

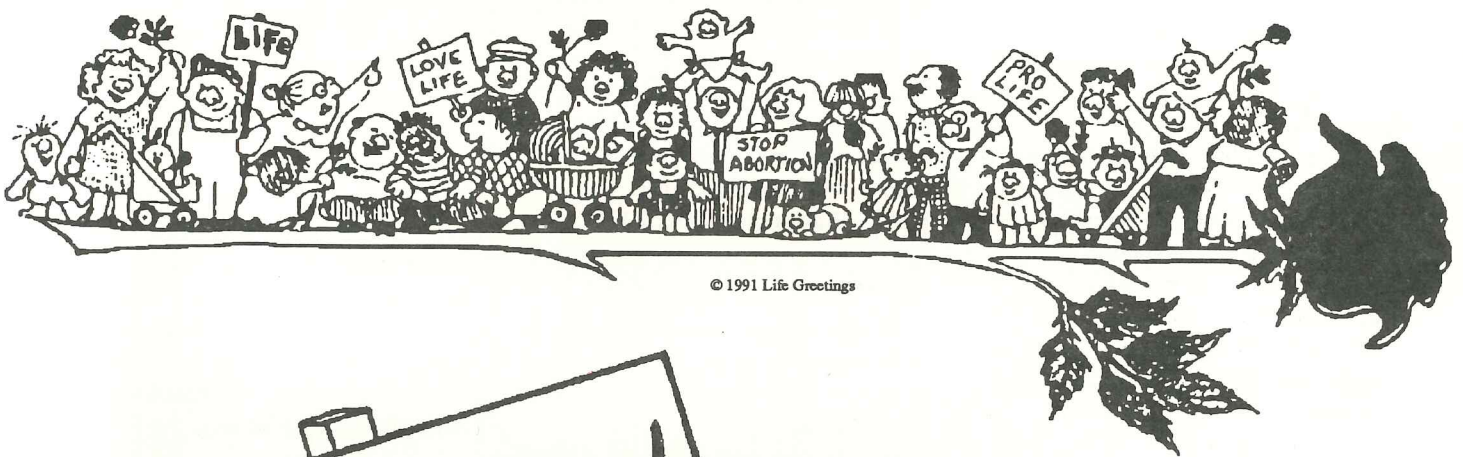
Essay Contest Winners
p. 5

Lifespan *news*

Volume 23 Number 1

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

January 1994



RALLY for LIFE

*Speakers Music
Fellowship*

Date: Sunday, January 16, 1994
(snow or shine)
Place: Kennedy Square, Detroit
(at the intersection of Fort,
Michigan and Woodward)
Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

January 22nd Activities

March for Life

January 22, 1994 is the 21st anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* which allowed abortion on demand, for any reason, throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy.

At noon on Friday, January 21, the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. will be held. It begins with the Rally in the Ellipse, just south of the White House.

Prolifers will march along Constitution Avenue to the Capitol and Supreme Court. Marchers are encouraged to then go into the Congressional Office Buildings to lobby with their representatives and senators.

The March for Life Committee is also sponsoring a convention at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Hotel with the theme, "Yes, America, the Intent of Abortion is to Kill a Baby." The convention keynote program is Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. The convention will continue on Saturday, January 22 with a full day of activity, including the Rose Dinner on Saturday evening. Registrations made by Jan. 7 cost \$75 and include the keynote program, convention and dinner. After Jan. 7, the cost is \$100. For information, call: MARCH FOR LIFE Fund, 202-LIFE-377.

A special room rate of \$87.00, plus taxes, for up to 4 persons/room is available at the Hyatt-Regency on Capitol Hill. Call the Hotel directly for reservations and information: 1-202-737-1234. Identify yourself as making a

reservation with the March for Life Education and Defense Fund. You must make your reservation by **January 7th**. For information on transportation to Washington, please call 533-9090.

Say it with roses!

Live red roses will be delivered in conjunction with March for Life activities, to each Member of Congress, the Supreme Court and the President and Vice President.

If you too would like to "say it with roses," send your name, address, city, state, zip and phone, along with a tax-deductible contribution of \$3 for each rose to MARCH FOR LIFE, Box 90300, Washington, D.C. 20090.

January 21 candles

Prolife homes across the metro area will remember the 31,500,000 aborted unborn by burning candles outdoors on the eve of the 22nd.

Lifespan has candle kits available for your use; call your local Chapter.

Tomb for the unborn

A memorial Mass and dedication of a tomb for the unborn, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will be held January 22 at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Mausoleum, 25800 W. 10 Mile Rd. at Beech Daly (1 mile west of Telegraph), in Southfield. Please call Anthony, 576-1205, for time of dedication and/or further information.

