

Visit Lifespan's County &
State Fair Booths

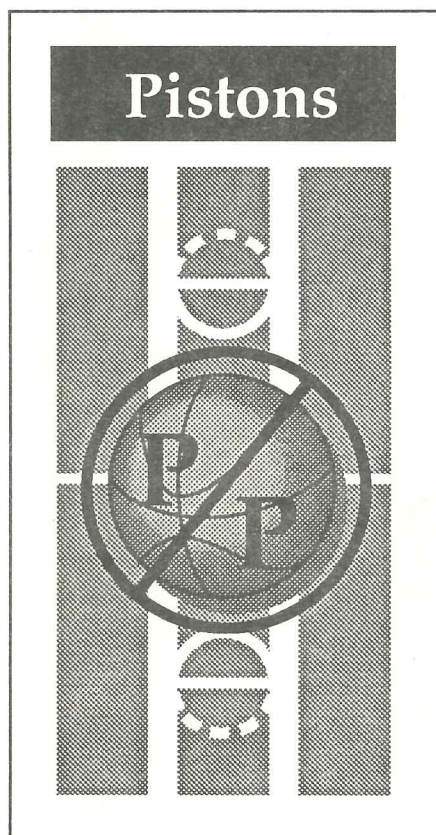
Lifespan *news*

Volume 13 Number 5

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

July, August 1991

Bad Boys Lose Twice



Most people know that the Pistons lost in the playoffs with the Chicago Bulls, but most people don't know that they lost again when they contributed to Planned Parenthood.

According to a *Detroit News* article, dated May 22, 1991, the Pistons-Palace Foundation contributed \$5,000 to the Wayne County Planned Parenthood League. The Pistons-Palace Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the team and the arena.

Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest promoter and provider of abortions, and this donation places the Pistons and the Palace in the position of being a supporter of an organization that was responsible for a total of 211,437 abortions in 1988.

That year, Planned Parenthood (PP) affiliates performed 111,189 abortions. PP affiliates that do not perform abortions refer their clients to other abortion facilities. In 1988 another 100,248 women were referred for abortions (PPFA 1989 Service Report, p. 14). An article in *Time* magazine on December 11, 1989 described PP as "the premier institution performing abortions in the country."

Prolifers must consider the moral implications of patronizing a basketball team and an arena that is using profits to support in any way America's number one abortion provider and abortion-rights advocate.

Right to Life - Lifespan has written to Rex Nelson, head of the Pistons-Palace Foundation, Bill Davidson, owner of the Pistons, Isiah Thomas and Bill Laimbeer. As of publication date, we have not had any response to our letters.

We request that you also write to the above-named individuals. Direct your letters to: Pistons-Palace Foundation, 2 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326 or call The Palace at 313-377-8200.

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Help the handicapped

Our Lady of Providence Home for handicapped girls is collecting labels from Campbell Soup products. They will redeem the labels for a much needed bus. The labels may be dropped off at any of our offices or mailed directly to Our Lady of Providence Home, Attn: Kate and Mary, 16115 Beck, Northville 48167.

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. Call your local chapter office for more information or to volunteer. Do it. Do it, now, for the children.

Baptists for Life

Baptists for Life is sponsoring a post-abortion ministry training seminar to be held August 16 and 17, 1991 in Grand Rapids. Jim and Patti Goodoien of Open Arms (Abortion Related Ministries) will be the trainers. The cost for this training

will be \$25.00 per person and will include a training manual (\$10.00 value). For more information, call 616-669-5040.

Donate your appetite!

Thanks to all of you, our current collection of coupons totals approximately 29,000 points. We are saving for a combination TV/VCR for use in showing videos at County and State Fairs, other educational booths, meetings, etc.

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 us at 21649 Goddard, #125B, Taylor 48180. Thank you so much!

Wee Care

We are looking for a coordinator for our new program, Wee Care, which will provide material help such as diapers and baby food to mothers and babies in need. We are also looking for someone who can provide storage space for baby items. Please call your local Lifespan office for more information.

Christian Activist Network Meeting

A Community Impact Regional Meeting, sponsored by the Christian Activist Network, will be held Thursday, July 11, from 7-9 p.m. The meeting, at Highland Park Baptist Church in Southfield, will feature Eddie Edwards of Joy of Jesus. For more information, call 293-1616.



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, from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.** 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 Metro Detroit **LIFE CHAIN** will take place along Woodward Avenue, stretching from McNichols (6 Mile Road) in Detroit to 13 Mile Road in Royal Oak. Groups and individuals will be assigned specific sections of Woodward to man on the day of the **CHAIN**. 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. Last year's **LIFE CHAIN** certainly surpassed our expectations. But **LIFE CHAIN 1991** needs to be bigger and better yet. This can only happen with God's blessing and your help. Work has already started. We urge you to encourage participation by your church or group. For more information and/or to be placed on our **LIFE CHAIN** mailing list, please call 374-5111.

