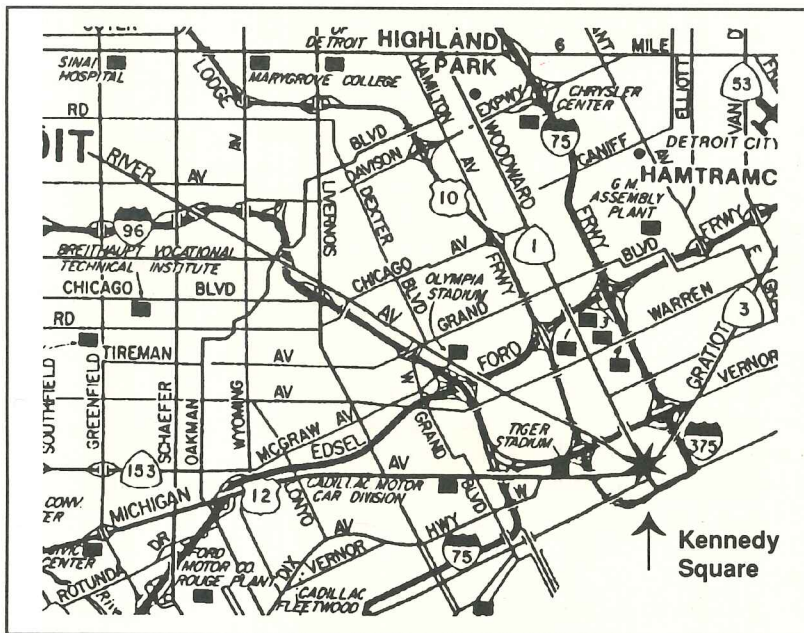
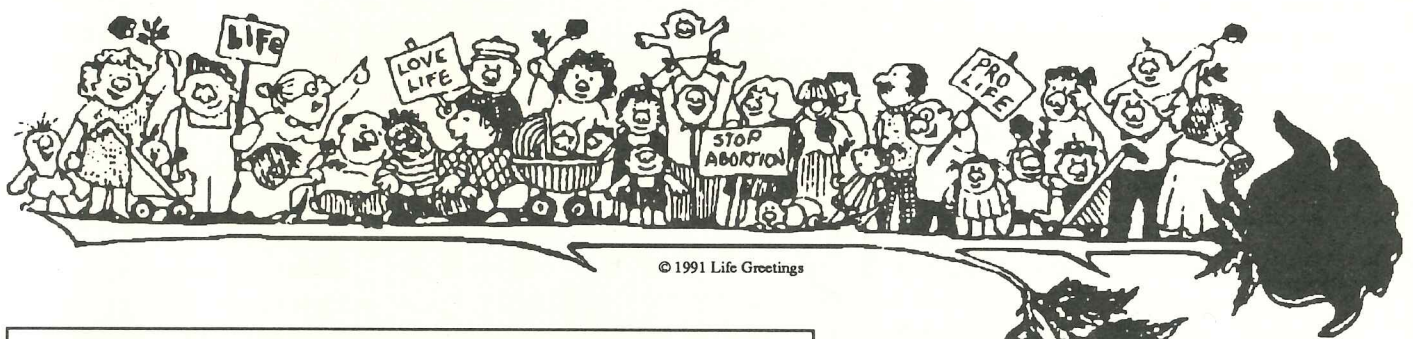


Lifespan *news*

Volume 24 Number 1

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

January 1995



RALLY for LIFE

*22nd Anniversary
of Roe v. Wade*

Date: Sunday, January 22, 1995
(snow or shine)
Place: Kennedy Square, Detroit
(at the intersection of Fort,
Michigan and Woodward)
Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

January 22 Activities

March for Life

Unborn babies and our country need us to rally by the multitudes in Washington, D. C. at the 22nd annual March for Life. The March will be held on Monday, January 23, beginning at noon, with a Rally in the Ellipse, just south of the White House. A Rose Dinner is also planned for Monday evening.

A March for Life Convention will be held on Saturday and Sunday, January 21-22, at the Hyatt-Regency Capitol Hill Hotel. Rates at the Hotel are \$89 for up to 4 persons per room.

Bus transportation is available for the trip to Washington. The "Red Eye Special" leaves the evening of Sunday, January 22 and will arrive at the Capitol on

Monday morning. There will be time to lobby your legislators. The bus will depart shortly after the March and arrive in metro Detroit early Tuesday morning, January 24. The cost is \$60 per person, and meals are not included. The bus will make stops in Oakland, Macomb and Downriver. For more information call (810) 615-4180 or (810) 774-6050.

For more information about the March, Dinner or Convention, call (313) 533-9090.

