

## points of view

# Reporters must keep their emotions aside

IT'S TOUGH to report on an issue as emotionally packed as abortion. But at times it becomes necessary, as it did Saturday when demonstrators with varying beliefs invaded our community to chant about abortion. Reporters must put their feelings aside, interview and report.

Human rights, women's rights, politics and religious overtones all play a big part in the issue, which has been debated in this country since the early 1970s. It's a grab bag of everything mixed together that forms the abortion debate.

But personal feelings still remain, nestled deep inside all of us. Editorial employees of the New York Times and the Washington Post were sternly chastised for participating in the April 9 national pro-choice and women's rights rally in Washington.

They were told to disqualify themselves from future abortion-related news coverage. Even though they didn't cover the event, editors and managers believed it was a conflict of interest — and could be in the future.

It's tough to draw the line when something so emotional is at stake.

ONE SIDE believes it is nothing



Casey Hans

short of murder; the other believes it is a necessary medical procedure of choice. As the debate rages today, one side would have us believe it is moral, while the other side is not.

The last opinion column I wrote about the abortion issue was in 1976, when the Catholic Church began showing propaganda films of aborted fetuses during the sermon portion of Sunday services to substantiate the Church's anti-abortion stance.

Two neighborhood children rode their bicycles to church, alone, and were terrified to see the blood-and-guts film. They hysterically rode home to tell mommy and daddy.

I disagreed with the tactics used then, just as I disagree with the tactics — many of them violent — being used to protest abortion today. I can hold that opinion and you can disagree.

That's one of our many rights,

which brings me to the real point of the issue.

WE LIVE in a country where people can choose how and when they want to demonstrate. They are allowed to picket, talk, and write letters and columns about their opinions. They can choose what religion they want to practice, if any. They can make decisions about careers, family life and children. And women can choose whether or not to have an abortion.

It's a legitimate, legal choice.

None of us will ever answer the question of when human life begins. We each have our own opinions, and no one can substantiate who is correct. But there is one fact that cannot be denied: Women in this country are human beings who have rights.

Start whittling away at those rights — like the right to a safe and legal abortion — and the walls may tumble down around all of us. Someday, you may not see news reporters covering such protests because no one will be on the sidewalks picketing.

We may no longer have that right.

Casey Hans is a staff writer for the Farmington Observer.

# Lakes area transformation forces many from homes

LIKE MANY mothers, my mother always taught me to share. It kind of went along with the flag and apple pie. But apparently that all has changed.

I thought about this the other day while reading that the lakes region has become an economic war zone between the well-to-do and the working class.

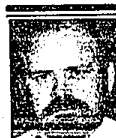
Not too many years ago, the lakes stood out as a feature which everyone could enjoy. For the most part, lakefront property was owned by blue and white collar workers either as year round homes or as summer haunts.

The homes were small, the lakes unsullied.

And many of those same lakes were enjoyed by a multitude of people, whether they lived on them or not. No one much cared, really. Western Oakland was a quiet place, roads uncluttered, lakes peaceful, parks quiet.

As youths, my friends and I would often hitchhike out Northwestern Highway (then a country road) and then up Orchard Lake (another country road) to one of the many beautiful lakes.

We would rent a boat, fish, swim and mostly just hang around in the middle of a lake, letting the summer



Steve Barnaby

breeze cool our bodies.

With some real luck, a lone skier would come along in search of companions. The trade-off was fair enough. We would pilot the boat while he skied and, as repayment, he would treat us to a free afternoon of skiing.

A great thrill for some city kids who ordinarily would never have been able to afford it.

And what I remember best is that everyone was friendly. You never felt like an outsider. They shared the lake.

TODAY, of course, such tales ring of ancient mythology.

The upper middle class and the wealthy have discovered the region we always called "the lakes." And they, unlike many of those who have lived on the lakes for years, are unwilling to share.

Small homes are being torn down

and replaced with palatial domiciles. Property taxes are surging and lakefront lots can go for anywhere up to \$300,000.

An area that was once the recreational haven for those who could afford no other, is fast becoming the subdivision for the well-to-do.

Skyrocketing taxes are forcing many out of homes they have lived in for decades. And the lakes are being denied to all but those who can afford to live on them.

Understand, please. While the land is owned by the homeowners, the water is owned by you and I and anyone else who can get to it. The problem is access.

Every year the legislature allocates funds to purchase land along lakes for public access. The Department of Natural Resources works off of a lakes list on which property can be purchased for public access.

But the newer, far more politically influential residents, are twisting legislative arms to see to it that their lakes are taken off the list. Vote-hungry, money seeking lawmakers eagerly comply.

What a shame. Our mothers certainly would be ashamed of those fortunates who are too selfish to share.

# Help reach out to a teenager who's visiting from France

The writer, Diane McQuiston, local LEC coordinator, is a Farmington Hills resident.

BONJOUR. WOULD you like to bring a little excitement into your home this summer? Why not invite a French student to share your home for one month — either July or August. Bring them in and make them a part of your family. Just think how rewarding the experience could be for everyone.

LEC (Leisirs Culturels A L'Etranger) is a non-profit organiza-

tion around for 17 years. LEC was founded in 1972, and has since sent 40,000 students to homes in Germany, Spain, the British Isles and America.

That number will continue to rise as more states and cities are made aware of LEC and its purpose: to promote international friendship through the means of a family stay.

Not only will LEC give us the opportunity to make one of these students welcome, it will give us the chance to learn about the cultures and people of France. The entire

program is coordinated from France, where the students are carefully screened before being accepted. These students are both male and female; their ages range from 13 to 19.

They are wonderful children and feel that it is a great privilege to be able to come to America. All we ask

of a host family is that it provide room and board, friendship and understanding. Let the student become a part of your family and share your summer activities.

A BIKER ride, a walk, a game of tennis, a swim, a picnic or a trip to the mall. There are so many things to do; all we ask is one month of your time to share these things with one of our students. The students are willing to go along with whatever plans the family may have; they also know that they have to help with their share of the work.

How do you tell a French student who dreams of visiting America that there are not enough families willing to share their homes with them? Since arrangements are very time-consuming, families interested in hosting a student either the month of July or August, and who would like more information, please contact me at 477-5611. Also, if there is a family that would like to host the chaperone arriving with the students, please let me know.

Hosting a student is an unforgettable experience for each and every member of the family. It builds lifelong friendships. This may also lead to the opportunity of giving one of your children the chance to visit France and stay with the student's family there.

Let's show them what a warm and wonderful community we live in. Let's welcome a student from France into our homes and hearts.

## quest column

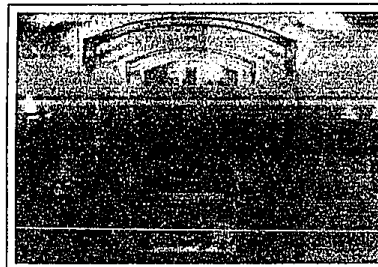
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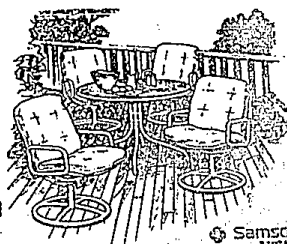


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