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NEWSLETTER OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE OF NEW MEXICO

BUILDING THE PATH TO VICTORY

Our educational convention with its accompanying banquet is almost here. It is very important that you come, learn, and share with others the information that does make a difference. The truth always makes a difference and always wins out.



**BURKE BALCH, J.D. -
EUTHANASIA WORKSHOP**

With the Terry Schiavo case being discussed so much, you will want to hear from Burke Balch who has been very involved in all aspects of this case and will share with us this information. He will tell us how to avoid this from happening to us and about many other aspects of euthanasia. Burke Balch is the head of the Department of Medical Ethics at National Right

to Life. This department works on issues such as assisted suicide and rationing health care, to name a few. Burke Balch came to NRLC from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights where he worked on the federal Protection of Handicapped Infants project. He also served as Chief Staff Counsel for the National Legal Center for the Medically Dependent and Disabled, a legal service program that protects the rights of poor people, especially older people, and people with disabilities. He is one of the experts that is constantly called upon by Congress and other entities where an expert on euthanasia is needed.

**MARY SPAULDING BALCH, J.D.
ROE VS. WADE WORKSHOP**

Mary, the wife of Burke Balch whom she met while working at NRLC, is also an attorney and heads the Legislation Department. The legislation brought to our legislature and all 49 other states has been crafted by Mary. She is an expert on Roe vs. Wade and thus knows what its ruling was, as well as other rulings that came after. She advises and assists those states trying to pass pro-life legislation. With her help, many pro-life bills have been passed. She also works with states to defeat pro-abortion legislation. She worked as legal council to New Hampshire Senator Gordon Humphrey and was a trial lawyer in New York before joining NRLC. She and her husband, Burke, have two children.



**JEFF VAN BRUNT, B.A.
MEDIA WORKSHOP**

If you saw our ads that were aired in January, you will know that VirtueMedia does great work in creating very effective ads. Jeff Van Brunt is charged with working with organizations and individuals to increase pro-life presence in the mainstream media. Through the educational and direct outreach efforts of VirtueMedia, Jeff is dedicated to addressing the life issues through the powerful use of the media from both ends of the spectrum. Jeff is a graduate of the University of San Francisco where he worked in the university's Development and Public Relations departments through the course of his studies, which was in European History. He is married and the father of one. There will be new ads to review at this workshop and guidance how all of us can help in getting these ads aired.



**CECILIA & ANTHONY LEVATINO
ANTHONY LEVATINO:
BANQUET SPEAKER**



Our banquet speakers have a very interesting story to tell. Dr. Levatino has been an OB/GYN physician since 1977 when he was licensed in New York State. He also received a Juris Doctor Degree - magna cum laude in May 1993. In his early years, he did perform abortions. His story of how he "saw the light" will be told. He has been for many years

a very pro-life doctor and advocate for the pro-life movement. As a consultant to National RTL, he has testified before the Judiciary House Committee in Congress concerning the proposed Freedom of Choice Act in 1990. He has been a consultant to the National Council of Catholic Bishops in Washington D.C. and testified again to the Congressional Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities in 1995, opposing mandated abortion training of OB/GYN residents. He has a publication: A Doctor's Illustrated Guide to Partial Birth Abortion 1998.

CECELIA LEVATINO: BANQUET SPEAKER

Cecilia, Anthony's (Tony) wife, received her nursing degree and license at Albany Medical Center School of Nursing in Albany, New York in 1972 specializing in Renal Transplantation. She was on the National Kidney Foundation of Northeast New York Board of Directors 1975-78 and was

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*The only difference between stumbling blocks
and stepping stones is the way you use them.*

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President of the organization from 1978-1980.

She has been a member of Citizens Concerned for Human Life in Albany New York from 1986 to present and was a volunteer lobbyist for the New York State Catholic Conference and the New York State Right to Life Committee. She has worked with organizations such as Priests For Life, Pro-Life Action League, Focus on the Family, National RTL, Concerned Women of America, and the Family Research Council. She is co-founder and Executive Director of Heather's Place Foundation and is also Executive Director of Physicians Pro-Life Alliance. She has spoken at many pro-life conventions and been on many Christian radio stations. She and her husband help Dona Ana Right to Life.

SILENT AUCTION: We hope you will participate in the silent auction at the conference and banquet. If there is a business who wants to donate a service or product, please call the Right to Life office at 505-881-4563 or e-mail info@rtlnm.org or fax: 505-881-8002. These funds raised will be used directly for media.