Memorial candles

Prolife homes across the metro area will remember the millions of aborted babies by burning candles on the eve of January 22. Right to Life - Lifespan chapter offices have candles for your use;

contact your local office for information and/or to obtain the luminaries for yourself or members of your church.

Say it with roses!

In conjunction with March for Life activities, live red roses will be delivered to each Member of Congress, the Supreme Court and the President and Vice President on January 23rd.

If you, too, would like to "say it with roses," send your name, address, city, state, zip and phone number, along with a tax-deductible contribution, to MARCH FOR LIFE, Box 90300, Washington, DC 20090. Roses will be sent in your name to your legislators.

Rally for LIFE

Sunday, January 22, 2 - 3 p.m., Kennedy Square, Detroit

A Rally for Life will be held on January 22, 1995 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*, prolife gather to memorialize the 1973 Supreme Court decision. 1994 will mark the 22nd 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, 32 million babies have been killed by abortion.

Let's join together at the "Rally for Life" to protest the last 22 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 (313) 874-0432 or (313) 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 (313) 533-9090 or Carol at (313) 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

Prolife Student Essay Contest

Four metro Detroit teens won savings bonds in Lifespan's Prolife Student Essay Contest on Abortion, Infanticide or Euthanasia. The first place prize of a \$500 savings bond will be awarded to Bill Richards, 17, a senior at Inter-City Baptist High School in Allen Park. Bill is the son of Raymond (deceased) and Brenda Richards of Taylor. The second place prize of a \$200 savings bond will be presented to DeToi McKinney, 17, a senior at Cooley High School in Detroit. DeToi is the son of Carl and Alma McKinney. Our third place winner, Benjamin Russell, 17, also a senior at Inter-City Baptist High School, won a \$100 bond. Benjamin's parents are James and Christine Russell of Allen Park. Honorable Mention and a \$50 bond goes to Krystina Kramarz, 15, of Dearborn Heights.

We want to thank the judges, Joanne Cafarelli, Diane Laird and Judy Ward 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 22. Printed below is the entry of first place winner, Bill Richards. The other winning essays will be printed in a subsequent newsletter.

Abortion is a Violation of Human Rights

By Bill Richards

Abortion is the most blatant and deplorable violation of civil rights in United States history. In this country, government organizations exist to protect the rights of animals and the environment (such as the EPA and DNR), while the rights of unborn human beings are literally non-existent. It is now legal to obtain an abortion at any point during pregnancy in every state in the Union.

One of the primary supports of the pro-choice movement today is the ethic of "quality of life, not quantity of life." Individuals who maintain this position must realize the possible implications of this ethic. If it is acceptable for a mother to abort her child because the child's life will lack "quality," it is only a matter of time before infanticide and active euthanasia are equally acceptable. The underlying premise of the quality of life ethic is this: aborting a baby whose life will lack "quality" is the right thing to do. Already, doctors are encouraging expectant mothers whose babies are diagnosed as being handicapped to have abortions; it is only a matter of time before such abortions will be demanded. The same scenario can easily be applied to infanticide and euthanasia.

Abortion advocates argued in *Roe vs. Wade* (1973) that abortion must be made legal to protect the well-being of the mother in life-threatening pregnancies. Abortion was to be regarded as a

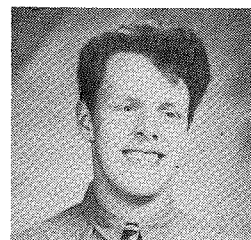
rare medical procedure which would be performed primarily in cases of rape, incest and the life of the mother situations. However, in a recent survey, more than sixty percent of abortion recipients cited their motive for having an abortion as "convenience."

Abortion advocates maintain that legalized abortion is necessary to lower the amount of child abuse. Their

Medical science has the knowledge and technology to operate on a fetus as a separate patient from the mother, and it has the ability to sustain the fetus outside of the womb.

Abortion is the consequence of living in the age of irresponsibility. Instead of accepting the responsibility of an unplanned pregnancy or a handicapped child, we elect to terminate the child.

*Bill Richards, 17, is a senior at
Inter-City Baptist
High School, Allen Park*



reasoning is that young, unwed mothers are likely to be bringing the child up in an abusive home. Nevertheless, child abuse has risen five-hundred percent since *Roe vs. Wade* in 1973. Statistics show that a majority of battered children come from stable, two-parent homes.

Another tenet of the pro-choice movement is women's rights. The crux of this argument is that a woman in the United States has the right to do as she wishes with her body. This simply is not true. A woman in America does not have the right to put narcotic drugs into her body, nor does she have the right to sell her body. In addition to this, a fetus is not a part of the woman's body.

