

Rally '90 Update!

p. 8

Lifespan *news*

Volume 12 Number 3

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

April, 1990

Thumbs Up or Down?

Will We Give Disabled Persons Reason to Live, or Die?



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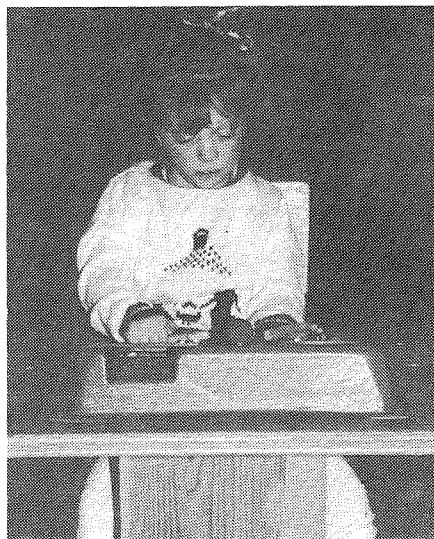
Homecare and Friendship

2 practical ways to help persons with disabilities live

In many ways Tommy Baier is like any other kid. He wears OshKosh overalls. He rides the bus to school every day. He's part of a family unit with two brothers. But Tommy faces special challenges that are unknown to other 8 year olds - he was born with severe multiple impairments, mental and physical.

Much of Tommy's medical expenses are covered by the family's health insurance carrier, and the Baier's receive additional support to take care of Tommy's physical needs. His schoolroom is a cheerful setting where throughout the day Tommy receives the attention of a caring teacher and several aides. But when are Tommy's "kid" needs met - when does he get to interact as much as he is able with other kids his own age?

For Tommy, the answer is "Tuesdays!" That's the day his buddies



Andrea Spitale

from a nearby parochial school come in to play with him. These friends may work on an art project with him, or take him into the hall to help him work on one of his classroom goals: learning to propel himself in his new wheelchair. Andrea Baier, Tommy's mom, said, "They do with him what a big brother does with a little brother - like playing ball. Tommy likes the kid-on-kid playing - you can see the enjoyment on his face and in his body language."

Andrea Spitale, a girl in Tommy's class, also has friends at the parochial school. "She might be way across the room, but when those kids walk in the door and she sees 'em, she gets so excited!" said her dad, Frank.

And well she might. Who among us doesn't experience a warm surge of pleasure at the sight of a good friend? Robert Perske in his book *Circles of Friends* wrote, "Friendships are such an everyday thing, we just take them for granted. They are like electricity,

telephone, clothing, and three meals a day - we anguish only when we are deprived of them. And yet we have just begun to sense the pain experienced by people with disabilities when they are deprived of mutually satisfying friendships with ordinary people. We suddenly see that family support, regular schooling, and community living programs are not enough. Those people need friends just as we do."

"Ordinary citizens are beginning to see [persons with disabilities] as they really are . . . to look past their disabilities and find attractive qualities . . . to respect them for the heroic efforts they exert in developing . . . to understand them and want them as close friends. As this happens, ordinary citizens will discover sadly that there are not enough persons with disabilities to go around. The demand will be greater than the supply. Some citizens will have to do without." (Perske, *Hope for the Families*.)

Friendship - so easily offered. May each of us not hesitate in including persons with disabilities in our own circles of friends.

What you can do:

- Take the initiative to get to know a person with disabilities who is currently within your circle of contacts - you see him/her at church or in your neighborhood. Ask questions to help you understand their disabilities.



Tommy Baier in his new wheelchair

Homecare

One moment a healthy young man enjoying the California surf - the next, paralyzed from the neck down. After recovering from the initial trauma of a broken neck, David Rivlin faced daily life as a quadriplegic with zeal, attending college and living independently with the help of medical aides. But several years ago a surgical procedure left him dependent on a respirator which led to permanent residence at a Michigan nursing home. David slowly lost the desire to live.

Last summer he was not prevented by the court from having a doctor sedate him and end his life by disconnecting the respirator that breathed for him. He died July 20, 1989. "Freedom was always important to me," David told the Detroit Free Press shortly before his death. "The freedom to do what I wanted, getting into my car . . . going to school, having girlfriends. I'll never have those things again, but I won't be in this prison, either."

10 years ago Basil Chenevert of Lincoln Park, MI learned that persistent muscle weakness in his leg was due to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Due to the progressive paralysis caused by this disease, Basil lost the ability to move below the neck, and became dependent on a respirator. Despite an initial period of despair, Basil's story has become one of hope.

