

Elmira pro-life gathering draws 200 participants

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ELMIRA — The New York State Right To Life Committee's annual convention April 23 attracted approximately 200 people to the downtown Holiday Inn, 1 Holiday Plaza.

During the convention, titled "Grassroots Pro-Life: America's Heart and Hands," participants heard warnings about some of the implications of President Bill Clinton's health care plan and the potential of fetal experimentation.

According to Sharon Pearte, president of Chemung County Right to Life, Inc., the convention allowed participants to receive up-to-date information and to network with other activists from other parts of the state.

"The convention helped to strengthen the ties between the local group and the state group," noted Pearte, whose group hosted the event. For example, local activists now know who to contact at the state level for information to provide area news stations.

In addition to helping attract pro-life activists to the Chemung County group, the convention allowed members to discover some Southern Tier residents who were marginally involved in the pro-life movement before. As a result of the gathering, those members are now willing to step forward and offer their expertise to the movement, Pearte added. She cited a local physician who volunteered to speak to groups about the Clinton health care plan.

The convention offered a number of workshops and seminars on such topics as post-abortion trauma, Planned Parenthood, life decisions for the sick and elderly, and organizing techniques and media awareness for pro-life groups.

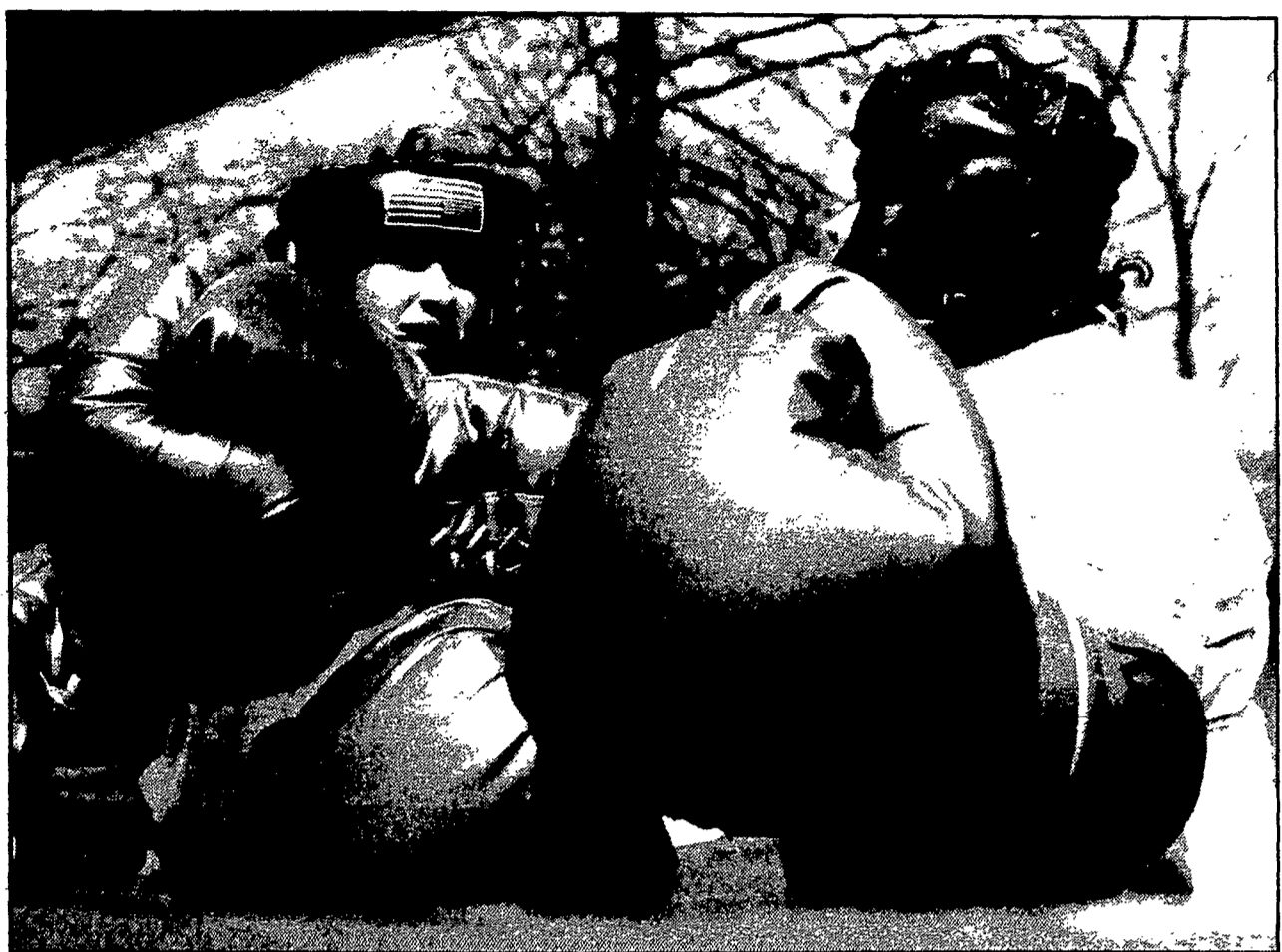
Pearte said she was particularly struck by Burke Balch's discussion of the potential for rationing under the proposed Clinton health care plan. Balch noted, for example, that under Canada's health care plan, limits are placed on such procedures as kidney dialysis and heart-bypass operations due to age. Thus an individual over a certain age can not obtain services unless they go elsewhere — such as the United States.

