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NEWSLETTER OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE OF NEW MEXICO

## COMMENTARY FROM THE EDITOR BY DAUNEEN DOLCE

I want to thank the many people who contribute both time and money to our cause and specifically The Right to Life Committee of New Mexico. For the most part, what is said in this article does not apply to you. However, it is important to think about it, since what is thought or done impacts so many innocent lives. Each one of us is either a part of the solution or part of the problem. What are you?

Recently I have had many "pro-lifers" make remarks to me that show that many claim to be pro-life but are not. This does not mean they support abortion, but their reasoning "allows" abortion and the climate that promotes it. I want to address these attitudes and ideas.

***I wouldn't have an abortion, but I can't tell someone else not to.***

I wonder what would happen if this person said, "I wouldn't rape someone, but I couldn't tell someone else not to." Or "I wouldn't rob a bank, but I wouldn't tell someone else they couldn't."

These statements sound so magnanimous. However, they are just plain wrong. By passing laws we are always telling someone they can't do something, and most laws are agreed upon by most people. We tell them they can't do something because the something is wrong! Abortion is wrong. It is wrong because it kills an innocent human being without due process of a trial. Before *Roe v. Wade*, abortion was considered to be murder. Can we ever condone murder no matter who is doing the murder? This statement is a rationalization to prevent one from actively becoming involved beyond word.

***Abortion is a moral issue and should not be a matter of law.***

All legislation has a "moral" aspect to it. It is wrong to speed and endanger other lives. It is wrong to make so much noise it disturbs the peace of other citizens, perhaps their sleep. It is wrong to use firecrackers when the area is very dry and there is a ban. This law protects us from having fires that could put structures at risk, as well as lives. Then, of course, there are the big laws dealing with murder, robbery, assault, rape, theft, child abuse, to mention a few. The laws are based on what is morally wrong. Being moral does not always line up with religion. Moral does relate to right and wrong, and religion does address this, but private right and wrong and society right and wrong are also the basis for laws.

***It is better to kill these babies now before they come into the world and be in poverty and be driven to crime.***

First of all, most babies aborted are by women in the middle to upper economic class. There are a lot of assumptions made here, such as those babies born to single or poor women will remain such and they will turn to crime. Many single women have raised children successfully. They have resources available to them to finish their education and to get aid from Medicaid, etc. to be able to live.

Poor people also have these resources. Many people from poor families have moved from that environment to better and financially sound lives. Crime comes from a

lack of education (dropouts), drug involvement, and families who are in disarray. To assume a single parent creates a family that is in trouble is wrong. There have been many families through the years, fathers lost in wars or other reasons for their deaths, where women raised their children. I was raised by my mother who was single and poor. She did raise her children and did so without government help. Here again is attitude, not an impossible situation.

***It is cheaper to abort these children than have them on Welfare rolls.***

As previously said, most abortions are done on women who could economically afford them. There is an economic factor to abortion, but it is one that is detrimental to the American public. We are killing off our social security base. Between people not having children or reducing the number they are having to the destruction of their children, we do not have the numbers that are needed to support our growing population of senior citizens. This senior number will continue to grow as we increase technology that lets us live longer. Today we kill the unborn. In the future we will kill the elderly and the chronically ill, as they too will be unwanted. You may be setting yourself up to be one of these "expendables."

***In voting for a candidate, there are more important issues than abortion.***

Once a human being is killed, there are no other issues. However, if you put the issues of taxes, roads, schools, even war over the killing of innocent human beings, which is not to the tune of 48 million since 1973, you are voting for killing as a solution to our problems. Voting for someone who is pro-abortion is aiding and abetting a moral wrong and is an accomplice to that legislator's pro-abortion vote. If you truly are pro-life, you cannot vote for someone who would vote to deliberately kill innocent human life. Other issues such as wages, economic disparity, capital punishment etc. are items that have people to represent them as well as themselves. THEY ARE ALIVE! The unborn has no one to represent them and is slaughtered without due process of law or without any limitation - not money, reason, or time limits, since welfare does pay for the poor's abortions. There is no way we can address human needs, civil rights, or other problems if we don't respect life. As long as you kill the unborn, there is no respect for life.

