

Happy Father's Day!

Lifespan *news*

Volume 13 Number 4

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

May, June 1991

Congratulations! "Mother of the Year" Elizabeth (Betty) Wasner

Betty was nominated by her daughter, Mary Stehno, of Dearborn. Below are excerpts from Mary's tribute to her mother.

The "Mother of the Year" award could easily go to Betty Wasner for her unwavering strength and devotion to her family during years of difficulties.

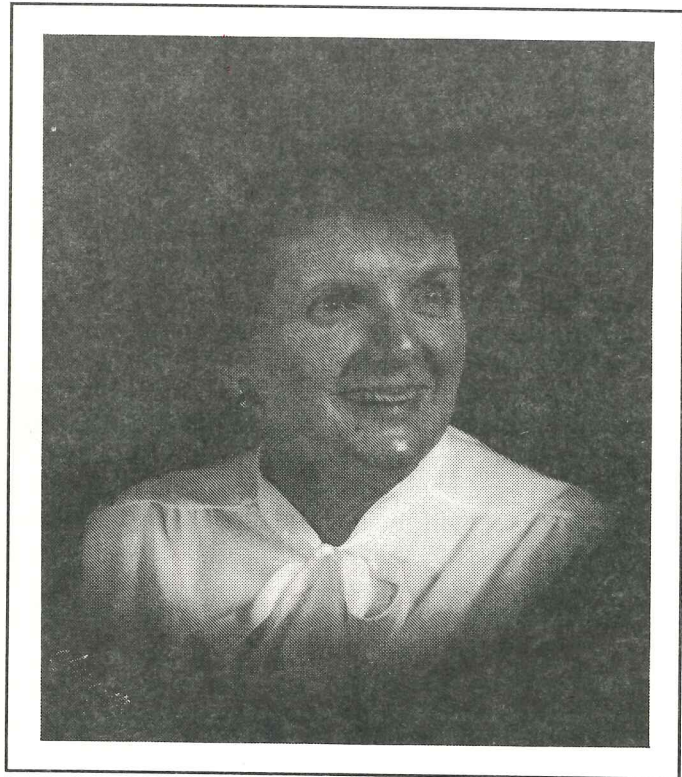
In 1958, the third child of the four that my mother had then, was diagnosed with leukemia. My mother spent a difficult year and a half watching her daughter die, while making every effort to make my sister as comfortable as possible in her pain and suffering. My sister died just before her fifth birthday.

Within just a matter of months of my sister's death, came the devastating news that her husband had multiple sclerosis. Within six years of the discovery, he was forced to retire from work.

In the meantime two more children were born into the family. It was a consolation in the face of the loss of a young child, while at the same time a frightening experience in light of the MS prognosis.

Her endurance in providing loving care twenty-four hours a day, year after year, has been a tremendous testimony to marital love for all her children. For twenty years she physically

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Knapp coupon collection continues

Thanks to our wonderful donors, our collection of Bill Knapp Community Support coupon points is growing. We are saving these points to redeem for office equipment. Our total thus far is approximately 21,000 points.

Recent donors are: Wojtyshyn, St. Sabina Ladies Guild, Hoffman, Roehrig, Ptaszenski, Will, Wasylon, Tschirhart, Wagner, Sabo, Holscher, Gheesling, Kniebes, Lajoie, Malicke, Wynsberge, McClorey, Queen, Borg, Dolan, St. Perpetua Parish, Bullion, Panowicz, Bowker, Cutright, Doyle, Polgar, Sporka, Chaussee, Gavilinski, Gazelle, Mowery, Stevens, Wagener, Bryson, Bradley, Ervin, Radwick, Radzialowski, Nye, Braus, Krol, Rougeau, Mosquera, Glasgow, Deja, Ziadeh, Lohrengel, Darket, Hoefer, Wilhelm, Poeppel, Sherman, Ellefson, Bettega, St. Maurice Church, Barylski, Davidson, Van Houten, Trombley, Barkay, Linden, Bosley, Fessler, Lee, Freda, Ober, Longmire, Sterbenz, Casey, Meehan, Cylkowski, Mouglin, Kossack, Church, Compton, Konopka, Kacher, Marria, Miceli, Datillo, Oblates of St. Benedict, MacShane, Spas, Zack, Condon-Duncanson, Schmidt, Simpson 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 continue to save these coupons for us, and send them to Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit, 21649 Goddard, #125B, Taylor, MI 48180.

AT&T update

AT&T shareholders rejected a resolution asking management to restore funding to Planned Parenthood at a meeting April 17. Only eight and one-half percent of stockholders voted for

the proposal introduced by the American Jewish Congress.