In addition, Pearte reported, Dr. Bernard Nathanson used newspaper clippings to help show how far fetal research has gone, warning that the potential exists for fetuses to be "harvested" to provide tissue for people.

"Dr. Nathanson said that when you accept abortion, you accept a slippery slope, and then all life has less value," Pearte reported. "You read about the Holocaust in a book, and then you hear about what's going on in this country."

Pearte said her group hopes that the attention surge provided by the convention will help spur pro-life efforts.

Continued on page 20



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

A knockout good time for all

St. John Fisher College students Amy Martin (left) and Monica Bush 'duke it out' with oversized boxing gloves during the college's first-ever Commuter Day held on the Pittsford college's campus April 20. Activities were intended to bring together Fisher's commuters, residents and faculty for a day of fun.

Crop Walks to feed hungry set for May 1

This Sunday, May 1, Crop Walks will be held at various locations in Monroe, Wayne and Seneca counties. In many areas 10K walks are held in conjunction with canned-goods collection for area food pantries, or with an advocacy effort on hunger issues.

"The walks are an ecumenical opportunity for walkers and sponsors to feed the hungry and pursue justice and peace in Jesus' name," according to Judy Taylor, communications manager for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester.

Taylor added that most of the walks' proceeds are used by Church World Service, the relief, development and refugee assistance arm of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCC/USA).

Individuals may also designate their pledges to support Catholic Relief Services, said Taylor, diocesan liaison to CRS. Each sponsor must note this designation on the sponsor record.

National, local and global hunger relief efforts benefit from the Crop Walk, whether through Church World

Service or CRS. For example, proceeds will help fill vital needs worldwide in African drought areas as well as in Bosnia and for California's earthquake victims.

According to Taylor, local food pantries and nutrition programs may also receive up to 25 percent of the collected funds.

Many additional Crop Walks will take place in October. Parishes that would like information about involvement with Crop Walks should call 315/445-9055. Free global education materials are also available.

St. Joseph's Villa seeking volunteers

GREECE — St. Joseph's Villa, 3300 Dewey Ave., is seeking volunteers to assist with the Villa's residents.

Interested volunteers should be at least 21 years of age. The Villa is a private, non-profit agency providing mental health services for western and central New York youths and their families.

For details, call Kathleen Pexton at 716/865-1550.

File photo next to Fa- y, 1991.

ct rally

been desig- will include ths. Dobson, di- ce of Black as asked to e success of ival he con- 2-24, 1991. than 1,000 s. her of the other Judie, 1987.

the rally is and ethnic

ITAL ceive

als.



OWING MAY 6th



OFF Stock

shoe

of men's & ind colors.

ipio tore technician '89

Webster (e Line Rd.)

Conesus Inn

"For the Prime of Your Life"
EAST SIDE OF CONESUS LAKE
2170 East Lake Road
(716)346-6100

Now Open For The Season

Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary!

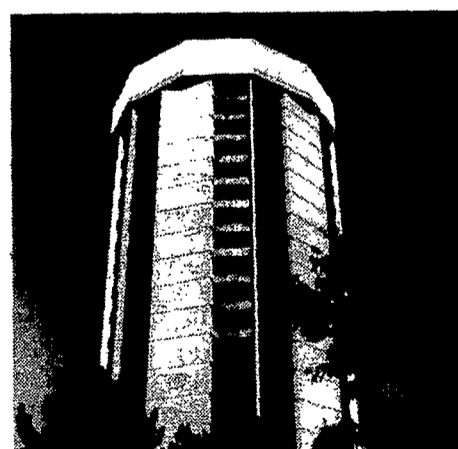
Early Dinner Specials
Tuesday - Friday & Sunday
until 7:00 p.m.

—Your Choice—
Prime Rib \$9.95
DeMonico Steak
Grilled Swrodfish

DINNERS SERVED NIGHTLY
From 5PM, except Monday

Special Attention
Given to Banquets and Parties

It pays to advertise in the Catholic Courier!



PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- All medications
- 24-hr. nursing service
- Full medical care & health maintenance
- Two delicious meals
- Modern apartments
- Housekeeping service
- Cable TV
- Social & recreational activities

THE HERITAGE

More than the comforts of home.

At The Heritage, you'll enjoy living in a friendly, caring community of physicians, nurses, and friends. Plus a range of services, like our pharmacy, hair salon, country store,



\$75 A DAY chapel with interfaith services, and recreation — all under one roof! The Heritage offers many more comforts along with the freedom to plan your own days. So call (716) 342-1700 today for a tour and consultation. We'll be happy to explain how we can accommodate your schedule, financial situation, and the services you desire.



1450 PORTLAND AVENUE, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14621
(716) 342-1700 ext. 426 Marilyn Yaniga