



VIVA LIFE

JANUARY 2010

Newsletter of the Right to Life Committee of New Mexico

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RTLNCNM HAS LOST A STAUNCH SUPPORTER

Nereide Sherwood, owner of Sherwood Printing Company, has passed away. The Right To Life Committee of New Mexico has worked with Nereide and her family for many years and gets most of our printing done by them, including the monthly newsletter. However, beyond the regular business, there was so much given by Nereide to help our organization. When we were struggling to keep afloat, Nereide "carried" us so that we could continue to do business. A woman who was not just a "word," she was faithful to God and faithful to her family and our cause. She was a wonderful example to all of us as to what we should all be – "faithful to life."

RTLNCNM will continue to do business with Nereide's family who has the same helpful attitude and generosity. This is because Nereide was a wonderful mother and teacher. Rest in Peace, dear friend.

"ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE TRIUMPH OF EVIL IS THAT GOOD MEN DO NOTHING"

Quote by Edmund Burke, Irish Orator, philosopher & politician 1729-1797

EDITORIAL COMMENTARY by DAUNEEN DOLCE

This quote is as pertinent today as it was in the past, maybe even more so. We have so much to do with so few, and we are in a great moral war we can lose forever if we do not stand up and fight with all our might.

I know many of you have been faithful supporters either by giving donations and/or volunteering. Many of you are doing both. However, being pro-life is not a WORD. IT IS A WAY! Basically, actions speak louder than words.

Many of you proclaim to be pro-life, but when it comes to furthering your education, you do not come. When it comes to organizing a chapter in your area, you do not help. When it comes to volunteering for an event - a state fair, at the Isotopes, the state office, or helping a chapter with their event - you cannot be found.

Sometimes when you are asked to write a basic letter to your legislator, you do not respond. When a pro-life candidate needs contributions and help, you are absent. When it comes to voting itself, many of you are not doing that. Doing all or some of these activities makes you pro-life, for you are putting your beliefs to work. You are making a difference.

There are many in our families, church, community, at work, and in our neighborhoods who also proclaim to be pro-life. Have you recruited them to join in the battle?

Last month you received a volunteer form. Did you respond to it? This month you are going to be asked to be a member or, if already one, find another. Will you respond to that? I know you mean well, but there is so much at stake and so little time to prevent catastrophe in our nation that I am risking your displeasure by writing this article. You may not see the greater picture. You may feel that all that can be done is being done. You may say you don't

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FIVE ALIVE PROGRAM NEEDS YOU!

If you failed to sign up for the Five Alive Program that funds a monthly budget for RTLNCNM, it is not too late. Just fill out the form on the back page of this newsletter and send it in A.S.A.P. You will receive coded envelopes for your tax-deductible monthly donation. Help us meet our basic monthly needs by joining this program. Mail your form to: RTLNCNM, 2413 Wyoming Blvd NE, Ste A, Albuquerque, NM 87112

WE NEED YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND WE NEED OTHER MEMBERS

Many people who give donations to The Right To Life Committee of New Mexico think their donation makes them a member. Although the donation is greatly appreciated, it does not grant membership. You need to sign a form that makes application for membership along with membership dues.

It is important that all become members, as it gives validity to our organization with the press, legislators, and others. The question is always, "How many members do you have?" The number given either impresses them or makes them "ignore" the organization.

Look at the top of your label on this newsletter. If it says "non-member," please take time to become a member. An application form is enclosed. If you find you are already a member, how about recruiting another member? The cost is only \$20.00 a person, \$30.00 a family, or \$40.00 corporate (business, church, or organization). It is a little, but it does a lot.

This is not tax-deductible, as memberships in organizations are not tax deductible. Checks must be written to The Right To Life Committee of New Mexico. Do not write "trust fund" on the check, as that is not membership. Anyone over 18 can be a member. Start the year right. Be a "member" of RTLNCNM. If you have questions, call 505-881-4563 or e-mail to: info@rtlnm.org

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have time, talent, or knowledge to get involved. Yet all of these are inaccurate statements. **All you need is the desire to help with positive solutions to restore respect for life from fertilization until natural death.**

It need not take a lot of time or talent, just a desire for justice. Do you have that desire? Then for your sake and your family's sake, respond and be a volunteer, a member, recruit a member, and find time in 2010 to further your education. e work for you, but we fail if you and others in our state don't get fully informed. Make sure that RTLCNM's time and money is used to meet its goals and mission. It all starts with you.

