Controversial issues shouldn't sit on center stage

MORAL FERSPECTIVES FREEPERTIVES REV. ROBERT REV. ROBERT SCHADEX ADDITIONAL REV. ROBERT SCHADEX SCHADEX things seem to lose it all when these kinds of issues are brought that of issues are brought that the debates the is-sues have never really been re-

sues have never really been re-solved?

that with all the debates the is-selved? -Certainly there are no simple of the selved of ques-tions, but nether does that mean taidnessed. Allow me to enter where angels dare not tread. -For starters, I wonder whether for the center stage we give them. Yes, they are important issues? Might they be symptoms of a problem or problems we choose to ignore — problems of which we sere not yet owen aware? Medical science shows us that symptoms of a cure that is not they. - Individuals, Institutions of many kinds, and indeed govern-

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focusing on symptoms and living with the illusion that they have tackled the issues. So what might such emotional-ly ladened issues as abortion, capital punishment, and euthana-sia have in common? It goes with-out saying that they are all life and death concerns, but there is something more. Each of these re-alities is an attempt to solve a problem, to make that which is not wanted — on a myraid of lev-els to be sure — go away. Each is

an attempt to remove a problem, a pain, a fear or a combination of all of those things. Pain and fear are enough to prompt - emotive responses in most of us. The pain and the fear experienced by a women with unwanted pregnancies is some-thing that I, as a male can coly imagine, but it is their pain and it is their fear. The pain and the fear of those who have fallen victim to violent and senseless crime or who are at risk of becoming vic-

time are exacerbated by a large able. WE do that which the expe-does of anger. That combination rience of others — or indeed our-is also enough to arouse any of us. selves has shown to be a surefire relation to the fast that en-troes of scrious and terminal ill. ness are something that only they can know. So what do we do when faced with pain, with fear, with incon-wind? We do what society has gradually let us know is accept-

biot out people who stood in their way. Many of us grow up with the movies of the Wild West where a Smith and Wesson was the ulti-mate problem solver. Perhaps a closer look at what really resolves problems in the human condition would be more enlightening than putting the mi-croscope on the symptoms. The Rev. Robert Schaden is with Neuman House on the cam-pus of Schoolcraft College in Livo-nia.



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