



Right To Life - Lifespan Inc.

SERVING SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN SINCE 1970

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 3

MARCH 1988

PRO-ABORTION GROUP FILES PETITIONS

A group that wants Michigan to continue paying for abortions for the poor filed nearly 230,000 signatures with the State, Tues. March 1 to allow voters to decide the question in November.

Judith Frey, spokesperson for the People's Campaign for Choice which wants the State to continue paying \$5.8 million yearly for 18,500 abortions, said her supporters could spend as much as \$3 million this fall.

Right to Life of Michigan collected 400,000 signatures last year to end state-paid abortions. The courts ruled that the ban would not take effect until March 29 or 30 which is 90 days after the end of last year's legislative session. It appears that the state will not be able to review all the pro-abortion petition signatures by March 30 so there may be a suspension of payments for abortions until the signatures are validated.

--From an article in The Detroit News, March 2, 1988

The issue will be on the ballot in November but presently no one knows what the language on the ballot would be. According to the March 7 Free Press - the group which has the 'No' vote designation would have some advantage because when voters are confused they tend to vote 'no.'

"In a close election, that confusion could spell the margin of victory -- or defeat," the article says.

MEA'S \$30,000 SUPPORTS ABORTION BACKERS

The Committee for the Protection of Michigan Lives (pro-abortion petition drive) raised \$307,000 spearheaded by contributions from the Michigan Education Association (\$30,000), Chapters of Planned Parenthood (\$3,832), Michigan NOW (\$12,584), and the ACLU of Michigan (\$4,761).

It is most interesting that not all MEA members are in agreement with the pro-abortion approach to abortion but their money nevertheless is contributed to this effort.

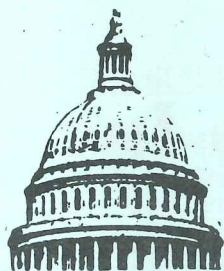
Barbara Listing, President of Right to Life of Michigan, said that both sides would spend between \$2 million and \$3 million on the fall campaign. Most of the money raised by Right to Life forces came from mail solicitations within Michigan, Listing said.

The largest donor to RLM has been Word Investments of Grand Rapids (\$10,000).

Other 'notable' donors to the pro-abortion campaign include Free Press Editor Joe Stroud (\$100), Ms. magazine publisher Gloria Steinem (\$1000), State Sen. Lana Pollock of Ann Arbor (\$500), and the National Abortion Rights Action League (\$6,000).

--From The Detroit Free Press, February 24, 1988

FOR DETROIT CHAPTER NEWS, SEE PAGES 4 & 5.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

BILLS WOULD RESTORE TITLE X FUNDING FOR ABORTION

Planned Parenthood's top legislative priority for 1988 is enactment of bills, sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) and Congressman Henry Waxman (D-GA), which would make radical pro-abortion changes in the major federal "family planning" program, Title X.

Planned Parenthood receives about \$30 million a year from the \$140 million a year Title X appropriation. Although the program was originally intended to provide only "preventative family planning services," such as contraception, in recent years Title X clinics have treated abortion as simply another birth control "option."

The Reagan Administration has attempted to restore the original character of Title X through new regulations which will prohibit Title X funded clinics from counseling or referring for abortion. (These regulations will be tied up in Federal Courts for years.)

An immediate grass roots response is required in order to prevent rapid movement of these bills through Congress.

Please write today to your two U.S. Senators. Urge them to oppose passage of the Kennedy Bill (S. 1366) unless prolife amendments offered by Senator Gordon Humphrey (R-NH) are adopted.

Letters should also be sent to House members referring to Waxman's Bill (HR 3769). Urge support for prolife amendments offered by Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) and others.

Addresses: Senator _____
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

KNAPP'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

We have a total of 12,322 Bill Knapp Community Support Coupon points toward a new copy machine for the Lifespan Main Office. This month, thanks to the following, we received 3,347 points: Bryson, Chomin, Radwick, Condon-Duncanson, Weaver, Troha, Gudewicz, Bowker, Aragona, Fagelman, Tippmann, Hutchison, McIntyre, Miller, Smith, Sulak, Gazelle, St. Maurice Parish, LaJoie, Higgins, Word of Faith Fellowship, Roy, Ptaszewski, Nadolski, Price, Schultz, O'Connell and others whose names we do not have. If we missed anyone, we thank you too!