I do thank those who are doing their part. You truly are the salt of the earth trying to bring about a culture of respect and love for human life in our state, country, and in the world. You have started in your own home. THANK YOU! For you others, we await your response!

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS – WHO NEED YOUR HELP IN A BIG WAY!

- Albuquerque RTL..... Charlene Comba - 345-4423
- Cibola RTL Roman Martinez - 290-1454
- Dona Ana RTL..... Greg Goldblatt - 525-1062
- Estancia Valley RTL (Edgewood & Stanley included):
..... Christopher Dolce - 832-4516
- Grant County RTL..... Abe Villarreal - 590-2335
- Lincoln County RTL..... William Studer - 258-5108
- Los Alamos RTL..... Mary Early - 662-7479
- Sandoval RTL..... Larry Uhrich - 206-5781
- San Juan RTL..... Steve Thomas - 325-4307
- San Miguel RTL..... Carlos Lopez - 454-0964
- Santa Fe RTL..... Richard Sanchez - 455-0171
- Socorro RTL..... Audrey Handley - 864-8192
- Valencia RTL..... Jackie Farnsworth - 865-6160

If your county wasn't listed, there is no chapter. Please consider helping RTLCNM get a chapter established there. This is how we saves lives!

JANUARY 23, 2010 ROE vs WADE 37 YEARS LATER

As this country still struggles with the infamous 1973 ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court that made into law abortion on demand for all nine months of pregnancy for all and any reason resulting in at least 55 million unborn babies death, we need to stop and review.

Many good laws have been passed in our states and our country that have reduced the number of abortions. These include parental involvement laws, women's right to know laws, partial birth abortion bans, unborn victims violence act (fetal homicide laws), and laws protecting aborted babies who survive an abortion, to mention only a few. None of the laws pose a challenge to *Roe vs. Wade*.

Of course, we are still fighting abortion in our healthcare plans, equal rights amendments that would guaranteed a woman the right to an abortion, funding abortion all over the world, embryonic stem cell research and the possibility of cloning, and funding of abortion in Medicaid plans.

One of the solutions being worked upon by pro-life states able to get more pro-life bills passed than we have in New Mexico is legislation dealing with personhood. It is hoped that these bills could be used to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, which is not possible with the current make-up of the U.S. Supreme Court. We need to analyze what was said in *Roe vs. Wade* and see if the interpretation

being used in these laws is accurate or workable.

Following is an article by Clarke D. Forsythe, a senior counsel at Americans United for Life, a pro-life legal organization. It was previously printed in *National Review Online*.

"Wisdom is the principle thing, and with all you're getting, get understanding" Pr. 4:7

...In recent decades, legal protection of the unborn as persons has developed state by state through fetal-homicide and wrongful-death laws. Today, 36 states have fetal-homicide laws, 24 of which protect unborn children from the time of conception, and 38 states have wrongful-death laws, which protect unborn children at least after viability. (As a practical matter, however, the application of these laws has been limited by the U.S. Supreme Court to incidents other than abortion – e.g., vehicular homicide.)

Over the past few years, a very different legal definition of "personhood" has been proposed in various states. These "personhood" proposals have the specific aim of "challenging" *Roe*, yet they are heading toward a brick wall, because they are based on a clear misreading of Justice Blackmun's language in the 1973 decision.

The proposals sometimes attempt to define human life as beginning at conception (or fertilization). That's well and good, if properly drafted and such laws are in force in many states. But the mistaken belief is that such a definition will repair an omission in *Roe* or present facts that the Court didn't know about. This is wrong for several reasons.

The myth has been widely reported that Justice Blackmun stated in *Roe* that "We don't know when life begins." Some state legislators have come to believe that they can answer the question by asserting that life begins at conception. What Blackmun actually wrote (pp.136-157 of the *Roe* opinion) was: "The [state of Texas] argue[s] that the fetus is a 'person' within the language and meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment. In support of this, they outline at length and in detail the well-known facts of fetal development. If this suggestion of personhood is established, [Jane Roe's] case, of course, collapses, for the fetus' right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the Amendment."