We mask the fact that we are killing babies to protect our conscience. Instead, we use terms like "abortion," "pregnancy tissue" and "parts of conception." In doing this, we have, and are, desensitizing ourselves as a society. It is only a matter of time before our collective conscience is as comfortable with the terms "infanticide" and "euthanasia" as it is with the term "abortion." Because we have desensitized our societal conscience to abortion, the abortion problem will not be solved through legislation making abortion illegal. The abortion problem will only be solved when we as a society remove the mask and see abortion for what it truly is—murder. ■



Chapter

Office hours

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

Thanks

A very special thanks to all our Christmas card distributors and to all of you who purchased our Christmas cards. 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 media says! Please take just one hour out of your busy life, and come join us at Kennedy Square in

downtown Detroit. Bring your family, friends and fellow church members on Sunday, January 22, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. We need all of you there! Call us at (313) 874-0432, and let us know you are coming!

Regina Teens for Life

We've had a full year for LIFE. The year started out with election of officers. We sent three members to the Teens for Life Conference in Troy on October 1st, and a delegation participated in LIFE CHAIN on October 2nd. Our Teens for Life president attended the Lifespan Legislative Breakfast, and she was honored to meet our Governor, and even had her picture taken with him! At Regina High School's Open House, we displayed the fetal models and handed out prolife literature.

We are looking forward to the Rally at Kennedy Square in downtown

Detroit. We will also be selling Lifesavers, Mother's Day flowers and participating in the Baby Shower to benefit Pregnancy Aid. An all-school assembly on prolife issues will also be scheduled toward the end of the school year.

If anyone is interested in starting a Teens for Life group in their school or would just like information, please don't hesitate to call.

—Rachel Cascos (313) 885-8238
President of Regina Teens for Life

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 10-2
Diane Fagelman, Chairman
Clare Schneider, Secretary
Mary Murphy, Adm. Asst.
Theresa Koehler, Membership

Thanks, volunteers

We want to thank the following volunteers for their help at the Holiday Card Sale at the Birmingham Community House: Ginny Czarniecki, Denise Duff, Colleen Giles.

Lifespan and the Educational Center for Life also conducted two large mailings for which we are most grateful to the following volunteers for their stuffing, sealing, labeling and sorting: Ginny Czarniecki, Denise Duff, Marilyn Lomas, Kelly Schoenherr, Laura Muglia and her mother, Cam Lidey, Arlene Sears, Terry

Calderone, and Nancy Houlihan and Lisa Beary, and Nancy again, who assembled at home. We appreciate your helping us at this busy holiday time.

The Educational Center for Life sponsored a table at the Human Life International's Pro-Life/Family Conference the weekend of November 18-20. Thank you to the following volunteers who helped at the table: Tom O'Neill, Tom Walsh, Kay Browne, Andrew Agbay, Denise Duff and Dean Juriga.

Clare also wants to extend a very special "thank you" to her regular mailing crew who help with the newsletter and who also helped with additional mailings these past months: Don and Alma Warman, Kathy Labataille and Florence MacDonald.

Singles

Our Lifespan Singles is inquiring if anyone is interested in going to the Washington, D.C. March on January 22-23, 1995. If you want to attend, please call Dean Juriga, (810) 647-8766.

Respect for Life Mass

On January 21st, at 8:30 a.m., a memorial Mass for the victims of abortion will be said at Shrine of the Little Flower Church, located on the northeast corner of Woodward Ave. and 12 Mile Rd., in Royal Oak.

Pastors are invited to concelebrate; please contact Clare at (810) 816-1546.

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.

Open House

Our membership is invited to an Open House at our new office location on Wed., January 18, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Hope you can come!

Oakland County Chapter
Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540
(810) 816-1546

News

Office hours

M-Th 10-4

Patricia Holscher, Chairman
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

General Meeting

Our guest speaker for our next meeting will be Constance Cumbey, JD. She has been a practicing attorney in Michigan since 1975 and has been a member and held offices in various national legal organizations.

Mrs. Cumbey is listed in *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in the Midwest*, *Who's Who in American Law*, *Who's Who in American Women* and *Foremost Women of the Twentieth Century*.

Currently, she is the anchor talk show host of the radio talk show, "Law Talk" on WMUZ Radio. She answers questions on practical, everyday legal matters as well as issues about the legal rights and hazards to Christians in today's world.

Recently, she received a great amount of public attention as the attorney who successfully defended two right-to-life cases on each end of the spectrum—abortion and euthanasia.

SPEAKER: Constance

Cumbey, JD

TOPIC: Dabbling in

Death: Kevorkian and the Suicidal Generation

WHEN: Thursday,

January 19, 7:30 pm.

WHERE: Livonia Civic

Center Library Auditorium, Five Mile Rd., east of Farmington Rd.

No admission charge

Thank you!

Our sincere thanks to our church reps who, as usual, did a great job in spearheading and organizing Christmas card sales in their church communities, to their willing helpers who presented the cards at various school and church functions, to the volunteers who jumped in and took over sales where there were no church reps and to the loyal buyers who purchased the cards.