Burke Stinson, AT&T spokesman, said that management had advised stockholders to vote against the proposal. He added that the company will "stand firm" on their decision to cut off their support of the largest abortion provider. "Management has no intention of giving Planned Parenthood funding," he said.

Showers of baby gifts

Thank you to all who came to our Baby Showers April 21 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. We are already looking forward to and planning next year's Baby Shower!

Special thanks to Mary Jo Raftery, our Baby Shower Coordinator, who did a wonderful job putting this event together and to the volunteers who did such a splendid job hostessing at the 20 different baby shower locations. Our gratitude to: Anne Fracassa, Mary Ellen Servitto, Mary Cascos, Donna Flax, Sheila Burke, Joanne Loniewski, Jan Skeans, Linda Janigian, Maureen Egan, Gerry Milosch, Laurie Masiarak, Cindy Gauvin, Linda Kournoian, Arlene Tarbet, Carol Schlismann, Judy Butler, Linda Martens, Carrie Bryson, Belinda Cook, Linda Howell, Judy Aldridge, Vicky Wong and Mary Forgacs. We also want to express our appreciation to Rick Sage who picked up baby furniture and other items from donors all over the metro area. Thanks to you all!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

As of March 31, 1991, George Van Antwerp is leaving his position as Vice President, in charge of Community Relations, at Mt. Carmel-Grace Hospital, in Detroit, Michigan.

Because of his commitment to Christ, he can no longer, in conscience, maintain his position as Vice President, when the hospital has decided to change it's policy and allow abortions to be performed.

George Van Antwerp is an example of what it is to be strong in Christ and to follow Christ's teachings. Without thinking about his future, a boy in college, two children in high school, and a wife, he has placed his trust in God.

How many of us would do the same? Can we dedicate our lives to God, and God's teaching of the Ten Commandments, particularly, "Thou shalt not kill"?

Sincerely,

Agnes Van Antwerp

(I'm proud to be George's sister)

Lifespan News

May/June 1991 Vol. 13, No. 4
President/Publisher Ann S. Thomas
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MAIN OFFICE
21649 Goddard, #125B
Taylor, MI 48180-4247
(313) 374-5111



LIFE CHAIN 1991 — We are proud and excited to announce that the Metro Detroit area will participate in **NATIONAL LIFE CHAIN SUNDAY** on **OCTOBER 6, 1991**. Cities all across this great country will **LIFE CHAIN** on the same day. We will stand together as a sign of solidarity to the news media and general public that abortion is wrong. **ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN**. The Christian Activist Network and Right to Life - Lifespan will again be co-sponsoring the event. The task: to hold up signs bearing the message, "ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN." It is that simple. Some things **LIFE CHAIN** is *not*: It is not illegal. No laws are broken. **LIFE CHAIN** participants do not go to jail. It is not a political gathering. And it does not burn up a lot of time or energy. For more information, call 374-5111.

Winning the War of Words

Rebuttals to Abortion Arguments

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Often we are confronted with the rhetoric of the pro-abortion movement. At work, in the media, in school, at shopping malls, and in social settings among friends, pro-life advocates are familiar with the flow of one-sided claims and misinformation put forth by those who favor abortion rights.

While this rhetoric may appear logical on its face, and many of us know people who have been swayed by its simplicity, the words ring hollow when we look for the meaning behind them.

Those of us who believe in preserving the sanctity of life can effectively expose these shallow statements by challenging those who are pro-abortion to defend their arguments.

Following are examples of some common pro-abortion arguments as well as suggestions on how to respond to them in your everyday efforts to protect all human life. "Winning the war of words" was prepared by the Pro-life office of the USCC and is reprinted with permission. *Catholic League Newsletter*, March 1991.

ARGUMENT

Abortion is a matter of individual choice because no one can say with certainty when a fetus becomes a person.

Every woman has the right to control her own body. A fetus is part of a woman's body because it is dependent on her for survival in the womb.

The government shouldn't interfere in this highly personal issue.

A woman may need an abortion because of personal circumstances that make it impossible for her to care for a young child.

REBUTTAL

When a human life begins is not a religious, moral or philosophical issue; it is a scientific and biological one. Scientists know a distinct human life begins at conception. From that time onward, the unborn child is a living, developing individual with a uniquely human genetic constitution.

All human beings have rights which must be protected. A woman has a right to protect her own body. Her child, too, has rights, beginning with the right to continued life. The unborn child is an individual, separate and distinct from the mother. From the time of conception, the baby's genetic code is unique to itself, different from the mother's and father's. The baby has its own blood type, heart, brain, and other organs, and may have differently colored eyes, hair and complexion. Being dependent on others should not deprive a helpless human being of fundamental rights.