Nevertheless, the urban legend has spread throughout the Web. The standard description is captured in the following excerpt from a website called "[Christian Life and Liberty](#)":

According to the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision, personhood "collapses" the abortion "legal" [sic] argument."

The 1973 U.S. Supreme Court *Roe vs. Wade* decision instructed that if "personhood" for the "fetus" was established at fertilization, with no exceptions, then that "collapses" of the [so-called] "legal" [sic] argument for abortion."

There are several fundamental problems here. First, this is a classic case of reading the language out of context. The phrase "suggestion of personhood" in Blackmun's opinion clearly refers to the earlier phrase "within the language and meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment." It does not mean "personhood" in any broader medical, moral, or legal sense. Blackmun is emphasizing the meaning of "person" within the 14th Amendment.

Second, no state can – by statute or constitutional amendment –change the meaning of the 14th Amendment to the federal Constitution. The 14th Amendment can be changed only by another federal constitutional amendment or by the U.S. Supreme Court's changing its interpretation of the 14th Amendment.

Thus, the following extrapolation from Blackmun's language (on the same website) is clearly wrong: Establishing in law (by statutory change to the state's code of laws or by a state constitutional amendment) legal "personhood" for pre-birth human beings, at fertilization, with no exceptions, satisfies the requirement spelled out in the infamous 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision to "collapse" the [so-called] "legal" [sic] argument for abortion."

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Third, the misguided argument then quotes footnote 54 of Blackmun's opinion without realizing that Blackmun is being ironic: "Exceptions" to legal "personhood" are unconstitutional, as explained in the text of the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision, and in a Justice Blackmun footnote therein {emphasis added}:

"When Texas urges that a fetus is entitled to Fourteenth Amendment protection as a person, it faces a dilemma. Neither in Texas nor in any other state are all abortions prohibited. Despite broad proscription, an exception always exists... But if the fetus is a person who is not to be deprived of life without due process of law, and if the mother's condition is the sole determinant, does not the Texas exception appear to be out of line with the Amendment's command?..."

Blackmun is not seriously entertaining personhood; it's clear from the context (and from the rest of the *Roe* opinion) that he rejects it as nonsense. He is not saying that exceptions are "unconstitutional" and never uses such language. The urban legend has it exactly backwards: The Texas statute does not define the meaning of the 14th Amendment; the 14th Amendment defines the validity of the Texas statute.

If Blackmun had seriously entertained the notion that the 14th Amendment protected the unborn, the Texas statute would not have impeded him; the Court could have struck it down. Blackmun set up his sneering contradiction only after concluding that the 14th Amendment did not protect the unborn. He thought his manufactured scenario would lampoon Texas's case. Thus, the following extrapolation on the website is also obviously wrong: "Personhood" legislation, by statutorily vesting legal "personhood" at fertilization for ALL human beings, satisfies [sic] the *Roe* formula published over 36 years ago."

The key legal issue presented in the very text of *Roe*, necessary to unravel the entire *Roe* framework, is statutorily vesting legal "personhood" at fertilization for ALL human beings, with no exception....

In other words, pass "personhood" legislation in your state as a bill or as a constitutional amendment and according to the U.S. Supreme Court *Roe vs. Wade* decision itself, [so-called] "legal" {sic} abortion is over in the jurisdiction.

Basing state personhood amendments on extrapolations of Blackmun's language in *Roe* is futile. This does not mean that establishing some form of legal personhood in the state is not a worthy goal. It simply means that (because of our system of federalism) it will not - it cannot - establish 14th Amendment personhood or set up a test case to overturn *Roe*.

First, not one justice on the current Supreme Court supports the proposition that the unborn are protected as "persons" within the meaning of the 14th Amendment. Not one. All have rejected it, explicitly or implicitly.

Second, these proposals would be better designed if they followed the Missouri statutory preamble enacted in the 1980's:

1. The general assembly of [Missouri] finds that:
 - a. The life of each human being begins at conception;
 - b. Unborn children have protectable interests in life, health, and well-being;
 - c. The natural parents of unborn children have protectable interest in the life, health, and well-being of their unborn child.
2. Effective January 1, 1988, the laws of this state shall be interpreted and construed to acknowledge on behalf of the unborn child at every stage of development all the right, privileges, and immunities available to other persons, citizens, and residents of this state subject only to the Constitution of the United States and decisional interpretations thereof by the United States Supreme Court and specific provisions to the

contrary in the statutes and constitution of this state.