These are some of the statements made to me by "pro-lifers." Being pro-life means involvement of some sort by donating money, volunteering time, by getting educated and sharing what you learn with others, by voting pro-life, and by communicating with your state and national legislators, and for those of faith, by praying. You can and must make a difference. E-mail me at [info@rtlnm.org](mailto:info@rtlnm.org) and I will share with you all the ways you can help. There are many. Joe Schmo thinks you're the one doing the work, so don't wait until Joe Schmo gets around to it. Read the next item and take to heart!

*A word to the wise isn't as good  
as a word from the wise.*

## ATTITUDE

by Charles Swindol

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company, a church, a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past; we cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you.

**We are in charge of our ATTITUDES.**



## BORN TO RUN AND YOUR SPONSORSHIP

One of the ways you can help is by participating and supporting Born To Run. This is an event where you can have fun while raising much-needed funds. For those who want to give \$500.00 or more and who want to have their name or business acknowledged on t-shirts, runner's brochures, and other recognitions, the deadline for you to participate in this is August 17, 2007. For those giving less than \$500, you have more time, but the sooner the better.

Whatever you give will be appreciated and will help RTLCNM meet its goals, missions, and to work for you. Please help us in this endeavor.

## STATE FAIR BOOTH

This too needs donations, but equally important is the need for people to volunteer their time. Please pick a date to work and a time for training. Time is flying fast, and for us to do the best job we need to be prepared. If you have questions, please call 881-4563 or e-mail [info@rtlcnm.org](mailto:info@rtlcnm.org)

## UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

Universal healthcare is coming like a steamroller to our state and at the national level whether we like it or not. There are all types of universal healthcare—some all right and some horrible. In the next few newsletters we will address this issue using various sources for the different aspects of plans being offered.

Some sort of universal healthcare is going to be introduced in the 2008 legislative session. While RTLCNM does not have an official position on healthcare, it does and will oppose any healthcare that provides rationing of healthcare, which in turn provides euthanasia. This we will have to watch carefully.

## SINGLE PAYER-HEALTHCARE

A single-payer program has the government making all health decisions for its citizens. Many nations have single-payer health plans, most noted are Canada and England. Previously, the Clinton Healthcare Plan was being supported in the 1990s, and it relied on a single-payer plan. It was defeated, but the concept is still hanging around not only at the national level but at the state level.

**This is a summary and a critique by the Heritage Foundation entitled "High Price Pain: What to Expect from a Single-Payer System."**

Socialized medicine (single-payer solution) calling for "free" healthcare wanted by many Americans is not only not a solution but creates worse healthcare for almost everyone. It would require socialist-style command economy and require government control of the production and distribution of goods and services.

Performance of single-payer systems is available, since countries such as England, Canada, and other state run systems have a proven record of ineffective and bad effects of the system. Here are some of the adverse effects from these countries' healthcare system:

- 1. LONG WAITS AND REDUCED QUALITY:** In Britain, over 800,000 patients are waiting for hospital care. In Canada, the average wait between practitioner referral and a specialty consultation has been over 17 weeks. The system offers strict drug formularies, limited treatment options, and discrimination by age in provision of care. Price controls, a routine feature of such systems, also result in reduced drug, technology, and medical device research.
- 2. THERE IS A FUNDING CRISIS:** Because individuals remain insulated from the direct costs of healthcare, as in many third-party payment systems, healthcare appears to be "free." As a result, demand expands while government officials devise ways to control costs. The shortest route is by providing fewer products and services through explicit and implicit rationing.
- 3. NEW INEQUALITIES:** Beyond favoritism in the provision of care for politically well-connected, single-payer healthcare systems often restrain costs by limiting surgeries for the elderly, restricting dialysis, withholding care from very premature infants, reducing the number of intensive care beds, limiting MRI availability, and restricting access to specialists.
- 4. LABOR STRIKES AND PERSONNEL SHORTAGES:** In 2004, a healthcare worker strike in British Columbia, Canada resulted in the cancellation of 5,300 surgeries and numerous MRI examinations, CT scans, and lab tests. Canada also has a shortage of physicians, which has become a chronic problem.
- 5. OUTDATED FACILITIES AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:** Advances in medical technology are often seen in terms of their costs rather than their benefits, and investment is slower. For example, an estimated 60% of radiology equipment in Canada is technically outdated.
- 6. POLITICIZATION AND LOSS OF LIBERTY:** Patient autonomy is curtailed in favor of the judgment of an elite few who dictate what healthcare needs and desires ought to be while imposing social controls over activities deemed undesirable or at odds with an expanding definition of "public health." Government officials would claim a compelling interest in many areas not considered personal. Political incentives supplant market forces creating a process that is friendly to special-interest lobbying bureaucratic redundancy, and the abrogation of personal freedoms. This political process contributes to the mis-allocation of resources, the expansion of governmental control over healthcare delivery, and the politicization of medicine. There are more bureaucrats in NHS (British National Health Service) than there are hospital beds.  
Market-based reforms, however, would dramatically expand coverage, promote innovation and economic efficiency, and eliminate existing market distortions in the healthcare system. Real market competition would allow more efficient and productive providers to thrive, while less productive providers would either become more efficient or go out of business.