"I believe God expects each of us to use the talents and abilities He has given us to the fullest extent that our condition permits," wrote Basil in his handbook for persons with handicaps. So, using his technical expertise as a mechanical engineer, he devised dozens of ingenious inventions which allow him to live safely and comfortably at home, instead of an institution. His daughter, Elaine Donnelly, wrote, "Even though he has experienced days that are filled with frustration, he somehow finds the strength not only to live, but to enjoy life to the fullest."

What made the difference in the way

Disability Facts

- Nearly 50% of those aged 65 and over will spend time in a nursing home at some point in their lives. (*U.S. News & World Report, January 23, 1989*). This does not include people who will need care in their homes, adult day care, or other types of long term care.
- Medicare pays for less than 2% of nursing home costs (*U.S. News & World Report, January 23, 1989; data from the Health Care Financing Administration, 1987*). One reason this percentage is so low is that Medicare does not cover intermediate and custodial care, and it only covers some skilled care expenses. The vast majority of people in nursing homes require custodial and intermediate care.
- About 50% of all couples are impoverished within a year of one spouse entering a nursing home (*Select Committee on Aging, US House of Representatives, October 1987*).

these two men viewed their lives? Perhaps it was that Basil, despite a severe impairment, was able to regain a measure of control over his life. His health insurance covered the costs of his care so he could live at home. Living at home allowed him to continue participation in the lives of those most important to him. With emotional and physical support systems in place, Basil was free to direct his energy in other areas - his inventions, learning to use the computer by blinking an eye.

David, however, was not so fortunate. He had no parents, and no real friends in Michigan. He was not allowed to choose where to live. In the nursing home he was told when and what to eat. The nursing home was unwilling to assume responsibility for a personal computer, denying him a valuable means of self expression. He lost his personal freedoms, and with them the will to live.

The independent living movement is one attempt to give back to patients with disabilities a measure of self respect and control. Those who desire to choose where they want to live and to hire their own attendant for their personal care ought to be free to do so.

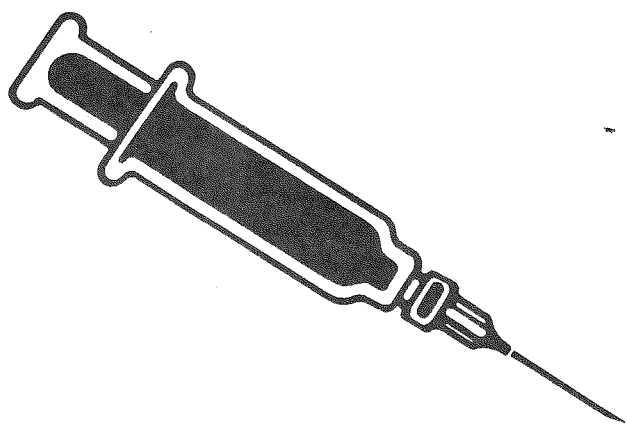
What prevents them? Medicare may cover "skilled" care, as that received in

a hospital. But they charge that the type of care needed for patients who can live at home is "custodial care", and refuse coverage. This completely ignores the fact that a homecare aide must be able to perform services for patients which, in a hospital setting, may only be performed by trained medical personnel. It also denies that even when hospitalized, not all of a nurse's time with a patient falls into the "skilled care" category. It is a form of discrimination based on the length and severity of a person's illness.

Though the cost of homecare is high, it is still only about 1/3 that of hospital care. Homecare is one way to reduce medical costs, as well as give a disabled person a degree of control over his own life. □

What you can do:

- Urge your Congressman to enact legislation which would allow for medical coverage of homecare
- Press for legislation which would standardize terms used by private insurers. Comprehensive, long-term, catastrophic currently can mean very different things.



"Mercy Deaths" for the Disabled?

by Bruce Richard Ullman

Do you know how the holocaust really began? Almost no one does. It began, in the words of Raul Hilberg (*Destruction of the European Jews*, 1979 edition), as "An Expression of Idealism" designed to "Widen the authority of individual doctors with a view toward enabling them . . . to administer to incurably sick persons a mercy death" (p. 561b).

One of the declared purposes of German medicine during the Twenties and Thirties was the protection of the family. Some of the most progressive doctors in Germany believed that it was their duty to protect the family: disabled and deformed children, including the mentally deficient and emotionally handicapped, were regarded as a threat to the normal children around them.

