

Lifespan *news*

Volume 14 Number 4

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

May 1992

Congratulations! "Mother of the Year" Ardis Spalding

In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner, we are honoring a special "Mother of the Year." She was nominated by her daughter, Jill Slater, of Livonia. Below is Jill's tribute to her mother.

The baby was large, and his unusual position slowed his descent down the birth canal. His young mother struggled to deliver him safely, and in the process of doing so, she began losing blood. The doctors labored to stop what became massive hemorrhaging. They infused pint after pint of blood in what seemed a downhill battle to save the young woman's life. The hospital priest administered the last rites even as the physicians continued to work. Then, a miracle: the bleeding stopped. The woman's condition gradually stabilized. In fact, she was able to return home with her newborn son only a few days later, weakened, but happy.

Later, during her 6-week postpartum exam, a strange expression crossed her physician's face. "This looks like a pregnant uterus to me!" he exclaimed in disbelief. "It can't be—I just had a baby!" gasped the startled woman. But another miracle had occurred: she was pregnant again.

"You'll never survive this pregnancy," her physician said grimly, and he abruptly left the examining room. When he returned, he carried a long, ominous-looking needle. As the realization of his intent sank in, the woman said, "I can't let you do this." The physician was adamant. "After what we just went through delivering your son, you have no choice. You won't make it through that a second time." He proceeded with his plans to terminate the pregnancy.

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News Notes

War Casualties

We need to remind ourselves and the nation again and again that the yearly toll by abortion is higher than for all of this country's "regular" wars together.

Each year, approximately 1,600,000 cowardly executions by abortion take place in the nation's abortion chambers. This comes to 30,769 every week, 5,128 every day of a six-day working week, 641 every hour of an eight-hour workday, or more than 10 abortions every minute of the workday.

The casualties of abortion are not only millions of individuals but our whole culture: human life has become cheap; child abuse has risen; the elderly and frail are pressured to sign away their claim to life in pro-death "living wills;" and the disabled are told that their lives lack "quality."

— Wanda Franz, Ph.D., President
National Right to Life Committee
National Right to Life Chapter Newsletter
March 30, 1992

RU-486 causes deformity

It's now official. An article in the British medical journal, *Lancet*, has confirmed a case of fetal deformity, whose mother took the French abortion pill RU-486. She took the pill, did not abort, and then decided to carry the baby. The baby was born at 18 weeks and died. According to two professors in Paris, J. C. Pons and E. Papiernik, "the fetus was malformed with sirenomelia, a cleft palate and lip, micrognathia, and hygroma." Translated, the worst of the above deformities was a rather grotesque malformation and fusion of both legs. The doctors made a specific point of saying that there were "no follow-up studies available" on women who did not report back for follow-up at the clinic.

— Right to Life Educational Foundation
April 1992

Abortionists kill three

Three Maryland women died in 1989 as a result of legal abortions. Erica Richardson, 16, died March 2, 1989. The cause—perforated vagina, cervix and uterus, severe internal hemorrhaging, and air embolus. Gladys Estanislao,

28, died May 12, 1989 from a ruptured tubal pregnancy that the abortionist failed to diagnose when he did a suction abortion on her 17 days earlier. Debra Gray, 34, died July 15, 1989, three days after an abortion, during which she had had a cardiac arrest, resulting in destruction of her brain.

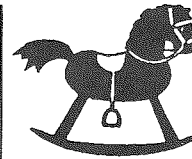
None of the three deaths appear in the official Maryland abortion statistics even though they had had wide publicity in the newspapers, with Gray's death publicized on the 60 Minutes TV show. Richardson's autopsy report answers the question how injury occurred by "therapeutic misadventure," and what manner of death by "accident." She was 20 weeks pregnant and the only comment in the entire autopsy relating to that was the last line of the report which said, "according to police reports the deceased was known to have been pregnant. On Gray's autopsy, the manner of death was answered "undetermined" and cause of death was answered "unknown."

— Right to Life Educational Foundation
April 1992

Update on the butcher

Due to a loophole in state law, the Manhattan abortionist who severed a baby's arm in an "unsuccessful" late-term abortion is still allowed to practice medicine. Dr. Abu Hayat, dubbed "the butcher of Avenue A" by local media for maiming Ana Rosa Rodriguez and allegedly botching several other abortions, had his medical license, suspended since last November, revoked February 25. But because Hayat is appealing the decision, his license was reinstated when the suspension ran out March 3, leaving him free to practice until the appeal is decided. Other cases involving Hayat include that of 17-year-old Sophie McCoy, who bled to death after Hayat allegedly perforated her uterus in a 1990 abortion. On another occasion, Hayat stopped midway through an abortion and refused to complete it until the woman paid an additional \$500.

— National Right to Life Committee, Inc.
Chapter Newsletter, March 30, 1992



Showers of baby gifts

Thank you to all who came to our Baby Showers April 5 for the crisis pregnancy centers and for your generous gifts. Many more wonderful donations were made by those who could not come. Many women and their babies will be helped because you care.