## Single Payer Healthcare...

(continued from pg. 2)

7. HMO'S: While many medical professionals and health-care analysts are critical of health maintenance organizations (HMO's), a prominent HMO, Kaiser Permanente, has demonstrated better performance than the British National Health Service (NHS) in primary healthcare services: 20 minutes with a doctor compared to 8 minutes with NHS, and access to specialists within two weeks and 13 weeks with NHS. Kaiser also has three times the number of nurses per physician than in Britain.
8. The United States is more productive in the treatment of breast cancer and lung cancer than Britain and Germany. The reasons can be traced directly to the healthcare systems. The United Kingdom has not invested as quickly in technologies that have dramatically improved the diagnostic capabilities of medicine and significantly reduced recovery time.
9. The Alan Smith Institute in London and its analysts report that NHS has long run excessive rationing built into it because there are constant pressures to contain spending and only indirect and infrequent pressures to increase it. For example, to contain costs, access to healthcare in NHS is rationed by age. Indeed, British elderly are frequently denied access to beneficial technologies such as renal dialysis and medicines for Alzheimer's disease. A recent decision by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) not to pay for two expensive colon cancer drugs for NHS patients is an example of rationing.
10. **ACCESS TO DENTISTRY:** The NHS rations access to dentistry by prices that are set well below the European market. As a result, many dentists are unable to recoup practice investments and go into private practice or move overseas.
11. **UNDERINVESTMENT OF HEALTHCARE:** The NHS's underinvestment in the past 30 years compared to the European average has reached \$399 billion. To address the long wait lists, the NHS has increased its staff by 45,000 a year since 1999 to a peak of 1.33 million. However, this has created a deficit of 700–750 million resulting in more recent plans to reduce outlays for drugs, hospitals, and services, and to cut staff levels by 100,000.
12. **THE WEALTHY GET FASTER ACCESS TO SERVICES IN BOTH CANADA AND BRITAIN:** Investigations in 2002 have proven that more than 10,000 private-pay patients were given preference over NHS patients in Britain's most respected hospitals. Around half of the private patients come from overseas and were treated before NHS patients. Britain's Royal Marsden Hospital received almost a quarter of its income from private patients in 2001.
13. **LACK OF DOCTORS:** In Canada there are 2.1 doctors (including residents) per 1,000 population. To reach the sufficient supplies, Canada would need to train 500 more physicians per year (a 25% increase). This shortage is exacerbated by government limits on residency slots and physician immigration and by the exodus of Canadian physicians to practice in other countries. Canada lost 411 physicians annually to the U.S. from 1992–1998, 209 in 2002 and 80 in 2003. In 2004 there was a net gain with 262 migrating abroad. They say it is not about money but that they cannot do their job properly with operating room time so extremely limited. The Health Council of Canada is now warning that if the government does not address the shortage of doctors and nurses in Canada, the

scarcity of human resources will reach a crisis point. In the U.S. the shortage of doctors can be traced to those who will no longer take Medicare patients, for lack of payment and restrictions upon their care.