3. As used in this section, the term "unborn children" or "unborn child" shall include all unborn child or children of the offspring of human beings from the moment of conception until birth at every stage of biological development.

Since the U. S. Supreme Court reviewed the Missouri preamble in the 1989 *Webster* case and found it constitutional, the preamble has been applied by Missouri courts to extend protections for unborn children in non-abortion situations.

Third, state legislation concerning fetal development will not supply facts that the justices are not already aware of. Justice Blackmun clearly thought he understood the "well-known facts of fetal development" in 1973. Moreover, the two partial-birth abortion cases in 2000 and 2007 amply supplied facts about the humanity of the unborn and what abortion does to the unborn child. Even the most pro-abortion justices acknowledged this by noting the D&E (dilation and evacuation) abortions are no less brutal than D&X abortions. The Supreme Court's majority opinion in the 2007 *Gonzales* case used the words "kill" or "killing" at least 18 times to describe abortion. The problem is not that the justices do not understand, but that they do not care.

Fourth, legislation is needed that will protect the unborn, but there's no reason to believe such legislation will be an effective vehicle to challenge *Roe*, given the Court's current composition. And while public education about fetal development will always be important, the notion that such facts will have a significant impact on the current justices is based on a profound misunderstanding of why most of the justices support *Roe*.

The emphasis on the unborn child completely overlooks the fact that the Court's rationale for the abortion "right" shifted dramatically in 1992 *Casey* decision where it became a sociological rationale that women need abortion as a backup to failed contraception. Facts about fetal development have no bearing on this sociological rationale. The real challenge for pro-lifers in 2009-2010 is to effectively address the assumption that abortion is good for women.

Finally, with the confirmation of pro-abortion Justice Sotomayor and the likelihood that President Obama will have the opportunity to nominate more pro-abortion justices in the next three years, there is no chance the Court will reconsider *Roe* as long as Obama is in office. Justice Scalia (who should know) plainly told a legal audience in Europe a few years ago that there was not a majority on the Court to overturn *Roe*. That's even more certain today.

There are other goals that are more important - and more achievable in the current environment - than an illusory test case to "challenge *Roe*" based on questions that the current justices simply aren't asking.

PLEASE NOTE: Please don't make a request to establish what Missouri has created. Until we have pro-life candidates with pro-life people working and financially supporting them to seek positions in the state legislature, then get those who proclaim to be pro-life to vote for them, we will remain on the bottom rung of passing pro-life legislation. We must change our own attitudes about "creating" change, not just mandating it. Each of us are responsible for those actions.

*We will open the book. Its pages are blank.
We are going to put words on them ourselves.
The book is called Opportunity,
and its first chapter is New Year's Day!*

- Edith Lovejoy Pierce

THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY AND THE BEAUTIFUL

We must keep a perspective. We all know there is much bad going on. But to balance our thinking and our attitudes, we must also see the good and when possible the beautiful. Not all is bad, and we must build our hope and what is good.

THE GOOD

Planned Parenthood drops lawsuit against former Abortion Center Director

After losing its initial battle in court in its attempt to silence its former director, a Texas Planned Parenthood has dropped its lawsuit. The abortion business targeted former director Abby Johnson, who recently quit and became pro-life, and the local pro-life group that helped her conversion. She had been the director of the PP center in Bryan, Texas but quit after seeing an ultrasound abortion. When she resigned on October 6, she was hit with restraining orders requiring she not disclose information about the abortions done at the facility. District Judge J. D. Langley said Planned Parenthood did not provide sufficient evidence that Johnson breached a confidentiality agreement concerning identity of an abortion practitioner who works at Planned Parenthood or that Johnson took confidential patient records out of Planned Parenthood the day she resigned. With the lawsuit dropped, Abby Johnson has the door opened to her to offer more specifics about her work at Planned Parenthood and why she resigned.

Missouri Planned Parenthood Closes Abortion Referral Center in Kirksville.

The center was closed in November. The reasons given was economic downturn left it with an insufficient number of donations and clients. This center had been in business for 38 years. In Indiana Planned Parenthood is closing five of its 34 centers in that state.

