

COMMENTARY

Hell House surely sets poor example for our youth

BY PEGGY LOONAN

On Friday Oct. 19, Life and Liberty for Women, a new nonprofit organization dedicated to aggressive abortion rights education, set up our protest signs out front of the Abundant Christian Life Center at 7100 Wadsworth Blvd., the site of the yearly Halloween Hell House that depicts the "sin" of abortion. Life and Liberty for Women is protesting because the alternative to legal abortion is illegal abortion that maims and kills women and doesn't save babies. We are challenging anti-abortion extremists with the graphic sights of illegal abortion because the way to lower the number of abortions without endangering women's lives is to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies.

Several teen-age boys, 14 years and up, approached us from the

church. No adult approached with these boys. Several of the teens stood in front of our signs violating our right to freedom of speech and expression, an act that could land them and their parents in court defending a lawsuit for violation of our civil rights.

Moreover, after forcing us to go to the edge of the street, these youngsters then stepped into the street to stand in front of our signs.

I called Arvada police, and several units responded. I told them I was deeply concerned about the hazard these youngsters' behavior presented to them as well as to the traffic speeding by. The officer told me he couldn't tell us where to stand nor tell these youngsters where to stand and if they stepped into the street to get in front of our signs, that was their choice and if they got run over

that too was their choice.

On the previous Friday, two of the older teens had confronted us and I asked them not to stand in front of our signs. They complied. They stood beside us, as close as one can get to another without being intimate. They held their brochure inches from our face and jabbered away. We didn't interfere with their freedom of speech and expression, and they didn't interfere with ours.

I was appalled that these youngsters were sent or allowed by their parents and the Rev. Keenan Roberts to be there without parental or adult supervision.

These youngsters had no idea what danger they may have been walking into. In addition to placing themselves in imminent danger by stepping into the street to get in front of our signs, what if we had con-

ducted ourselves in the harassing and dangerous manner they did?

These youngsters' parents should be ashamed of themselves for allowing their children to be out there without parental supervision and teaching them that you should violate others right to freedom of expression to be heard. And if they placed their children's well being in the hands of the Rev. Roberts, they should be outraged that the Reverend sent or allowed their youngsters out there without adult supervision, placing their youngsters' lives at risk and placing them, their youngsters and the church in legal jeopardy for violation of our civil liberties.

Peggy Loonan is a Fort Collins resident and the founder and executive director of Life and Liberty for Women.

EST
UMN