When you present your check to the cashier at Bill Knapp's 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 pt. equals \$1.00 computed on the total amount received by the cashier for meals, bakery items, take-out orders or purchased gift certificates.

Please send the Community Support Coupons to us at Right to Life - Lifespan, Inc., 27578 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

LEGISLATIVE DAY--APRIL 13TH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dr. Carolyn Gerster, M.D., a physician and past president of National Right to Life, will be the featured luncheon speaker at the Annual RLM Legislative Day, April 13 at the Lansing Civic Center in Lansing, Michigan. Her address is entitled "Technology and the Dying Patient."

Registration and the morning session will begin at 9:15 am followed by luncheon at noon. Following the luncheon, time will be available for a visit to the State Capitol.

Checks for \$20.00 should be sent to the RLM Legislative Office, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 588; Lansing, Michigan 48933. Please include the names of your State Rep. and/or State Senator so that you may be seated with them at the luncheon. Registration deadline is April 8.

* * * * *

CLASSIFIED NOTICE
FROM OB-GYN NEWS
NOVEMBER, 1987

Physician, or physicians in a group to do abortions in three (3) suburban Detroit clinics and/or hospital. First and second trimester abortions-some gyn care also. Part-time, very flexible. Fee for service-excellent financial opportunities. Replies to Box 201, OB-GYN News.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR OUR ANNUAL LIFESPAN
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MAY 2, 1988. More later.

Received March 1, 1988

Dear Servants of the Unborn,

Just read the lead article in the Right to Life - Lifespan News, entitled Pregnancy Reduction: A New Frontier in Abortion. The thought crossed my mind how far we have come; just a few years ago they stated that during the first trimester we were only dealing with a blob of flesh. Now, they are admitting the blob of flesh has a chest cavity, and a heart. A heart that beats no less, until the doctor? injects it with potassium chloride.

-- Ann Selfeld

Dr. Bernie Siegel:

Frequently when I'm in a hospital room with a "dying" patient, we are laughing. Out in the hallway, the other staff members often think we are denying reality. We must realize that people aren't "living" or "dying," they are either alive or dead. As long as they are alive, we must treat them that way. For this reason, I find the word "terminal" very upsetting. It means we've begun to treat that person as though he or she were already dead, incapable of laughter or joy.

-- Love, Medicine and Miracles
(Harper and Row)

As quoted from Reader's Digest, Dec. 1987

RIGHT TO LIFE - LIFESPAN, INC.

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Livonia, MI 48150
(313) 261-2757

PREGNANCY SERVICES
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1-800-238-4269

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Right To Life - Lifespan, Inc. is a voluntary organization and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraising. You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide. A bequest in your will to Right To Life - Lifespan, Inc. or a donation in memory of a loved one, will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Donations are not tax-deductible.

DETROIT CHAPTER NEWS

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

Educational Center For Life
909 Woodward Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48053-3015
(313)338-1910

Pregnancy Services
Birthright 532-3030
Eastland Problem
Pregnancy 372-1058
Pregnancy Aid 882-1000

THOUGHTS FROM A PROLIFE FEMINIST TEEN Nicole Smith

Unlike most of the population I have been fortunate enough to grow up with open and honest information about abortion. As a child I always went to the Michigan State Fair with my parents while they spoke at great length at the Right to Life booth. For the past several years I have followed in their footsteps and made solo trips to the booth.

This summer, I experienced something there which not only baffled me but completely horrified me. Two young girls came skipping to the great child attraction, the fetal models. Children, naturally curious about the creation of life, always come to see this display. These girls, however, were suddenly pulled away from the sight. Their father, a reasonable looking man, was attempting to, as he put it, "shield them from preconceived ideas or notions." When I told him these were anatomically correct models of unborn babies in progressive stages of development and were completely without bias save that of the scientific community, he said that his daughters have to grow up to make a "free and unclouded choice." He then led them quickly away.

