every size in every store. Orig. \$2.00 to 184.00.

Petites not available in all stores.

Sale ends May 11th.

Lord & Taylor, Fairlane, Lakeside, Twelve Oaks and Briarwood Mall.

Think **FEDERAL** About Checking.
FIRST FEDERAL OF MICHIGAN