The case against assisted suicide

*If a patient dies,
how do we
determine whether
he gave consent —
whether he was
“assisted” into the
great beyond or
shoved unwillingly
onto the other side?
Dead men tell no
tales . . .*

By Ron Seigel

The recent cases of Jack Kevorkian, acquitted of first-degree murder for allowing a woman to use his “suicide machine,” and Bertram Harper, acquitted of a murder charge for suffocating his terminally ill wife, suggest that Michigan has no clear law against “helping” others to kill themselves.

The Michigan Senate tried to correct the situation by passing such a law, but, as of now, it remains stalled in the state House.

One reason for this is the political climate in Lansing. In some circles, there seems more concern about protecting the lives of convicted murderers than the lives of those with handicaps.

A friend of mine, a sincere official I’ll call state Sen. Q, recently spoke with me about capital punishment.

“They’re starting by legalizing executions for those who kill police,” he cried. “It’s an opening wedge.”

I noted the same thing was happening to those with handicaps. The drive to legalize “assisted suicide” was opening the way to active killing.

The senator’s expression changed from indignation to wistfulness.

“Well, after all,” he said, “how would you feel if one of your relatives was in a terminal state?”

This is one example of a glaring double standard among liberals regarding the lives of those with handicaps. Part of the reason, of course, is that people like Sen. Q automatically assume that “assisted suicide” would be limited to “hopeless cases.”

Actually, medical science is not infallible enough to judge anyone as totally without hope. Patients keep making spontaneous recoveries that leave doctors baffled.

Furthermore, Dr. Jack Kevorkian, the man fighting for “assisted suicide,” has publicly declared that he wanted assisted suicide available for those whose lives were not “worth living,”

who might very well have a lifetime left. If this happens, what would prevent courts from accepting suicides for anyone, whether the senior citizen in intensive care, the young woman demoralized about being confined to a wheelchair, a lovelorn 18-year-old convinced that he cannot live without his former girlfriend. . . you or me?

This doctrine appeals to our belief in freedom of choice. Perhaps it would make sense, if there were firm assurances that no patients would die without proof of their wishes beyond a reasonable doubt — the same criteria of proof required before a murder suspect can be declared guilty and executed in a capital punishment state.

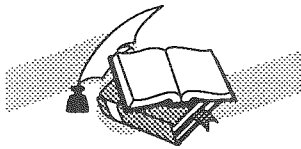
Yet even in Missouri, which has the strongest protection in the country with its “clear and convincing proof” standard, a patient named Nancy Cruzan lost her food and water because of hearsay evidence of two co-workers about remarks she allegedly made in hypothetical discussions three years before her accident. It is always possible a person could change her mind about a given issue in three years.

In addition, if a patient dies, how do we determine whether he gave consent — whether he was “assisted” into the great beyond or shoved unwillingly onto the other side? Dead men tell no tales and the principle of freedom of choice could cover up a multitude of abuses.

Those who do not want the sick or handicapped around — relatives who do not wish to care for them, heirs who want their money, nursing home or hospital staff with prejudices — would have a field day.

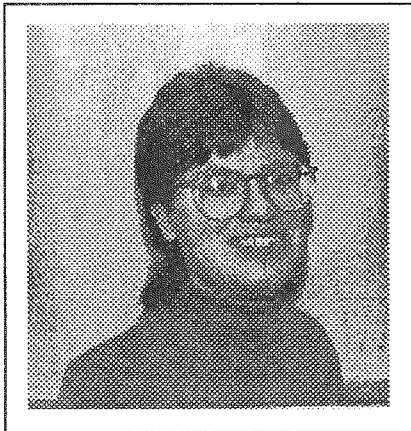
Such prejudices can create environmental conditions that weaken freedom of choice. Rejection by loved ones, stereotypes and derogatory comments in the media, the failure of many liberals and civil rights organizations to challenge such remarks (the way they

Continued on page 11



Book Review

By Janice DeMaggio



52 Simple Things You Can Do to be Pro-Life, by Anne Pierson and Carol Risser. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1990. 96 pp.

This is a great book to hand to friends and family who express support for the prolife cause but already feel burdened by other commitments and are afraid of getting sucked into a vortex of involvement. The authors outline practical, low-cost, low-time suggestions for aiding the prolife movement.

Each idea provides a description, the amount of time, the cost and references for further information in the helpful appendices of local and national resources (which are complete with addresses and phone numbers for ease of making contact). Some suggestions take a minute and cost little or nothing; others might involve several hours a month.