Accordingly, at the time the Nazis came to power, they discovered that it was *already* common to *remove* these unwanted children from the households of the well-to-do young professionals who could afford the "best" clinics. The children were allegedly sent to sanatoria "in the vicinity of Schleswig-Holstein" (the crisp Danish air would be good for their health) but they were not expected to return.

The National Socialist administration, referring to these children as *miscarriages of hell*, charged the Reich Ministry of Racial Politics with their disposition. Although in theory only the most severely disabled were to be affected (for example, those with Down's Syndrome), the sweep of the program gradually widened to include even relatively normal children, such as those with minimal orthopedic impediments who happened to be institutionalized for social reasons. The party believed that sound living conditions for

the population of the whole depended on strict "political hygiene". As all the world was to learn a few years later, "hygiene" in the Nazi lexicon was a code word for the destruction of all racially and physically undesirable persons - those whose passing was not to be lamented because, again in Hitler's own words, they were "determined by fate to perish."

American Attitudes Towards the Deformed

Now, in America, we see signs on every side. STAMP OUT BIRTH DEFECTS: in other words, deny life-saving medical services to children with Down's Syndrome and other comparable handicaps. Protect your "normal" children from the horror of growing up with a deformed brother or sister. Pull the plug on family members who suffer spinal injuries because they'll survive as paraplegics in wheelchairs and won't be able to play football anymore.

In truth, many disabled people in America don't have to worry about a Holocaust. For us, it's here already. For what else can you call an existence in which, by reason of physical limitation alone, one is deprived of all civil and human rights granted without question to others of comparable intelligence and education. What else can you call a lifestyle in which a computer error or administrative decision can send you into the permanent Gehinom of a substandard nursing home - another journey from which there is no return. What else, too, can you call a society that compels even the kindest and most loving people to dispose of their aging or infirm relatives,

their deformed or retarded children and even their stricken spouses by interning them in legally sanctioned killing-places called "rest homes."

When I first broached this view of our health care system to a distinguished professor of medicine, himself a survivor of the Holocaust, he replied: "But it's not at all the same thing. After all, they don't beat them in those places." To which I replied: "Yes, Doctor, and in Theresienstadt, they had a symphony."

The sages of the Talmud knew what it meant to kill people by degrees. As they put it, every time you turn your back on a disabled person, you are guilty of killing one-sixtieth of his life; "anyone who fails to attend to the needs of the sick is guilty of having spilled blood."

The lesson is clear. If you give the State the right to dispose of unpopular, "undesirable," or unwanted social minorities, today they may take people you hate, but tomorrow they may come for you. In giving the handicapped access to the kind of life that is really worth living, the kind of life that everyone else takes for granted, you insure God's blessing for you and yours and the safety of your children. □

Bruce Richard Ullman is President of the National Synagogue of the Physically Handicapped, Los Angeles, CA. Reprinted with permission from *Sh'ma*, a journal of Jewish responsibility, 13/241, Nov. 12, 1982. Questions or comments may be directed to Rabbi Yonah N. Fortner, 6451 Charlesworth Ave., N. Hollywood, CA 91606 (818) 985-2429.

Lifespan proudly presents

Tony Melendez In Concert!

His performance so moved Pope John Paul II that the pontiff left his platform and kissed the singer. "You are giving hope to all of us," said the pope. "My wish to you is to continue giving this to all of the people." What was it about the performance that was so touching? The singer had no arms and played a 12-string guitar with his feet.

Tony Melendez was born in Nicaragua after his mother used thalidomide during the pregnancy. The family moved to the US so Tony could be fitted with artificial arms. He wore them until he was 10, but lost patience with them. "I couldn't use them as much or as fast as my feet," said Tony. "What your hand can do, my foot can do. I write. I drive. I pick up things."

His proficiency with his feet extended to more areas than just day-to-day care when as a teenager he "began playing around with the guitar and harmonica." He also began writing his own songs. It was during this time that he became deeply involved in the Catholic church.

Tony considered becoming a priest but couldn't because priests are required to have an index finger and thumb. The news disap-

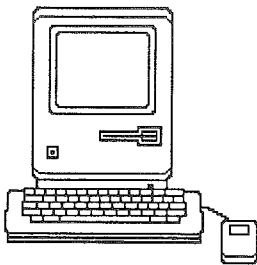


pointed him, but he persevered in his church activities, using his talents as guitarist and composer in the services. He caught the attention of someone with the group organizing activities for the Pope's monumental visit.