AND NOW THE REST OF THE STORY

The previous issue of *Viva Life* gave some of the actions that took place at the State Legislature with regards to RTL's two bills that were introduced. This issue will give all the facts and details as to what happened to the two bills.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

This bill was tabled in the House Consumer and Public Affairs committee in the first weeks of the legislature, thus killing the bill. No Senate bill on this subject was introduced.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION BILL

HOUSE BILL: The House Bill was tabled in Consumer and Public Affairs fairly early in the session, thus killing the bill in the House.

SENATE BILL: Senate Bill 126 was placed in the Consumer and Public Affairs Committee and the Judiciary Committee. The bill was sat on (not heard) in Public Affairs for over 3 1/2 weeks. Then the bill was "blasted" (voted from the floor of the Senate out of the committee it was assigned) and then voted upon passing the Senate 29-10. That bill then traveled back to the House where Speaker of the House Ben Lujan placed the bill in the Consumer and Public Affairs Committee. The House tried to blast the bill out unsuccessfully by four votes. The bill was heard in committee on March 17, a day and a half before the 2005 legislative session came to an end. Tabling killed the bill, thus Parental Notification did not pass.

SENATE ACTION

Bills are to be heard in their assigned committees in an orderly manner going by the assigned number given. Parental Notification Senate Bill Number 126 was a very low number, since there were more than a thousand bills introduced in both House and Senate, so this bill should have been dealt with by mid to end of February. That didn't happen, for the rules were not followed, and the act of "delay" that has been used before became an important part of the anti-life Democrat leadership to destroy the bill.

The bill did pass one committee by a 7-2 vote on February 16, 2005 (after a threat of a blast) and was sent on to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Mary Kay Papen (D-Dist. 38 - Dona Ana) proposed voting a "no recommendation", which is a vote to pass it along to the next committee and was a vote for the bill. In support was Mary Jane Garcia (D-Dist.36 - Dona Ana); Stuart Ingle (R-Dist 27 - Chaves, Curry, DeBaca,

and Roosevelt); Gay Kernan (R-Dist. 42 - Chavez, Lea, Curry, Eddy, and Roosevelt); Steve Komadina (R-Dist. 9 - Sandoval); Steven Neville (R-Dist.2 - San Juan); and James Taylor (D-Dist.14 - Bernalillo & Valencia). Voting against the bill was Dede Feldman (D-Dist. 13 - Bernalillo) and Gerald P. Ortiz y Pino (D-Dist. 12 - Bernalillo).

The bill was sent on to the Judiciary Committee where Chairman Cisco McSorley "sat" on it. On February 28, Sen. Kent Cravens made a motion at the end of the Senate floor activities to "blast" the bill from the Judiciary Committee. What followed was a long debate on the "blasting." After the bill did get removed from the Judiciary Committee, the debate on the actual bill began at around 3:30 p.m. and ended around 8:30 p.m.

Before the vote on "blasting" took place, there was a motion to table the bill, which was defeated. However, some of the Democrats who later joined in the blasting of the bill out of committee voted for tabling too. These Democrats will have a star (*) after their names. We are glad they changed their minds.

On "blasting" the bill out of committee, these Democrats joined ALL the Republicans in getting the bill passed. The Democrats are: Sen. Pete Campos (D-Dist. 8 - Guadalupe, Mora, San Miguel, Santa Fe, and Torrance); Sen. Carlos Cisneros* (D-Dist. 6 - Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, and Taos); Sen. Richard Martinez (D-Dist.5 - Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe); Sen. Joseph Fidel (D-Dist.30 - Cibola, Socorro, and Valencia); Sen. Phil Griego (D-Dist. 39 - Los Alamos, Mora, Sandoval, San Miguel, Santa Fe, and Taos); and Sen. James Taylor* (D-Dist.14 - Bernalillo and Valencia).

After succeeding in getting the bill to the floor, the debate on the bill ensued. At least nine amendments to the bill were made that would have destroyed the bill. The previously listed Democrats, ALL the Republicans, and Democrat Ben Altamirano* (Dist. 28 - Catron, Grant, and Socorro) joined in the fight against many of the attempted amendments.

The Democrat senators sponsoring or supporting the amendments were: Mary Jane Garcia (Dist 38 - Dona Ana); Tim Jennings (Dist 32 - Chaves, Eddy, Lincoln, and Otero); Linda Lopez (Dist. 11 - Bernalillo); Cisco McSorley (Dist. 16 - Bernalillo); Dede Feldman (Dist. 13 - Bernalillo); John Grubestic (Dist. 25 - Santa Fe); Michael Sanchez (Dist. 29 - Valencia); Gerald P. Ortiz y Pino (Dist. 12 - Bernalillo); John Pinto (Dist. 3 - McKinley and San Juan); Shannon Robinson (Dist.17 - Bernalillo); and Leonard Tsosie (Dist. 22 - Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, Rio Arriba, and Sandoval). All these Senators voted against the bill on the final vote except John Pinto.