Because of you, at least 114,000 homes will receive the prolife message that all life comes from our Creator and should be cherished.

Speakers available

If you'd like a speaker for Sanctity of Life Sunday, for a youth, men or women's religious or civic organization, let us know. Our speakers can speak knowledgeably on any of the LIFE issues.

Margaret Kobernik, one of our members, is available to speak on assisted suicide. She was recently featured in an article in *National Right to Life News* (see back page).

Christmas Crib reminder

We are still accepting donations for our Christmas Crib project.

Last month in the Lifespan News, we detailed our plans to purchase two sets of fetal models which depict an unborn baby in the womb at different gestational ages. They will be circulated in the elementary schools, visually introducing youngsters to unborn babies. This project has been hailed by teachers whom we surveyed.

Will you help us in this educational endeavor? Checks should be made out to Lifespan "Christmas Crib" and addressed to Wayne West/Downriver Chapter at the address below.

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

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Last month, my husband, Ken, and I saw the prolife display of 4,000 small wooden crosses on the front lawn of Lutheran High School in Westland (see picture on page 10).

This is a nationwide effort by churches and schools to visually demonstrate the number of abortions daily in the U.S. The effect of the thousands of white crosses on the green lawn was dramatic to say the least.

Of course, the display attracted a mixed reaction from neighbors and motorists, mostly positive according to the school. There were also articles about the crosses in the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Observer*.

It took a lot of wisdom and courage for the school to participate in this cross project. On behalf of Lifespan, I would like to congratulate the principal and students for taking a strong stand for life.

Send your compliments and thanks to Steve Schwecke, Principal, Lutheran High School, 32300 Cowan, Westland 48185.

I understand there is a long waiting list for others wanting to display the crosses. Lifespan would like to have several sets of these 18" wooden crosses available for use.

If you or someone you know would like to contribute time and materials for such a worthy endeavor, please call me at (313) 533-9090. I would be so glad to hear from you!



P.S. Hope to see you at the Rally at Kennedy Square, and don't forget, we still need help with our Baby Showers on March 12.

Mother of the Year - 1995

In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner, on Tuesday, May 9, 1995, we will be honoring a "Mother of the Year."

We are looking for nominations from among our members or others for this fifth annual award. The nominee must be a resident of the metro Detroit area and able to attend the award dinner on May 9 at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills.

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 3**. 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 9. She will be awarded a plaque, a dozen long-stemmed roses and a \$100 gift certificate to J.C. Penney's.

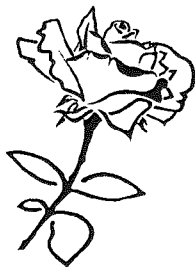
If your nominee is chosen, you will also receive a free ticket to the dinner. If the "Mother of the Year" is nominated by two or more individuals, the first one received will be eligible for the free ticket.

Our 1994 "Mother of the Year" was Mary Babcock, of Dearborn Heights. She was nominated by her daughters, Cindy Gauvin and Sharon Widman.

Please include your name, address and phone number and also the name, 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 Monday, April 3**.

For more information, please call (313) 533-9090.



Jean Garton to speak at Lifespan's Silver Anniversary Mother's Day Dinner



Jean Garton is an author and lecturer on issues related to the Christian Life, the Christian Family and Life Concerns. She is co-founder and national president of Lutherans for Life which has over 300 chapters throughout the country.

In 1985 Dr. Garton was chosen American Church Women of the Year by the Religious Heritage Foundation and has been listed among "The Ten Most Influential Lutherans in America." She has traveled to twenty-two other countries and has studied and/or lectured in a number of them.

Dr. Garton has authored numerous articles and books, among them a best-seller on the rhetoric of the abortion movement entitled, *Who Broke the Baby?* She is a member of the editorial staff and contributor to the magazine *LIVING*.

Commentaries by Dr. Garton, called *Speaking of Life*, are heard daily on radio stations throughout the U.S. She appears frequently on television and radio and has been a popular guest on *Focus on the Family* with Dr. James Dobson.

Dr. Garton graduated from Ursinus College with a B.A. in English literature, did graduate study at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, and has been granted an honorary Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.) by Concordia Seminary of St. Louis, Missouri and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (LHD) by Concordia Theological Seminary of Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Mrs. Garton, a resident of Arizona, is the wife of Rev. H. W. Garton and the mother of four grown children.



Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

INVITES YOU TO ITS

Silver Anniversary Mother's Day Dinner

Tuesday, May 9, 1995

6:30 p.m.

