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Letters Policy

The *Catholic Courier* wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all signed, original letters about current issues affecting church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication based on likely reader interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.

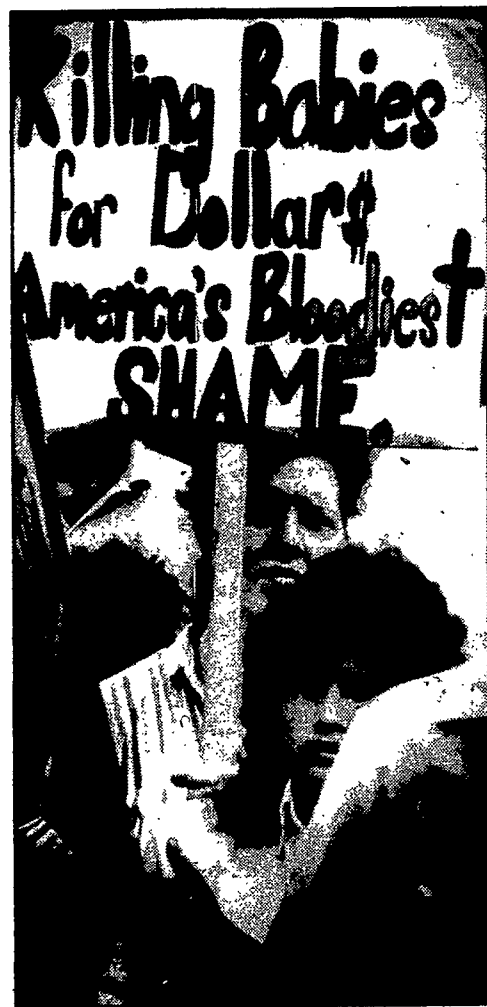
United Way bowed to law of economics

To the editors:

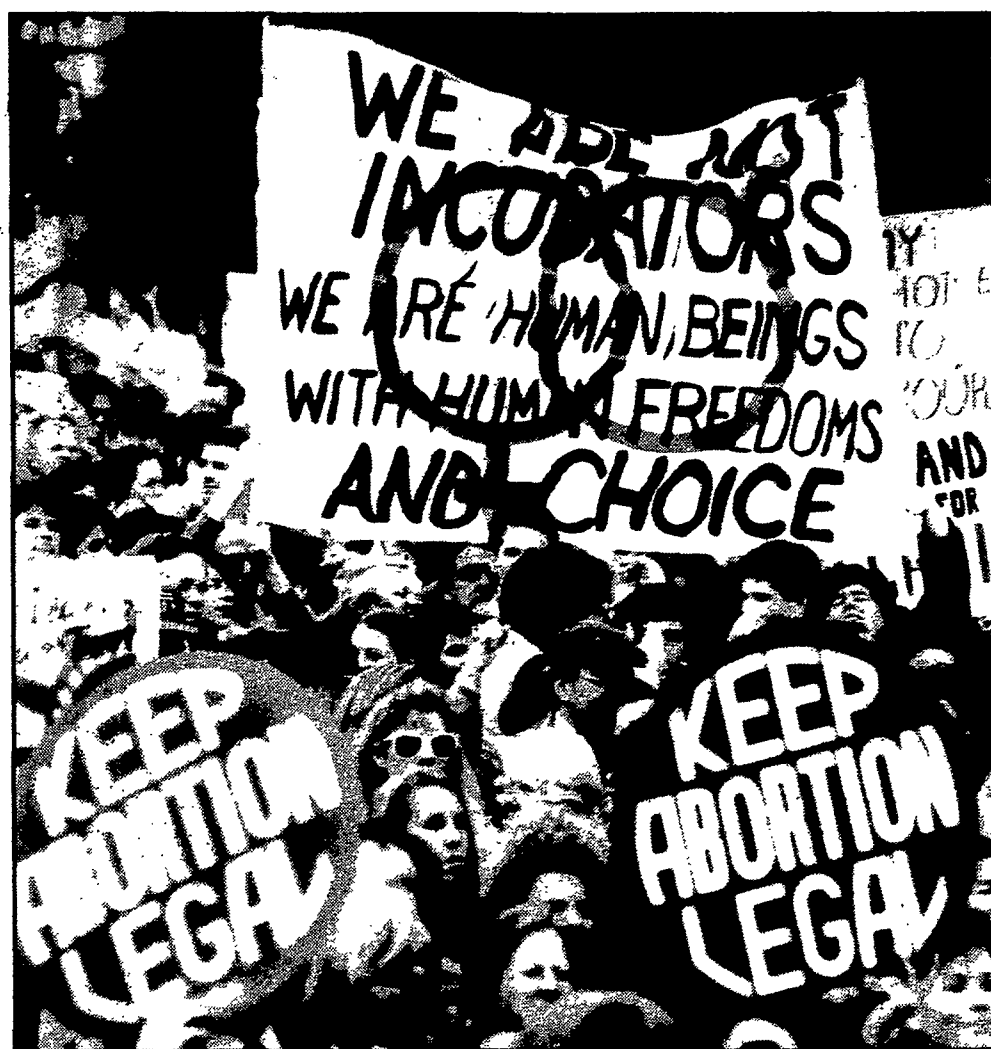
United Way of Rochester has succumbed to the pressure and the threats of the pro-abortionists, who have promised to remove their funding if the United Way upheld its position against Planned Parenthood's future abortion clinic. Therefore, United Way reached a decision based upon economics. United Way must believe that there are more pro-abortion donors in Rochester and/or pro-abortion people are more convincing in their threat to stop their donations. The United Way may proudly state that it reached a perfect compromise by agreeing to continue funds to Planned Parenthood but not the separate clinic. But, this compromise helps Planned Parenthood in its business of abortion by freeing other of its monies and resources for this said abortion clinic. All those people who continue donating to this "charity" identify themselves as the same. And, I only hope that many in our community value life and see that the United Way of Rochester will do anything to keep its life blood, money, while helping to take life from the pre-born.