The book is set up so readers can browse for ideas that appeal to them (ranging from "Pray for a prolife ministry" to "Speak out for chastity" to "Collect food for a prolife housing ministry" to "Help your child with school and book reports" to "Remember a Senior Citizen.")

For readers who get their feet wet with these suggestions and then decide

that yes, indeed, the prolife movement needs a bigger contribution of their time and talents, an additional section describes "things requiring more involvement."

52 Simple Things You Can Do to be Pro-Life is a cheerful alternative to nagging a friend into shouldering prolife responsibilities.

Editor's note: Janice DeMaggio, former board member of the Detroit Chapter of Lifespan, has just recently joined a brand-new order of nuns, formed by John Cardinal O'Connor of New York, specifically tasked with working and praying for the prolife cause. We invite you to write to her at: Sisters of Life, Marycrest, P. O. Box 796, Monroe, NY 10950. She welcomes your letters.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Right to Life:

One common disillusionment and misconception of the general public in re the terminology of life is the superficial use of the word "fetus." It seems to me that this word is used to downplay the significance of human life in the very early stages of development. But, really, if one knows the true meaning and/or definition of the word fetus, one would know that it means "young one." To help more people to become aware of this fact we should start stating "young one" every time someone uses the word "fetus." This use of the word "fetus" is a deceptive ploy by those who wish to demean human life. Also, explaining the simple definition of abortion should cause a great amount of reflection somewhere and sometime for all of us. Abort means to halt, to cut short and/or to stop.

Another area of concern that seems to be omitted in the killing of "young ones" (fetuses) is the area of self-abasement and the subtle plot in the demeaning of the female species of the human race. More or less, abortion means that one is not whole. That one is

a failure. That one is incapable of being a real woman. The medical, the biological and scientific role that a woman is privileged to possess is the role of being a co-creator of human life. No one! No one else has that great privilege. Abortion takes away this privilege. Abortion takes away the most important satisfaction any woman can experience and attain — giving birth to new life, giving birth to new hope and giving birth to new love. For any life is a gift of love!

In fact, each of us should leap for joy and celebrate every time a woman becomes pregnant because of the anticipation of this new life, this new hope, this new joy and this new love that has been bestowed on us by God, Our Father. It matters not how this new life was conceived, nor does it matter what worldly quality and or intelligence this new life possesses. We owe it to ourselves and we must maintain the reverence and awe associated with human life at all costs and all inconveniences.

In reality, Planned Parenthood demeans the magnificent attribute all women possess. All the shortminded arguments (that those who wish to demean womanhood perpetuate) are only ploys to clutter the real issue of life. Rape, incest, poverty, overpopulation, unmarried, deformity, disease, health and so on are just "litter" so as to confuse, disillusion and separate. The real issue is womanhood and the co-creation of life.

Bernard A. Render
Union Lake

Lifespan News

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President/Publisher Ann S. Thomas
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Taylor, MI 48180-4247
(313) 374-5111



Words and their meanings

By Beverly Ann Thewes, RN

In the fall of 1989, I attended a series of debates on the issue of abortion. During the debate, a proabortion doctor insisted that there was no abortion after 20 weeks. When he was challenged on this point by proliferers, he said that after 20 weeks, it was not abortion. When asked what it was, he said, "feticide."

This is an example of the way in which proabortionists equivocate. (Equivocate — "to express one's opinions equivocally or in terms which admit of different senses, in order to deceive or mislead: to be purposely ambiguous; to hedge." *Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary*.) The doctor had not said there was no killing. He had only said that it was not abortion after 20 weeks. According to *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica*, abortion is defined as "the expulsion of a fetus from the uterus before it has reached the stage of viability (in human beings, usually about the 20th week of gestation)". This is the common definition of abortion and why the doctor could insist that there was no abortion after 20 weeks.

However, if this were the only definition of abortion, it would mean that the Supreme Court Justices used incorrect terminology when they used the term "abortion" in rendering their decisions for that period of pregnancy after the 20th week. But the Justices use *Black's Law Dictionary* in defining terms. According to this legal dictionary, abortion is defined as, "The knowing destruction of the life of an unborn child or the intentional expulsion or removal of an unborn child from the womb other than for the principal purpose of producing a live birth or removing a dead fetus."