"I got a letter from the Los Angeles diocese asking if I could go to a meeting," Tony recalled. "I went to the meeting, which turned into an audition that I didn't know about. I always have a spare guitar with me, so I went back to the truck and got it, sang two songs, and went home. They called me back about five weeks later and asked me to play for the Pope. When it happened, I was very, very nervous. I couldn't believe it when the Pope stepped down and kissed me; I wasn't expecting anything like that."

A highly talented composer and musician, Tony has completed his first album entitled, "Never Be The Same." He is working on an all Spanish album as well.

Lifespan is pleased to present Tony Melendez in concert in the Detroit area on July 13, 1990. Further details to be announced.



Good News, Fellow Knappers!

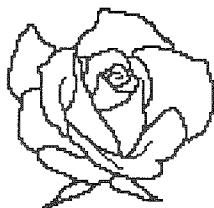
We reached and exceeded our goal of 96,768 coupon points last month! We are now putting our new Macintosh computer to work! But don't stop saving coupons now! We are continuing to collect the coupons for our next project, a copier for the Detroit Chapter office of Lifespan. The coupon points that we have toward this goal already amount to 9628. Thanks to all of you for the wonderful new computer!

Recent coupon donors are Bryson, Kubic, Gaynor, Lajoie, Keilman, Bradley, Radwick, Garrett, Bullion, Darin, Laskey, LaPalm, Panowica, Lehr, Ward, Sr. Catherine, Rochon, Amelotte, Sylvester, Kelly, Wanat, Bowker, Greenstein, Martin, Tschirhart, Rakestraw, Sundberg, Gibbons, Lemming, MacDonald, Freda, Farnstrom, Lee, Wroblewski, Barrett, Majewski, Pikunas, Malicke, Pettibone, Wynsberge, Nye, Weber, Zack, Barkay, Wagner, Kokorzycki, Prewitt, Will

Staeger, Gill, Yezbick, Smith, Poma, Poeppe, McLaughlin, Zaracki, Shoup, Nosewicz, Malys, Kelley, Sinclair, Irwin, Durkee, Lowry, Mowery, O'Connor, Komar, Woss, Roy, Schnob, Polgar, Ketten, Ginn, Ouellette, Kovacs, Sulak, Carrico, Potter, Kastre, Brukwinski, Gordon, Chaussee, Deja, Noonan, Hoefer, Plank, Molnar, Doyle, Oblates of St. Benedict, Tippmann, Sabo, Ewer, DeMare, Simpson, Mitchell, Gavlinski, Reuter, Zello, Roy, Lindeman, Slomka, Bosley, Decker, Wilhelm, Schemanske, Astalos, Hirsch, Lohrengel, Ptaszenski, Truchan, Madey, Austin.

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

Please send the coupons to Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit, 27578 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Thanks again; you're the best!



Chapter

A Call for Volunteers

This promises to be an extremely busy year. Many hands are needed to help in a variety of jobs. To list a few, Coordinators are needed for: Education (willing to coordinate projects with our Education Center, including a library project to libraries in our County), Volunteers (contacting volunteers to fill existing job descriptions) and Special Projects (willing to take responsibility for upcoming projects, some annual, others one time projects).

These, along with a computer operator 1 to 2 days a week (maintaining membership) and Church Representatives, are

priorities, but there is room for your talents in many areas. Please call the Office at 545-8088 for further information, or to volunteer your time and talents.

Thanks!

Diane Trombley thanks our many members and friends who attended Kelly and Co. on Friday, March 2. She was well aware of your moral support throughout the program. Diane, the Public Relations Director for Lifespan, did an excellent job defending the prolife position. Thank you, Diane - you have never been better!

Thank you, Jane!

Last month Jane Condrone changed hats. Jane will now be office manager for Oakland County. We want to thank you, Jane, for your time and dedication through the years. Your sacrifices for the unborn are known to those of us in the RTL movement and we truly thank you for your past years of service and devotion. May God bless you and your family. We hope there is less stress in your new job and more time for yourself. Thanks again!

Oakland County Chapter
203 Washington Square Plaza
Royal Oak, MI 48067-3845
(313) 545-8088

Students: Let us help you!

Sometimes the most rewarding things happen at our office. Last week, five young women in different debate classes at Schoolcraft College came into our office looking for material to defend the unborn. Each one was very concerned because they were extremely outnumbered when the teacher asked for a show of hands as to who was pro-abortion and who was pro-life. However, what appeared to be a minority could really have been misleading. Perhaps some students were too shy to speak their minds. These five made up for what might have been lacking in others. They were full of zeal and enthusiasm. The results were excellent. They received high grades and knew they had influenced many others.

We encourage other students to avail themselves of our fine library and resource materials.