**In the next *Viva Life* we will look at our Medicare and the Massachusetts plan.**

## PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S SEX ED DOUBLE TALK

**This article is from the Stopp Report, July 11, 2007.**

To the average person, a program that claims to be "comprehensive" and "medically accurate" sounds very acceptable, and in fact, probably very good. At face value it is almost understandable that school boards and city councils would be taken in by a program described like this. However, the problem is that when Planned Parenthood claims that its sex ed programs will be "comprehensive" and "medically accurate" it is lying, plain and simple.

A very common example of Planned Parenthood's sex ed hypocrisy is how it teaches children about "safer sex." According to Planned Parenthood, "safer sex" is a relative term; it is anything you decide to do to lower the risk of becoming infected or infecting someone else, especially with dangerous infections, such as HIV. But it then turns around and rejects procedures such as circumcision that have been shown to drastically decrease HIV transmission. Why? According to Planned Parenthood, it is because "condom use is, by far, a superior safer sex strategy." Obviously, that can't be the real reason. If that were PP's rationale, then it would only advocate for abstinence before marriage and fidelity to one's spouse afterward, as it is the most "superior safer sex strategy" since it is 100 percent effective. We contend that the real reason PP doesn't support circumcision is simply because it isn't one of the services PP sells.

Well, at least Planned Parenthood is giving all the facts about its products and services, right? Outrageously, the answer is no. In fact, a recent article reported that a spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region said that "emphasizing condom failure rates confuses adolescents." In other words, Planned Parenthood wants to teach our children to use condoms but doesn't feel it is appropriate to teach them the fact that condoms fail 15% of the time. That doesn't sound very "comprehensive," does it?

But that's not all. Often in Planned Parenthood's literature and presentations, it specifically omits the fact that nearly all contraceptive drugs and devices *can* contribute to the death of a developing child in their mother's womb. Certainly this would prove the program to be far from "comprehensive", but what is worse is that when Planned Parenthood is specifically asked, it still denies the abortifacient nature of its products. This is not just medically inaccurate but is simply an outright lie.

**Post note: It is true that many contraceptive measures, especially when not taken properly, can be a cause for abortion. This does not mean that all contraceptives will cause an abortion. People need to know how a type of contraceptive works.**

## PLANNED PARENTHOOD: BUSINESS IS GOOD

Information came out a little over a week ago that there had been a jump in abortions in Minnesota, especially among teenagers. Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCFL is an NRLC affiliate) has said Planned Parenthood's fingerprints were all over the 16% increase among teenagers from 2005 to 2006.

Planned Parenthood performed more abortions than ever in 2006, increasing its business by 21% in a single year. The state's abortion total rose by 703; Planned

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## Planned Parenthood, Business is Good...

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Planned Parenthood, despite performing only 26% of Minnesota abortions, increased its total by 648 capturing nearly all the increase.

Planned Parenthood opened its first suburban "express" mall clinic in June of 2006 with others soon following; its monthly abortion numbers increased significantly each month thereafter. These clinics target young women and make referrals for abortions. After years of steady decline, abortions performed on minors rose an astonishing 16 percent in 2006.

Scott Fischbach, Executive Director of MCCFL says, "For Planned Parenthood, abortion isn't just a morally acceptable 'choice' and a constitutional right to be patriotically exercised – it's a business practice. I believe that's why it opposes even common sense, bipartisan legislation – like a woman's right to know law, which provides women with basic, factual information prior to undergoing an abortion."

"With the Legislature refusing to end taxpayer funding of abortions and awarding millions of dollars in block grants to abortionists groups, the number of abortions will only continue to rise."

**Editor's Note: New Mexico also pays for abortions, and we don't know how much money is going to Planned Parenthood here. The New Mexico legislature also will not pass a woman's right to know or a parental notification bill. We too have Planned Parenthood clinics in New Mexico, and one does do abortions. Will we see what happened in Minnesota happening in New Mexico? That depends on elections, people getting involved, and help being given to our teenagers and young women so they avoid the same pitfalls that has taken place in Minnesota. Abstinence does work, and our sex education program, often created by Planned Parenthood in New Mexico, should be reviewed.**

Information provided from  
Scott Fischbach – July 11, 2007.