Jean Garton, Featured Speaker

Vladimir's

28125 Grand River, Farmington Hills

Dinner Reservations: \$30 per person/\$250 per table of 10 by April 3

\$35 per person/\$300 per table of 10 after April 3

Number of dinner reservations _____ Amount enclosed _____. Advance reservations required by May 2.
(Please list names of all those for whom reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper.)

1995 RESOURCE BOOK

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.

IMPORTANT: A complimentary dinner ticket will be given to any individual for every \$200 worth of new ads obtained for the Resource Book. The ad seller's signature must appear on the contract below when the ad and remittance is received by Right to Life - Lifespan.

Just fill out the form below and send it to us with your remittance included. **Deadline for submission is April 3, 1995.**

Gold Patron(s): \$10 for each individual name.

(Please print. Use a separate sheet of paper to list additional names.)

First Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Advertising Contract: I wish to publish _____ page ad for the sum of \$ _____

<p>Full page (7.5 x 10) \$175</p> <p>Back cover (inside) \$250</p> <p>Back cover (outside) \$350</p>	<p>1/4 page (3.75 x 5) \$60</p>	
	<p>1/8 page (3.75 x 2.5) \$35</p>	
	<p>Half page (7.5 x 5) \$100</p>	

Please attach copy-ready advertising slick, business card, business letterhead, or typed copy of ad. Black and white is preferred. All advertisers will receive a copy of book. Lifespan reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems unsuitable. **Deadline for submission is April 3, 1995. Remittance must accompany contract.**

Signature _____ Date _____

Business Name (if applicable) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Ad Seller's Signature _____ Phone _____

☐ Yes, I want to help, but cannot attend. Please accept my donation of \$ _____.

Make checks payable, and mail to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia MI 48152
For further information, call (313) 533-9090 (Donations are not tax-deductible)

A Life of Real Quality

continued from back page

same "right to die" as the competent. "The elderly and disabled and people walking a fine line of health will pay the price," Mrs. Kobernik said.

These laws will also have an impact on the medical profession itself, according to Mrs. Kobernik. "By changing the law they want to change the way doctors are trained," she said.

A disabled person herself, she fears for her safety in a society where doctors are encouraged to permanently "help" people out of their pain. "If I go into a hospital for a minor procedure and a doctor decides to 'help me out,' who's going to fight for my rights?" she added.

And this medical acceptance of suicide will in turn lead to a political presumption against life. Currently, state agencies provide assistance to those in need; Michigan helped Mrs. Kobernik buy her telephone headset and voice-activated computer that allow her to continue to be "busy and satisfied."

"But if society deems the reasonable thing is to commit suicide, it won't help you to do 'unreasonable' things," she said. "Life would be made more difficult," making the delicate balancing act of coping that much harder.

Mrs. Kobernik has taken her message of dignity and of warning to many venues. She spoke at the Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Legislative Breakfast on October 22. She attended several hearings in the many Kevorkian cases, trying to let the media know that disabled people do not automatically agree with the pro-euthanasia crusade of "Dr. Death."

"Difficulty, no matter how severe, does not rob your life of quality. Rather it usually adds a certain amount of creativity and courage while building character," Mrs. Kobernik said. "I, for one, am very glad the value of life has absolutely nothing to do with your physical abilities. The value of human life is that we are each uniquely created individuals."

*—First appeared in
National Right to Life News
November 18, 1994
Reprinted with permission*

Defining the Mystery of Human Life

By Stephen J. Safranek

The Michigan Supreme Court is faced with an issue of truly grave importance as it considers whether physician-assisted suicide is a constitutional right. Professor Robert Sedler's view that the Supreme Court has already indicated that the answer to this question is "yes" is misguided. ("The terminally ill have a right to die," Detroit News, October 27.)

The basis for Professor Sedler's position is Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's position in *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey* that "(a)t the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life." Of course, Justice O'Connor continues in *Casey* itself to hold that the state has a compelling interest in protecting what it calls potential human life, i.e., a viable fetus. Thus, Justice O'Connor herself shows that a woman carrying a viable fetus can be prevented from having an abortion. Certainly, if a state can prohibit abortions at viability to protect those who are not considered persons under the Constitution, it can protect the lives of actual living persons.

Second, Justice O'Connor's position is refuted by a host of constitutional laws currently on the books in this country. Thus, states and the federal government constrain the freedom of persons to use drugs, to work for any wage they want, to drive automobiles, to engage in prostitution and to sell themselves into slavery. Under Professor Sedler's view, if persons have the right to kill themselves, thereby depriving themselves of the precondition to exercising every other right, they should have the right to sell themselves into slavery.

Besides these internal problems with Professor Sedler's legal analysis, physician-assisted suicide finds no external support in either the Constitution or American legal history. This lack of support is evident in the ambiguity voters have in passing any laws regarding this issue. Since most of us know that we may face life on a respirator or with some other debilitating disease, if we want physician-assisted suicide, we have an interest in legislating for physician-assisted suicide. We do not need the courts to constrict

another right. Our current laws prohibiting such assistance show that the citizens do not want their health providers also acting as death providers. Yet, if the Michigan Supreme Court creates a constitutional right to suicide, it will take this issue out of the hands of the citizens.