Special thanks to Mary Jo Raftery, our Baby Shower Coordinator, who did a wonderful job putting this event together for the third year and to the volunteers who did such a splendid job hostessing at the different baby shower locations. Our gratitude to: Sheila Burke, Susan Sorensen, Donna Flax, Christina Cascos and Regina High School Teens for Life, Joyce Wing, Irene Tharp, Ida Joseph, Marlene Gumbetter, Phyllis Sullivan, Maureen Egan, Laurie Masiarak, Cindy Gauvin, Linda Kournoian, Ann Raftery, Edie Lovell, Becky Reynolds, Sally Cousineau, Christine Litwinczuk, Gerry Milosch, Linda Martens, Belinda Cook, Therese Husak, Rosabelle Gurczynski, Dan Melnyk, Diane Schroeder and Rosalie Hardy.

We also want to express our appreciation to Rick Sage who picked up baby furniture and other items from donors.

Book sale this fall!

We are tentatively planning our Used Book Sale for October 23-25 at St. Richard's in Westland. Save your used books. Please, no magazines, Reader's Digests or textbooks. Watch *Lifespan News* for further details.

Lifespan News

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President/Editor - Ann S. Thomas

Desktop Publisher - Marge Bradley

Right to Life - Lifespan

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MAIN OFFICE

28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127

Livonia, MI 48152-3736

(313) 533-9090



Will it soon be illegal to protect human life?

By Ron Seigel

State politics seemed even weirder than ever last month, when a subcommittee of the Michigan House of Representatives held a public hearing in Oak Park to determine whether the law should ban citizen participation in assisted suicide.

Until very recently, there was little doubt that our legal system had a responsibility to protect human life.

This was what distinguished America from the former Soviet Union, Nazi Germany and "backward" Latin American countries filled with death squads. Human life was protected here.

However, when Dr. Jack Kevorkian invented a "death machine" to help patients die and a judge refused to indict him on felony charges, doubts were raised about whether "assisted suicide" was illegal.

The state Senate tried to clarify the law by passing SB 32, a fairly mild bill banning assisted suicide. SB 32 provided for judicial flexibility by having no minimum sentences and a maximum sentence of four years.

While it passed the Senate, the bill remains bottled up in the House Judiciary Committee. Last year a special subcommittee on Death and Dying was authorized to hold public hearings on it.

Most of those attending the Oak Park hearings in March not only supported the idea of assisted suicide in a few special cases (individuals doomed to die or suffering unrelievable pain), but also seemed against any restriction, arguing that assisted suicide was an inalienable right. Getting help in destroying the self was considered an essential part of self-determination in the Me Generation.

One doctor contended it should be illegal for a hospital to offer "unwanted" medical treatment to someone attempting suicide.

I personally knew two good and brilliant people who took their own

lives. By the doctor's logic, had I been on the scene, given them CPR and called for an ambulance (as I often wished I had been able to do), his ideal society should have arrested me for assault and subjected me to a wrongful life suit.

Despite the constant appeals to the sacred principle of self-determination, there was little emotional concern about ensuring people were not killed against their will—a serious concern of rights advocates in the light of strong prejudice against those with handicaps as well as admissions of passive euthanasia without patient consent.

At the hearing, a representative of the Libertarian Party went so far as to declare that the burden of proof should be on the state to prove that death was not voluntary. In short, when someone is killed, the prosecution should have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the victim did not want to die. As if things were not dangerous enough.

Both House Judiciary Chairman Perry Bullard and subcommittee Chair H. Lynn Jondahl ignored a moderate plan by the Handicapper Caucus of their own state Democratic Party favoring a ban on assisted suicide until procedures could be agreed upon to ensure patient consent in such cases beyond a reasonable doubt.

Instead Bullard declared last year that he backed a plan by Rep. Tom Power and Sen. David Honigman to set up a commission to "study" the issue for two years, virtually assuring nothing would be done this session.

What, handicappers ask, would happen to patients who might be killed in the meantime? To them, Bullard's plan represents the backward logic of Alice in Wonderland, allowing people to be killed and then studying whether or not they ought to have died.

Detroit Rep. Ted Wallace wants to put on the ballot a plan with some safeguards, ensuring patient consent and competence, but there is a fatal flaw.

Wallace's plan ignores self-determination at the other end—the right not to assist in suicide.

A health care institution which did not expressly proclaim that it did not handle assisted suicides would either be bound to perform them or find someone who did.

Certainly proposals raised at the hearing would whittle away age-old safeguards of human life that we cannot afford to lose. Unless legislators hear other views, Michigan may become much more macabre.

Ron Seigel of Highland Park is Corresponding Secretary of the Michigan Handicapper Caucus and a Board Member of the Detroit Chapter of Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit.

*—Detroit News, April 17, 1992
Reprinted with permission*

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Right to Life - Lifespan, along with the Michigan Handicapper Caucus of the Democratic Party, is opposed to assisted suicide.

Please contact your state legislators. Tell them you are opposed to assisted suicide and support Senate Bill 32 to make it illegal.

Legislation has been introduced by Rep. Ted Wallace, D-Detroit, which would allow physicians to administer fatal injections to their patients under certain guidelines.

This is very dangerous legislation and is similar to the initiative which was defeated in Washington state in November.

"Mother of the Year"

continued from page 1

"No," she said, firmer now. "God will take care of me. I can't let you do this." The physician became angry, but her quiet resolve won out. Eight months later, her second son was born—strong, healthy and with no complications.

I'm very glad that young woman had the courage of her convictions, because you see, I was the next baby born to this family! That brave young woman was my jewel of a Mom, Ardis Spalding, and I nominate her as Right to Life - Lifespan's "1992 Mother of the Year."