## PLANNED PARENTHOOD, LIFE AND PERSONHOOD

The following question and answer are taken from the Planned Parenthood Federation of America Website. Planned Parenthood notes that it originally gave the answers in 2003 but updated it in July 2007.

**Ask Dr. Cullins (Dr. Vanessa Cullins is a board certified obstetrician/gynecologist and Vice President for Medical Affairs at Planned Parenthood Federation of America.)**

**Q:** My friend says that life begins when the egg and sperm join together. I say that it begins when a baby takes its first breath. Which of us is right?

**A:** All kinds of people – theologians, philosophers, scientists, lawyers, legislators, and many others – hold very different views about when life begins. In fact, both the egg and the sperm are living things before they meet and join. There's no real argument there. The really hot question is "When does being a person begin?" Most medical authorities and Planned Parenthood agree that it starts when a baby takes its first breath.

Some of the oldest religions have changed their views about the question many times over the centuries. Today, some people sincerely believe that being a person begins when the egg is fertilized. Some, just as sincerely, believe that it begins with birth. And lots of others believe it begins somewhere in between.

What we are all sure about is that a pregnant woman is a person. We know for sure that she has morals, feelings, human needs, and a conscience. Because of this, we know that she is the only one able to make a decision about her pregnancy options. She does it based on her own needs, ethics, and religious belief about when being a person begins. It would be wrong to force her to observe someone else's religious belief.

## WHEN A PERSON AND HUMAN BEING MEAN THE SAME THING

by James Bopp, Jr. Editor and Chief of  
*Issues in Law & Medicine*

The featured article in this edition of *Issues in Law & Medicine* is the thesis of professor Charles I. Lugo, LL.B, LL.M, M.B.E., S. J. D., entitled "Conforming to the Rule of Law: When Person and Human Being Finally Mean the Same Thing in the Fourteenth Amendment Jurisprudence." The thesis fulfilled part of the requirements for his Doctorate in Juridical Science from the University of Pennsylvania. In it Dr. Lugosi applies the Fourteenth Amendment of the United State Constitution to the issue of abortion. The Fourteenth Amendment was intended to protect people from discrimination by the states. As a constitutional principle, he reasons that the Fourteenth Amendment is not confined to its historical origin and purpose but is available to protect all human beings, including all unborn human beings. The Supreme Court can define 'person' to include all human beings, born and unborn. It simply has chosen not to do so.

Dr. Lugosi argues that science, history, and tradition established that unborn humans are, from the time of conception, both persons and human beings, thus strongly supporting an interpretation that the unborn meet the definition of "person" under the Fourteenth Amendment. The legal test used to extend constitutional personhood to corporations, which are artificial 'persons' under the law, is more than met by the unborn, demonstrating that the unborn deserve the status of constitutional personhood.

He concludes that there can be no 'rule of law' if the Constitution continues to be interpreted in a way that perpetuates a discriminatory legal system of separate and unequal for unborn human beings. Relying on the reasoning of the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court may overrule *Roe v. Wade* solely on the ground of equal protection. Such a result would not return the matter of abortion to the states. The Fourteenth Amendment properly interpreted and applied to the unborn human beings would protect pre-born human beings nationwide.

Due to the length of Dr. Lugosi's thesis, this edition of *Issues in Law and Medicine* (Dec. 2006) is a double edition and identified as Volume 22, Numbers 2 and 3. This double edition is available to individuals for \$20.00 and to institutions for \$33.00. Checks can be made to *Issues in Law & Medicine*, 1 South 6<sup>th</sup> St., Terre Haute, IN. 47807.

*Issues in Law & Medicine* is a peer-reviewed professional journal and has been published by the National Legal Center for the Medically Dependent & Disabled, Inc. since 1985.

**Post note: In Webster's Concise Family Dictionary copy write 1975, person is listed as: a human being: individual, the body of a human being.**

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*The best way to escape a problem  
is to solve it.*

## NARAL PRO-CHOICE ANALYSIS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

NARAL is a pro-abortion organization. This is how they analyze the current candidates running in each party.

### REPUBLICANS

**Mitt Romney** has said, "I am pro-life, and I support pro-life legislation...I think *Roe v. Wade* one-size-fits-all approach is wrong!"