Finally, if the Michigan Supreme Court truly intends to override the will of the people in this regard, they should consider several clear problems. First, if physician-assisted suicide is a constitutional right, it is a right which can be exercised by everyone. The sick, who clearly are able to think less rationally about death, will not have this right at the expense of the healthy, who can rationally consider the issue.

Second, if indeed, physician-assisted suicide is a constitutional right, certain other provisions are part of this right. Doctors only should not be given power to help persons kill themselves. Others could provide the same "benefits" to those who are sick. This may create new job opportunities for certain segments of our prison population.

In addition, just as the court has allowed minors to exercise their constitutional right to abortion, so too should minors be allowed to exercise their right to kill themselves. Furthermore, who are we to say that the broken heart of a teen-ager is not just as debilitating as terminal cancer? Teen-agers think that a broken heart is just as debilitating as cancer. Isn't this part of one's liberty to determine the "mystery of human life"?

In short, the Constitution provides no basis for holding that physician-assisted suicide is a constitutional right. This issue is clearly a deeply moral issue over which a large segment of the population is ambivalent. Moreover, the citizens have not chosen to legalize the killing of the sick, the weak and the terminally ill, in part because of their fear that it will not be a purely voluntary affair in a few years. Thus, the debate over suicide reveals where the issue should remain—in the public domain. For it is the essence of our democracy, that we, the people, are allowed to define the mystery of human life.

—Stephen J. Safranek is an Associate Professor of Law at University of Detroit Mercy. This article appeared in The Detroit News, November 22, 1994. It is reprinted with the author's permission.



Assisted Suicide Ban Passes Senate

Addresses

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Opinion Line (202) 456-1111, before 5 PM
(202) 456-1414, after 5 PM
Fax Number: (202) 456-2461

U.S. Senators

The Honorable (Carl Levin, Donald Riegle)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3121

Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 224-3121

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman
(last name):

Governor

The Honorable John Engler
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-3400

Dear Governor Engler:

Michigan State Senator or Representative

The Honorable (full name)
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 373-1837

Dear Senator (last name):
or

Dear Representative (last name):

An assisted suicide ban is constitutional, Michigan's Supreme Court said in an opinion issued December 13—just as lawmakers worked to pass a new law prohibiting the practice.

“The United States does not prohibit a state from imposing criminal penalties on one who assists another in committing suicide,” a 5-2 majority wrote in one of a series of decisions.

Making up the majority were Chief Justice Michael Cavanagh and Justices James Brickley, Charles Levin, Robert Griffin and Conrad Mallett. Justices Dorothy Comstock Riley and Patricia Boyle dissented.

The opinion came after the Michigan Senate had voted 26-9 on December 7 to permanently ban assisted suicide, sending the issue to the House.

The House added a measure that would let voters repeal the ban during a referendum next November. But the referendum amendment, narrowly approved by the House, was expected to be turned down by the Senate as debate continued and *Lifespan News* went to press.

A temporary ban on assisted suicide had expired November 25. That law had been found unconstitutional by the state appeals court because it created a com-

mission to study the assisted suicide issue at the same time it banned the practice. The previous ban took effect in February 1993, after Kevorkian had assisted in 11 deaths in a six-month period.

The Senate Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Yeas

Arthurhultz	Honigman
Carl	Kelly
Cisky	Koivisto
DeGrow	McManus
Dillingham	Miller
DiNello	O'Brien
Dingell	Posthumus
Dunaskiss	Pridnia
Emmons	Schwarz
Gast	Steil
Geake	Van Regenmorter
Gougeon	Wartner
Hart	Welborn

Navs

Berryman	Holmes
Cherry	Pollack
Conroy	Stabenow
Faust	Vaughn
Faxon	

Excused

Bouchard
Hoffman
Smith

Clinton limits embryo study funds

President Bill Clinton on December 2 ordered that no federal funds be spent on human embryos created for research purposes.

"I do not believe that federal funds should be used to support the creation of human embryos for research purposes," Clinton said.

White House press secretary DeeDee Myers said Clinton's statement "should be interpreted very narrowly."

Asked if the statement would permit federally funded research using embryos that were surplus from in vitro fertilization clinics, Myers said, "The president's statement doesn't outlaw that."

Prenatal diagnostic tests often precede abortion

Polls and academic studies have demonstrated that most Americans who undergo prenatal testing choose abortion if they receive "bad" results. A 1985 survey of 7,000 New York City women who had tests done, for example, showed that 97 percent aborted for Down's syndrome or other forms of retardation, and 100 percent aborted for anencephaly (a condition in which the brain is missing) or spina bifida.