My Mom is the kind of person who simply and quietly lives out her convictions, and leads by the fine example of her life. Here are some of the places she had led her 7 children and 12 grandchildren . . .

Out of gratefulness for the blood she received during my oldest brother's birth, Mom has literally given GALLONS of blood over the years! She volunteered at the Red Cross offices and for a local hospital. She sewed clothes and quilts for migrant workers, and dressed dolls to give their children. She wrote letters to orphaned children. She walked our street many times collecting funds for various causes, and rolled miles of hospital bandages for hospitals overseas. She was a deaconess at our church, there for people at their times of greatest joy and deepest sorrow. Her ability to see the needs around her and willingness to respond to them personally has led each of her kids to believe that we could make a difference in this world. Evidence? The fields her kids have chosen: social work, teaching, nursing, engineering, chemistry.

Due to a lack of funds, Mom wasn't able to go to college. But how many evenings I remember her perched on the comfortable steps leading to the study, reading one of our encyclopedias! Every night she worked the crossword puzzle in the local newspaper, faithfully perusing the dictionary until every blank was filled. Her thirst for learning rubbed off, leading each of her 7 kids to college, and some on to Master's degrees.

Mom was concerned about the environment long before Earth Day became trendy. She'd drag 3 complaining kids over to the local schoolyard early Saturday mornings. There we would pick up every piece of broken glass, torn paper or anything else that didn't belong on a playground and throw it into one of the trash bags Mom brought along. When the place was clean, she'd hoist the loaded bags into the trunk, then whisk us still-complaining kids off to Howard Johnson's as a reward. There during brunch we received glowing commendations on our hard work, and our commitment to the environment and our concern for others. Those certainly weren't OUR values at the time. But one of those kids later became an environmental engineer.

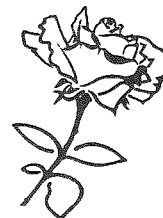
Mom's also a one-woman emissary of good will to foreigners visiting our country. Fifteen years ago a group of Nigerian men visited our church. They were in the U.S. for several months, doing something at one of the auto companies. Though she'd never seen them before, Mom adopted the whole bunch of them. We took them on their first bowling outing, had them over for the holidays, transported them to and from church. Since then there have been German students, Chinese students, even a young Korean woman she befriended during an airline flight. She taught us acceptance of other people, and several of her kids continue to reach out to foreigners in our midst.

In spite of all this, and so much more, she has wondered about her effectiveness as a mother. Her own mom died when Ardis was a young girl, so she didn't have a role model to pattern her own parenting after. She sometimes felt unsure of herself, and in the face of the inevitable heartbreaks that mothers live through, she silently agonized over whether she'd have done differently if she'd had a mother to show her the way.

Through the years we kids have mocked her, teased her, argued with her, put up with her. But now, as a mother myself, I praise her and continue to try to follow her lead as I raise my own kids.

I know it isn't the norm to recognize "ordinary" people with special awards.

My mom has never held office for a highly visible club, or organized a fundraiser for a popular cause, or done any of the things for which people are usually cited for award. In fact, if she knew she was being nominated for this award, she'd wonder why. But I am grateful for this chance to shout from the rooftops what I know about those almost invisible, behind-the-scenes efforts that were poured into 7, and now 70 times 7, lives. Thanks, Mom. ■



Mother's Day Dinner

The Mother's Day Dinner on May 5th was an outstanding success. Prolifers gathered at Vladimir's to enjoy a delicious dinner and honor the Mother of the Year for 1992.

Keeping the evening program running smoothly was our Master of Ceremonies, Charles Kleinbrook.

We were blessed with the prayers of our invocation speaker, Pastor Don Mullett, from Garden City Christian Center.

The highlight of the evening was the guest speaker, Therese McGee. Her sparkling wit guaranteed an enjoyable evening of fun.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the Dinner Committee. Our heartfelt thanks goes to Diane Fagelman, Chairman, Kay Browne, Pat Burtka, Susan Hopkins, Margaret Joyce, Daniel Knauss, JoAnn Knauss, Holly Pomaville, Susan Stevens, Phyllis Sullivan, Beverly Thewes, Diane Trombley and Judith Vigliotti.

Thanks also goes to Anne Riley who provided the dinner music, our gospel soloist, Movita Gresham, and Judith Vigliotti who took these great pictures.

Patrons of our Commemorative Book, whose names were received too late to be printed, are: Dr. and Mrs. John W. Cowden, Rosemary Joliat, Patricia Leal, Tom and Sharon O'Neill.

Our 1992 Mother of the Year, Ardis Spalding, of Southfield, was an honored guest at our Mother's Day Dinner. She was awarded a plaque, a dozen roses and a \$100 gift certificate to J. C. Penney's.

Mrs. Spalding was accompanied to the dinner by her husband, Vernon, her children, Jill Slater, Thom Spalding, Gail Wistie, Kay Ryde, her sons-in-law Frank Ryde and Bruce Slater and her granddaughter Christy Slater.

We want to thank the judges who had the difficult task of selecting our Mother of the Year from among so many deserving nominations. The judges were: Elizabeth Wasner, our 1991 Mother of the Year; Mary Alice Merlo, Detroit Chapter; Donald Byerlein, Oakland County Chapter and Mary LePere, Wayne West/Downriver Chapter.