As Thomas Jefferson once wrote: "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government." In modern American society, it is naive to suggest that government can be absent from this debate on human life. The government acts through law to regulate in areas much less fundamental than the right to life. The real issue is whether the government will fulfill its responsibility to protect and preserve life, or continue to allow this most fundamental human right to be denied.

A woman has many choices for life. If she wishes to raise her child, there are countless programs across the country that can provide her with counseling, housing, medical care, job training, food, clothing, and other needed services to help her make a good life for herself and her child. If a woman feels that she cannot provide for her baby, adoption can be a good choice for both mother and child. Children's lives should not be sacrificed as a means of solving the problems of others.

ARGUMENT

Abortion is used only as a last resort and is frequently a result of rape, incest, or danger to the mother's life. A woman must have the right to terminate her pregnancy because of these widespread problems.

Abortion should be available to women who may give birth to severely disabled infants. Disabled children may face a terrible life of pain if they are not aborted.

Americans who are "pro-choice" do not necessarily advocate abortion, but believe in an individual's right to choose an abortion. Even many elected officials who are personally opposed to abortion support the right of others to choose.

If safe and legal abortions are not available, women will be driven to dangerous back-alley abortions, resulting in needless injury and even death.

REBUTTAL

The truth is that abortion has become a widely used method of birth control in this country. By 1988, 43 percent of all abortions were repeat abortions. Last year, more than 1.6 million abortions were performed in the U.S. At most, about 1 percent of these were performed for reasons of rape or incest, 7 percent to protect the mother's health or life. Abortion advocates fail to mention the other 92 percent.

It is inhumane to use abortion to set artificial standards of quality for human life. No one has the right to judge the quality of another human being's life, or to decide who should live and who should not. The fundamental value of human life is a given, it is not determined by an individual's physical or mental capacities.

There is no convenient middle ground when a human life is at stake. Law is a powerful teacher; many are persuaded that when something is legal, it is morally good. The actions of politicians who say "personally opposed but..." fail to mirror their purported conviction that abortion destroys human life. The American public wants to elect real leaders, not those who succumb to political expediency on fundamental issues of human rights.

It should be remembered that a death occurs every time an abortion is performed — the death of an unborn child. It should also be remembered that abortion is a surgical procedure, and even though it is legal, it puts many women at serious mental and emotional risk. Additionally, many women suffer post-abortion complications, such as cervical muscle damage and damage to the uterine wall, which can lead to scarring, future miscarriages, or ectopic pregnancies. Since the Supreme Court's 1973 abortion decision, hundreds of women have died from what pro-abortion groups insist on calling "safe and legal" abortions.

Pro-Life Professor

continued from page 12

union and the university, thereby denying Roesser a chance to be heard at trial. The case has been sent back down to the district court.

The Sixth Circuit Court, lest it appear to be too cavalier in this matter, suggested its own compromise to the lower court and the parties. Roesser will not have to associate any longer with the Michigan Education Association and the NEA, but since he doesn't have any religious objection to associating with the local Professors Union, which is not banging the drums for abortion rights, let him pay all of the union fee to this local affiliate, with the guarantee that his money will be used only for local union purposes.

THE NEA HAS decided not to ask the Supreme Court to review the case, and Roesser's lawyers (the National

Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation) tell me that language is being worked out with the NEA by which a peace treaty can be signed according to the 6th Circuit's Solomon-like suggestion.

This is a statutory case (Title VII), not a matter of First Amendment interpretation. Therefore, the Supreme Court's evisceration last term of the free-exercise clause of the First Amendment — in a different kind of religious labor case, involving peyote, *Employment Division vs. Smith* — does not apply to Professor Roesser's uphill battle to get back a job he lost because he would have lost more by keeping it at the cost of his self-respect.

*Detroit News, September 2, 1990
Reprinted with permission of
Copley News Service*

Editor's Note:

In a major legal victory for pro-life educators who object to having their monies used by organizations that promote abortion, Professor Robert Roesser was reinstated and awarded back wages after being fired in 1984.

The lengthy legal battle ended in February when Roesser, the University of Detroit, the University's Professors Union, the MEA, and the NEA all agreed to a consent decree. Roesser was awarded nearly \$100,000 in back wages and was given back his job, with assurances that there would be no retribution by the University.

Roesser's case is an important victory under Title VII, establishing protection for employees who have no per se objection to joining a union but only to the pro-abortion activities of the union.

NRTL Chapter Newsletter, 3-21-91

Corporate Supporters of Planned Parenthood

It has become increasingly popular for major American and international corporations to make financial or other contributions to groups that support abortion rights. Contributions to Planned Parenthood are of particular concern because it is the nation's leading advocate of legal abortion. Planned Parenthood has placed high emphasis on gaining such financial support and the organization has been highly successful.