Who knows, if given the opportunity to be born that these children might have someday donated to the United Way. Even though the pre-born have no checkbooks, United Way has learned quickly from the lucrative abortion industry that there is money to be had in their destruction. I am deeply dismayed that so few are willing to stand in the conviction that all life should be protected. Women need protection from the degradation and devastation of abortion. The pre-born babies, who are to be painfully ripped from the womb, need the abortionist to be stopped.

Katherine Burke
Bent Oak Road, Rochester



File photo
News that two leaders of the local pro-life movement might face criminal charges failed to deter more than 30 anti-abortion protesters who turned out for a July 25, 1987, demonstration at Highland Hospital.



File photo
Approximately 300,000 people packed Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C., April 9, 1989, to demonstrate in support of the Equal Rights Amendment and the continued legality of abortion in the United State.

Attacking PP's founder ignores real argument

To the editors:

In response to Frank Netti (*Catholic Courier*, Feb. 6: "Margaret Sanger created 'money machine'") and the host of recent believers/conceivers of the Cult of Margaret Sanger, I would like to reclarify the abortion issue. It would seem this interminable discussion ought not need further clarification. However, once again as a pro-choice Catholic and a supporter of Planned Parenthood, I am driven to define my position.

Contrary to the latest theory, I am not a card-carrying member of the Margaret Sanger Fan Club. Yes, she was a racist, elitist woman whose motives for a birth-control campaign were questionable. Birth-control and abortion, however, pre-date Sanger by some 6,000 years. Abortion discussion dates to Ancient Greece; see Kristen Luker *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood* (University of California Press, Berkeley, 1985; chapter 2). Sanger did not conceive of a woman's right to choose in a vacuum. Rather she articulated an age-old effort by women of all colors, creeds, and civilizations to maintain control over their own bodies. Moreover, the movement to protect that fundamental right of women has managed to move far beyond Sanger's narrow-minded perspective and embrace all women's re-

productive rights. This is a process to which Planned Parenthood has contributed a great deal by providing services and education to low-income women.

I am struck by the accusations of "racism and bigotry" (see quotations from Bishop Thomas Gumbleton in *Catholic Courier*, Feb. 6: "Judge finds Fr. Berrigan, co-protesters guilty") from members of a Church historically and often times currently racist, sexist, classist, anti-Semitic, and heterosexist. Furthermore, I am struck by Mr. Netti's analysis of Planned Parenthood programs as "merely precepts made by men which lead to the destruction of our spiritual lives." In my experience, Church rulings on abortion and birth-control are exactly that. Perhaps this theory of judging a movement according to the integrity of its leader is the same which allows the Church to continue to commit its assaults on humanity in the name of Jesus Christ.

At the very least, let us dispense with rhetorical nonsense and non-argument and stay true to our disagreement: Do I have the right to my body or not? I vote "yes."

Suzanne M. Bojduk
County Line Road, Macedon

EDITORS' NOTE: Ms. Bojduk is a student at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Criticizing closings doesn't equal 'bashing the bishop' about schools

To the editors:

I take exception to Father Daniel Tormey's letter in the *Courier* regarding "Bishop Bashing."

What makes it wrong for people to express opinions on school closing — it is something very close to their hearts.

He also appears to be bashing — "Operation Rescue Squad" — those

people are also expressing their opinion and doing what they think is right.

His last paragraph "I sincerely hope we can maintain a Catholic School system, especially for those children who need it" — please tell me what children don't need a good education.

John Enright
Middle Road, Rush