

Pro-lifers go to homes

By James Radebaugh
Staff writer

Pro-life activists demonstrated Saturday in front of 21 houses in West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake, Bloomfield Township and Bloomfield Hills, saying they were picketing the homes of doctors who perform abortions.

"We're out here to mourn the children and educate the neighbors," said Lynn Mills, a Livonia resident who helped organize the protest. "I know that if an abortionist were my neighbor I would want to know."

Mills and other organizers said they believe the most effective way to end abortion is to draw attention to the physicians who perform abortions. Pro-life activists began picketing the homes of doctors several years ago and do so locally about twice a year, Mills said.

"If being an abortionist is credible, if it's an honorable profession, then they won't be upset," she said.

AT LEAST 150 activists gathered

for a prayer service on the St. Mary's campus in Orchard Lake before breaking into six groups, which were to picket for about 40 minutes at several selected sites.

About 25 protesters picketed on the shoulder of Pontiac Trail near the home of Dr. Leon Hochman, whom the group identified as an abortionist.

Orchard Lake police, who said they received a complaint that someone was trespassing on a private drive, prevented reporters from approaching Hochman's house. Later efforts to contact Hochman were unsuccessful.

The protesters carried signs and walked in a circle in front of Hochman's drive. A few sang softly, but most were quiet. Organizers earlier said they didn't want the group to be "rowdy."

BRUCE MCINTYRE, who lives down the street from Hochman, said he objected to the protesters' techniques.

"It's perfectly reasonable for you

to picket Dr. Hochman's office, but to come here to a residential neighborhood is objectionable," he told one of the picketers.

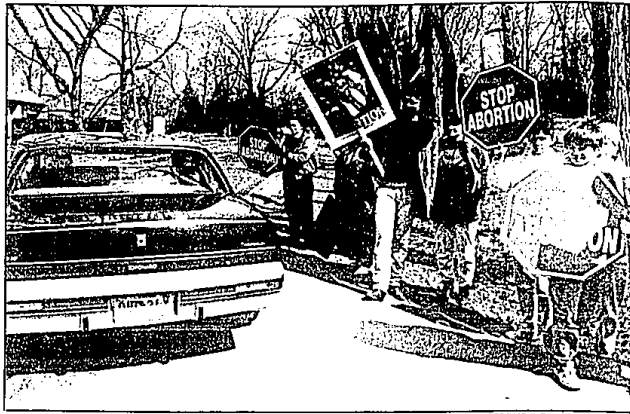
McIntyre said he's known Hochman for several years. "I know him, I like him, but his (practice) is none of my business," he said.

Dr. Richard Ellenbogen, another of the protesters' targets, said he didn't think their tactics would be effective. "I think it's a waste of their time. It's not going to change anything," the West Bloomfield resident said.

"People have always wanted them (abortionists) done and they're always going to want them done," he said. "If they can be done safely, I don't see any reason why they shouldn't be. Abortion is a personal thing."

Christine Jones, a pro-life protester from Ann Arbor, said the picketers did not wish to disrupt the neighborhood.

"We're not hindering anybody in their privacy or their lifestyle," she said. "We're just making it known that these people kill children."



Pickets walked along the shoulder of the road in front of a target house. A pro-life organizer said the group pickets houses that they believe

belong to doctors who perform abortions about twice a year.

JOHN STORMZAND/staff photographer

obituaries

JAMES A. CAMERON

Mr. Cameron, 62, of Lake City, formerly of Livonia, died March 3.

Born in Detroit, Mr. Cameron worked in quality control in the automotive industry. He was a member of Livonia Elks Lodge and Houghton Lake American Legion. He was a World War II veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Maxine; son, William; daughter, Elise Sheathelm; sisters, Jessie Johnson,

Ella Stocks and Mary Heimbuch; one grandchild.

Services were at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Alfred Gould of West Presbyterian Church officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.

JOHN STAPERT

Mr. Stapert, 91, of Farmington died March 4 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Paterson, N.J., Mr. Stapert was a tool maker.

Survivors include his wife, Leonie; a daughter, Norma.

Services were March 8 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. John Maki of Salem United Church of God officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

LEONA S. HALL

Mrs. Hall, 86, of Livonia died March 12 in University Convalescent

and Nursing Home.

Born in Missouri, Mrs. Hall was a school secretary in the Farmington School System.

Survivors include her sister, Pearl Belleville; many nieces and nephews.

Services were March 14 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. David Penman of Nardin Park United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

troit.

LEWIS BRYANT PERKINS

Mr. Perkins, 77, of West Bloomfield died March 13 in West Bloomfield Nursing Center.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Mr. Perkins was a retired sales manager

for General Electric.

Survivors include his daughter, Mary Jo Williams of Farmington Hills; two grandchildren.

Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Ardmore, Pennsylvania. Arrangements were made by the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

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