**Sen. John McCain**, who has voted anti-choice 123 times out of 128 votes on choice, has said, "I do not support *Roe v. Wade*. I think it should be overturned."

**Sen. Sam Brownback** has gone so far as to promise that he "will commit to helping end abortion in America..."

**Fred Thompson**: During his seven years in the U.S. Senate, he voted anti-choice 44 times out of 46 choice-related issues. He has called *Roe v. Wade* "bad law" and received a 100 percent voting record from National Right to Life Committee.

**Governor Jim Gilmore** has a generally anti-choice record. When asked if *Roe v. Wade* should be overturned, he said, "Yes, it was wrongly decided."

**Mayor Rudy Giuliani** has a pro-choice record as mayor. His position now is mixed-choice. When asked about the repeal of *Roe v. Wade*, he said it would be ok to repeal it.

**Governor Mike Huckabee** is generally an anti-choice record. He said, "I am pro-life, unapologetically, and I believe that is very important issue that defines who we are as a civilization."

**Rep. Duncan Hunter** has an anti-choice record. He has said, "I would amend the U. S. Constitution and provide blanket protection to all unborn children from the moment of conception by prohibiting any state or federal law that denies the personhood of the unborn."

**Gov. Tommy Thompson** is mostly anti-choice. He says, "I am pro-life and always have been."

**Rep. Tom Tancredo** is anti-choice. He says, "As a devout Christian, father, and grandfather, I am a strong believer of the right to life for the unborn child. For years, activist judges have undermined life. As president I would stop this by appointing strict constructionists as judges, reining in the power of the judiciary, and supporting constitutional amendments that respect life."

**Rep. Ron Paul** has an anti-choice record. He said, "Although the real problem lies within the hearts and minds of the people, the legal problems of protecting life stem from the ill-advised *Roe v. Wade* ruling, a ruling that constitutionally should never have occurred."

### DEMOCRATS

**Sen. Joe Biden** has a pro-choice record. He said, "I am a long-standing supporter of *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to choose."

**Sen. Hillary Clinton** has a pro-choice record. She said, "I believe in the freedom of women to make their own decisions about the personal and significant matters affecting their lives."

**Sen. Christopher Dodd** has a pro-choice record. He said, "I have always believed in a woman's right to choose."

**Sen. John Edwards** has a pro-choice record. He said, "A woman's decision about whether to become a parent is one of the two life decisions that she can face."

**Sen. Mike Gravel** has a mixed-choice record. He said, "I am opposed to today's ruling or any ruling that places restrictions on reproductive rights. Today's decision authorizes federal intervention to prohibit a nationwide procedure that American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has found at times to be medically

necessary. Any decision on abortion should remain between a woman and her doctor. There is no room for interference from politicians and judges."

**Rep. Dennis Kucinich** has a pro-choice record. He said, "The most personal and often the most difficult decision a woman can make is a decision to terminate her pregnancy."

**Sen. Barack Obama** has a pro-choice record. He said, "It is not just an issue of choice but equality and opportunity for women."

**Gov. Bill Richardson** has a pro-choice record. He said, "I have always supported women's reproductive rights, and when president I will continue to fight for a woman's right to choose. I oppose waiting periods on abortions, which would unfairly restrict choices. I have also signed a bill that allows hospitals to provide emergency contraceptives to those who have been sexually assaulted. New Mexico also funds health centers that provide information, including contraception and abortion. Our goal must reduce unwanted pregnancy, and that means offering the broadest range of choices."

"In Congress, I voted against restrictions on late-term abortions when a woman's life is at risk, and I am disappointed the Supreme Court upheld the ban. The recent ruling is setting a precedent and a worrying erosion of the right to privacy established in *Roe v. Wade*, a profound personal decision that the government should not be playing a part in."

## SEE THE FACE – KNOW THE PERSON

Sometimes in the debate over life we forget the people involved. Oh, we know what an unborn child looks like, but do we see that child as it would have looked? This is especially true for those that are not "normal" as defined by our society. I don't know what "normal" is, as we see many dysfunctional people who have full intelligence, bodies that are functioning, all that "appears" to be normal, who are not well adjusted people, who don't contribute much to society and may even take from society, including others lives. So before we judge what is "normal" what is productive, and what is required to be "happy," we are going to ever so often give stories that show that many from all walks of life and in all kinds of conditions can be happy, contributing persons in this world.