Donations may also be made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

- In memory of **Thomas Horton**, requested by Marjorie A. Evans and Pat and Bob Holscher.
- In memory of **Henry Tomilo**, requested by Pat Holscher.
- In memory of **Mary Kolonsky**, requested by Jerry and Becky Trumpka.
- In memory of **Grace Lubaway**, requested by Ron and Dot Mundle.

Remembrances

You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide.

A bequest in your will to Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts.

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died. A memorial card will be sent by Lifespan in your name to the family of the deceased.

entertainment '94

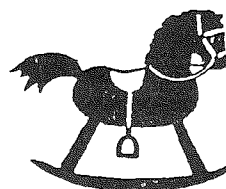
- ★ Expanded East Edition
- ★ New Northwest Edition
- ★ ALL NEW West/Southwest Edition



Save 50% on almost everything; including dining, theatre, sports events, hotels, travel, car washes and

more! A perfect gift idea for birthdays, anniversaries; it fits everyone and lasts all year long! **Only \$40.**

For every book sold, Lifespan earns \$8. Help us in this fundraiser, and sell *entertainment '94* to your friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers. Books are available at Lifespan offices only through Jan. 24. Call 533-9090 or your local chapter office to order and pick up your *entertainment '94* books.



Baby showers

On Sunday, March 13, 1994, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., Lifespan will host

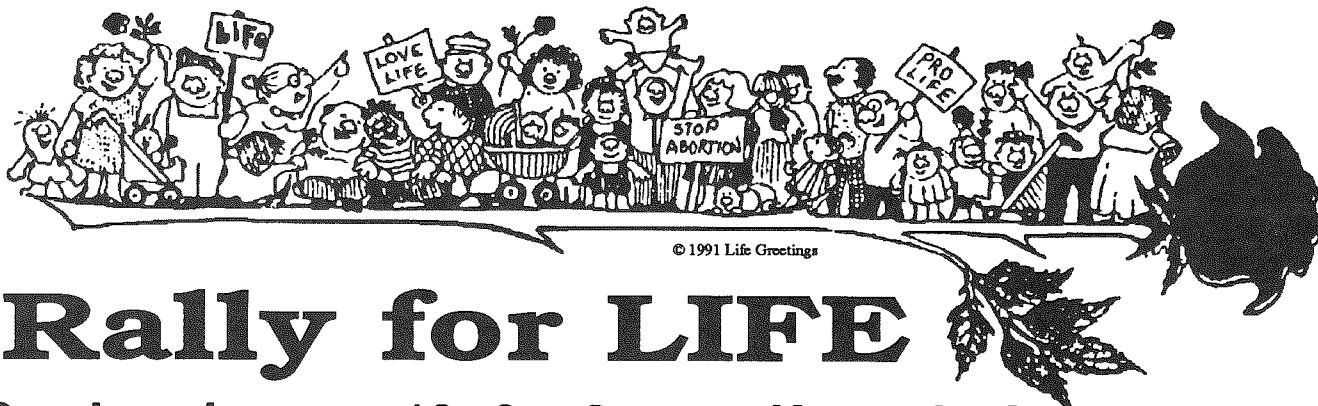
approximately 20 baby showers simultaneously at different locations throughout the metro area for crisis pregnancy centers. If you or your church are able to host a baby shower, call Mary Jo, 261-3383 or our Main Office at 533-9090.

Lifespan News

January 1994 Vol. 23, No. 1
President/Editor - Ann S. Thomas
Desktop Publisher - Marge Bradley
Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit is a non-profit organization, and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraisers. Donations are not tax-deductible.

MAIN OFFICE
28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127
Livonia, MI 48152-3736
(313) 533-9090