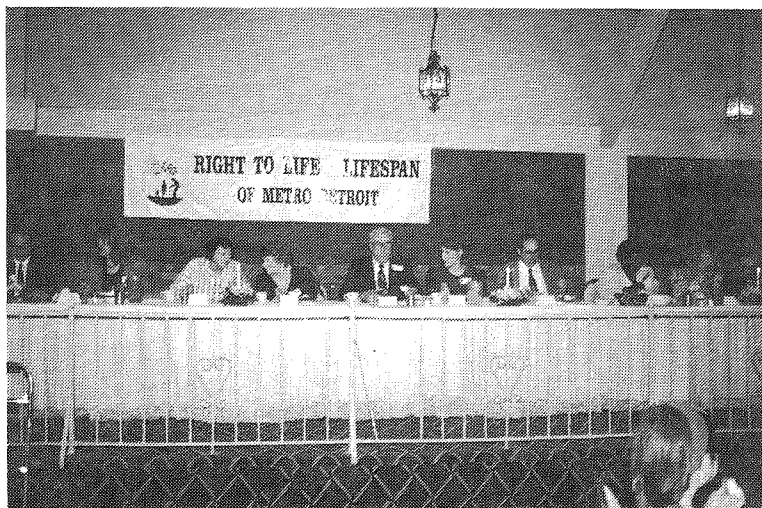
The following is a list of all the nominees for Mother of the Year and the person(s) who nominated them:

NOMINEES

*Mary Babcock
Vera Brady
Doris Campaign
Patricia Ernst
Mary Forgacs
Barbara Fortin
Lottie Gretka
Lucille Jackson
Ida Joseph
Cherie Maleyko
Peggy Mato
Margaret McPartlin
Carol Miceli
Mary Margaret Nemes
Julianna Pieknik
Pauline Raper
Ann Romig
Kathy Rucinski
Mary Helen Schultz
Marcella Stephens
Ann Sulisz
Sonya Tishler
Rebecca Trumpka
Mary Anne Uetz*

NOMINATED BY

*Cindy Gauvin and Sharon Widman
Marianne Brady
Mary Lou Sesock and Sandy Christensen
Sr. Mary Wivell and Dolores Taylor
Robert Forgacs
Susan Rappuhn
Teresa Shafer
Pat Andrus
Thomas Joseph
Rita Grace
Maureen Ruhl
Claire Guarrella and Claire O'Connor
Nick Miceli
Mary Flynn
Andrea Grace
Paulette Rapier
Barbara Niman
Dana McKay
Kathy Litwinczuk
Anne Marie McHenry
Gerry Milosch
Bernardine Wiemer
Toni Trumpka
Denise Kerr*





Chapter

detroit

Office hours

M, Th 10-2
TWF Closed
Carol Smith, Chairman
Betty Queen, Ofc. Mgr.

Thanks!

To all our volunteers who helped to prepare the roses for our Annual Mother's Day Rose Sale, a sincere thanks and our profound gratitude for your loyal support. Thanks to all who bought a rose or two because without your financial support, we could not continue with our prolife

work. Proceeds are used to maintain our office and provide literature, videos and whatever is necessary to promote the prolife issue. Thanks to all!

New volunteers!

Thanks to our new volunteers, Jeff and Kathy Wieske who graciously have offered to take over the job of pickup and delivering of baby items whenever necessary. Kathy has also offered to take the newsletter mailing to the post office, and we are very grateful. Jeff and Kathy are very active members of St. John Berchmans/St. Juliana parish and they have four beautiful children. God bless both of you and your lovely family.

Congratulations!

Nicole Marguerite Smith, daughter of Carol and Ed Smith, will graduate from Harvard University with a degree in psychology on June 4. She also served as editor of *Progressive Alliance for Life*, Harvard's prolife newspaper.

While at Harvard, she attended the Washington, D.C. March for Life several times.

When Nicole was still in high school, she spoke at our Celebrate Life Rally in 1988 expressing her concern that many teens don't take a stand against abortion.

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

Office hours

M, T, Th, F 10-3
Diane Fagelman, Chairman
Clare Schneider, Secretary

Thanks, Dad, for Life!

Several churches in Oakland County are piloting a new program this year. They will be selling candy or carnations for Father's Day, June 21. We hope to fulfill a need for recognition of fathers in Lifespan. Give us your support. Call the office to learn if your church is involved.

Oakland fairs scheduled

The Farmington Founders Fair is scheduled for July 9, 10 and 11. The Novi Fifties Festival will be July 22-26. Mark your calendar to work or attend. The fall fairs schedule will be in your next newsletter. Let us

know of any other summer fairs in your area.

Mother's Day dinner

Many thanks to all the workers who made the 1992 Mother's Day Dinner a resounding success. Thanks, also, to all who attended and had a great time. Before the dust has settled, we must initiate the plans for 1993. Most critical is the need for a commemorative book advertising chairman. We must start early to get the job done. Call the office to put your sales skills to work for Life.

1992-1993 curriculum

Attention, parents! Please check with your childrens' school and ask them to let the Educational Center for Life give them a presentation on Life issues. Call the office at 338-1910 for further information.

Calling all bowlers

Please call the Lifespan office and let us know you're interested. We have the leaders, organization and bowling alley. All we need is you and your enthusiasm. The date will soon be verified for

September, 1992. Call us so we can plan the number of lanes.