Kelly and Company

A big thank you to our members who, on such short notice, attended Kelly and Co. on Friday, March 2. We are very fortunate to have Diane Trombley as Lifespan's Spokesperson. Her accurate and precise explanations with regard to death and dying legislation were well received by the audience.

AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center

For all who were unable to attend one of the Baby Showers for the prolife alternative groups, AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center, which is located at 27582 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, still needs good used baby furniture and donations for operating expenses.

Here We Are!

For those members in the Plymouth, Canton and Northville areas who receive The Crier '90 Guild, watch for Lifespan's ad. Our aim is to let the public know where our office is located and that prolife speakers, videos, books and other prolife materials are available for personal use or educational purposes.

Welcome, Pat!

With much pleasure, we welcome Pat Holscher as Wayne County West's new Chairman. She is bringing much experience to this position. Pat's knowledge of the prolife struggle as well as her innate sincerity and compassion will do much to further the cause of life in her new position. Welcome, Pat!

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

News

downriver detroit

Volunteers needed

The Detroit chapter needs volunteers willing to work in the office on Mondays or Thursdays from 10 am - 2 pm or any portion thereof. Please call Betty at the office, 874-0432.

Office hours

M, Th 10-2 pm
TWF Closed

Detroit Chapter
5930 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202-3516

(313) 874-0432

Office hours

M-W 9:30 - 4:00
Th-F Closed

Thank you!

Thanks to several special volunteers last month - Valerie Repasky, who donated pictures and a credenza for the office, Joe Mouro, who came out in a snowstorm to take the newsletter to the post office, and Sue Lockman, who has done such a great job at St. Pius X.

Office resources

Please stop by our office for a visit. There is a lending library of books and videos, free literature, and various prolife books and items for sale. Speakers are also available for your civic or church groups. Your donations help make all this possible.

Downriver Chapter
21649 Goddard #125B
Taylor, MI 48180-4247

(313) 374-5111

Treasurer needed!

RTL - Lifespan has an immediate opening for treasurer of the corporation. This volunteer position requires an accounting background. For an interview please call Ann Thomas at the Main Office, 261-2757.

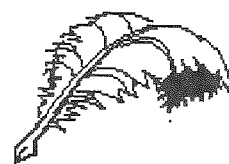
Lifespan News

April 1990 Vol. 12 No. 3

President/Publisher Ann Thomas
Editor Jill Slater

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit is a voluntary organization, and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraisers. Donations are not tax-deductible.

Main Office
27578 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150
(313) 261-2757



From the President's desk

The upcoming elections are stirring interest from all sides of the abortion issue. Pro-abortion groups vow to remove prolife incumbents from office and to fill vacancies with their candidates. The news media is keeping the issue very much alive as possibly the number one question for candidates. And quite frankly, most candidates wish the question would just go away. Some of them are even altering their previous prolife stance in an attempt to "appease" pro-abortionists. Those candidates will find it even more difficult because neither side will support them.

We ask public officials to stand up for LIFE when votes are taken in Washington and Lansing. Now it's our opportunity to stand up for LIFE by volunteering our time, money, and votes for prolife candidates.

We live in a time of change - just look at Eastern Europe, South Africa and Nicaragua. People all over the world are speaking up against injustice and making a difference. We live in the greatest country in the world and one of the most apathetic. The United States was founded on the principles of the RIGHT TO LIFE, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. One of these rights has been denied to one whole segment of the population and is now in question for the disabled and the aged. Without the RIGHT TO LIFE we have nothing. Speak up, do something, together we can make a difference.

I Didn't Speak Up

by Martin Niemoeller, a German Lutheran pastor

In Germany, the Nazis first came for the communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time there was no one left to speak for me.

Ann S. Thomas

RALLY FOR LIFE '90

Washington D.C.

April 28, 1990

Now it's our turn

*Cherry blossoms, Washington DC, Half million proliferers
RALLY '90: Come join us!*

Remember last year's pro-abortion rally in Washington which received so much media attention? Remember how our opposition claimed their numbers in Washington indicated THEY were in the majority?

NOW IT'S OUR TURN!

The National Rally for Life '90 is scheduled in Washington, D.C. for Saturday, April 28, 1990. Now is the time for all prolife families to join together in support of unborn babies.

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Place: The Washington Monument. This will be a Rally, not a march. The expected 500,000 participants will make the logistics of a march impossible.

Speakers: Mother Teresa

Dr. James Dobson

Congressman Henry Hyde

Cardinal John O'Connor

Dr. Jack Willke

Plus prolife people in the fields of government, entertainment, sports and movies.