But according to Dorothy Wertz, a researcher in social science, ethics and the law at the Shriver Center, in the Boston suburb of Waltham, those results are skewed: Most parents who object to aborting a fetus because of a disorder simply do not choose to have prenatal diagnosis. Deciding to have prenatal testing, she says implies a willingness to have an abortion. A substantial number of Americans consider prenatal testing and therapy a kind of human quality control.

As Barbara Katz Rothman, a sociologist and author of *The Tentative Pregnancy: Prenatal Diagnosis and the Future of Motherhood*, sees it, the plethora of choices and decisions prenatal diagnosis presents today may actually be limit-

ing women's right to choose not to abort.

Pregnant women are now bombarded with information on the "quality" of their fetuses, and are offered ready access to a therapeutic second-trimester abortion if they get a "bad" prenatal diagnosis, she says. They're advised by clinicians and genetic counselors who, under the guise of neutrality tell women that, on the one hand, they can have an abortion; on the other, they can choose to carry a "defective" fetus to term—but at enormous cost, imposing a life-time "burden" on society.

According to the March of Dimes, approximately 5 percent of women at high risk for a prenatal disorder who undergo screening receive confirmation of a disorder. Studies show that about 1 percent of all abortions in the United States follow a prenatal diagnosis.

These are the most common tests:

Screening tests

MSAFP — A blood test, administered when a woman is 16 to 18 weeks pregnant, that measures alpha-fetoprotein levels secreted by the fetus into the mother's system. Higher-than-normal levels may be evidence of a neural-tube defect such as spina bifida, a more advanced preg-

nancy than the woman assumed, or twins. Lower-than-normal levels may indicate chromosome disorders, a less advanced pregnancy than assumed, or a condition such as diabetes in the mother. MSAFP tests appear to have a high rate of false positives. For that reason, clinicians usually repeat the test if it is positive, or recommend further screening and/or diagnostic testing.

Ultrasound — This procedure allows clinicians to view the fetus in utero, using technology that projects sound waves and creates an image on a black-and-white TV screen. Used to confirm pregnancy, determine the probable age of a fetus, check for twins, monitor fetal growth, and examine the condition of the fetus, the placenta and the umbilical cord, ultrasound can also pick up certain malformations, including spina bifida and defects of the heart, kidney and limbs.

Diagnostic tests

Amniocentesis — Typically conducted between the 12th and 16th weeks of pregnancy, "amnio" detects chromosomal errors such as Down's syndrome and single-gene disorders. Using ultrasound imaging, the clinician locates a fetus on a screen, inserts a needle through the mother's abdomen, and withdraws a small sample of amniotic fluid for testing. Test results which are highly accurate, usually take two to four weeks. Because the test itself can cause miscarriage in one in 200 cases, amnio is generally conducted only in high-risk pregnancies or in cases in which a screening test has indicated a possible problem.

Chorionic-villous sampling (CVS) — A relatively new procedure that's conducted between the eighth and 11th weeks of pregnancy, CVS tests for many of the same conditions as amniocentesis. In CVS, a tiny tissue sample from outside the sac where the fetus develops is removed and analyzed. Results, which can be ready in as short a time as 10 days, are considered slightly less accurate than those of an amnio. The earlier results carry another price as well: CVS poses a miscarriage risk of between one in 50 and one in 100.

—*Metro Times*, November 16-22, 1994

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Crosses of Life at Lutheran High School, Westland (see President's Letter, page 5)

Letter to the Editor

I have appreciated the "Debunking the myths..." series in the past for its objective and timely information. However, the latest one entitled "The Pro-Abortion Movement and The Exploitation of Guilt" (Dec. '94) was a disappointment. Although I certainly agree with the basic premise of guilt as a motivator in the abortion movement, I object to the self-righteous tone that the article displayed. I do not think that the prolife cause is served by name calling of the opposition (i.e., left-wing zealots, the Clintons and their morally bankrupt and intellectually lazy followers). Additionally, it is my belief that the prolife movement is large enough to encompass people of all political persuasions. The common denominator of all who call themselves prolife ought to be respect for life, and I would hope that would translate into respect for those with differing views.

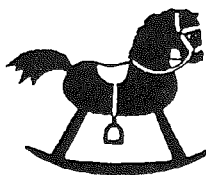
The approach that the Detroit Chapter of Right to Life - Lifespan takes is one of challenge to those in the liberal, left camp. The liberal philosophy believes in protection for the vulnerable and disenfranchised. Founding feminists abhorred abortion and espoused equality for all regardless of age, gender or position. Non-violence and peaceful compromise is a highly regarded value for all of these groups. Why then aren't they speaking out against abortion?