Regional church rep meetings a success

The west Oakland region met May 21 at Highland Park Baptist Church in Southfield. This meeting was the last of the current series of regional meetings for our church representatives. Thanks to all who attended and helped to make the meetings successful. After a summer recess, another round of meetings will begin in the fall.

More church reps are still needed. They are very important contact persons between their church community and Right to Life - Lifespan. We have written guidelines available to help you. Why not give us a call at 258-9760 today.

"I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

— Edward Everett Hale

Oakland County Chapter
800 S. Adams, #102
Birmingham, MI 48009-7005
(313) 258-9760

oakland

News

downriver and wayne west

New office hours

Starting June 1

M-F 10-4

Patricia Holscher, Chairman
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

Thanks, Mom, for Life

Our annual Mother's Day silk rose fundraiser was a great success. This is a huge project involving many volunteers, but we pulled it off another year with very few glitches. At one point, though, we were scurrying around trying to multiply the roses like the loaves and the fishes. Our thanks to everyone involved for a job "well done."

Memberships

Membership letters are in the mail. Please respond promptly. We don't want you to miss a single issue of *Lifespan News*, and reminders are costly. Membership, fundraising and donations are our only sources of income, and dues are vitally important especially in non-profit organizations.

Wee Care program

The Divine Child Women's Club, and hostesses Carmen Novak and Barbara Kubicek, had a lovely baby shower for our Wee Care Program. The furniture, toys and clothing are already being distributed to Moms with unplanned pregnancies. Your donations will help to make life a little nicer for these Moms and

their babies and give them hope for their future.

In gratitude

Mere words cannot express our sincere gratitude to the members of St. Kenneth's in Plymouth and St. Valentine's in Redford for their generous donations to our Chapter. Your love for the born and unborn continues to be exhibited through your good will and unselfish actions. Thanks!

Garage sales

Thanks to everyone who donated items to make our first garage sale of the season a great success.

We are especially grateful to those people who gave freely of their time and effort on the two garage sale days—especially my husband, Horst, Paula Ervin, Bev Miller, Bev Bettega and Pat Swider.

Last, but definitely not least, thank God for the beautiful weather!

Barb Schmid

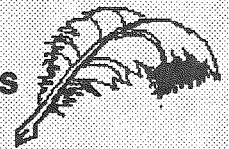
More individual, family and neighborhood garage sales for Lifespan would really help our depressed treasury. Call 422-6230, and we'll help you get started.

Bowling for Life

Our 10th Annual Bowling for Life FUNdraiser will take place at Woodland Lanes in Livonia from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, July 26. By collecting pledges, you are eligible to bowl 3 games free and win exciting prizes for most money collected and for high games and series. You may be sponsored by most pins scored or by game. This is "good family fun;" all are invited. Further information will be mailed. Call 422-6230 for sponsor sheets and information.

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

From the President's Desk



My 14-year-old daughter, Mary, is reading Huxley's infamous *Brave New World*. She is naively surprised by the radical concepts and futuristic ideas. I wish I could shelter her from the terrible reality that the brave new world is already upon us.

The theme of the book, written in 1931, is the advancement of science as it affects human individuals. In 1946, Huxley added a forward to his work. In part, he says, "All things considered it looks as though Utopia were far closer to us than anyone, only fifteen years ago, could have imagined. Then, I projected it six hundred years into the future. Today it seems quite possible that the horror may be upon us within a single century."

In my dictionary, a "person" is defined as a "human being." The Supreme Court in 1973 didn't agree with that definition—they wrote their own called, *Roe v. Wade*. Twenty years later to be a "person" you must have "fundamental cognitive potential."

One case in point is the argument over the baby born in Florida with anencephaly. Poor Baby Theresa was neither a fish nor a vegetable. She was a little girl.

Even pro-abortion newspapers such as the *Detroit Free Press* and the *New York Times* had editorials against harvesting her organs while she was alive. The *Times* said, "If we deny Theresa Ann Campo Pearson her humanity, then we have also denied our own."

Yet these same papers endorse fetal tissue transplants from unborn babies.

"O, Brave New World . . ."

Ann



Legislative

MICHIGAN NEWS

Informed Consent

Addresses

President

President George Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Opinion Line (202) 456-1111, before 5 PM
(202) 456-1414, after 5 PM

Dear Mr. President:

Senators

The Honorable (first and last name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3121

Dear Senator (last name):

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:

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):

On March 11th, the Senate successfully rejected a watered-down House version of the Informed Consent Bill, SB 141, they had originally passed last May. This action sent the bill to a House-Senate conference committee.

Senator Jack Welborn, the sponsor of the bill, is the Chairman of the conference committee. Other members include Senators Dillingham and Pollack and Representatives Berman, Dalman and Hertel.

At this writing, the conference committee has postponed two meetings. Another is planned for May 21st. The conference committee will try to resolve the differences and present a compromise bill to the House and Senate. It must then be voted on as is, no amendments can be added.

The original Informed Consent Bill required a 24-hour waiting period and the physician to give the patient information about the risks of abortion and a description and picture of the probable physical development of her unborn baby. The physician also would have been required to inform the patient that public agencies are available to assist her during pregnancy and after birth, should she choose to give birth, and that help is available to place her child in an adoptive home, should she choose that option.

While the bill would not restrict a woman's "right" to an abortion, it would decrease the demand for abortion. We have heard repeatedly from women that they never would have had an abortion if they had been told the facts prior to the procedure.