Previously, centers in Lynchburg, Virginia; Monroe, Washington; and Latham, New York were closed. At the end of 2007 there were 855 centers. There are now 844. The number of local affiliates of PP has decreased from 108 to 99. (See new report as of December 8, 2009 below).

NEW REPORT SHOWS 1,500 ABORTION CENTERS CLOSED SINCE 1991 - A PRO-LIFE VICTORY

Operation Rescue, a pro-life organization, tracks all abortion clinics in our nation. They now report that 1,500 abortion businesses have closed since 1991. This number has grown as the polls have indicated that Americans are increasingly pro-life.

There previously were 2,200 abortion clinics in the nation. There are now 713. Troy Newman, president of Operation Rescue, said, "The pro-life movement has made significant strides exposing and closing abortion clinics and shifting public opinion toward the pro-life position. This has resulted in lower abortion rates."

Access to abortion affects the abortion rates. Those states with the most clinics have the highest rate and vice versa. In October the Centers for Disease Control reported the number of abortions, the abortion rate, and the pregnancy rate all declining from the period 1990-2005.

What we are doing is making a difference – and despite our current administration and Congress, we are making great gains - and they fear this success!!!

South Dakota Planned Parenthood to Follow Law Telling Women Abortion Kills Kids

The lone abortion business in South Dakota, run by Planned Parenthood in Sioux Falls, will follow a new state law that requires it to inform women that an abortion will kill their unborn child. That provision is a portion of a new state law that a judge has upheld. Planned Parenthood has submitted a plan on how it will comply

with the law at its abortion center. This plan is under review by South Dakota's Department of Health.

Criminal Investigation begins on abortionist Carhart

Staff for the Nebraska attorney general is moving forward on an investigation of the late-term abortionist LeRoy Carhart. Former employees have submitted affidavits blowing the whistle on alleged illegal activities at Carhart's clinic in Bellevue just south of Omaha. We are waiting as to whether criminal charges will be filed.

THE BAD

An infamous abortionist from Albuquerque, New Mexico takes up abortionist George Tillers work in performing third term abortions. Curtis Boyd has added to his staff Susan Robinson and Dr. Shelly Sella, both who worked for George Tiller. This will take place at his new location at Southwester Women's Options at 522 Lomas Blvd NE. Wichita's loss is now Albuquerque's gain? We think not. (Information derived from an announcement made by Curtis Boyd.)

United Church of Christ, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterians OK Abortion Funding

While the Catholic Church has done major battle to keep funding for abortions out of any healthcare plan, other religious groups have done just the opposite. The Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church are the four mainline protestant denominations to sign a letter that essentially places them on record supporting taxpayer funding of abortions. The groups say their position is that there is a "social and moral obligation to ensure access to 'abortions' at every stage in an individual's life." "Reforming the healthcare system in a way that guarantees affordable and accessible [abortion] for all is not simply a good idea – it is necessary for the well-being of all people in our nation," the religious groups wrote. Jewish groups also signed on the pro-abortion letter, including Jewish Women International, the National Council of Jewish women, and the Union for Reform Judaism.

(Please note that the founders of the New Anglican-Episcopal Church have affirmed their pro-life views. This church is an alternative to the Episcopal Church (USA) and the Anglican Church of Canada. Reformation taking place in many Christian churches.)

CENTER OF REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS USES \$13 MILLION TO PUSH INTERNATIONAL ABORTIONS

The New York-based public interest law firm Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) released its 2008 Annual Report touting efforts to promote abortion worldwide and listing yearly revenue of nearly \$13 million in mainly Catholic countries such as Poland, Peru, Mexico, and Costa Rica. They are using the court system to bring this about. It was tried and failed in the Philippines. They are working with the UN to "force" family planning, which includes abortion. The committee in the UN known as the UN Compliance Committee is trying to use the treaty International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), although the exact treaty is silent on abortion.

The largest contributor to CRR is the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Pioneer Foundation with grants totaling over a half a million dollars each. Other large donors are the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, George Soros' Open Society Institute, and the John Merck Fund, which was founded by family members of the pharmaceutical giant Merck.