The Supreme Court Justices may have used correct terminology in their decision, but they were being disingenuous ("Syn.-unfair, uncandid, insincere, crafty, sly, cunning." *Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary*.) when they said that they did not know

when human life begins. They may not know, but their dictionary does. According to *Black's Law Dictionary*, a child is defined as, "Progeny; offspring of parentage. Unborn or recently born human being." This is not the only entry that proves the Supreme Court Justices were being less than honest when they rendered their decision. Under the above definition of "child" is the subheading "Rights of unborn child." Under this subheading is the following: "Medical authority has recognized long since that a child is in existence (i.e., alive) [parenthesis theirs] from the moment of conception, and for many purposes its existence is recognized by the law. The criminal law regards it as a separate entity, and the law of property considers it in being for all purposes which are to its benefit, such as taking by will or descent."

**Corporations,
because they are
persons,
have more rights
than the
unborn child.
This is
materialism
at its worst.**

Black's Law Dictionary continues on to demonstrate the incompetency of the legal profession by stating that the child in utero has rights but can't collect on those rights unless he is born alive. This is what it says: "After its birth, it has been held that it may maintain a statutory action for the wrongful death of the parent. In addition, the child, if he is born alive, is permitted to maintain an action for the consequences of prenatal injuries, and if he dies of such injuries after birth an action will lie for his wrongful death. Many states have allowed recovery even though the injury occurred during the early weeks of

pregnancy, when the child was neither viable nor quick". If the child in utero is a human being as the definition states, then that child should have all the rights of a human being.

But proabortionists will say that the unborn child (*Black's Law Dictionary's* definition of "fetus" is, "An unborn child") is not a person. An Episcopal bishop at the debate I attended said that the fetus did not have "personhood." When asked to define that term, he could not define it. Nor could the term be found in *Black's Law Dictionary*. However, the term "person" is found and is defined thusly, "In general usage, a human being (i.e., natural person) [parenthesis theirs], though by statute term may include a firm, labor organizations, partnerships, associations, corporations, legal representatives, trustees, trustees in bankruptcy, or receivers." This definition brings a question to mind, "Does a corporation have personhood?" Corporations, because they are persons, have more rights than the unborn child. This is materialism at its worst.

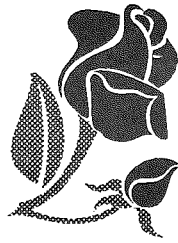
The unborn child is the smallest victim of abortion, but there are many others. Among those victims are the proabortionists themselves. To continue their support of abortion, proabortionists must close their minds and corrupt their own intellects through the use of deceit. They must harden their hearts to the pain they cause and ultimately destroy their own souls. Of all people, I think perhaps, proabortionists need our prayers the most.

Black, Henry C. *Black's Law Dictionary*. 5th ed. St. Paul: West Publishing, 1979.

McKechnie, Jean L., ed. *Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary*. 2nd ed.

The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia. 15th ed. vol. 1.

Beverly Ann Thewes is a Registered Nurse, mother of 6 children and a member of the Oakland County Chapter of Right to Life - Lifespan.



Chapter

detroit

Office hours

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

Thanks!

Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make our Mother's Day Rose Sale a success. This year three churches purchased roses; the pastors presented each lady of the parish with a rose. So as not to slight the men, we were asked if we could do something for them. We prepared boutonnieres and on Father's Day every man in the parish received one. Perhaps other parishes would like to do this next year. Call us, 874-0432.

Teens for Life

The Detroit Chapter sponsored two teenagers to accompany us to the National Right to Life Convention in Atlanta. We strongly feel that the young people in America must be reached with the prolife message.

The effects of Planned Parenthood, the media and our public education system will make the future generation the most pro-abortion generation in history if all "their" propaganda goes unchallenged. We must get out a positive, prolife message. Without that message, the abortion generation will overturn any legislation that we try to pass and the future will be very bleak for the unborn child, the handicapped, the elderly and those most defenseless in our society.

The success of Teens for Life lies in the ability of its members to talk to their peers on a one-to-one basis, to get out the prolife message and offer their

friends in crisis the life-giving choices and peer support they desperately need.

This fall we will be forming a Teens for Life group at Regina High School which is an all girl school of over 800 students. We hope to expand our group to eventually include a public high school and two other Christian high schools in the immediate area.

Look for future reports on our progress in upcoming issues of *Lifespan News*, and please pray for our continuing efforts to reach the teens with our prolife message.

If you would be interested in helping with this project and/or forming a Teens for Life at your own local high school, please call us.

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

oakland

Office hours

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

Help wanted

Volunteers for fairs and festivals. Your choice of locations. May cover Farmington, Davisburg, Novi, Taylor, Lapeer, Ypsilanti, Clawson, Troy, Romeo and Detroit. Will train to suit. No experience necessary. Everyone apply at office. Ask for Clare, 258-9760.

Volunteers needed

If the above ad does not appeal to you, we need help

in the office. Share your time and talent with us. There is so much prolife work to be done and not enough hands to cover it. Call the office for more information as soon as possible.