On March 5th when the bill was passed by the full House, it was changed so drastically that the only

prolife provision remaining was the 24-hour waiting period. The bill was passed 55-49 by pro-abortion House members and a few prolife crossovers. The crossovers from this area include Bennett, Hertel, Kosteva, W. Bullard and Middleton.

For the complete voting record on SB 141, please see your April 1992 *Lifespan News* or call your local Lifespan office.

ACTION ALERT

It is very important to contact your Michigan Representative and Senator in support of the original provisions of the Informed Consent legislation.

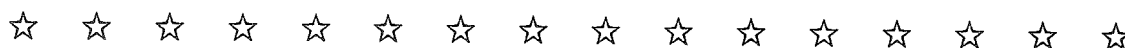
It is crucial to contact the committee members, particularly Rep. Hertel of Detroit, a possible swing vote.

Assisted Suicide Ban

The Death and Dying Subcommittee of the Michigan House Judiciary Committee held hearings in Michigan on five different bills including Senate Bill 32. This bill to ban assisting in suicides passed the Senate in March, 1991. No other action has been taken.

This legislation will make it illegal if the **intent** is to actively assist a person to commit suicide. The felony is punishable by up to four years in prison and a \$2000 fine. Coercing a suicide would be first-degree murder, mandating a life sentence.

See page 3 for more information.



Update



NATIONAL NEWS

Baby Harvesting

By a lopsided margin, the Senate on April 2 brushed aside prolife objections and passed a bill that would require federal funding of transplantation of tissues "harvested" from aborted babies.

Last July 25, the House passed its version of HR 2507, containing similar fetal tissue provisions, by a vote of 271 to 144. The bill now goes to a House-Senate conference committee, which will develop a final version and send it to President Bush, probably in May. The President is expected to veto the bill because of the fetal tissue provisions and because of other provisions to which the Administration objects.

It requires a two-thirds vote in each house to override a veto. The House will vote first. When the House passed the bill in July, the margin was only five votes short of two-thirds. Thus, prolife strategists expect a close vote in the House.

The current Bush Administration policy allows federal funding of transplants of tissues taken from non-abortion sources, such as miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies. (In an ectopic pregnancy, the fetus implants in the mother's fallopian tube. The condition is life-threatening and requires immediate medical intervention.) The National Right to Life Committee is not opposed to research utilizing tissue taken from such non-abortion-dependent sources.

Federal funding of baby harvesting would place the federal government into direct complicity with the abortion industry. When tied with such "humanitarian" research directives, abortion will gain a more positive and altruistic

image, thus giving the industry the legitimacy that it has long desired.

HR 2507 will soon be sent to President Bush, who is expected to veto it. Prolife forces are concentrating their efforts to sustain the veto in the House, because the Senate passed the bill by well over the two-thirds margin required to override a veto.

Currently, various medical research organizations and pro-abortion organizations are subjecting Members of Congress to intense lobbying to override the anticipated veto.

Grossly exaggerated claims have been made regarding the effectiveness of fetal tissue transplants. In fact, there is very little evidence that fetal tissue transplants will provide a "cure" for any disease.

Prolife citizens must write to or call their U.S. House members and urge them to vote to sustain the President's veto.

Shown below is the July 25, 1991 roll call vote of the Michigan members of the House of Representatives.

Key

X Pro-life vote
O Pro-abortion vote

1	Conyers (D)	O
2	Pursell (R)	O
3	Wolpe (D)	O
4	Upton (R)	O
5	Henry (R)	X
6	Carr (D)	O
7	Kildee (D)	O
8	Traxler (D)	O
9	Vander Jagt (R)	X

10	Camp (R)	X
11	Davis (R)	X
12	Bonior (D)	O
13	Collins (D)	O
14	Hertel (D)	O
15	Ford (D)	O
16	Dingell (D)	O
17	Levin (D)	O
18	Broomfield (R)	X

ACTION ALERT

If your congressman voted against the bill in July, commend him and urge him to vote to sustain the veto. If he voted for the bill in July, politely state your objections to his July vote, and urge him to support the veto.

Do not assume that because your representative voted against the bill last summer, he will therefore automatically vote to sustain the veto.

ADDRESS FOR ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

The Honorable _____
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

ALL CONGRESSIONAL
OFFICES CAN BE REACHED
THROUGH THE CAPITOL
SWITCHBOARD:
(202) 224-3121

Also, please call the White
House Opinion Line (202)
456-1111, before 5 p.m., or (202)
456-1414, after 5 p.m., to ask
President Bush to veto HR 2507.

Threat of the Lethal Injection

continued from page 12

England Journal of Medicine, tentatively endorsed euthanasia when she said, "I think perhaps we're ready to consider euthanasia that is very, very strictly controlled."

Other physicians agree. In a Colorado survey, 60 percent of doctors questioned said they have had patients for whom they think euthanasia would have been justified and 59 percent said they would be willing to give such patients a lethal drug if it were legal. A San Francisco Medical Society poll found that 70 percent of doctors surveyed thought incurable patients should be able to request euthanasia; 45 percent said they would be willing to carry it out.

In this context of apparent public support, Initiative 119 in Washington state was placed on the ballot. This initiative would have made Washington the first jurisdiction to permit physicians to kill their consenting terminally ill patients by lethal injection. Voters narrowly rejected the initiative in November 1991, but it came close enough to success to rattle the medical and pro-life communities that opposed it.