The good news is this group had a drop of revenues from the year proceeding of over \$1 million, and the Pioneer Foundation closed its doors last December after entrusting its assets to fraudster Bernard Madoff.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FUNDS PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN ITS OMNIBUS BILL

Despite that fact that Planned Parenthood, the world's largest abortion provider, has a budget of \$1 billion and posted a \$85 million profit in 2007 and received \$350 million in federal funding in 2007, Congress appropriated \$648.5 million for family planning and funds both Planned Parenthood and UNFPA. Abstinence was zeroed out of the bill. However, \$110 million was allotted to condom-pushing programs. All this on top of \$315.7 million for Title X groups like Planned Parenthood. \$103 million was increased for "family planning" project overseas now totaling \$648.5 million. America will do its part to endorse China's one-child policy. The United Nations Population Fund was boosted to \$55 million.

THE UGLY

Teen: Flint Doctor Forcibly Terminated Pregnancy

The *Chicago Tribune* reported on November 21, 2009 that teenager Caitlin Bruce claims in a lawsuit that an abortion provider, Alberto Hodari, in Flint, Michigan and his assistant forcibly terminated Caitlin's pregnancy after she screamed for them to stop but Hodari and his assistant forcibly restrained her and held her down. The Flint journal reported that the teen was six weeks pregnant when she went April 9, 2009 to the abortion clinic. The lawsuit claims she changed her mind before the doctor started.

In a court filing, the doctor says the procedure was under way when she asked to stop and he had to complete the abortion. She screamed, "Stop, stop, I don't want this," but her mouth was covered to muffle her pleas while Hodari forced her to have the abortion. The lawsuit also claims the teen was mistreated because she is Black, a claim the doctor denies. Damages sought are \$25,000 due to severe emotional stress, mental anguish, and additional medical treatment.

The patient never intended to get an abortion. She said she was lured to Hodari's clinic for the purpose of having an obstetrical examination. After the abortion, Hodari returned Jennifer to her 40-year old high school teacher who had fathered the baby in a relationship that qualified as statutory rape.

Hodari owns six abortion centers but has three of them up for sale. Hodari, who has killed at least two women in botched abortions, put a For Sale sign on his Flint, Michigan center. Only last June he killed a woman in a botched abortion and was fined \$10,000 by a state board. One of Hodari's staff did an abortion on Regina Johnson who, afterwards, suffered respiratory and cardiac arrest. Staff at the clinic failed to help her or call for an ambulance, and she was deprived of oxygen for an extended time. She died a short time later at Hodari's Womencare clinic in Lathrup Village.

Another victim was Tamia Russell who was only 15 years old. In January 2004 her 26-year old boyfriend paid Hodari \$2,000 in cash to abort her baby at over 26 weeks gestation. She died less than 24 hours after obtaining an abortion. Her guardian was unaware she was pregnant and had no knowledge of the abortion – until it was too late.

Chivon Williams received a suction abortion by Hodari at an unknown clinic. An hour and 40 minutes later, she was discharged even though she was complaining of pain in her stomach and chest. Soon after she arrived at home, she "became unresponsive." On the same day of the abortion, she was pronounced dead.

Women's rights group, our President, and others say we need abortion as we must care about women. This shows that women are not cared about or for, just used and abused.

THE BEAUTIFUL

This article really starts as a "bad" segment. It is how it ends that you see the beauty.

TRAPPED IN HER OWN BODY FOR 23 YEARS – THE COMA VICTIM WHO SCREAMED UNHEARD

by Kate Connolly - Guardian.co.uk

For 23 years Rom Houben was imprisoned in his own body. He saw his doctors and nurses as they visited him during their daily rounds; he listened to conversations of his caretakers; he heard his mother deliver the news to him that his father had died. But he could do nothing. He was unable to communicate with his doctors or family. He could not move his head or weep; he could only listen.

Doctors presumed he was in a vegetative state following a near-fatal car crash on 1983. They believed he could feel nothing and hear nothing for 23 years.

Then neurologist Steven Laureys, who decided to take a radical look at the state of diagnosed coma patients, released him from his torture. Using a state-of-the-art scanning system, Laureys found to his amazement that his brain was functioning almost normally.

"I had dreamed myself away," said Houben, now 46, whose real "state" was discovered three year ago, according to a report in the German magazine *Der Spiegel* this week.