Rally for LIFE

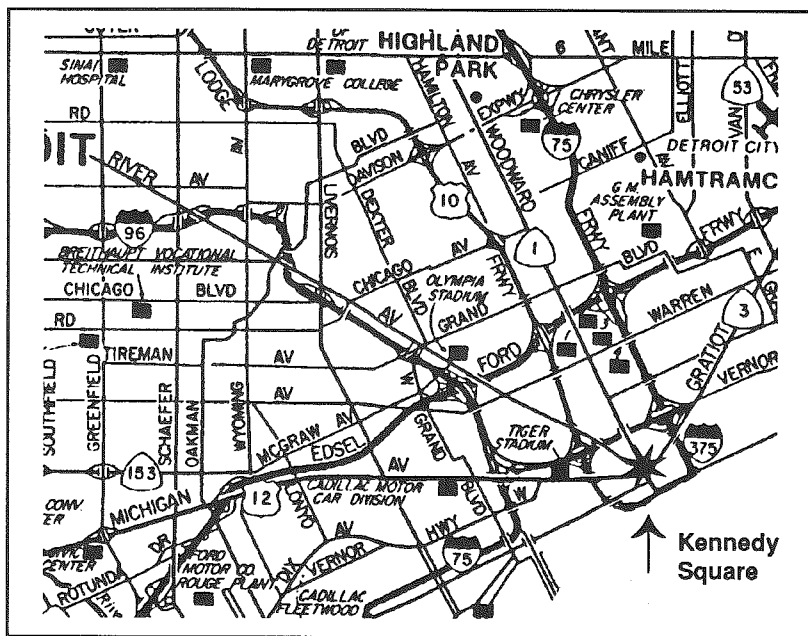
Sunday, January 16, 2 - 3 p.m., Kennedy Square, Detroit

A Rally for Life will be held on January 16, 1994 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Kennedy Square in downtown Detroit. This annual prolife rally is hosted by the Detroit Chapter of Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit.

Each year on the Sunday before the January 22nd anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, proliferators gather to memorialize the 1973 Supreme Court decision. 1994 will mark the 21st year of legalized abortion on demand. Since January 22, 1973, on the day of infamy when the U.S. Supreme Court stripped the unborn child of his right to life, almost 32 million babies have been killed by abortion.

Let's join together at the "Rally for Life" to protest the last 21 years of legalized abortion and to publicly reaffirm our belief in the value of all human life. The rally is a family event so bring your children.

Metro-wide support of this rally is crucial. For more information, call 874-0432 or 533-9090. Let's make it a great day for God, for America and for ALL human beings.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. For more information and/or Rally fliers, call 533-9090 or Carol at 861-2749 evenings/weekends.
2. Reproduce and distribute the flier to family, friends, co-workers and church members, encouraging them to attend.
3. Have your church or organization co-sponsor the Rally.
4. Carpool or bring a bus load. Bring at least 5 other people.
5. Pray for the success of the Rally.

Please complete this form and return it as soon as possible to Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, 48152.

_____ Yes, we are interested in attending the Rally for Life!
Church Bus _____ Yes _____ No

_____ Yes, please list my church/organization as a co-sponsor of the Rally!

Your Name _____

Pastor's/Director's Signature (only if co-sponsoring) _____

Your Phone _____

Church/Organization Name _____

1994

"Mother of the Year"

In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner on May 3, 1994, we will be honoring a "Mother of the Year."

We are looking for nominations from among our members or others for this fourth annual award. The nominee must be a resident of the Metro Detroit area and able to attend the award dinner on May 3.

Nominations must be submitted in writing explaining why you feel this person qualifies for "Mother of the Year." Nominations must be received no later than **Monday, April 4**. No nominations by or for Right to Life - Lifespan board members will be considered.

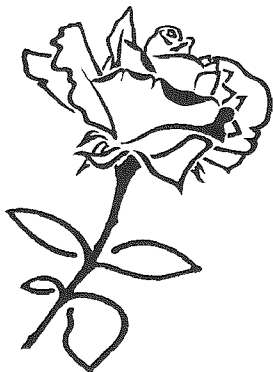
Our "Mother of the Year" will be an honored guest at the dinner on May 3. She will be awarded a plaque, a dozen long-stemmed roses and a \$100 gift certificate to J.C. Penney's.

If your nominee is chosen, you will also receive a free ticket to the dinner. If the "Mother of the Year" is nominated by two or more individuals, the first one received will be eligible for the free ticket.

Our 1993 "Mother of the Year" was Mary Ann Clos of Westland. She was nominated by her husband, Lawrence, her daughter Amy Watts and her friends, Nancy Stanford, Dorothy Cullen and Val Lents.

Please include your name, address and phone number and also the address and phone number of your nominee.

Mail or deliver your nomination for "Mother of the Year" to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152 for receipt no later than 3:00 p.m. on April 4. For more information, please call 533-9090.



Assisting Suicide

continued from page 12

nerve blocks (including even spinothalamic tractotomy in selected cases), non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and non-pharmacological methods, which include distraction and relaxation. Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation and direct spinal cord (dorsal column) stimulation may be valuable.