The defeat of Initiative 119 did not quiet the pro-euthanasia community. They are continuing similar initiative drives in other states. And those who support legalized physician-assisted killing are waging an intense public relations campaign. Derek Humphry's *Final Exit*, a how-to suicide manual, reached the top of the *New York Times* best-seller list. A made-for-television movie, "Last Wish," detailed Betty Rollin's search for a compassionate physician-assisted death for her ill mother.

Despite the outpouring of pro-euthanasia support by several professional factions, many medical ethicists and organizations, such as the American Medical Association, oppose active euthanasia. "People favorable to physician-assisted death have not thought it through," Daniel Callahan, director of the Hastings Center, told the

Boston Globe. "They're captured by the argument of self-determination and have not begun to think about what are the implications for the medical profession or the potential for abuses."

Sound familiar? Since "choice" in the beginning-of-life debate led to legalized abortion, America has seen the resultant abuses of women and unborn children. Now, as proponents of "choice" push for the right to be killed, a Pandora's box of new abuses will result. What can we expect if physicians are legally permitted to kill their consenting patients?

1. Legalized euthanasia would become a substitute for active caring and curing. With an easy "out," clinicians would not have to seek ways to relieve pain, treat symptoms, or even find cures to the diseases that plague us—such as cancer and AIDS. Medical ethicist Dr. Mark Siegler has pointed out that euthanasia "diverts attention from the real issues in the care of dying patients." Among these are improved pain control, better communication between doctors and patients, heightened respect for the patient's right to choose whether to accept life-sustaining treatment, and improved management of the dying process, as in hospice care.

2. Legalized euthanasia would bring the law into the sickroom. In the past, courts have kept their distance from the bedside. They trusted physicians, patients and their families to determine the outcome of medical decision making. But if one of the options is active euthanasia, the courts would need to become more active in reviewing bedside decisions in order to prevent abuses.

3. Legalized euthanasia would seriously undermine the physician-patient relationship. Patients could no longer trust their physicians to treat and heal. Nor would there be room for patient or family to express an understandable desire for death—without the accompanying fear that one's physician might actively carry out the ambivalent wish. Attorney-physician David Orentlicher says that society now recognizes the right of hopelessly ill patients to decline life-sustaining treatments. But he explains, "Treatment

designed to bring on death, by definition, does not heal and is therefore fundamentally inconsistent with the physician's role in the physician-patient relationship."

4. Legalized euthanasia would lead to the killing of patients who do not wish to die. Patients enfeebled by disease and laden with medical bills may be pressured to "choose" a lethal injection to spare their family and society financial and emotional strain. Others with no viable options—the poor, the elderly, the disabled, women—may find themselves coerced into "requesting" euthanasia. And surrogates will have the legal right to choose euthanasia for an incompetent (even conscious) patient who cannot personally make the decision.

An aging population, spiraling health care costs and an unwary public will increase the pressure to legalize euthanasia. This pressure must be resisted by pro-lifers who understand that the "right" to kill by lethal injection will not enhance personal choice, but will lead to the unwilling deaths of many.

Leon Kass notes, "Euthanasia, once legalized, will not remain confined to those who freely and knowingly elect it—and the most energetic backers of euthanasia do not really want it thus restricted. Why? Because the vast majority of candidates who merit mercy killing cannot request it for themselves: adults with persistent vegetative state or severe depression or senility or aphasia or mental illness of Alzheimer's disease; infants who are deformed; and children who are retarded or dying." If active euthanasia is legalized, no one will be safe from the lethal injection.

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Editor's note: See the article entitled, "Will it soon be illegal to protect human life?" by Ron Seigel on page 3 for more information on assisted suicide legislation in Michigan.

Knapp's coupons

Please continue to save Bill Knapp's Community Support Coupons for us. We have over 60,000 points so far toward redemption for display boards for fairs, meetings and other events. Our goal for a first display board is 74,800 points.

We want to thank the following people for saving and sending us coupons since March: Yanik, Sinclair, Majewski, St. Maurice Parish, Wilhelm, Davidson, Darin, Paczkowski, Montgomery, Thomas, Konopka, Kacher, Williams, Trombley, Dompierre, Lohrengel, Oblates of St. Benedict, Piercecchi, MacShane, St. Perpetua Parish, Gnaster, Nowland, Mangin, Roy, Lee, Ober, Miceli, Stehno, Rosevear, Gibbons, Casey, Dattilo, Kaza, Truchan, Shimkus, Van Houten, Smith, Kleinbrook, O'Connell, Barrett, Swerbensky, Burns, Lulek, Doyle, Tschirhart, Nigel, Simpson, Kral, Huron Valley Seniors, Polgar, Schaefer, Hall, Michelini, Retzel, Bourget in honor of Fr. Solanus Casey, St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish, McLaughlin, Panowicz, Kniebes, Goodaker, Farren, Freda, Broda, Boullion, Mott, Miller, Plewka and others whose names we do not have.

When you present your check to the cashier at any Bill Knapp's Restaurant, ask for a Community Support Coupon. The cashier will indicate on the coupon how many points are awarded. Points are awarded based on this formula: 1 point equals \$1.00 on the total amount received by the cashier for meals, bakery items, take-out orders or purchased gift certificates.

Please send the coupons to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152. Thanks!