Suggestions: Truly, this will be a once-in-a-lifetime event. Bring the whole family. Come early if you want to be up reasonably close to the front. Bring a blanket and toys for the kids, some extra food and drink, umbrellas (it's spring, you know). Souvenirs will be available for purchase, too.

TRANSPORTATION:

Bus:

LIFESPAN BUS: including Friday and Saturday nights at the Marriott Courtyard

Cost: \$100/person for bus & hotel, 4 persons/rm
\$130/person for bus & hotel, 2 persons/rm

Departure: Thursday, April 26, 1990, 10:00 pm
from Lifespan Livonia parking lot.*

Arrival: Friday, April 27, 10:00 am at Marriott Courtyard in Maryland. Near Metro station for travel to Rally and sightseeing. Hotel has indoor pool and whirlpool for your enjoyment.

Return: Departs hotel Sunday, April 29, 9:00 am
arrives Livonia 9:00 pm.

RESERVATIONS TO BE MADE WITH:

LIFESPAN MAIN OFFICE (See coupon)

27578 Schoolcraft

Livonia, MI 48150

(313) 261-2757

* Bus riders should be dropped off and picked up at the parking lot. Parking is limited and there will be no security for cars left in lot.

AIR TRAVEL:

FRIDAY - SUNDAY: Hotel Accommodations available (see "Hotel" below)

Cost: \$255/person, 10% discount (\$25.50) if over 61 years for that person and one companion.

Detroit - Washington Northwest Flight #82

Departs Detroit Metro: Friday, 4-27-90, 8:30 am

Arrives Washington National: 10:01 am

Spend the weekend in Washington, go to Rally, tour the capitol. Shuttle bus available to hotel, which is one block from Metro station.

Washington - Detroit Northwest Flight #1104

Departs Wash National: Sun, 4-29-90, 1:55 pm

Arrives Detroit Metro: 3:43 pm

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF MAKING RESERVATION, NO REFUNDS, EXCEPT FOR PROVEN SERIOUS ILLNESS OR DEATH IN FAMILY
Other flight times available only thru travel agent

SATURDAY ONLY:

Cost: \$302.00/person roundtrip, 10% discount for over 61 applies. RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE PRIOR TO BOOKING.

Detroit - Washington Northwest Flight #82

Departs Detroit Metro: Sat, 4-28-90 at 8:30 am

Arrives Washington National: 10:01 am

Shuttle bus from airport to Metro station, which will take you near Rally site.

Washington - Detroit Northwest Flight #339

Departs Wash National: Sat, 4-28-90, 6:10 pm

Arrives Detroit Metro: 7:50 pm

ALL AIR RESERVATIONS TO BE MADE WITH:

Redford-Windward Travel, 27544 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150. Phone (313) 427-2727. Contact person: Nancy.

HOTEL:

Marriott Crystal City
1999 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
Arlington, VA 22202
Phone (703) 521-5500

Cost: Single \$93.08, Double \$104.03,
Triple or Quad \$114.98 (includes 9 1/2% tax)

Days: Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28.

The hotel has a Metro station one block away for travel to Rally and sightseeing, free transportation via shuttle bus from airport to hotel, 5 minutes from airport, underground parking free on weekends for those who drive. We have 50 rooms reserved on a first come, first served basis.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE WITH:
LIFESPAN MAIN OFFICE (SEE COUPON).**

CAMPGROUND:

Aquia Pine Campground
3071 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
Stafford, VA 22544
Phone (703) 659-3447

Cost: With water, electricity: \$20.00 for 2, \$2.50 each additional person, under four years free, add 6 1/2% tax per night.
No water, electricity: \$17.00 for 2, same for additional persons
10% discount available to Rally participants, deposit refundable with 7 days notice.

**MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS WITH A
\$20.00 DEPOSIT TO CAMPGROUND**

DEADLINE IS APRIL 9, 1990. RESERVATIONS ARE LIMITED AND WILL BE GRANTED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS UNTIL PLANE, HOTEL, BUSES ARE FULL.

RESERVATION COUPON (Payment must accompany reservation)

\$_____ Bus tickets for _____ persons

\$_____ Hotel reservations for _____ persons _____ in a room.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed (prepayment for all reservations required)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

*Deadline for all reservations is April 9, 1990. Mark all reservations "Rally '90".
Make checks payable to: Right to Life - Lifespan, and mail to: 27578 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150*

Legislative Update

Michigan News

Parental Consent

The parental consent bill passed both the House and Senate but, as expected, was vetoed by Governor Blanchard.