It is important for pro-life advocates to understand that their patronage of corporations that support Planned Parenthood enables the corporations to continue the support. Most corporations donate these funds through a foundation. Some corporate leaders claim the foundations are independent, but the foundation funds come from the corporation. Corporate donations are made to local, national and/or international Planned Parenthood organizations.

Corporate leaders attempt to justify their donations by saying corporate funds are not being used for abortions, but rather for Planned Parenthood's ongoing "educational" programs. While this is generally true, donations still place the corporation in the position of being seen as a supporter of a group that performs abortions, even if they are not funded by corporate dollars. Moreover, budgeting procedures allow Planned Parenthood clinics to transfer unrestricted funds to abortion and abortion advocacy projects because the funds for its "educational" programs are being paid for with restricted corporate grants. It should also be noted that Planned Parenthood's "educational" programs are highly controversial.

Some corporate leaders admit unrestricted support for Planned Parenthood because they ascribe to the Planned Parenthood philosophy. This latter group represents an entrenched political ideology. Corporate leaders often claim they have not supported Planned Parenthood for a year or more. They refuse, however, to say the corporation will not be supporting Planned Parenthood in the future.

Some corporate leaders claim they are no longer supporting Planned Parenthood. If the corporate leader will not say the company will not donate to Planned Parenthood in the future, the company remains on this list until the corporation has not donated to Planned Parenthood for five years. This statement is required to prevent corporations from donating five times as much money every five years and saying, for four years, that the company is not supporting Planned Parenthood. Therefore, do not be surprised if a corporation responds that it is no longer supporting Planned Parenthood.

Corporate leaders need to understand that Planned Parenthood is one of the most controversial organizations in North America and no funds should go to it. They need to know it is bad business to donate to such a group. Planned Parenthood's programs are anti-family and anti-child. They serve to disrupt the parent-child relationship. Planned Parenthood's advocacy of abortion is of serious concern, even if corporate dollars are not directly supporting abortions.

Pro-life advocates are encouraged to write to corporate leaders and inform them of their displeasure. (Send a copy or separate letter to the person responsible for the corporate giving program for each corporation as well.) Pro-life advocates are also encouraged to educate themselves as to which products and services are offered by these corporations and keep this in mind when making purchases. Pro-life advocates should consider the moral implications of patronizing corporations that are using corporate profits to support America's number one abortion provider and abortion-rights advocate. The Christian Action Council has announced an official boycott of corporations supporting Planned Parenthood.

Pro-life advocates are encouraged to write to each company every month or two so the number of letters will not eventually drop off. Please be kind, respectful and brief in your letters.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

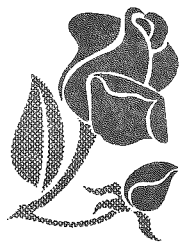
This month Right to Life - Lifespan requests that you direct your letters to the H. J. Heinz Corporation.

H. J. HEINZ — Products include: ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, horseradish sauce, tartar sauce, Homestyle gravy, salad dressing, beans, juice, cereal, sweet relish, barbecue sauce, croutons, Heinz 57 steak sauce, baby food, Near East Rice Pilaf mix, Chico San Rice Cakes, Olivine products, Ore-Ida potato products, Weight Watchers products, Shady Maple Farms syrup, soups (Hy-Vee, Hy Top, Food Club), dog food (Skippy & Meaty Bone dog biscuits), cat food (Amore and Nine Lives), Starkist tuna, Foodways National products, Hubinger Company products, W. P. Foods products, Pro Bakers Ltd. products, Pro Pastries Ltd., products, The Fitness Institute, Cardio-Fitness Corporation, assorted canned and processed foods and food preparations.

Write to: Mr. Anthony J. F. O'Reilly, Chairman, President & CEO, H. J. Heinz Company, P. O. Box 57, Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0057. (Please send copy or separate letter to Ms. Loretta M. Oken, Administrator, H. J. Heinz Company Foundation, at the same address.) Telephone: (412) 456-5700 or (412) 456-5772.

All of the above information is reprinted with permission, from the Christian Action Council *Brief on Public Policy*, "Corporate Supporters of Planned Parenthood."

For a complete list of Planned Parenthood corporate sponsors, call your local Lifespan office.



Chapter

oakland

Office hours

M, T, Th, F 10 - 3

Diane Fagelman, Chairman
Clare Schneider, Secretary

Senate district 16

Vote for the prolife candidates in the Primary election, May 29, to fill the Michigan Senate seat vacated by Doug Cruce. The 16th District is composed of Berkley, Birmingham, Clawson, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak and Troy. Call the office for more information.

Summer fairs & festivals

Do you have a fair scheduled in your city this summer? Let us know in the office so we can participate to educate the public on the Right to Life!

