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Sectionals start

The Elmira Notre Dame wrestlers and McQuaid Jesuit track squad were dominant in winning sectional titles last weekend. Sectional play in hockey and basketball began this week. Pages 10 and 11.



Two Wichita, Kan., police officers pull a pro-life activist from underneath a car July 31, 1991, at the entrance to an abortion clinic. Police ended up arresting four protesters, who got under the vehicle and wrapped themselves around the car's tires. The car later entered the clinic grounds.



Erin Kluge is hugged by her mother, Robin, outside an abortion clinic in Wichita, Kan., on Aug. 24, 1991. The two protesters were part of a crowd that later rushed the clinic gates.

Protests polarize those on both sides

By Lee Strong, Staff writer

In the weeks leading up to New York state's 1988 presidential primary, Bishop Austin Vaughan, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New York, listened carefully to the positions espoused by various Democratic and Republican candidates.

Not one of the candidates mentioned abortion, Bishop Vaughan recalled in a recent telephone interview with the *Catholic Courier*.

"It seemed to me that abortion had practically become a non-issue in this country," he remarked.

That realization led Bishop Vaughan to take part in a May 2, 1988, "rescue mission," a demonstration in which he and other pro-life activists blocked the entrance to a Queens abortion clinic.

"I wanted to move the issue from being ignored by the public to being a live issue," Bishop Vaughan recalled.

Today, he added, "It's no longer ignored by the media the way it was before. There's been a change in the public awareness of the issue."

Along with activists on both sides of the abortion debate, Bishop Vaughan partly attributes that change in public awareness to the rescue movement.

But questions arise over whether this awareness actually furthers the pro-life



Police prepare to arrest New York Auxiliary Bishop Austin B. Vaughan during a 'rescue' in Paoli, Pa. on July 5, 1988.

cause. Some observers express concern about some of the tactics used by rescue groups. Others question whether the rescues really achieve their stated objective: preventing women from having abortions.

The rescue movement actually began in the 1970s. But since Bishop Vaughan was first arrested in 1988, it seemingly has exploded.

Major protests have occurred in such

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Pro-life demonstrators at a clinic in Austin, Texas, block a stairway, forcing two people to climb over them Oct. 29, 1988.

RESCUES