LIFE CHAIN

Thousands of proliferers will be lining the sidewalks of Woodward Avenue from Seven Mile in Detroit to 13 Mile Rd. in Royal Oak, all silently holding uniform, prolife signs which state that "ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN." This is what is known as a **LIFE CHAIN**. This event will provide a visual statement of unity by the Metro Detroit community that **ABORTION IS WRONG AND THAT WE ARE OPPOSED TO THE KILLING OF UNBORN CHILDREN!** With miles of sidewalk covered on both sides of the street, no one can possibly miss our message. Our third annual **LIFE CHAIN** is scheduled from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. on **Sunday, October 4**, in conjunction with National Life Chain Sunday. Will you invest one afternoon to help save a lifetime? Call 533-9090 for details.

New video at Educational Center for Life

"Dear Children"

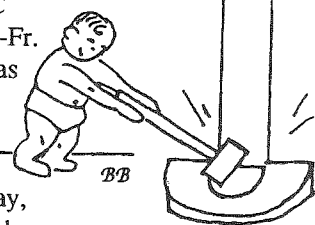
This video features Dr. Susan Harvath, a Project Rachel counselor who discusses "Post Abortion Syndrome" and the healing process—offering insights into issues of grief, denial and guilt. An excellent counseling tool for anyone who has been traumatized by the abortion of a child. 30 minutes. Available for rental. Call 338-1910.

Walk for LIFE

Christian Activist Network is sponsoring a Walk for Life on Saturday, May 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Belle Isle. Registration for the Walk is at 8:15 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy afterward. Plan on visiting the park's zoo, aquarium, giant slide and playscape. Call Lisa, 293-1616, for more information.

Thanks to you!

We reached our goal in the "Abortion Stops a Beating Heart" Billboard Campaign. New donors are: Dooley, St. Kenneth Church, LaPorte, Minard, Williams, Bloomfield Hills Men's Regnum Christi Group, Gerish, K of C #4764-Fr. Thomas Carey Council, Conway, Milosch.



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.

<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership	\$ 15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly pledge	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior Member	\$ 7.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Century Club (\$100 & above)	\$ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please detach at the dotted line and return to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736.
Donations are not tax-deductible.

Threat of the Lethal Injection

The Roe v. Wade case back in 1973 opened the door to euthanasia in principle if not in legal fact. The declaration in Roe v. Wade that a woman has the right to control what is happening to her body applies in principle to the right-to-die issue. It is an opening of freedom's door.

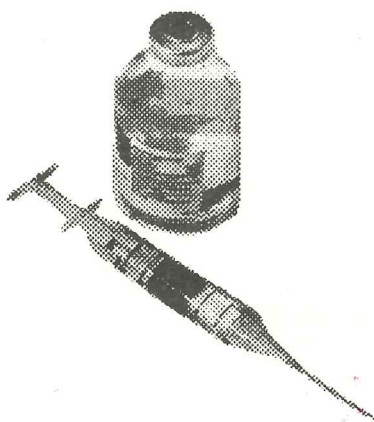
—Derek Humphry, Hemlock Society

While pro-life Americans have directed their energies to the abortion battle, another trend has gathered the steam of public support. Euthanasia. Polls indicate that the majority of Americans want the option of being killed by a physician, despite warnings from prominent ethicists, religious leaders and physicians that such freedom would invite widespread abuse.

Active euthanasia—the intentional taking of a person's life out of motives of mercy—is illegal in every state. Laws prohibiting euthanasia are based on the ancient Hippocratic Oath that doctors must not “administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so nor. . . suggest such a course.” Yet just as the oath's opposition to abortion has been dismissed by contemporary abortion advocates, the prohibition against physician-assisted killing has been discounted by those who see individual “choice” as the highest value.

Euthanasia organizations have promoted legal and social support for the right to be killed for more than 50 years. But during the past year they have made their most visible inroads.

When pathologist Dr. Jack Kevorkian helped 54-year-old Janet Adkins kill herself in 1990 by infusing a lethal dose of barbiturates and sodium pentothal into her vein, he was labeled a quack.



Homicide charges were dismissed because it was found that Mrs. Adkins, not Dr. Kevorkian, had delivered the poison. Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert permanently barred Dr. Kevorkian from further use of his “suicide machine,” but in fall 1991, Kevorkian again surfaced in the national media. He had assisted two women in killing themselves in a remote Michigan cabin.

This time both the medical community and euthanasia advocates spoke out against his actions. “The man's out of control. He's much more like a serial killer than he is a physician,” medical ethicist Dr. George Annas charged in an interview with writer Andrea Kott. A spokeswoman for the Hemlock Society, which advocates euthanasia, told reporters Kevorkian's action did not fall within the Society's guidelines that euthanasia only be practiced on those who are terminally ill.

The tone changed in April 1991 when another physician helped his patient kill herself. No longer was the subject in question a retired pathologist using a crude intravenous device. Dr. Timothy Quill was acceptable. Compassionate. Writing in the respected *New England Journal of Medicine*, Dr. Quill told how he provided his terminally ill patient, Diane, with a prescription for enough sleeping pills to kill herself and an explanation of how to go about it. While Quill's article stirred debate on both sides of the euthanasia issue, his action appeared to engender more support from both physicians and the public than did Kevorkian's.

Indeed, growing numbers of physicians indicate support for the legal right to kill patients who request it. Marcia Angell, executive editor of the *New*

continued on page 10

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