RTL - Lifespan and Right to Life of Michigan will work together to collect the 192,000 signatures needed for a petition initiative. After the signatures are validated by the State Election Committee, the legislature has 40 days to act on this legislation. If approved, it becomes law in March, 1991. If rejected, it will be voted on by the general public. Contact your Lifespan office if you would like to work on the petition initiative.

National News

"Family Planning" (S110, HR 930)

Although Lifespan takes no position on contraception or federal funding of contraceptive services, we do oppose federal funding of organizations which promote

abortion as a family planning option. Planned Parenthood affiliates currently receive about \$30 million a year under Title X of the Public Health Service Act. These bills would extend the Title X program for 4 more years at increased funding levels. S110 is expected to see action on the Senate floor in March (NRLC legis. office).

ACTION: Urge your Congressman to oppose these bills unless they are amended to protect the pro-life Title X regulations, and to prohibit the use of Title X funds for school-based clinics and for research on

"Americans with Disabilities Act"

This bill would require that any place licensed as a public facility also be wheelchair accessible. Another effect would be that public buses would have lifts. It passed the Senate by a vote of 78-8 and has been endorsed by President Bush as it stands. The bill is currently being held up in committees in the House. Rep. Dingell favors removing clauses which would assist the mentally impaired.

ACTION: Contact your Congressman urging him/her to support this bill as is, including benefits for the mentally impaired.

"Freedom of Choice Act" (HR 3700, S1912)

This bill would prohibit any restrictions on abortion prior to fetal viability (around 23 weeks). After viability, the bill would grant women an abortion for "health" reasons (the Supreme Court has ruled that "health" includes any factor pertinent to a woman's "well being"). Thus, in practical terms, the bill would bar states from placing restrictions on abortion at any point during pregnancy (From NRLC legislative office.).

ACTION: Write to your Senators and Congressmen urging them NOT to support this bill.

AFL-CIO ad hoc committee stacked with pro-aborts PROLIFE UNION MEMBERS MUST ACT NOW

The AFL-CIO is a federation of 90 unions, with a combined membership of over 14 million. So far, the national AFL-CIO has taken no position on abortion. In recent months, leaders of some pro-abortion unions which belong to the AFL-CIO have organized a campaign to get the national AFL-CIO leadership to approve a resolution in support of legal abortion.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland has appointed a 14 member special

committee brimming over with abortion supporters to consider the resolution. He also criticized the prolife/pro-labor people who have inundated the national office of the AFL-CIO and the 50 state offices with letters insisting that the Federation stay out of the abortion debate.

What are the stakes should this pass? Just as one example, the large AFL-CIO staff in Washington would lobby Congress in support of pro-abortion legislation. Also, in the 1990 and subsequent elections

the AFL-CIO's formidable political apparatus (their PAC is among the largest in the nation) would seek to defeat prolife congressmen, or pressure them to abandon their prolife position.

Now more than ever your letters are needed!

• Continue writing your labor officials at every level. Tell them of your opposition and ask what they are recommending to their own organizations. Ask local and state affiliated unions to convey their disapproval to the national leadership of their union as well as Lane Kirkland, AFL-CIO president, and the Executive Council (c/o Lane Kirkland), 815 16th Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20006.

• Write letters to the editor, no matter the nature of the publication - union paper, local daily or religious press. Insist that such matters are personal and not the business of organized labor.

VHS VIDEO

New Release 1990

Ultrasound

"A Window to The Womb"

A presentation from
Ultrasonographer, Shari Richard,
revealing Life Before Birth utilizing
"State of the Art" Ultrasound Images.



We have heard the PRO-LIFE and PRO-CHOICE debates...now we can hear from the BABIES themselves. With the application of High Resolution Realtime Ultrasonic Imaging to Obstetrics and Fetology, we can know in exquisite detail what we were like when we were formed in the secret of our mother's womb. See for yourself-through the window into the womb - and observe the unborn in their natural prenatal environment as they respond to touch, breathe, jump, yawn, swallow, stick their tongue out and suck their thumbs. Watch and listen to their earliest heartbeat as just 4 weeks following conception.

Then You Decide: ARE THESE BABIES VIABLE?

This VHS Video is available in two editions:

- EDITION I**
(28 minutes) is excellent for education for assessment in classes on prenatal development for hospitals, schools and family instruction.
- EDITION II**
(40 minutes) is an excellent educational source for crisis pregnancy centers, pro-life, church and hospital groups who wish to address the most crucial and controversial issue of abortion. This second edition contains the same material as Edition I with an additional excerpt where Shari Richard reveals the stark reality of abortion in a classroom setting.