Technological Advances

Technological advances have greatly increased the available options in administering opioids. One of these, Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA) (a pump which can deliver a continuous infusion of a drug such as morphine, as well as allow patient-activated doses for breakthrough pain), eliminates the delay in receiving pain relief caused by having to wait for a nurse to administer the necessary medicine. Studies have shown that PCA may actually lower the amount of medicine administered to patients, while providing them with a safe and effective way to have more control over their treatment.

Another technological advance is the availability of a 72-hour patch made by Alza Corporation which releases controlled amounts of the opioid fentanyl through the skin. This patch allows patients to sleep through the night, avoiding the need to wake up to take more medicine. The development of time-released morphine provides this same benefit. There is increasing interest in infusing opiates directly into the spinal column, sometimes using an implanted pump. This allows effective pain relief with a much lower total dose so that fewer systemic side effects are encountered.

Barriers to Effective Pain Control

Despite our ability to control pain through medicine and technology, there are some patients who are needlessly suffering due to beliefs and practices which disrupt proper pain management. Poor pain assessment by physicians, patient reluctance to report pain, and patient hesitance to take and physician

reluctance to prescribe appropriate medication are some barriers that prevent proper pain management.

These practices are based on several myths related to addiction, tolerance, and side effects. Some doctors do not prescribe adequate opioid medication because they fear their patients will become addicted. **Research shows, however, that only 0.04% of patients treated with morphine become addicted.** Side effects associated with opioids such as constipation, nausea, and vomiting, can be effectively managed by other medication and careful opiate titration. While a patient may develop a degree of tolerance to morphine over time, this is never total, and therefore increased doses of the opioid continue to provide relief.

"Adequate interventions exist to control pain in 90 to 99% of patients."

Efforts to Educate Doctors and the Public

In an effort to counter beliefs and practices which disrupt proper pain management, health care professionals in 27 states are promoting cancer pain initiatives. These initiatives provide education for doctors, patients, and the general public about effective pain management, especially in terminal patients. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has produced a series of *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Acute Pain Management* and is now working on additional guidelines specifically for cancer pain.

We have the technology and the medicine effectively to control pain. While there do exist some barriers to the implementation of that medicine and technology, efforts are being made to remove those barriers. Instead of trying to legalize the killing of patients in pain, the public should be making sure that doctors are taught, and use, effective pain management.

*—First appeared in the National Right to Life News, September 30, 1993
Reprinted with permission*

Student Essay Contest

Four metro Detroit teens won savings bonds in Lifespan's Student Essay Contest on Abortion, Infanticide or Euthanasia. The first place prize of a \$500 savings bond will be awarded to Sarah Shervish, 14, a freshman, who is homeschooled by her parents, Robert and Kathleen Shervish of Warren. There was a tie for second place, so the following two winners will be presented with \$200 bonds: Brian Lesniewski, 17, a senior at Lake Shore High School in St. Clair Shores and Amanda Lupu, 16, from Dearborn, a junior at Gabriel Richard High School in Riverview. Third place winner, Julie Guith, 17, a senior at Troy High School, won a \$100 bond.

We would like to thank the judges, Marty Fitzgerald, Marie Gonzales and Beverly Ann Thewes, who had such a difficult job choosing the winners from so many excellent entries. The savings bonds will be awarded at the Detroit Rally on January 16. Printed below are the entries of 1st place winner, Sarah Shervish, and one of the second place winners, Brian Lesniewski. The other two winning essays will be printed in next month's newsletter.

Heart to Heart

By Sarah Shervish

"Yes, Laura, there is a God."
Because you are only five-years-old,
I like to take time to remind you of
God's wonderful ways, how much He
loves you, and how sad He is when His
little ones go astray.

You ask many questions during a
day. Usually, big sisters can manage
with a quick reply, but that is not the
case as we stand in the LIFE CHAIN
holding our signs.

"What is abortion?" you ask me. As I
look at your innocent face, I struggle
over how I might tell you what abortion
really means. Although our death-
dealing culture would like us to be
confused by so-called "complex
details," we can see past the media fog
to the facts: Babies die. Abortion is the
merciless slaying of unwanted, pre-born
babies. But to you, little Laura, I say,
"Abortion is refusing God's precious
gift of life. It is saying 'I do not want
this baby!' It is like yelling at God, 'I'm
going to do what I want—no matter
what!'"

"Why do people do that?" you then
ask me. I start to think. I know we need
to look at the root of the problem: our
country has rejected the godly principles
on which it was founded. The very first
unalienable right acknowledged in our
Declaration of Independence is the
"right to life." I consider for a moment
the selfishness of those who don't care
about anyone else as long as they have
their own convenience. We see an
example of this alarming selfishness
during LIFE CHAIN as two angry

young women approach us. Both
demand to know how many babies our
group has adopted. They mistakenly
expect *us* to assume responsibility for
their actions.

