

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

Speaking Out

By Elena Cambio
Notre Dame

On January 22, thousands of pro-life demonstrators marched in Washington to mark the 13th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion. While some protesters left to lobby members of Congress, others knelt in front of the Supreme Court building, chanting "Stop the Killing." These people were arrested, but that didn't dampen the pro-lifers' activities.

Two leaders of the right-to-life movement, Paul Brown of the American Life League and Joseph Scheidler of Pro-Life Action, met with President Reagan and asked him to pardon individuals responsible for the bombing of several abortion clinics. They claimed that since no people were hurt in the bombings, these offenders should have their records wiped clean.

When Brown and Scheidler talked to reporters, they stated that the president said he may eventually consider such pardons on a case-by-case basis. The president, however, merely said he might review one of the cases, even though Mr. Reagan himself is in agreement with the right-to-life movement.

I applaud the president for not agreeing to pardon those who have bombed abortion clinics. The question here is not which faction is right, but rather if the actions of a few people can be justified. These people who have decided to make their point with violence have not really thought about the consequences.

Firstly, they claim that they are only destroying the tools of abortion, the clinics where the abortions are recommended and performed. But what happens of the building isn't empty for some reason — if a custodian or someone else is working late? What then? It takes only one life to constitute murder.

The clinic bombers' whole argument is that abortion is indeed murder, yet aren't they defeating their whole purpose by taking even the slightest

chance with others' lives?

Since abortion was legalized 13 years ago, the pro-life movement has worked hard for a cause in which its members believe, one the Church supports. Pro-lifers have protested and made known their pleas for the protection of those unable to defend themselves. They even have the president rooting for their success. So why ruin everything they've worked for by committing acts of violence, which are simply terrorist tactics?

The bombings have only served to give all opponents of abortion a bad name. Those who peacefully strive for the banning of abortion have been set back in their struggle because of a few. Even though the president told the protesters, "I'm glad to stand with you in the long march for the right to life," how can he be expected to pardon those who have become public offenders?

Some believe that the immorality of the situation they are fighting outweighs the illegality of their actions. How can this be so if our laws are based on morality? By putting other lives in the least bit of jeopardy, these violent protestors are only undermining their claim for the right to life.

On another point, many of those opposed to abortion do not want their tax dollars to be spent on the building and maintenance of free clinics and to pay personnel it takes to run them. This is understandable, considering their point of view. There are those, however, who feel their money is going toward a good cause. Since we are dealing with the allocation of both pro-life and pro-choice supporters' money, it would seem fair that if the clinics are to be put out of commission, this should be accomplished by legislation, not illegal terrorism. It would not be right to pardon those who have destroyed facilities in which some taxpayers believe.

It seems clear to me what mistakes have been made, and I would hope that those pro-lifers who have made these mistakes will attempt to make up for their errors, instead of trying to white-wash them.



Regina Carrones' acrylic painting will be among those on display during Arts Week.

Mercy plans events for Arts Week

By Rebecca Boyle
Our Lady of Mercy

Students have been invited to perform dramatic pieces, musical numbers, dances and literary compositions for Our Lady of Mercy High School's Arts Week, February 10 through 14.

"It's a chance to pay tribute to the arts, which sometimes get neglected in the midst of academic life," said senior Nancy Walker, one of the many committee chairwomen for Arts Week. "It's been a lot of hard work, but it will be worth it to make the students more aware of the talents that surround them."

Performers will also be brought in from outside the walls of Mercy. The Downstairs Cabaret, Monroe Community College Swing Choir, and an artist from KL Graphics will share their talents with Mercy students.

Among the Mercy performers are music teacher Phyl Contestable and Alan Joans. Students scheduled to perform include seniors Tina Donahue, Anne DiBiasi and Jennifer Meisenzahl, who will sing "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."

Theater will also play a part in the final assembly on Friday, Jan. 14, as junior Lisa Giffes and senior Jennifer Colon perform a dramatic piece.

"Arts Week should have something for everyone, and we have tried to do that this year," Walker said.

In previous years, Mercy alternated Arts Week with Friendship Week. Arts Week began in the early 1970s, when students took workshops in the arts, to the present form in which students demonstrate their talents in performance. In comparing Arts Week with Friendship Week, Walker said, "It's great to have Friendship Week, but more emphasis needs to be placed on the arts, which sometimes go to the back burner."

Students will be encouraged to participate in activities during their free periods and to attend such special classes as Sister Estelle Martin's art work and graphics class.

Among those responsible for bringing the arts to Mercy and enlightening the students are chairwomen Phyl Contestable, Sister Barbara DiFiore, Sister Joan Hilbert, Irene Lagler, Mary Manus and Juli Palma.

Calling all Catholic teens attending public schools:

Are you — or members of your parish youth group — interested in participating in our *Echo* section? *Echo* isn't just for students in Catholic high schools, it's for all Catholic youth.

If you'd like to join the *Echo* staff and report on the activities of your youth group or the young people in your region, give us a call Wednesday through Friday at (716)454-7050. We'll be glad to explain how *Echo* works!

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| Aquinas | Mark Simonelli | DeSales | Matthew Carty |
| Bishop Kearney | Mariou Halstead | Mercy | Rebecca Boyle |
| | Deana Manuse | McQuaid | J. Peter Huggins |
| Cardinal Mooney | Tim Flynn | Nazareth | Debbie Cragg |
| | Jolie Pizzi | Notre Dame | Elena Cambio |
| | A.J. Rogers | | |

HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 10 correct entries identifying **Elton John** as the stage name of Reginald Kenneth Dwight.



The winner was **Lisa M. Rogers** of Cardinal Mooney High School

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

Which former member of the Eagles recorded "The Boys of Summer?"

A:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip Code _____
 School _____

Rules:

Each week, the Courier Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Courier Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal
 Music Trivia
 114 S. Union St.
 Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Send your Sweetheart a Valentines message in the Courier-Journal. All submissions will appear in our February 13th issue. Mail your message (15 word limit), plus \$2.00 to The Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.