Suggestion box

Do you have any ideas for fairs and festivals near you? We are open to any and all suggestions. Perhaps your church or school is doing one this summer or fall! Let us know.

Extra newsletters

If you would like to have additional copies of this newsletter and/or future issues to distribute to your church, Sunday School, families, friends and neighbors, call us or stop by during office hours. The newsletter is an excellent educational tool. It is a great way to spread the prolife message to those who need to know the truth.

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 subject. Call the office, 258-9760, for information.

Educational Center for Life

The new prolife resource catalog is now available. It should be in every library, school and church. Call our office or ECL at 338-1910 for a copy.

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

News

downriver and wayne west

Office hours

M-F 9-4

Pat Holscher, Chairman
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

Special Election

Gerry H. Law (R) has resigned as the Michigan House Representative for the 36th District representing Plymouth, Northville and the north part of Canton. A special primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 6 and the general election will be on Tuesday, August 27. The last day to register to vote is July 8.

Right to Life - Lifespan is conducting a survey of all the candidates regarding the LIFE issues. There will not be a *Lifespan News* in August, but you may call 422-6230 to learn how each of the candidates responded to the identical questions.

Lifespan cannot endorse candidates, but we encourage you to become involved, get to know the candidates and work for those who share your concerns for your own family as well as for your community.

Crafts

We have fallen heir to many complete craft kits. If you'd like to work on these for a Lifespan craft show, call 422-6230 or come into the office early for the best selections.

Bowling for Life

Our 9th Annual Bowling for Life FUNdraiser will be on Sunday, July 28, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia. If you'd like to participate either by bowling or sponsoring a bowler, call our office for sponsor forms and list of prizes. This year, we have added prizes and increased their monetary value. Letters regarding this event have been sent to the church reps and to our members with full details. Come join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

Fairs and festivals

If your church or community is having a fair or festival, let us know if Lifespan can have an educational booth there. If not educational, then perhaps a craft booth. Please ask, the worst they can say is, "no."

Mrs. Des Neiges O'Neil

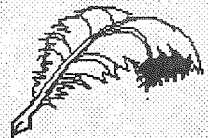
We were very sorry to learn of the recent death of a prolife champion, Mrs. Des Neiges O'Neil, of Allen Park. Mrs. O'Neil was a member and generous supporter of Right to Life - Lifespan for many years. We will miss the cheery notes she often sent us. We send our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

Downriver office

In order to be more efficient and cost effective, the Lifespan Board has reluctantly decided to close the Downriver office in Taylor. Downriver members will reconsolidate with the Wayne County, West Chapter effective July 1st.

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

From the President's desk



The calls have come from near and far. I live in Livonia, and Livonia has gotten its share of publicity across the U.S. in the last few weeks. My friends and family want to know if I've been picketing lately and if it was "my" prolife group in the news. The answer, of course, is no. Right to Life - Lifespan has had a policy against picketing as an organization since 1979.

Almost everyone I've talked to in this area has a very definite opinion of the picketing incident, mostly negative. But this isn't necessarily the feeling I've been getting from people in other places who aren't as close to the controversy. The proabortion news media has had a field day, but remember the reporting is from their point of view, as always. The truth is no amount of money could have purchased this publicity — good or bad.

Davy Crockett once said, "Be sure you're right, then go ahead." I hope those involved do feel so strongly about trying to stop the slaughter of the unborn that they were sure they were doing the right thing. Remember, one of the abortions was to be performed on a 14-year old child who was 23 weeks pregnant. Sometimes tragic events call for drastic measures.

I'm not about to judge the situation, that job belongs to God.

This will all blow over in a few weeks. In the meantime, the holocaust continues.



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 22-12 vote by the Senate on May 29th. The vote came after five hours of heated debate. All attempts to further modify the bill were defeated. Area Senators who voted for the bill include Carl, Dunaskiss, Geake, Honigman, DiNello, Dingel, Hart, Miller and O'Brien. Those who voted against were Faust, Faxon, Kelly and Vaughn. Please write to your Senator and express your pleasure or displeasure with his vote.

The bill has now been assigned to the Public Health Committee in the House. The members of this committee from metro Detroit are Representatives Bennane (Chairman), Rocca, Barns, Gire, Gubow, Hertel, Hunter, Leland, Palamara, Stallworth, Wozniak, Yokich and Jaye. It is up to the discretion of the Chairman as to when the hearings will be held. It is very important to contact the members of the committee, especially Rep. Bennane, and ask them for a speedy hearing and a "yes" vote.

Informed consent will require a 24-hr. 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 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.