Because financial and political
fortunes are made by supporting
abortion, the death toll continues. Sadly,

We are fighting a grueling battle.
Until victory is clear, we will continue
this fight by praying, speaking the truth
in love, and making a public commit-
ment to protect life. We can diligently
petition our legislators and leaders to
restore civil rights to the pre-born. Also,
we can volunteer our service to organi-

*Sarah Shervish, 14, is a
freshman, who is
homeschooled by her parents,
Robert and Kathleen Shervish
of Warren*



some women are fooled into thinking
that abortion is a minor event. They are
unaware, or unwilling to be aware, of
the physical and psychological conse-
quences involved.

"Why do people do that?" rings again
in my ears. Gently, I say to you, Laura,
"Some people don't *know* how wrong it
is; but many people don't *care* how
wrong it is."

"Well, why are we standing here
with signs?" you ask. I think of John
Bunyan who wrote, "You cannot do
more than pray until you *have* prayed."
We must, therefore, pray fervently for
wisdom and endurance. We must stand
fast for the value of human life, so we
quietly stand with our signs that read:
"Abortion Kills Children." We know
children are God's gifts to be cherished
and protected. They are the promise of
our country's future.

zations that defend life. Then, as
Ephesians 6:13 instructs us, after we
have done everything, *we must stand!*

"Laura, you are wondering, 'Why are
we here?' Just remember the song we
sing together:

'We may never march in the infantry,
Ride in the cavalry,
or shoot the artillery.

'We may never fly over the enemy,
But we are in the Lord's army.'

"Yes, Laura, there is a God—a
mighty God we have been called to
serve. I say to you, little sister, we need
to be faithful to our call. With His
grace, by the time you are my age, this
battle will have been won."



*See page 10 for Brian Lesniewski's
2nd prize essay*



Chapter

Office hours

MWF 10-2; TTh Closed
Carol Smith, Chairman
Mary Cascos, Ofc. Mgr.

Christmas cards

To those who worked so hard to sell our Christmas cards and gave so generously of their time and to all of those who purchased our cards, we wish to extend our most sincere thanks for your ongoing support.

May the New Year bring to you the best of health and happiness!

Kennedy Square Rally

We must let it be known that the prolife movement is ALIVE and GROWING despite what the mass media says. Please take just one hour out of your busy lives, and come join us at Kennedy Square in downtown Detroit. Bring your whole family on January 16 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. We need you there!

Death and dying

Ron Seigel and Madeline Satwicz testified before the Michigan Commission on Death and Dying held at the Wayne County Building on November 8.

Ron testified on behalf of the Michigan Handicappers Caucus of the Democratic Party, and Madeline testified on behalf of

the National Association of ProLife Nurses. There were many testimonies of people who had personally suffered or cared for the suffering and who offered positive, loving, compassionate care instead of the death solution.

During the 2-5 p.m. hearings, three-fourths of the testimonies supported the prolife position against assisted suicide.

Membership

Make it a new year's resolution to renew your membership; ask a friend to join.

Detroit Chapter
5930 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202-3516
(313) 874-0432

Office hours

M, T, Th, F 12-3; W 10-4
Diane Fagelman, Chairman
Clare Schneider, Secretary
Mary Murphy, Adm. Asst.

Welcome!

Welcome to Mary Murphy who will be working in the office two days a week. She will help coordinate our office and our volunteers, easing the burden on Clare and Diane during these busy times.

Luminaries

Candle kits are available to be placed outdoors on January 21. Pick them up at the Oakland office for yourself or your church. Call us with your order.

Fellowship

We want to thank the volunteers who have been coming in on a regular basis. How-

ever, there is still a need for more. Please come, join your friends and neighbors. Come for coffee and meet new prolife friends while spending a couple of hours helping with mailings. No experience needed. Everyone welcome! Give us a call.

Prolife churches

We invite all churches to become active members of Lifespan's Oakland Chapter. Church leaders should call Tom O'Neill at 435-7413 to let him know you wish to participate in our church rep program. Now is the time to act!

Thanks

A very special thanks to all our Christmas card distributors and our sincere thanks to all who purchased our Right to Life cards. We are very grateful for all your help and generosity. We wish to extend to all our friends a very peaceful and blessed New Year.

Resources available

We have fetal models, videos, books and pamphlets for use free of charge by students or others interested in prolife

issues. Let us know if your church or organization would like a prolife speaker or educational booth. We have many excellent speakers, including doctors and nurses, available to talk on various prolife subjects. Call the office, 258-9760, for information.