Sidewalk sale

Sheltering Arms Adult Day Center is having a Sidewalk Sale on Thursday and Friday, June 6 and 7, from 9 AM to 3 PM. The sale will be held at 1658 E. Lincoln in Birmingham, 3 blocks east of Woodward, at the corner of Lincoln and Taunton.

Members updated

Our final membership mailing is done. If you received duplicate mailings, give

one to a friend or neighbor who might like to join Right to Life - Lifespan of Oakland County. We will be contacting every member during the summer ahead in order to streamline our current membership list and learn of your needs and concerns. Please be kind to your caller.

Commemorative book

Thank you to all the prolife advertisers who placed ads in our 1991 Commemorative Book. We encourage our members to support these prolife businesses.

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

wayne west

Office hours

M-F 9-4

Pat Holscher, Chairman
Linda Kourmoian, Ofc. Mgr.

Television alerts

Last month, we were able to send 20 people to Channel 50's "Straight Talk" when Senator Robert Geake was one of the panelists opposing Dr. Jack Kervorkian, inventor of the "suicide machine."

Also, 30 of our members appeared on Channel 7's Kelly & Company on a program dealing with the new Parental Consent law.

However, it took approximately 135 phone calls to reach 50 people who were able to attend these two shows on short notice. It would be so much easier if we knew exactly who was available and would like to attend TV programs. When

in a TV audience, you will not be called upon unless you raise your hand, and remember every seat occupied by a prolifer is one less for a pro-abortion.

If you are available to attend one of the TV talk shows when abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide or any of the Life issues is the topic, please call 422-6230. Also, please notify us when such a program is going to air. (We have the video from Kelly & Company in the office if you'd like to borrow it.)

Lansing car pools

Along these same lines, we need carpools going to Lansing for important Committee Hearings or when a vote is expected on the floor of the Senate or House. It's imperative that proliferers be visible at all times. Pro-abortion legislators must know that we are getting stronger and stronger.

Recently, Senator Jack Welborn contacted our office regarding the Senate Committee Hearing on Informed Consent. Through Lifespan's efforts, approximately 10 women were allowed to testify in favor of Informed Consent,

and many more written testimonies were accepted from women who were unable to testify.

Bowling for LIFE

It's not too early to start thinking about taking part in our Annual Bowling FUNdraiser which will be in July. Watch your mail for further details.

Roses, roses, roses!

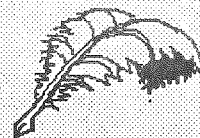
Thanks to each and every one of you who tagged flowers, counted, wrapped, picked-up, delivered, sold and bought our beautiful silk roses.

Fundraisers such as the rose sale enable us to keep current with prolife materials. If you would like to see us purchase any particular videos or special books for our office library, please let us know.

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

News

From the President's desk



I was blessed to witness the birth of my grandson, Jayson Michael, on April 27th. Jayson weighed 7 lbs., 9 oz. and was 21-1/4 inches long. Mother and baby are doing fine. Although both mother and grandmother are a little tired. In just three weeks he has turned our lives upside down. We can barely walk through the house without tripping over a swing, stroller, or diaper bag. We wash four dozen diapers every other day. He won't go to sleep now unless he's being held. He likes the vacuum cleaner so much, we made a tape of it. At first, he could tell the difference — is it live or is it Memorex?

I'm attempting to write this while I'm holding him. It's almost midnight — Jayson's wide awake and has the hiccups. He wants my undivided attention.

Jayson is the joy of our lives. I can't imagine life without him now and wouldn't want to try. Yet, he is a constant reminder of what might have been, if my daughter had not been prolife, if she had not made the right "choice."

There were 36,183 children killed by abortions in Michigan in 1990. It was 36,183 too many. I weep for all the Jayson's and Jessica's who had NO choice. I weep for their mothers who thought they had no OTHER choice because they were not told the truth.

Please talk to your co-workers, your friends, your children about abortion. The life you save may be your grandchild.

Office hours

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

God bless you, Janice

It is with mixed emotions that we say good-bye to Janice DeMaggio. She joined the Board of Lifespan Detroit Chapter about a year ago and has been a wonderful, energetic addition. She was with us in the Washington, D.C. and downtown Detroit rallies. Her writing and sign making talents were a big help.

However, we feel a great deal of pride, also, in

knowing that Janice has decided to join the new order of nuns being established by Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York. June 1, she will join the Sisters of Life, a contemplative and active order, dedicated to praying, teaching, writing and working in clinics promoting the cause of human life and fighting the anti-life philosophy making such alarming inroads in American culture. God go with you, Janice. We will miss you, but we know you are answering a call to a more intense, committed life to the prolife cause. Our love, gratitude and prayers go with you. We know our work here will be more fruitful because of you — we knew you first!