Laureys, a neurologist at the University of Liege in Belgium, published a study in *BMC Neurology* earlier this year saying Houben could be one of many cases of falsely diagnosed comas around the world. He discovered that although Houben was completely paralyzed, he was also completely conscious – it was just that he was unable to communicate the fact.

Houben now communicates with one finger and a special touch screen on his wheelchair – he has developed some movement with the help of intense physiotherapy over the last three years.

He realized when he came around after his accident, which had caused his heart to stop and his brain to be starved of oxygen for several minutes, that his body was paralyzed. Although he could hear every word his doctors spoke, he could not communicate with them. "I screamed, but there was nothing to hear," he said via his keyboard.

The Belgian former engineering student, who speaks four languages, said he coped with being effectively trapped in his own body by meditating. He told doctors he had "travelled with my thoughts into the past or into another existence altogether." Sometime, he said, "I was only my consciousness and nothing else."

The moment it was discovered he was not in a vegetative state, said Houben, was like being born again. "I'll never forget the day that they discovered me," he said. "It was my second birth."

Experts say Laureys' findings are likely to reopen the debate over the decision made to terminate the lives of those in comas who appear to be unconscious but may have almost fully-functioning brains.

Belgian doctors used an internationally-accepted scale to monitor Houben's state over the years. Known as the Glasgow Coma Scale, it requires assessment of the eyes, verbal, and motor responses. But they failed to assess him correctly and missed signs that his brain was still functioning.

His mother, Fina, said in an interview with Belgian RTBF that they had taken him to the U.S. five times for re-examination. The breakthrough came when it became clear Houben could indicate yeas and no with his foot. "Powerless. Utter powerlessness. At first I was angry, then I learned to live with it," he tapped out on to the screen during an interview with Belgian network last night, AP reported.

Laureys concluded that coma patients are misdiagnosed on a disturbingly regular basis. He examined 44 patients believed to be in a vegetative state and found that 18 of them responded to communication. "Once someone is labeled as being without consciousness, it is very hard to get rid of that," he told *Der*

PUBLIC ACCESS CABLE TV BROADCASTS

Videos are being shown on Mondays on
Channel 27 at 10:00 p.m.

January 4 Life Talk – Pro-Life News Show October 2009
January 11 Life Talk – Pro-Life News Show November 2009
January 18 Life Talk – Pro-Life News Show December 2009
January 25 Conceived in Liberty

INTERESTING READING AND AN INTERESTING PRO-LIFE PROSPECTIVE

The River Nile is an interesting book with a modern twist on the Underground Railroad movement that took place in our history with slavery. This deals with babies. It is a fast paced, controversial novel that will keep you guessing, and it challenges you as to what you think. A different approach in the pro-life movement. Available at your local Parable bookstore or go to www.WinePressBooks.com or call 877-421-7323.

HEALTH CARE – IT MUST BE STOPPED WITH THE CURRENT WORDING!!

Many people have jumped to the conclusion that the current healthcare bill that just barely passed the Senate is a “done deal.” This is not fact at all. There will be many weeks of wrangling with the House to try to find a compromise between the two bills. These are not small compromises, from taxing to government paid healthcare to the biggest of all ABORTION!

Even should Nancy Pelosi “submit” and get the House to compromise away the House bill, this still is not the last word.

Ten state attorney generals, and more are expected, are challenging the “giveaway” programs that have been given to many states: Nebraska, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Massachusetts to name a few known (others will be known as we uncover all the truth). The “exceptions” for paying all kinds of fees will be paid for by other states and their taxpayers. This is not only not fair but can and should be challenged. If this takes place, then votes for any issues can be bought with money from the government provided by you and me and others where the goodies are not being provided.

Furthermore, there is a part of the senate bill that says that it cannot be changed without a 2/3 vote. This is unconstitutional. Only an amendment to the Constitution requires a 2/3 vote from the states.

So hope we can reduce the damage or downright eliminate it and start over dealing with specific problems that do not require throwing the baby out with the bath water – or with the hands of an abortionist.

Be prepared to communicate with our delegation in DC, if you have not already done so. Your voice does matter, and accumulated with many others, it is very powerful. Let Sen. Bingaman and Sen. Udall know you disapprove of their votes for the senate version. Rep. Heinrich and Rep. Lujan should be told you disapprove of their house vote. Let them know we are watching carefully in this election year.