According to Senator Jack Welborn, the chief sponsor of the bill, informed consent legislation does not impose

prolife morality on doctors or women. More than anything else, it is truth-in-marketing legislation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write or call your state representatives, especially those on the committee, urging them to support Informed Consent legislation (SB 141) and send us a copy of any response you receive.

If you are interested in testifying before the Public Health Committee, please let us know and we can arrange transportation to Lansing. Your testimony is crucial if you or someone you know has been the victim of an abortion and uninformed consent.

Assisted Suicide Ban

Senate Bill 32 to ban assisting in suicides passed the Senate in March and was sent to the House Judiciary Committee. **No action has been taken because the Chairman, Perry Bullard, is purposely stalling hearings.**

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 contact your state representative and ask him/her to pressure the Judiciary Committee members to move on SB 32.



Update



NATIONAL NEWS

Religious Freedom Restoration Act (Solarz-Biden Bill)

The so-called "Religious Freedom Restoration Act" (RFRA) authored by Rep. Steve Solarz (D-NY) and Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE) is supported by a variety of groups including the ACLU and the "Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights" (RCAR). RCAR exists to defend the "principle" that any restriction on abortion is interference with the "free exercise of religion." RCAR officially represents some of the major religious bodies in the United States, including the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the United Church of Christ, important agencies of the Episcopal Church, and most of the liberal and conservative Jewish bodies.

Under the bill, women would file lawsuits claiming abortions "motivated by religious belief." They would enter as evidence official statements already adopted by RCAR-member bodies, which explicitly say that abortion is not only permitted but is actually a **religious duty**. While these doctrinal positions are bizarre and shocking to many, the courts must accept a religious body's statement of its own doctrine **at face value**. And if a few women win such lawsuits, the states will give up trying to enforce the prolife laws.

The ACLU is currently using the "RCAR argument" in challenges to prolife laws in Guam and Michigan.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please urge your congressman to oppose the Solarz-Biden bill unless this simple amendment is added: "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to grant, secure or guarantee any right to abortion, access to abortion services, or funding of abortion."

Bush promises veto

President Bush, in a June 4th letter to congressional leaders, promised to veto "any legislation that weakens current law or regulations" on abortion. Please write to President Bush thanking him for his prolife commitment.

Action Alert

Washington, June 3 — A major prolife victory in the Supreme Court has set the stage for one of the most intense, and most important, abortion battles in Congress since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that legalized abortion. **Crucial votes will occur in both houses of Congress during June, with further votes likely in July.**

On its May 23 ruling in *Rust v. Sullivan*, the Supreme Court upheld the prolife regulations issued in 1988 to govern the \$144 million Title 10 family planning program. These regulations prohibit counseling and referral for abortion as a birth-control "option" in 4,000 government-funded clinics. (See *Lifespan News* May, June edition for more background information.)

Planned Parenthood Federation of America, National Abortion Rights Action League and other pro-abortion groups are mobilizing all of their resources in an all-out campaign to pressure Congress to nullify the prolife regulations. Planned Parenthood alone is reportedly spending \$5 million on advertizing and lobbying.

In order to counter Planned Parenthood's public relations blitz, prolife citizens must **immediately** contact their federal representatives. Urge your U.S. congressman and your two U. S. senators to **oppose** the Waxman-Chafee-Kennedy bills (HR 2611, S 323) which nullify the Bush Administration's prolife regulations prohibiting promotion of abortion in federally-funded clinics. Call your local Lifespan office for your representative's telephone number. Today.

National Right to Life Convention

By Diane Fagelman, RN
Chairman, Oakland County Chapter

The 1991 National Right to Life Convention was held in Atlanta, June 6-8. It brought together many of the most knowledgeable prolife leaders in the country. There was a cross section of new and old projects and ideas providing up-to-date materials.

Nine members of Right to Life-Lifespan attended and brought back much needed knowledge and a spiritual renewal to continue the fight for life. All chapters were represented. Detroit Chapter Chair, Carol Smith, brought her new member, Mary Cascos, Mary's teenage daughter, Chris, and another teen, Tamara Johnson. The Oakland County Chapter included Pat Barrett, Phyllis Sullivan, Director of Educational Center for Life, and myself. The Wayne West Chapter sent their efficient and friendly office manager, Linda Kournoian. President of Lifespan, Inc., Ann Thomas, completed our group.

On opening day, the first general session began with a video message from President Bush. Dr. Margaret White from England addressed the audience with wit and humor while focusing her serious message on the state of Right to Life affairs in England compared to that in the USA. The ending of the opening program was met with mixed emotions. There was a sadness in saying goodbye to Dr. Jack Willke who has served as this organization's President for ten years. There was then a feeling of joy when Dr. Wanda Franz was introduced as the new NRLC President. Dr. Franz's soft spoken,

sincere address left you with a feeling of continuity. Her words brought energy and freshness, and we all felt that she would be an excellent leader in the coming years. She will not be afraid of the challenges that lay ahead.