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

Office hours

M, W, Th 9:30-2:30
T, F Closed
Marge Bradley, Ofc. Mgr.

County and State Fairs

Every August, Right to Life - Lifespan has educational booths at the Wayne County Fair in Belleville and the Michigan State Fair in Detroit. These booths present tremendous opportunities to spread the prolife message to thousands of people. It is particularly rewarding when parents stop and explain the fetal models to their children.

Would you please consider volunteering a few hours to work at one of the fairs?

If you are a new volunteer, we will assign you to a shift

with an experienced worker. Also, your admission is paid to the fair.

The Wayne County Fair is August 6 - 10. The Michigan State Fair is from August 23 through September 2.

Please call our office at 374-5111 or our Livonia office at 422-6230 for more information or to volunteer. Do it. Do it, now, for the children.

Resources available

We have fetal models, videos, books, and pamphlets for use free of charge by students or others interested in prolife issues. Let us know if your church or organization would like a prolife speaker or educational booth. We have many excellent speakers, including doctors and nurses, available to talk on various prolife subjects. Call the office, 374-5111, for information.

Downriver Chapter
21649 Goddard Rd., #125B
Taylor, MI 48180-4247
(313) 374-5111

detroit

downriver



Legislative

MICHIGAN NEWS

Addresses

President

President George Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Senators

The Honorable (first and last name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (last name):

Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman
(last name):

Governor

The Honorable John Engler
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Engler:

State Senator or Representative

The Honorable (full name)
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Senator (last name):
or

Dear Representative (last name):

Informed Consent

The Informed Consent bill (SB 141) was approved on a 5-1 vote by the Senate Family Law, Criminal Law and Corrections Committee on May 7th. The Committee rejected a weaker alternative version. However, some modifications were made to the original language to reduce the possibility of a court challenge.

Informed Consent will require a 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 will be required to inform the patient that 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 will 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.

The bill now goes to the full Senate for a vote.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write or call your state legislators urging them to support Informed Consent legislation (SB 141) and send us a copy of any response you receive.

Assisted Suicide Ban

Senate Bill 32 to ban assisting in suicides passed the Senate 26-8 in March and was sent to the House Judiciary Committee. However, no action has been taken by the Judiciary Committee because the Chairman, Perry Bullard of Ann Arbor, has publicly criticized the legislation and is purposely stalling hearings. We understand the full House will support the bill if it ever passes out of the committee.

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.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please write or call your state representative and ask him/her to pressure the House Judiciary Committee members to move on SB 32.

Lifespan Legislative Breakfast

Watch future newsletters and your mail for information about our upcoming legislative breakfast. This will be your opportunity to talk to your legislator in person to discuss prolife issues. If you would like to help with the organization of the breakfast, please call the Wayne West office at 422-6230.



Update

NATIONAL NEWS

Federally Funded Clinics

Thousands of clinics receive federal tax dollars to provide "family planning" services under the \$144 million "Title 10" program.

Right to Life - Lifespan takes no position on contraception. However, Title 10-funded clinics also counsel and refer for *abortions*, which are often performed by the same organizations.

Currently, many Title 10 clinics are operated by the affiliate network of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), which is also the nation's biggest chain of abortion mills. PPFA-affiliated clinics perform over 111,000 abortions a year, and refer for an additional 100,000-plus abortions. Planned Parenthood now argues that "reproductive rights are indivisible," and claims that it would be "medical malpractice" if they do not counsel and refer for abortion in these federally funded clinics! Clearly, it would be better for federal family planning funds to go to other health agencies that do not share Planned Parenthood's rigid commitment to the promotion of abortion as a method of birth control.

The Reagan and Bush Administrations have issued pro-life regulations that would require programs that receive Title 10 funds to stop promoting abortion as a method of birth control. The Supreme Court will soon decide whether these pro-life regulations will be allowed to go into effect.

The Bush Administration's regulations, prohibiting counseling and referral for abortion in federally funded clinics, erect a "wall of separation" between abortion and contraception. This is consistent with the original intention of the Title 10 program, which was created by Congress in 1970 to promote contraception, not abortion.

The federal government shouldn't be using our tax dollars to promote abortion as a method of family planning. Most Americans oppose abortion being used as a method of birth control.