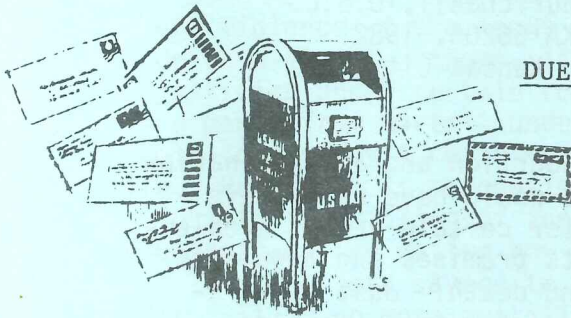
It seems so obvious to me, a science student taking Advanced Placement Biology and Physics, that it is impossible to make a knowledgeable or intelligent choice without knowing the facts. The man's hypocrisy angered me, for here we are in the Twentieth Century, priding ourselves on our advanced technology while we are still involved in primitive power struggles. That man's power over his daughters! He denied them information about facts directly pertaining to their bodies and to their lives in the same way society lies to the female population by telling them that abortion is nothing more than a procedure.

If the girls' father truly wanted them to grow up to be liberated feminists he would see that he must teach them the true meaning of feminism - absolute respect for the female body and its functions. He would not be trying to condition them to become more like males. By taking away the positive knowledge of what lovemaking creates, he teaches his daughters that their bodies are truly only for sex. Thus, in this day, women's bodies are still ogled, abused and treated with the ultimate injustice, abortion, by men who will never personally experience it or understand. And to add to the injury, women's fathers are perpetuating their own torture.

Many people live their lives in accordance with what is popular and what is not - fad diets, fad clothes, fad hairstyles, even fad cars. But there is no excuse for fad morals. Right now it is considered "liberal" to protest U.S. intervention in Central America, to ban any companies still involved in South Africa, to oppose nuclear weapons and in general to protect and defend human rights. I have demonstrated against all of those injustices. I am no more right-wing or conservative than any socialist in West Germany, but I refuse to ignore what is right and what is wrong in order to adhere to what society tells me is "liberal." I will always be the ultimate humanitarian and defend every person's rights and that includes those of the unborn.

MOTHERS' DAY FLOWER SALE

Each Mothers' Day many churches participate in our annual flower sale. We provide the flowers and a little tag saying "Thanks, Mom!" Churchgoers are delighted to make a small donation to Right to Life and receive a flower to take to their mothers. This project is one of our most important fundraisers. If your church or organization can participate in 1988, give us a call at 874-0432 and we will provide as many flowers as you need along with helpful tips for having a successful sale.



DUES OVERDUE?

At the end of February, 1988, our Detroit Chapter had 829 members. Of those, only 364 have up-to-date memberships. We haven't heard from 465 of our members in up to two years. Please, if you receive a renewal letter this month, let us hear from you. Your membership not only pays our rent and phone bills but enables us to continue our prolife educational efforts. We also help to support the vital efforts

of Pregnancy Shelters, Inc. Last, but not least, your dues make this newsletter possible! Regular membership dues are \$12. For senior citizens and students, only \$5.00 annually. If you have mislaid the notice of renewal we recently sent, give the office a call at 874-0432 and we'll promptly send you another one. Please remain with us!

A U C T I O N ! A U C T I O N ! A U C T I O N ! A U C T I O N !



AUCTION TO BENEFIT PREGNANCY SHELTERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1988 - 7:30 P.M.
SHRINE OF THE LITTLE FLOWER GRADE SCHOOL



Donations urgently needed to make the Auction a success: Gift items and other goods, services, tickets to sporting and entertainment events, arts and crafts, lessons, vacation time, catering services, etc., etc., etc.

PLAN TO ATTEND AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

CALL 532-2271 or 272-3596

JUST A MINUTE!

The following response to a Channel 4 news editorial was aired on February 15-16. The speaker was Detroit Chapter Co-chairperson Carol Smith.

Michigan is shamefully one of the few states that are still in the abortion business. Even though our state lawmakers have year after year voted to end Medicaid abortions, vetoes by the governors have allowed tax-paid abortions to continue.

Thankfully, Right to Life has successfully collected the signatures necessary to end this state-funded violence which victimizes poor women and their unborn children.

Medicaid abortions have been found to be discriminatory. Women of color are being convinced at twice the rate of white women that their babies have no value.