Membership renewal

Please renew your membership to Lifespan for 1994 (see the clipoff on page 11). We are excited about our plans and objectives for the year ahead. You don't want to miss receiving your copy of Lifespan News. Why not give a membership to a friend? Help share the message.

Mother's Day Dinner

We are asking for a special effort on your part to obtain one ad per family to be placed in our Mother's Day Dinner booklet. Check with your grocer, your school, your doctor, your beauty shop. Please take time and ask someone to place an ad. See page 11 for information.

Oakland County Chapter
800 S. Adams, #102
Birmingham, MI 48009-7005
(810) 258-9760

News

Office hours

M-F 10-4

Patricia Holscher, Chairman
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

General meeting

Our guest speaker for our next meeting will be Margaret Kobernik, wife and mother of two children. Eighteen years ago, when Margaret was pregnant with her daughter, she was diagnosed as having chronic progressive multiple sclerosis. Margaret is now a quadriplegic whose body below the neck is not voluntarily functional, including her hands and feet.

Margaret, who has been interviewed by most major news channels and had a national news article written about her, was contacted by the media for her comments and observations when Jack Kevorkian helped a woman with MS to die. Recently, she appeared on Sonja Live on CNN opposite Derek Humphrey of the Hemlock Society.

She has lived a very interesting life overcoming many obstacles, some of which have made her the exceptional woman she is today.

SPEAKER:

Margaret Kobernik
TOPIC: Media Lies
Erode Moral Conditions
WHEN: Thursday,
February 24, 1994
PLACE: Livonia Civic
Center Library Aud.,
Five Mile Rd., east of
Farmington Rd.
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
No admission charge

We will miss you, Mary!

Mary Forgacs, church rep for Divine Child for many years, is retiring and moving. Thank you so much, Mary, for your hard work and dedication!

Thanks

Many volunteers (too numerous to mention) helped make the '93 Christmas card season successful. Thank you for your untiring efforts in defense of human life, born and unborn. May God bless you and your families as we begin a new year.

Memorial Rally

Plan to attend the Rally for Life. Form carpools and join other proliferers to acknowledge the slaughter of innocent children through abortion. At the time of printing, bus transportation plans to Kennedy Square were not finalized. Call 422-6230 for details.

Volunteers wanted

Office help: File clerks. Name your own hours, weekdays. "Wee Care" program: Sorting clothes and making layettes. Answering telephone inquiries. Historian: Copying articles from newspapers for our records. Telephoners: Make telephone calls on different projects to prolife supporters. No experience necessary.

Candle luminaries

Candle luminaries are available in the office. They should be placed outside on the evening of Jan. 21, the eve of the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. This annual event recalls that a preborn baby is killed every forty seconds of every minute, of every hour, of every day, legally, by abortionists. Call 422-6230 for candles for you or your church. Donations are gladly accepted, but are not tax-deductible.

Wayne County, West and
Downriver Chapter
27578 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150-2203
(313) 422-6230

From the President's Desk

I hope you take the time to read "Heart to Heart" and "Grandpa and Me," two of the student essay contest winning entries. We had some great entries, and I'm so glad I wasn't a judge.

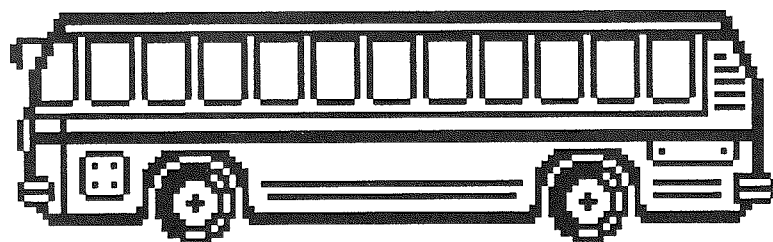
The three judges worked independently of each other and did not have any information about the students. The only identifier was a number assigned to each essay. There was a tie for second place, so we ended up with four winners instead of three. We had winners from all three counties; two from public school, one from private and one homeschooled; three girls and one boy; one freshman, one junior and two seniors. I know you'll look forward to reading the other two winning essays in subsequent editions of *Lifespan News*. And don't forget to encourage your high school students to enter next fall's contest.

An interesting piece of trivia is that there are 221 high schools in the tri-county area. If you don't believe me, ask Marge, she typed all the addresses for the essay contest. She made a great suggestion. All these schools should be receiving *National Right to Life News* and *Lifespan News*. Here's where you come in—if you'd like to give a year's gift subscription, at a very special rate of \$15.00 for both publications, to your local school, send us the information and a check. These publications will be a terrific resource all year long for students and teachers while costing you about the same as one trip to McDonalds for four. I'm writing a check for my daughter's high school today, won't you join me?