This story came from Dean Scontras, Congressional Candidate in Maine.

I am pro-life. I have been advised on how to answer this question – say this, don't say that. I have EVEN been advised to change my position. I can't. I thought maybe I should speak about the nuances of *Roe v. Wade*, but the reasons for my position are not that complicated.

In grad school I listened to a student deliver a presentation on how to remove Down Syndrome from the gene pool through selective abortion. I listened attentively. When he was finished, I stood up and told the following story.

I grew up on Love Lane in Kittery, Maine. That's right LOVE Lane. I was the youngest of seven children. At times you would have thought there was an 8<sup>th</sup> Scontras. His name was Billy. Billy Wurm was our neighbor. He graced our lives for more than 50 years. Billy had Downs Syndrome. Sometimes Ya-Ya, my Greek grandmother, would come to stay with us. She spoke NO English, and she didn't like to go to the beach with us. She would stay home by herself quite content. She would walk about the yard, sit in the shade. I will never forget one particular July day when we returned home to find Billy and Ya-Ya hand in hand, walking peacefully around the yard, talking

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## SEE THE FACE...

*(continued from pg. 5)*

to one another. Funny thing is, Billy couldn't understand a word Ya-Ya said, nor could Ya-Ya understand Billy. Yet she had a wonderful look of peace and happiness on her face. Billy was also wearing his perpetual smile.

Years earlier when I was three or four-years old I stumbled and fell into our neighbor's pool. No one was around. No one except for Billy Wurm, that is. I will never forget the image of Billy's face coming toward me as I panicked in silence beneath the water's surface. He scooped me up and placed me safely on the pool's edge. I could tell you many more stories about Billy, each one suggesting some greater purpose to life, but they would all need to be considered in the context of that life-saving experience. Were it not for Billy, well...

Society hungers for perfection in ourselves and our children, to a fault. As a parent, I see it. We want perfect children, perfect communities free from pain and toil. It's only human. My point to the speaker was this – I understand that sometimes a child may place a burden on society for any number of reasons, but they also bring with them unexpected grace, joy, and ability to touch other lives beyond measure. The most wonderful lessons in life often come from those who have had to overcome the greatest obstacles. Their lives seem to teach us the most about our own. Thankfully, our world is full of such stories...full of people like Bill Wurm.

To me, it is the human spirit that needs to be considered and protected. It reminds me of my favorite movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." One living person has the ability to shape

so many others. It's a dangerous territory when WE become arbiters of life. I told my classmate that I thought his thesis was well written but sadly mistaken. Without Billy there would have been a hole in my life, or perhaps a hole where my life had once been.

Billy also had something that each one of us long for: unbridled happiness, unconditional love of all things. As I conducted my observations that day in class, a young woman rose up behind me. "I wasn't going to say anything," she said, "but I'm glad Dean did." She continued. "I have several children. The youngest has Downs Syndrome. He is by far the happiest of the bunch!"

## TRANSPLANT SAVES NEWBORN BABY AFTER MOM WOULDN'T CONSIDER ABORTION

ST. LOUIS, MO

Jacob Gibbs has survived despite receiving a rare metabolic disorder of the liver from his mother, Keeley. Although doctors warned her that getting pregnant would be risky, Keeley had no thoughts about abortion once she found out she was carrying Jacob and that he inherited the disorder from her.

Source: Life News-4/21/06

*Don't talk about your  
good intentions –  
do them, and then  
let others do the talking!*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I understand that the Right To Life Committee of New Mexico (RTL CNM) is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization dedicated to the right to life of all innocent human beings from fertilization to natural death; that this organization takes a stand only on those issues that are directly related to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

I support the goals of RTL CNM, including a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and hereby make application for membership (renewal) as follows:

- Individual — \$20.00
- Corporate — \$40.00 - for business organizations
- Family — \$30.00
- NRL News Subscription (\$5.00 with paid membership)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Wish to: (check one)

- Register to vote
- Re-register

I am a registered: (check one)

- Republican     Democrat
- Other

Signature Required

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