VIDEO OUTLINE

- I. State of the Art in Ultrasound and assessments in obstetrics and fetology.....8 min.
- II. Ultrasound images and corresponding photos of prenatal babies.....15min.
- III. Shari Richard reveals the "stark reality" of abortion in a classroom setting (only in edition II)....13 min.

Video cost: \$29.95

Shipping/handling \$2.50

Mail order to ECL at the above address



Educational Center for Life

909 Woodward Ave., Suite 19
Pontiac, MI 48053
(313) 338-1910

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have 2-4 hours a week you
could give...

- ... to assemble media packets at our Pontiac office across from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital?
- ... participate in a media watch group?
- ... check out libraries (school and public) for materials carried and ensure that prolife materials are available?

ECL will hold a special workshop to train all of us to do these volunteer projects. Please contact Joan at 338-1910 as soon as possible to volunteer. We need to increase community and media acceptance and understanding of the prolife message.

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 \$ 12.00
____ Student/Senior Member \$ 5.00

____ Monthly pledge \$ _____
____ Other \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

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Please detach at the dotted line and return to Right to Life - Lifespan, 27578 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150
Donations are not tax deductible.

Debunking the myths . . .

. . . respirator dependent patients must be institutionalized

by Basil Chenevert

I had to face my own mortality in early 1979, when tests revealed that a foot dragging problem was due to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. . . . Facing relentless progression toward immobility, hospitalization, and dependency upon life support machines had made me give up on whatever was left of life, and say "Let's get this over with as quickly as possible."

Tracheotomies and portable respirators are a great improvement over iron lungs, but it was still a shock to realize that I would have to depend, in an ever increasing degree, on a machine in order to remain alive. I lost my appetite and must have [weighed] considerably less than 120 pounds.

Above all, it was the prospect of relentless progression toward immobility that made whatever seemed to be left of life completely meaningless. During this grim period, my spirits hit dirt bottom. At that time there was no certainty about whether home care would be feasible as my dependency on a respirator increased, and the question of whether home care would be covered by my health insurance had not yet been resolved. I needed anti-depressants and required pain killers and sleeping pills to avoid lying awake at night. As bad as things were, it seemed they could only get worse.

Fortunately, in my case, subsequent events proved that this early despair was unwarranted despite the fact that I am now completely unable to control any movement from the neck down, and I require 24-

hour care by nurses' aides who work in our home. It was my good fortune that a progressive hospital was responsible for my care, and they encouraged and effectively promoted home care. They organized regular visits to my home by special nurses and therapist. They also engaged the services of home care agencies that provide and maintain special home care equipment and

Home care has had a dramatic impact on my current survival in several significant ways

schedule nursing personnel for around-the-clock coverage.

The dramatic improvement in my physical condition and comfort includes the following: my appetite revived, and . . . I am also off the sleeping pills, anti-depressants, and pain killers. There is no question in my mind that home care is responsible for this marked improvement in my physical condition and attitude. I am living and still participating! The key factor that makes home care effective is the freedom and flexibility that it allows in my existence and treatment . . . The ultimate freedom, of course, is the one which permits continued interaction with my wife and family; to be a part of family get-togethers and celebra-

tions; to delight in the wonderful transition of our latest granddaughter from baby to toddler; and to enjoy her reaction to the birds and squirrels that take turns at the feeder box outside our living room window.

Shifting my care from the cold sterility of a hospital ward to the warmth of familiar surroundings gradually changed my depression and despair to hope and determination. Returning to limited participation in life with those who were most important to me, at a place I would choose above all others, made every day meaningful and worthwhile. I also found that these changes had a powerful therapeutic effect that reduced many of the medical problems I had been experiencing before I was sent home. These problems, unrelated and peripheral to ALS, had contributed significantly to the physical misery I felt at the time. Wondrous as it has been for me, my doctor assures me that home care can give comfort, life quality, and health improvement just as dramatic for a wide range of illnesses with prognoses not as dire as mine. □

Excerpted from the handbook Taking Hopelessness out of Helplessness, by Basil Chenevert, of Lincoln Park, MI. Used with permission. In its second printing, this booklet describes Basil's experiences and includes blueprint drawings of his home care inventions. Available from Metrostaff, Inc., P.O. Box 5031, Southfield, MI 48086-5031 (\$5.95 per copy).

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

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