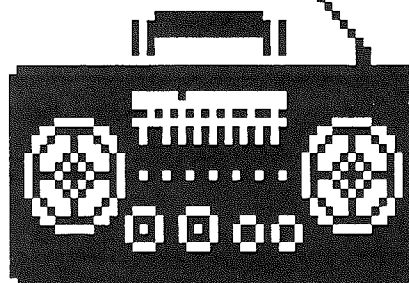
Wishing you peace and joy in 1994.



Adopt a Bus...



Adopt a Spot



If it's fall, it must be time to get the 1994 billboard project moving. And this time, we mean it literally. We plan to have 90 king-size posters along the exterior sides on the D-DOT and SMART transit system. These buses travel throughout Detroit and the metro area and will spread the truth to hundreds of thousands of people each day. D-DOT provides excellent coverage of Wayne County and, particularly, the downtown business district. SMART will carry our message along major surface streets leading to suburban malls, business areas, supermarkets and residential areas. The total cost of the bus project is approximately \$16,400.

In addition to the moving billboards, we have decided to expand our educational project to include radio ads. For every 30-60 second spot, it could cost as high as \$500 or as low as \$45 depending on the station, time of day and day of the week. We hope to raise \$15,000 for these ads.

Your generosity in the past has helped keep prolife issues in the public eye. Advertising is big business and is very expensive, but it is also effective.

Will you help us again to tell the truth by sending us a donation toward this educational campaign. If you, your church or organization would like to "Adopt a Bus," the cost is \$182.22. If you would prefer to "Adopt a Spot" on the radio, please send us \$272.50, the average cost of an ad.

These goals will only be possible with your help. Please mark your check for the "Ad Campaign" and send it with the clip-off below. Donations of any amount will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Please make your Ad Campaign contribution payable to:

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152



I (We) believe the TRUTH is worth this gift of LIFE.

My (Our) gift is: ☐ Adopt a Bus (\$182.22) ☐ Adopt a Spot (\$272.50)

☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Group _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

We are sorry, but your donation is not tax-deductible.



Grandpa and Me

By Brian Lesniewski

For many years euthanasia, more commonly known as "mercy killing," often consisted of a loved one "accidentally" over-medicating a suffering parent or spouse until death occurred. To avoid legal action, this was done quietly; therefore the morality of such action was seldom the topic of public discussion. Recently, a more modern means of euthanasia was

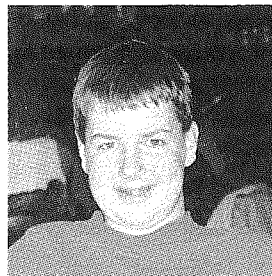
Death" on television and said emphatically, "I have no use for that man!"

Dr. Kevorkian's method may spare the patient a great deal of discomfort and possible embarrassment, but taking his easy way out is not the dignified way for life to end. My grandfather had never been seen crying by most of his family members and certainly by none of his friends, until his illness weakened him. For him these tears had to be humiliating. To me they were shocking and a bit frightening. I was with a man

we would have been cheating grandpa and ourselves out of the many good days and beautiful moments we shared during his last few months of life. Obviously then, if his own family was not able to determine when enough was enough, how could a doctor or perhaps someone within our legal system possibly make that decision?

My grandfather's willingness to accept his sickness with all its consequences, and to prepare himself for his inevitable death taught me that there is definitely only one option available when a terminal illness has been diagnosed. Faith in our Father will help us bear any cross He may ask us to carry. As St. Paul explained in his letter to the Romans, "...we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that our afflictions produce endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through this Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (5:3-6)

Brian Lesniewski, 17, is a senior at Lake Shore High School in St. Clair Shores and the son of Ronald and Mary Lou Lesniewski



introduced by Dr. Jack Kevorkian. This took the form of a simple machine that could be operated by the patient. The device and its inventor, dubbed "Dr. Death," have assisted 19 people in Michigan commit suicide over the past two years. Dr. Kevorkian is about to be tried for murder and his case has spurred much public debate regarding the issue of euthanasia and, in particular, doctor-assisted suicide.