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta reports no increase in illegal abortions and no increase in abortion complications as a result of the cutting off of Medicaid abortions. It has been the experience in other states that ending of tax-funded abortions substantially decreased the pregnancy rate and women made the choice not to become pregnant. The monies now spent on abortions will be available to be used on much needed services to support positive life-sustaining programs for the poor.

Congratulations, citizens of Michigan. You have spoken and we are about to get out of the business of using our tax monies to fund the ultimate child abuse.

NEXT DETROIT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. 5930 Woodward Avenue at I-94. Newcomers welcome!

RACHEL WEeping: SEQUELAE

From the conclusion to the book by Father James Tunstead Burtchae11, C.S.C.
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In greatest part, this book is both an inquiry into abortion and an examination of a campaign of persuasion on its behalf, a campaign that would have us believe abortion is a necessary and therefore appropriate remedy for certain urgent problems, personal and social. The more I studied that campaign, its premises and arguments and backwash, the more I saw it as a work of dishonesty and death. Just as wife-killing would surely curb the incidence of wife-battering in America, abortion would surely curb some almost unbearable human miseries. Yet somehow each remedy, though it works, is wrong.

Nowhere in these many pages do I set forth an argument against abortion. Before embarking on this study it would not have occurred to me as necessary: why would one need to argue that mothers and fathers and healers should not destroy their unborn young? At the end of this study I doubt that an argument against abortion is decisive, for one sets one's direction in this great matter more by the will than by the mind. In this life we acknowledge and respect those whom we are willing to accommodate. Our basic attitude towards abortion matches our readiness either to address ourselves to others' needs or to eliminate others when their needs burden us too heavily. I sense an obligation to make some simple exposition of my own understanding about abortion, but it will be more an appeal than an argument. Those who do not wish to rearrange their lives to accommodate a child will not readily be brought to see their unborn as endowed with rights or as an envoy of joy--at least not by any argument. Those who know that they have nothing more satisfying to do with their lives than to give others life and its hospitality hardly need to have it explained to them that the stranger appearing unbidden at life's entryway must, before all, be bidden welcome.

I hold that the life of every fellow human must be respected, preserved, and even protected. We must defer to others' lives, not simply to gain and repay a like protection from others, nor just to avoid the penalties of the law, nor merely because every human being has a right to his or her life, a right which deserves priority over every other human right, need, or desire. We must defer for still another reason: if we deal unjust injury or violent death to others, we shall bring upon ourselves a death of the spirit--a violent death. Those who kill, die. And they die when they slay, not later.

I hold that, so far as we best can tell, a human person's life begins at conception. Neither birth nor any transition leading up to it serves as a true beginning, unless we talk biological nonsense. Of course an unborn child does not speak or work or give her or his love to others (nor does a newborn child; nor, for that matter, some people long since born). But it is terribly important that we give the basic protection of life-loyalty to all fellow humans, not only to those who suit us as valuable contributors to society. My position is that no one should have the right or power to decide what qualities or what usefulness others must have to avoid being killed. It is enough to be any human being, no matter how burdensome or troublesome, to merit the right to life.

Abortion, then--the willful and violent killing of an unborn human being--is homicide. By this neutral term I mean simply the killing of a human. We talk of accidental and deliberate and justifiable homicides. Is there such a thing as a justifiable abortion? Here I would argue that if we claim any honesty we must hew to the same principles in evaluating abortion as govern our judgments on any other form of homicide.

(Continued on pages 7 & 8)

RACHEL WEEPING Sequelae contd.

Some maintain that all deliberate killing is wrong. Better, they argue, to accept violence at the hands of others than to take up weapons and end ourselves as death-dealers. Others, likewise committed to life, would say that homicide could be justified under certain conditions, e.g., to protect oneself or some innocent third party from mortal, undeserved attack. On the latter view it might be justifiable to destroy a child were that clearly the only way to save his or her mother's life. But there is no consistent, responsible moral way, from either point of view, to justify the killing of innocent offspring to relieve his or her elders of any inconvenience, no matter how severe the distress.

It is no less savage to abort a deformed child than to exterminate a retarded adult. It is no more justifiable to abort a child in order to conceal adultery than to murder a witness about to give evidence in a trial. One cannot fairly allow a child to be destroyed because he or she was conceived by rape or incest, without also allowing the elimination of illegitimate children.

