

Abortion a private decision

Much to the distress of moderate Republicans at the state convention, a resolution supporting an amendment that defined life as beginning at conception was passed Saturday by voice vote.

A number of convention delegates were outraged by the resolution, which although vague would essentially make all abortions illegal. Murder statutes would become applicable to abortion.

It's outrageous for the right-wing faction of the Republican Party to think that an amendment prohibiting abortion — in any circumstances — will be successful. It's even more outrageous for them to legislate an issue that is intensely personal and emotional.

Abortion must remain a choice. If not, it opens the way for coat hangers in the back rooms and sleazy back alley operations — common before the Roe vs. Wade decision.

Arguments about the moment of conception have gone on for some time and probably will never be resolved. New developments in medicine continue to raise moral, legal and ethical questions.

The most recent involves embryos conceived three years ago by the in-vitro fertilization method and frozen in liquid nitrogen. The Los Angeles couple that produced them died in a plane crash and left an estate of about \$1 million.

What do you do in a situation like that?

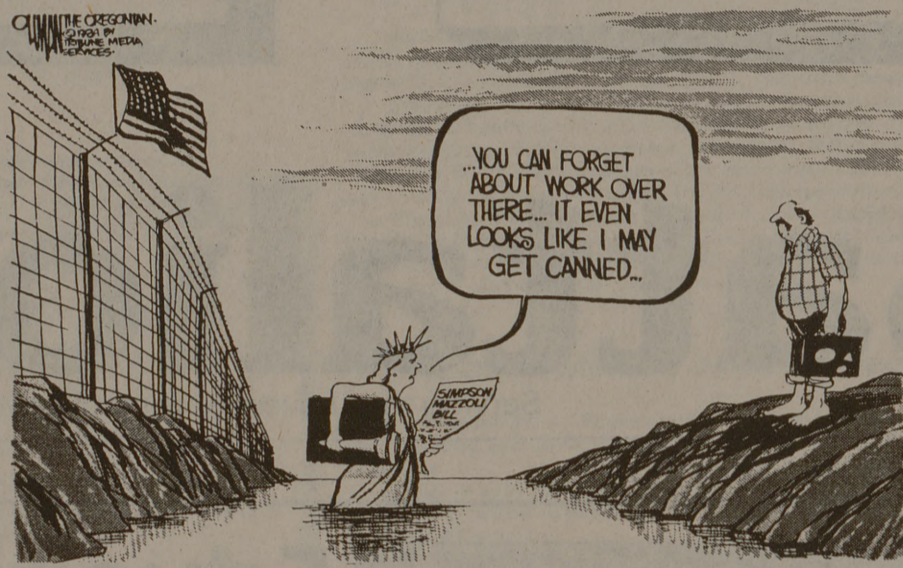
If the right-to-life movement gathers more strength, it probably will tackle a question like that.

Any situation, abortion or frozen embryos, affects people — not a movement.

People — not a movement — must live with their decisions.

And that's the whole point — it must remain a personal decision.

— The Battalion Editorial Board



A new method to lose weight

Getting rich quick with diet plan

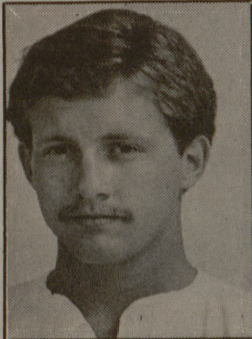
steve thomas

Fad diets are fabulous. They add color to the sterile white world of medicine, demonstrate the effective use of television for deceptive trade, and always have repeat customers because they never work.

They make loads of money with miniscule overhead and virtually no quality control problems. And you don't need any special certification.

Can you think of a better job for a college student?

Introducing the Steve Thomas In-



stant Weight Loss Program; the only safe, scientific method for effective weight loss and control. A product of 10 years of research, this program's nationwide testing by doctors and health care professionals has stripped excess weight from thousands of now happy people.

Thorphe Butard of Buckwash, Minnesota shed 85 pounds in only two weeks. Prissy Pimpleneck of Cathode Ray, Tennessee left 62 pounds from her behind in 17 days; and Grottle Putrit of Pussilage, Pennsylvania dropped 146 pounds from his 300-pound frame in only one week and three days — and he admits to cheating twice.

What's the secret? Government-funded University research has shown the Thomas Program scientists the

simplest, most dramatically effective method of lopping off loads of adipose. And here it is.

The failure of most programs is their insistence that people cannot eat junk food, especially candies, soda pop and beer. The Thomas Program has found conclusive evidence that this is wrong.

In fact, these are our three secret ingredients.

We prescribe a specialized diet to each individual custom..., or rather, patient, according to their specific needs. For instance, Pimpleneck of Tennessee subsisted on M&M's and Malt Liquor for 16 days of her 17-day program. The final day she was fed saline intravenously at a local hospital. And Pennsylvania's Putrit was obese and unhappy when he came to us, but after 10 days of Twix bars, Twinkies,

Moosehead and divinity he was a changed person. Three days afterward, he died a happy man.

And for a limited time we at the Thomas Program are offering our guaranteed services for a paltry fraction of their value. If you act now, you can lose those unwanted pounds — and keep them off — for a registration fee of \$800. This will also entitle you to a membership in our private maintenance program for a low weekly fee of \$65.

So don't waste time! Get in on the bottom floor of the nationally-acclaimed Thomas Program. Put an end to your porculent problem.

We promise, you'll never be weighed down again.