Pro-abortion Congressman Henry Waxman (D-Ca.) will soon introduce a bill to re-write the Title 10 law to *nullify* the pro-life regulations. **This bill must be defeated.**

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Federally funded clinics are engaged in an organized campaign to flood Congress with mail opposing the Bush Administration's pro-life Title 10 regulations. All members of Congress must hear from pro-life constituents in support of the Bush Administration regulations that prohibit counseling for abortion as a family-planning "option" at federally funded clinics.

from National Right to Life News, April 23, 1991

Don't be Fooled! Some Environmental Groups Lobby for Abortion

It is noteworthy that some major environmental organizations, including the National Wildlife Federation, last year endorsed legislative proposals by pro-abortion leaders Congressman Atkins (D-Mass.) and Senator Wirth (D-Co.) to overturn the Mexico City Policy. A future edition of *NRL News* will contain a detailed update on the pro-abortion lobbying activities by certain environmental organizations, including details on the ways in which some such organizations attempt to mislead their own members regarding their activities.

NRLC has encouraged environmentally minded pro-lifers to withhold financial support from organizations that lobby against the Mexico City Policy, including the National Wildlife Federation, the National Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth, the National Resources Defense Council, Population-Environment Balance, the Sierra Club, and Worldwatch Institute.

Where desired, such contributions could be re-directed to environmental organizations that have not taken a position for or against the Mexico City Policy or other pro-life policies, such as The Conservation Foundation, the Environmental Defense Fund, Greenpeace, the National Parks and Conservation Association, Trout Unlimited, and the World Wildlife Fund.

Extensive documentation on the pro-abortion lobbying of the National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and certain other groups is available upon request from the NRLC Federal Legislative Office, 419-Seventh Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D. C. 20004, (202) 626-8820.

Mother of the Year

continued from page 1

provided for every aspect of my father's life.

Even in the last few years when it became extremely difficult to lift him and provide for all of his needs, it was never a consideration for him to go to a nursing home. They just could not provide the love with the care that she could in the home that they had shared so much of their married life.

It has been almost one year since my father was relieved of his suffering by going to his eternal reward. Within just a few months of my father's death my mother was already doing volunteer driving for the Cancer Society and delivering meals-on-wheels to shut-ins. At the age of 70, she has found yet another way of nurturing life.

The name mother means to give life, in very real and practical ways. My mother does this in her attitude and actions to this very day. As her oldest child I can say she has always managed to make time for her children — to be there for each one of us. She is an excellent listener. She works very hard at trying to understand from the other's point of view.

It is obvious that this nurturing attitude has spilled over to her grandchildren. These teen-age and young adult grandchildren spend their free time driving across town to visit their grandmother with their friends, rather than the many options available to the young today. There is no generation gap for this woman.

My mother has proven that it is not the rough situations in life which necessarily break a person — it is rather their attitude and response to those situations. My mother's strong faith in God and that He will give the strength necessary to deal with life's crosses, enabled her for over 30 years to compassionately care for her child and husband suffering from terminal illnesses while raising five other children. She has never failed to be cheerful, she never complains, and we have never heard her ask for anything for herself. We could not have had a better model of Christian virtue than Betty Wasner has been for us.

Our Mother of the Year, Elizabeth (Betty) Wasner, of Lincoln Park, was an honored guest at our Mother's Day Dinner on Tuesday, May 7, at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills. She was awarded a plaque, a dozen roses and a \$100 gift certificate to J. C. Penney's. Betty was accompanied at the dinner by her children, Mary Stehno, Peg Lebioda, Joan Hardley, Ann Wasner, John Wasner and daughter-in-law, Kathy Wasner.

We wish we had space in this Newsletter to publish all of the letters we received. Each mother and, in one case, a father were certainly deserving.

We also want to thank the judges who had the difficult job of choosing the winner. The judges were: Pam Ferris, Detroit Chapter; Debby Murphy, Downriver Chapter; Beverly Keast, Oakland County Chapter; and Katie Hesch, Wayne County West Chapter.

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

Nominees

Sharon Affholter
Marlyn Jean Assemany
Andrea Baier
William Bare, Jr.
Elizabeth Beverly
Mary Boyer
Olivia Daniels
Mary Ann Doyle
Theresa Drouillard
Diana Flower

Rita Hyatt
Anna Nabozny
Theresa O'Neil
Connie Quattlander
Rebekah Reynolds
Enedina Saenz
Bridget Schultz
Patricia Ann Sonntag
Stephanie Toth
Paula Venson
Marlene Rose Vincent

Mildred Warner
Maureen Webster
Pearl Williams

Nominated By

Brianne Affholter
Linda Born
Kathy Garcia
Sharon Bare
Joyce Carter
Kelly Robertson and LaJuana Paige
Lawanda Daniels
Ann K. Doyle
Nancy Joanis
David, Donald, Darrel, Denny,
Danny & Kathy Ann Flower
Karrie Hyatt
Rose Sickle
Sr. Marie Lenore Murphy
Kathie Carpentieri
Margaret Moshier
Nielida Saenz
Anne M. Schultz
Kristen LaClair
Edmund Starrett
Tomika Venson
Laura Miller, Sally Range and
Robert Vincent
Rose Poma
Angelina Rivera
Delisa Dean



Mother's Day Dinner

by Diane Fagleman
Oakland County Chapter Chairman
Dinner Committee Chairman

The recent Mother's Day Dinner was an outstanding success. Over 250 proliferers gathered at Vladimir's to enjoy a delicious dinner and honor the Mother of the Year for 1991. Congratulations to Betty Wasner of Lincoln Park whose tribute by her daughter, Mary Stehno, is an inspiration to all of us.