My argument is straightforward. Abortion is homicide: the destruction of a child. Save for the rare, rare instance when it is a mortal threat to a mother's life to carry her child to birth, there is no abortion that is not the unjust taking of another's life because it is a burden to one's own.

Someone has reckoned that a high percentage of the murders in this country find close family or business associates as victims. We have in us this strange and desperate ability, this selfish madness, to blind our mind's eye towards those nearest us, to see them as insignificant, as nothing really human. We depersonalize our victims before killing them. So with abortion.

In opposing it I am in no way insensitive to the plight of mothers who are frightened thirteen-year-olds, or are supporting six children on welfare, or are having to drop out of college because of one night's foolishness. I simply say that these are not misfortunes that justify anyone in raising his or her hand to kill. They are not trivial miseries. But to allege them as cause for abortion reminds me too much of the excuses for the massacre at My Lai, and for the bondage of the slave trade, and for the industrial poisoning at Minamata.

I do not wish to donate on Tuesday to the March of Dimes for medical research on the health of the unborn, and on Thursday to Planned Parenthood to keep crippled children from ever surviving till birth. I want no part of the insanity that sends police into the privacy of homes to stop parents from battering and scalding their four-month-old babies to death, and then uses the same force of law to guarantee the "privacy" of parents to dismember their babies four months before birth. I have no stomach for a society which sees that in many of its homes children are unwanted, and would rather exterminate the children than heal the parents. And though I try to be patient, I do become exasperated when told that since I am a Catholic I have somehow lost my civil right to make public and legal appeal for the lives of the young marked down for death, or that I am imposing my private religious notions on the majority of my fellow citizens, when it is clear to anyone willing to inquire that it is the minority of citizens that presently uses the law to kill.

Women have a right to reproductive freedom, I hear it argued, and I agree: all women, even little girls yet unborn who have the right to be free to grow to the age when they in their turn can make love and have babies. Women should have control over their own bodies, it is said, and I agree; but not life-and-death control over the bodies of their children (and in the case of male children, who ever heard of a male part of a female body?) Make abortions illegal, we hear it said, and they will still go on, but in the back streets, and I agree. Yet rape goes on despite our laws; should it no longer be a crime? And if the day came when the nation was no longer willing to go on record that rape was criminal, would there not be more of it? Can anyone who knows that we record 1,500,000 abortions a year in America imagine that

RACHEL WEEPING Sequelae contd.

most of these would have occurred without the legal protections of 1973? Drive abortion underground, it is said, and young women will die by the septic coathanger. Yes, just as the young women of the Weather Underground who blew themselves up making bombs. I mourn them all, but I mourn more their innocent victims--and differently. Make abortion a criminal act, we hear it said, and only the rich will be able to afford it. Yes, but then the rich have always been better able to afford their vices. I would as soon buy abortions for the poor as buy them heroin. Abortions will go on! Why not at least see that they be done cleanly and safely? Yes, say I, and so shall hatred and murder go on, but I shall not use the tax moneys to give sniper-scopes to the Klan or dum dum bullets to the Mafia.

But back to the point, the chief point, the much-avoided point, the only point at issue: to abort is to destroy one's son or daughter.

CALENDAR UPDATE

- April 1 - 8 Lifespan offices closed for Easter vacation.
- April 13 RLM Legislative Day, Lansing, Michigan
See article on Page 3.
- April 25 Auction to Benefit Pregnancy Shelters - 7:30 pm
Sponsored by Detroit Chapter
Shrine of the Little Flower Grade School, Royal Oak
Donations urgently needed - Plan to Attend
Call 532-2271 or 272-3596
- April 29 Fiesta Night - Mexican Dinner - 4:00 pm
Downriver Chapter and Taylor Crisis Pregnancy Center
St. Cyril's Church Hall - Taylor
Tickets \$4.00 at door; call 382-2654 or 285-6776
- May 2 Annual Lifespan General Membership Meeting
St. Francis K of C Hall, Farmington Hills
Volunteer Pins to be awarded
Next Newsletter will have more details
- May 7 and 8 Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale
All Chapters; call individual Chapter to participate

Right To Life - Lifespan, Inc.

Detroit Chapter
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Detroit, MI 48202-3516



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MARCH 17, 1988