A final objection I would like to address is the paragraph on capital punishment. Although the author does not state his position, he appears to have a bias for capital punishment. As a prolifer, I would like to make my opposition to the death penalty known. Yes, even the execution of brutal murderers like John Wayne Gacy or Theodore Bundy. If this makes me a

left-wing zealot, then this is one left-wing zealot that the author, Mr. Fadel, has something in common with...we are both rabidly against abortion!

Sincerely,
Carol A. Smith, Chairperson
and the Detroit Chapter of
Right to Life - Lifespan

Baby showers



On Sunday, March 12, 1995, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., Lifespan will sponsor approximately 22 baby showers simultaneously at different locations throughout the metro area for crisis pregnancy centers.

If you or your church are interested in hosting a baby shower, please call our Main Office at (313) 533-9090.

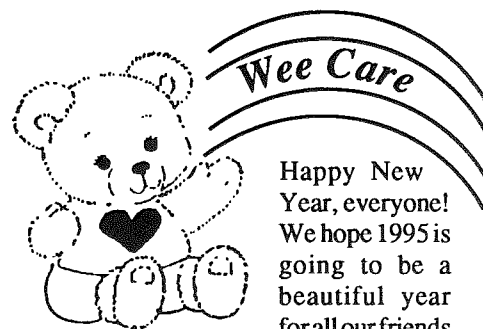
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Happy New Year, everyone! We hope 1995 is going to be a beautiful year for all our friends

and for all our special little babies and their moms in our Wee Care program. In our next newsletter, I will share with you all of the different ways that strangers opened up their hearts to our precious little ones during this holiday season.

As for right now, as I write this article, I have many layettes to put together so that our Christmas babies come into this world touched by your love (as well as wrapped in your warm blankets!) Please don't forget about us in the cold winter months that lie ahead. There are no garage sales, spring cleaning is far away, and our clothes cupboards are almost bare. We desperately need your "gently-used" clothing (new-born to 3T) and blankets, sheets, bibs, etc. to provide for our winter babies.

Thank you so very much for all you do! God bless you with much happiness in the New Year. —Karen Patrosso, Director, Wee Care, a Program of Right to Life - Lifespan (313) 533-2727

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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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A Life of Real Quality

Margaret Kobernik, a member of Lifespan, spoke at our Legislative Breakfast in October and was featured in this article which appeared in National Right to Life News.

By Liz Townsend

Dr. Jack Kevorkian "assists" in yet another person's suicide. A disabled man in Minnesota starves to death in front of media cameras. Oregon passes an initiative legalizing assisted suicide. The trend appears clear—American society is moving on a sure path towards acceptance of euthanasia.

But people like Margaret Kobernik are determined to do what they can to throw a roadblock in the way of the pro-death machine. Mrs. Kobernik, a woman with quadriplegia due to chronic progressive multiple sclerosis (MS), is speaking out in her home state of Michigan against the devaluing of human beings, especially vulnerable older people and people with disabilities.

Mrs. Kobernik has faced her severe illness for 19 years, slowly losing physical abilities but never her value as a person. "A disease does not take away dignity," she told *National Right to Life News*. "The only way to lose it is to give it up yourself."

Her life could be, to many people, cause for resentment and anger, but she insists that hardships do not have to defeat a person. Her brother had severe

Down syndrome, her mother died of cancer when Mrs. Kobernik was 17, and her son has autism. But each of these relatives is infinitely loved and valued by Mrs. Kobernik's family, teaching them "lessons in compassion and patience far beyond my ability to describe."

Mrs. Kobernik faced her own hardship when she was diagnosed with MS while pregnant with her second child. Doctors advised her to have an abortion, arguing that her symptoms might get worse, it would be difficult to care for a baby in her condition, and she already had one child who required special care. "Doctors now tell me that even if I had taken that advice, my MS would still probably have progressed to where it is today, so the only real difference would be that I would have added the guilt and emptiness of not having my daughter," she said.

She and her family refused to opt for the "quick fix" of abortion, choosing instead to work together to cope with her disease without sacrificing another person. "I am so fortunate to have a supportive husband and family," Mrs. Kobernik added. "If this disease has to affect someone, I know I have learned how to cope."

But many people who are faced with disability do not have these coping skills, and they depend on society's help and kindness to deal with their pain. "I

understand the pain, depression, and at times overwhelming fear that accompany those situations," Mrs. Kobernik said. "All it would take to push them to suicide is society's approval, if the care they are given is a little less friendly."



That is why the moves to legalize suicide and assisted suicide are so dangerous. Once voluntary suicide by competent people is accepted, it is just a short slide down the slippery slope to the embrace of nonvoluntary and then involuntary euthanasia.

After all, proponents have already argued that the incompetent have the

continued on page 8

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