The highlight of the evening was the guest speaker, Lt. Governor Connie Binsfeld whose words of encouragement and gratitude for the untiring efforts of the prolife workers was heartwarming. A tremendous speaker, she related her involvement in our movement covering the accomplishments in the past and hopes for more success in the future. Her warnings of present trends and predictions in the legislature spur us on to double our efforts to protect and defend unborn children and the rights of the elderly.

Keeping the evening program running smoothly was our great Master of Ceremonies, Jim Ryan. His sparkling wit guaranteed an enjoyable evening of fun and friendship.

We were blessed with the prayers of our invocation and benediction speakers, Rev. Rickford Parker and Rev. Michael Green.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the Dinner Committee. Our heartfelt thanks go to Kay Brown, Pat Burtka, Bev Thewes, Diane Trombley, Margaret Joyce, Cinda Holloway, Sue Stevens, Phyllis Sullivan, Martha Short and Joe Johnson. Have you seen the Commemorative booklet? A difficult job well done! Thanks also goes to Anne Riley who provided the dinner music and Jerry Pernak who took these great pictures.



Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Membership Form

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

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_____ Other \$ _____

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Phone _____

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Pro-Life Professor Vs. Pro-Choice Union

by Nat Hentoff

In 1984, Robert Patrick Roesser, a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Detroit — which is affiliated with the Society of Jesus — was fired.

He had not been a strident advocate of the ordination of women, nor had he been a merciless critic of the American hierarchy or of the Jesuits themselves.

Roesser was discharged because he had refused to pay his compulsory agency fees (the equivalent of union dues) to the University of Detroit Professors Union, which is part of the National Education Association. (Most of the fees collected by the local union are passed on to the Michigan NEA and the national office.)

IT'S NOT THAT Roesser is opposed to unions. What led him to disassociate himself from the NEA was his discovery that the national NEA and the Michigan Education Association were campaigning for abortion rights.

Accordingly, Roesser withdrew his authorization for the payroll deduction because, he said, his Catholic religious beliefs prevent him from financially supporting any organization that promotes abortion.

However, Roesser offered to pay the entire fee to charity. Or he would pay that portion of the fee that goes solely to the local union, and then the rest to charity. (The local University of Detroit Professors Union has taken no position on abortion.)

The NEA rejected Roesser's offer and moved that the difficult professor be fired. The university asked the NEA to make its own compromise offer. OK, said the NEA, we will reduce the fee by an amount proportionate to that percentage of our budget that is even remotely connected with support for the causes to which Roesser objects. He turned down the compromise.

What led him to disassociate himself from the NEA was his discovery that the national NEA and the Michigan Education Association were campaigning for abortion rights.

BY NOW ROESSER had decided there was no way he could, in conscience, associate with the national or state union.

"There is just no dealing with something that is inherently wrong," he said. "I must consider my job expendable."

And so it turned out to be. The university, by its agreement with the union, fired Professor Roesser. He filed a complaint against the university and the union with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The EEOC thought the firing was a violation of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act,

which prohibits employees from being discharged because of sincerely held religious beliefs. The EEOC went into federal court, along with the determined professor.

The Federal District Court did not agree with the EEOC. Title VII, the court pointed out, entitles employees only to a reasonable accommodation of their religious beliefs. That right is not absolute. The NEA's offer to Roesser was "a reasonable accommodation" under the law, the district court said. After all, these accommodations are not intended to cause "undue hardship" to those being sued under Title VII.

THE 6TH CIRCUIT COURT of Appeals has now ruled, however, that something has been completely left out of the lower court decision. Most of these kinds of cases under Title VII are based on a refusal to make the required contribution of dues or fees to the union. But Roesser's is one of those relatively rare court actions in which the complainant says his religious belief won't even allow him to associate with the state and national union.

The 6th Circuit Court said that since this is both an "association" as well as a "contribution" case, the courts have a responsibility to deal with the former challenge, too.

Therefore, the 6th Circuit Court decided that the lower court was wrong in granting summary judgment to the

See Pro-Life Professor, page 4

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