Each day there were general sessions followed by workshops. They dealt with an array of subjects including media bias,

Sometimes, in our daily lives, we seem alone. We find even among family and friends, indifference, apathy and occasionally, hostility. Coming together with fellow right-to-lifers gives one encouragement and a sense of kinship.

We brought back 84 cassette tapes which cover all the sessions including the teen activities. It is our hope that you will call your local chapter to borrow the tapes that interest you. Stop by in person or call to request a list of available tapes. These tapes will increase your knowledge on prolife issues so that you can share the facts with others. They will give you confidence to talk to your children, grandchildren, husband, wife, parents, neighbors, clergy, grocer, teacher or anyone on a one-to-one basis.

The 1992 National Right to Life Convention will be held in Washington D.C. June 11 through 13. Mark your calendar. I encourage you to attend. Lifespan is also planning conferences which will be explained in our newsletter. Make a point to join

us. Also come to the Educational Center to see what is available to you.

We all agreed that it was a long way to Atlanta and a long way back, but the 30 hours of driving was worth it. Now, we can share our experiences with you and provide the needed educational material to help carry on the fight for life. See you at a conference!!

Plans are now underway by Mary Cascos and her daughter, Chris, to form a Teens for Life group at Regina High School and other surrounding schools. For more information, see her article in the Detroit Chapter News on page 6.



From top left: Linda Kournoian, Pat Barrett, Phyllis Sullivan, Ann Thomas, Diane Fagelman. Seated: Mary Cascos, Carol Smith.

RU486, post-abortion syndrome, Planned Parenthood, legislation and political action, euthanasia, food and water withholding treatment, eugenics and genetics and fetology. The days and evenings were so filled we never had a chance to see Atlanta.

There is no way that the nine of us could pass on to you all the knowledge we obtained in three days. What we can share is the fact that our movement is alive and well, vibrant and growing. We can share that those of us striving to maintain the Judeo-Christian ethic will need the knowledge and fortitude to persuade our fellow members of human kind that being human is no longer enough for the right to live.

Assisted suicide

continued from page 3

do for other minorities) can brainwash people into believing that the only way they can keep their dignity is in death.

Immediate legislation against assisted suicide is necessary to protect patients against the most flagrant abuses. Sadly, the House version of the assisted suicide bill (HB 4038) is tucked away in the House Judiciary Committee. Staff members of Democratic State Rep. Perry Bullard, chairman of the committee, suggest that Bullard believes the issue of assisted suicide should be delayed until there is further study.

The Michigan Handicapper Caucus of Bullard's own party feels this would be the equivalent of allowing people to be killed and then making a study about whether they ought to have died. Caucus Chair Tommy Meadows notes, "Once a life is lost, it can never be restored."

A strict law like HB 4038 penalizes people who knowingly assist in a suicide, consented to by the victim, with imprisonment of up to four years and/or a fine of up to \$2,000. If a victim's consent is made under force or duress, an offender can be charged with murder.

This bill should be immediately passed. Then legislators can undertake studies about allowing appropriate exceptions.

*Detroit News, May 23, 1991
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Ron Seigel, of Highland Park, is the corresponding secretary of the Michigan Handicapper Caucus and a Board Member of the Detroit Chapter of RTL - Lifespan of Metro Detroit.

Speak up!

Do you find yourself infuriated or especially pleased with media coverage of prolife issues? Let them know right away.

Save this list and keep it handy:

ABC World News	212-887-3606
All Things Considered (NPR) Morning	202-822-2000
CBS Evening News	212-975-3693
CBS This Morning	212-975-2824
CNN	404-827-1500
Crossfire	202-898-7951
Face the Nation	202-457-4481
Good Morning America	212-496-4800
Larry King Live TV	202-898-7900
Larry King-Radio	703-685-2175
Los Angeles Times	800-528-4637
MacNeil/Lehrer	703-998-2844
Meet the Press	202-885-4200
NBC Nightly News	212-664-2333
Newsweek	212-350-4000
Nightline	212-887-4995
PBS	703-739-5000
This Week/Brinkley	202-887-7777
Time Magazine	212-522-1212
Today Show (Ext. 2333)	212-664-4249
UPI	202-898-8000
US News and World Report	202-955-2000
USA Today	703-276-3400
Wall Street Journal	212-416-2000
Washington Post	202-334-6000
or Ombudsman	202-334-7582

Century Club Honor List

The following is a continuing list of the members of Right to Life - Lifespan's Century Club. These people have all donated \$100 or more to help tell the truth about abortion and the alternatives. New members receive a special Century Club pin, depicting our Love Life logo. Lost your envelope? You can still contribute by simply indicating "To Tell the Truth" on your check. A hearty thanks to ALL who have already given so generously! We couldn't do it without you!