We will keep you up-dated with information from Doug Johnson at National Right to Life who is working on this whole issue diligently. Go to RTLNM’s website (www.rtlnm.org) for a link to National RTL’s website. Doug Johnson has provided the following information:

To find the abortion language in the Senate bill, look at the manager’s amendment (amendment no. 3276) to the Reid Substitute to H.R. 3590. The abortion-related language violates the principles of the Hyde Amendment by requiring government to pay premiums for private health plans that will cover any or all abortions. The federal subsidies would be subject to a convoluted bookkeeping requirement, different in detail but similar in kind to the Capps-Waxman accounting scheme that the House of Representatives rejected when it adopted the Stupak-Pitts Amendment. The manager’s amendment requires that all enrollees in an abortion-covering plan make a separate payment into an account that will pay for abortions, but the amendment also contains language [Section 1303 (b) (3) (B)] that is apparently intended to prevent or discourage any insurer from explaining what this surcharge is to be used for. Moreover, there is nothing in the language to suggest that payment of the abortion is optional for any enrollee.

The so-called “firewall” between federal funds and private funds is merely a bookkeeping gimmick, inconsistent with the long-established principles that govern existing federal health programs, such as the Hyde Amendment. Moreover, the Reid “firewall” is made of rice paper – it exists only so long as the annual appropriations bill for the Department of Health and Human Services continues to contain the Hyde Amendment. At any future date when the congressional appropriators and/or the President decide to block renewal of the Hyde Amendment, the Reid bookkeeping requirements would automatically evaporate, and insurers could pay for elective abortions with the federal subsidies without even bookkeeping requirements. This is in stark contrast with the Stupak-Pitts Amendment, which would permanently prohibit the federal subsidies from paying any part of the premium of a plan that covers elective abortions (while explicitly affirming that insurers may sell, and persons may buy, through the Exchanges, plans that cover any or all abortions, as long as federal subsidies are not used to purchase such plans).

In place of the original “public option” provisions in the Reid bill, the Reid manager’s amendment establishes a new program under which the federal government (the Office of Personnel Management OPM) would administer a program of “multi-state” health plans offered by private insurers. The amendment says (on page 56) that the OPM director “shall ensure that...there is at least one such plan that does not provide coverage of abortions beyond the types of abortions that are funded under the federal Medicaid program in any given year, which is described as “assured availability of varied coverage.” This seems to envision a system under which the OPM director would administer multi-state plans that cover elective abortions and perhaps even possess authority to require such plans to cover elective abortions as long as the director also ensured that there was one plan that did not cover abortions (except types of abortions also funded by the federal Medicaid program). This would be a sharp break from the policy that has long governed the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, which is also administered by OPM under which private plans are completely prohibited from covering elective abortions if they wish to participate in the program.

The amendment contains a new section [Section 1303(a)(1)] providing that a state “may elect to prohibit abortion coverage in qualified health plans offered through an Exchange in such state if such state enacts a law to provide for such prohibition.” (This won’t be happening in New Mexico for some time to come). However, the new opt-out clause is defective in several important respects. It apparently would apply only to laws enacted in the future. Some language in the amendment might be construed to conflict with some existing state laws. Moreover, it is unclear how the state opt-out clause would be interpreted in light of other provisions in the bill, including the authority granted to the OPM director to set rules

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HEALTH CARE - IT MUST BE STOPPED...
(cont. from page 7)

for the new federal programs.

There is much more to this article, but time and space prohibits it to be reprinted. Please go to the website for the whole letter written by Doug Johnson.

**NRLC ANNUAL 6-WEEK
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June 23-August 6, 2010**

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Website:

www.nrlc.org/Academy/Academy.html
or call 202-626-8822.



Five Alive

RTLTCM hopes you will sign up for the Five Alive Program 2010, which helps provide a budget to keep our organization operational and meet our basic needs. You can fill out the form below. We will need this a.s.a.p. so that we can mail envelopes out and have you ready to start contributing your tax-deductible donation in January. \$5.00 a month from everyone would allow us to raise money for media and other educational tools, so come on board by sending in the form below...

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I understand that the Right To Life Committee of New Mexico (RTLTCNM) 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 RTLTCNM, including a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and hereby make application for membership (renewal) as follows:

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