Dr. Kevorkian and his supporters would have us believe that doctor-assisted suicide is the only option that allows a sick person to die with dignity. My recent experience watching my grandfather deteriorate and subsequently die taught me that Kevorkian's method is not the way for life to end in a dignified manner. My grandpa was diagnosed with bone and prostate cancer two years ago, and we all knew he had a tough struggle ahead of him, but he fought a hard battle, accepting what was to come as God's will. Not once did he consider euthanasia as a way to bypass what he knew by faith had to be. When my grandfather was in the last stages of his illness, he saw "Dr.

who had never before displayed his emotions in my presence, and yet he lay before me crying like an infant. I sympathized with grandpa, but I respected him for having the courage to cry. Also, grandpa had to be put into diapers since he could not leave his bed to use the bathroom. Imagine a 76-year-old man using a product designed for babies! Throughout his illness, I noticed that no one cared about his embarrassments. When the time came for his funeral, people talked about what a great man he was and that he was now free of suffering and home with his Father in Heaven. No one talked about his emotional outbursts or how he took care of his bodily functions.

I don't believe it would be in our best interests to make doctor-assisted suicide legal. After all, how are we to discern whose suffering warrants a merciful suicide. Who will define this for us? I can remember times during the various stages of grandpa's illness when I thought he had suffered enough and that it was time for the end to come. If I, or someone in my family had called Dr. Kevorkian during one of those times,



Three women die

A recent article entitled *Sudden Death Due to Rupture of Ectopic Pregnancy Concurrent with Therapeutic Abortion* was published in the Arch Pathol. Lab. Med., July '93. Doctors Li and Smialek report on "three cases of sudden death resulting from internal hemorrhage associated with the rupture of tubal pregnancies." In each case the woman had undergone an elective abortion. The tubal pregnancy was not identified. The women left the abortion facility. Subsequently, each of the three suffered fatal rupture of their tubal pregnancies associated with massive internal hemorrhage. One died one day after, another seventeen days later and a third woman twenty-two days after the abortions.

—Cincinnati Right to Life
Newsletter
November 1993

Mother's Day Dinner

Tuesday, May 3, 1994

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This book will contain informational material that will be used throughout the year. Your ad represents support for Lifespan's educational efforts. Names of Gold Patrons will be listed.

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Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Membership Form

Right to Life - Lifespan believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the monthly newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

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Why We Shouldn't Legalize Assisting Suicide, Part II:

**By Burke J. Balch and
David Waters**

Editor's note: This is the second in a multi-part series providing arguments against legalizing physician assistance of suicide. The authors of this part gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Dr. Matthew Conolly, associate professor of medicine and pharmacology at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA).

PAIN CONTROL

Proponents of euthanasia argue that "mercy-killing" is necessary because patients, particularly those with terminal illnesses, experience uncontrollable pain. They argue that the only way to alleviate the pain is to eliminate the patient. (As future parts of this series will demonstrate, euthanasia proponents in fact support legalizing the assistance of suicide in far more cases than those of terminal illness—and there are strong constitutional arguments that such legalization could not be confined either to terminal illness or to voluntary euthanasia. But terminal illness with acute pain is the "hard case" used to soften up opposition to legalization.)

In fact, the better response to patients in pain is not to kill them, but to make sure that the medicine and technology currently available to control pain is used more widely and competently. According to a 1992 manual produced by the Washington Medical Association, *Pain Management and Care of the Terminal Patient*, "adequate interventions exist to control pain in 90 to 99% of patients." The problem is that uninformed medical personnel using outdated or inadequate methods often fail in practice to bring patients the relief from pain that today's advanced techniques make possible.

Dr. Kathleen Foley, chief of Pain Services at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, explained in the July 1991 *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* how proper pain management has mitigated patient wishes for assisted suicide:

We frequently see patients referred to our Pain Clinic who request physician-assisted suicide because of uncontrolled pain. We commonly see such ideation and requests dissolve with adequate control of pain and other symptoms, using combinations of pharmacologic, neurosurgical, anesthetic, or psychological approaches.

Approaches to Effective Pain Management Treating "Total Pain"

The social and mental pain suffered by terminally ill patients may exacerbate the physical pain they experience. Dr. Matthew Conolly points out, "[F]ailure to remember this complexity is one of the most common reasons why patients fail to achieve adequate symptomatic relief." Effective pain control therefore requires a team effort of doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, and counselors to address the "total pain" a patient is suffering.

Severe Pain

Proper administration of an opioid, particularly morphine, has been proven to provide effective pain management in the majority of patients with severe pain. A February 1993 article in *Anesthesiology* notes:

In the setting of widespread cancer, although more than half of patients will experience pain, their pain is manageable by oral administration of opioids alone in 70-80% of cases.

And many methods other than opioids are available. Some patients may benefit from radiation therapy,

continued on page 4

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