(Steve Thomas is a senior journalism major)

Mondale backer remains optimistic

By DAVID S. BRODER

Columnist for The Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — When "everyone" agrees on something, it is frequently wise to listen to someone who dissents. The conventional wisdom has been proven wrong so often already in this political year, there is certainly a chance that it will be wrong again.

That is why I went back the other day to talk with Richard Leone about Walter Mondale's chances of beating President Reagan in November. "Everyone" says these prospects are nil. This column has dwelled — to the point of irritation for some letter writers — on the weaknesses the primaries revealed in Mondale and the difficulties he faces in trying to unseat the incumbent.

As an antidote to the orthodoxy, I offer the view of Leone, a veteran of New Jersey politics and the self-described "house optimist" of the Mondale campaign. Leone established his credentials with me in mid-May, when "everyone" said Mondale faced a very tough fight to win the New Jersey primary against Gary Hart and Jesse Jackson.

I bumped into Leone at the Mondale state headquarters in Livingston, where he was virtually the only person talking about the possibility of a big win. When Mondale blitzed the opposition, winning 99 delegates to 8 for Jackson and none for Hart, I decided to reread the notes of that first interview with Leone.

'In states like New Hampshire and Ohio, he let himself be stereotyped as the candidate of this group or that group. He became the typical Old Politics figure. But in states like Illinois and New York, where he recognized he had to go beyond his base to win, he has done well' — a Mondale campaigner

What he had said was this: "When Walter Mondale is in a state where he must concentrate on expanding his base, he does well. When he is in a state where the campaign is designed to preserve his base, he does not."

"In states like New Hampshire and Ohio, he let himself be stereotyped as the candidate of this group or that group. He became the typical Old Politics figure. But in states like Illinois and New York, where he recognized he had to go beyond his base to win, he has done well."

"New Jersey," Leone said, "is that kind of state. It is up-scale and independent. And Mondale is going after those voters."

He won their support in New Jersey, while failing the same day in California, where his campaign was tailored to preserving his base among the elderly, the Hispanics, the Jews and members of organized labor.

In New Jersey, by contrast, Mondale beat Hart among self-described Independents, among the 70 percent who said they had not been hurt by Reagan's economic policies, among the self-employed and the salaried workers, in non-union households,

and among those with the highest levels of education and income, according to the ABC News exit polls.

He won these groups in New Jersey (where he had lost their counterparts in other states) by emphasizing issues like arms control, the environment and economic growth. The payoff was that Mondale — for the first time outside the South — was rated Hart's superior as a strong leader.

What are the implications for the general election? Leone draws two lessons. "People expect Ronald Reagan to be dazzling," he said in a post-primary interview last week, "and they expect Mondale to be unexciting. So when he (Mondale) starts campaigning hard, they will be surprised. They will be surprised how well he will do in debates."

If the "expectations" argument is traditional of the camp of the underdog, the second point Leone made was more subtle. "Mondale needs to play off someone, to draw the differences," Leone said. "It is not the differences themselves that are important, but what people learn about Mondale from these exchanges. They start out knowing him only as a former

Vice President, backed by the politicians and the big interests. What they learn is that he is very good on the (unclear) freeze issue, on the environment, on women's issues, and the other issues of concern to them. They start to take another look at Mondale."

Then Leone said something really surprising. "I've always thought the primaries would be a lot tougher for Mondale than the general election."

Why? "Because the job of drawing the differences with the other Democrats was bound to be more difficult than it will be with Reagan. The greater the differences, the more people will learn about Mondale's positions; and the more they learn, the better his chances of expanding his base."

"If he can secure his base by running the right kind of convention and frame the issues with Reagan correctly, then he can win the election — no question."

Thus, the "house optimist" of the Mondale campaign. Those are two big "ifs" he raises: Creating order and a semblance of unity out of the potential chaos of the quarreling factions that will gather in San Francisco next month, and then wresting away from Reagan and the White House the initiative in "framing the debate" for the fall campaign.

But, at the risk of being unconventional, let me say that if Mondale and the Democrats manage to do both those things this summer, then the autumn may well bring as close and competitive a campaign as Leone suggests.

Letters:

Tower's creator pans can picture

Editor: It seems ironic that you print an editorial dealing with journalistic responsibility the day after the June 12 issue in which you ran the photograph of the tower of cans on my desk.

I now have a constant stream of people coming into my office to view this work. This makes it terribly difficult to get anything done. If people aren't calling me in the middle of the night to come open my office door, they're camping outside the building. There are even people who claim this tower has cured everything ranging from arthritis to impotence. As for me, it has made life a living hell.

I'm tempted to take this creation and send it to that great aluminum depository in the sky. That's right, the CanBanc! At least then maybe I can get some sleep.

Next time you print a photograph such as this, please consider the consequences.

Frank Irwin
Graduate Student, Dept. of Geology

P.S. Judging from this reaction, I shudder at the thought of the chaos which will ensue upon the completion of the Albritton Tower.

Journalists attacked for 'fabrications'

Editor: Robin Black's attempted defense of

journalists is filled with the fabrications and lies for which the media is often criticized. One fabrication is her statement that 99.9 percent of journalists are nothing like their negative image. I challenge you, Robin, to produce the data from which you derived that figure. Obviously you can't because you just made it up.

A lie she told is that journalists don't stick microphones in the faces of disaster victims. In fact after almost every flood or tornado we have in this country some reporter is shoving a microphone in the face of some hysterical woman whose house was levelled.

Richard H. Fosberg

Editor's note: Robin Black's column was an opinion with generalized information — opinions don't lie.

All Across America, People React to the Thrilling Mondale Victory...