Margaret Martin	Leon Hart
Ronald and Holly Pomaville	Thomas H. Latimer
Leonard and Margaret Spas	St. Theodore's Christian Service Commission
Ann S. Thomas	St. Owen's Christian Service Commission
Janice A. DeMaggio	Beverly Ann Thewes

If you have not yet renewed your Century Club membership, or if you'd like to join, please return the form below with the "Century Club" box checked.

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.

_____ Annual Membership	\$ 15.00	_____ Monthly pledge	\$ _____
_____ Student/Senior Member	\$ 7.00	_____ Century Club	\$ _____
		_____ Other	\$ _____

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Please detach at the dotted line and return to Right to Life - Lifespan, 21649 Goddard Rd., #125B, Taylor, MI 48180-4247

Donations are not tax-deductible.

Abortions in Michigan After Medicaid Cut-offs

By Paula Ervin

The prolife activist who tries to sift out the truth from female abortion-minded columnists may be heard with clenched teeth muttering, with Detective Joe Friday from the old Dragnet show, "The facts, lady. All we want are the facts." Now, because in 1978 you and we lobbied a bill through the state legislature requiring abortion reporting in the state, we are indebted to the Michigan Department of Public Health for the facts about recent abortions in Michigan.

In 1988, we worked successfully for the referendum to end Medicaid funded abortions in the state, so the figures before and after that date carry a special significance: 1988 saw a total of 46,747. In 1989, the first year following the Medicaid cut-off, that figure dropped to 36,557 or a slump of 10,190. (In 1990, they fell by another 374 to 36,183.)

But was this drop accompanied by the population boom that abortion advocates were gloomily predicting? According to the World Almanac of 1991, births in the state rose from 140,229 in 1988 to 142,673 in 1989, or a rise of 2,444. It does not appear that a birth rise of 2,444 after an abortion drop of 10,190 should give the

populationists cause for alarm, especially when, from 1985 to 1986, years when Medicaid was in effect, births rose by 2,108. The birth figures for 1990 are not yet available so a long-term scan is not yet possible.

The bad news is that over the ten years from 1980 to 1990 there is a gradual rise

Reported complications come to a total of 34 per 10,000 abortions in 1990 (29 shock, 1 uterine perforation, 1 cervical laceration, 3 hemorrhage, 1 "retained product" and 2 "other"). A footnote tells us that the figure actually totals more than 34 because of "multiple complications."

These figures should not be taken seriously because most women will not return to the abortionist for patchwork.

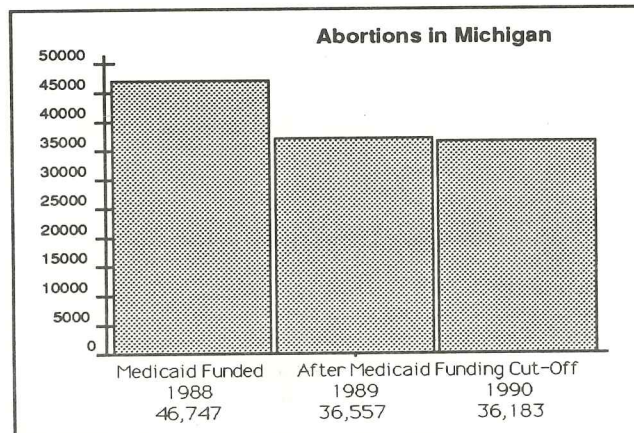
99% were suction abortions of 12 weeks or less, with 32 complications out of each 10,000, and complications become more likely as the woman's age decreases and the gestational period becomes longer.

55.4% in 1990 were performed in doctors' offices with 42.6% in freestanding clinics. A small 1.8% were done in hospitals.

Statistics cannot photograph trauma. What about that 25% or 9,045 teenage girls? How many

uterine perforations happened to them? We don't know. Was their uterus eventually removed, placing them at a tender age permanently barren? And, at the end, as they tread their way through life, how healthy will their mental attitude be? Yes, abortions have fallen in Michigan, but the grief goes on.

Paula Ervin is a Board Member of RTL-Lifespan and the Plymouth City Coordinator.



in the proportion reporting two or more previous abortions (16.6%) and a decrease in the proportion who went to an abortionist for the first time (55.3%). So 6,039 women returned to abortionists for two or more times.

As to ages of the women, 58.3% of the aborted were under 25 while 25.3% were under the age of 20, or 9,045. 81.1% were not married, and this figure has increased gradually since 1980.

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

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