Several Senators "took a walk" (were not on the floor). They were Sen. Cynthia Nava (D- Dist. 31 - Dona Ana); Bernadette Sanchez (D-Dist. 26 - Bernalillo); and John Arthur Smith (D-Dist. 35 - Hidalgo, Luna, and Sierra).

Senator Lidio Rainaldi (D-Dist.4 - Cibola and McKinley) voted against the bill because he did not want the judicial bypass in the bill. He felt only a parent should be involved. He told me he would support the "blasting" and the bill.

EVERY REPUBLICAN SENATOR VOTED FOR THE BLASTING, AGAINST THE AMENDMENTS, AND FOR THE BILL. They are: Rod Adair (Dist.33 - Chaves and Lincoln); Sue Wilson Beffort (Dist. 19 - Bernalillo); Joseph Carraro (Dist. 23 - Bernalillo and Sandoval); Dianna Duran (Dist. 40 - Dona Ana and Otero); Clinton Harden (Dist. 7 - Colfax, Curry, Harding, Quay, San Miguel, Taos, and Union); Gay Kernan (Dist. 42 - Chavez, Curry, Eddy, Lea, and Roosevelt); Mark Boitano (Dist. 18 - Bernalillo); Stuart Ingle (Dist. 27 - Chaves, Curry, DeBaca, and Roosevelt); Steve Komadina (Dist. 9 - Sandoval); Vernon Asbill (Dist. 34 - Eddy & Otero); Kent Cravens (the Senate bill's Sponsor - Dist. 21 - Bernalillo); Carrol Leavell (Dist. 41 - Eddy and Lea); H. Dianne Snyder (Dist. 15 - Bernalillo); Steven Neville (Dist. 2 - San Juan); William Payne (Dist. 20 -

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Bernalillo); Leonard Lee Rawson (Dist. 37 - Dona Ana and Sierra); and John Ryan (Dist. 10 - Bernalillo and Sandoval).

Democrats who voted for the bill are: Mary Kay Papen (Dist. 38 - Dona Ana); Timothy Jennings (Dist. 32 - Chavez and Eddy); John Pinto (Dist. 3 - McKinley and San Juan); and Nancy Rodriguez (Dist. 24 - Santa Fe). They all had voted for tabling the bill previously.

HOUSE ACTION

The Senate bill now moved to the House where Speaker Lujan put it into Consumer and Public Affairs, which had already tabled the house version of the bill.

After it sat there too long, an attempt was made on March 14, 2005 to blast the bill out of that committee. Rep. Larry Larranaga (Sponsor of the House bill) moved to remove the bill from Consumer and Public Affairs. Rep. Ken Martinez (D-Dist. 69 - Cibola, McKinley, and San Juan) moved to table the motion. EVERY REPUBLICAN VOTED AGAINST THE TABLE. The following Democrats voted against the bill being tabled: Ernest Chavez (Dist. 12 - Bernalillo); Andy Nunez (Dist. 36 - Dona Ana); Joe Stell (Dist. 54 - Eddy and Otero); and Donald Whitaker (Dist. 61 - Lea). Absent for the vote was Kandy Cordova, Harriet Ruiz, and Fred Luna who was absent for the day.

Defeating the table motion 32-31, the vote and the following debate went on for removing the bill from the committee. AGAIN, ALL REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVES VOTED FOR THIS. The Democratic representatives who joined the Republicans were: Kandi Cordova (Dist. 7 - Valencia); Andy Nunez (Dist. 36 - Dona Ana); and Dan Silva (Dist. 13 - Bernalillo). Voting against this bill, which supported us on not tabling the bill, was Harriet Ruiz and Donald Whitaker.

The very sad part on this vote was that there were Democrat representatives who said they would vote for this bill and then changed their minds. Those Democrats who said they would vote to get the bill out of Consumer and Public Affairs but when it came time to vote didn't were: Ray Begay (Dist. 4 - San Juan); Jose Campos (Dist. 63 - Curry, DeBaca, Guadalupe, and Roosevelt); Ernest Chaves (Dist. 12 - Bernalillo); Mary Helen Garcia (Dist. 34 - Dona Ana); George Hanosh (Dist. 6 - Cibola and McKinley); Manuel Herrera (Dist. 39 - Grant and Hidalgo); Harriet Ruiz (Dist. 16 - Bernalillo); Nick Salazar (Dist. 40 - Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, and Taos); and Joe Stell (Dist. 54 - Eddy and Otero).

Richard Vigil (D-Dist. 70 - San Miguel and Torrance) only agreed to break a tie.

Had the above mentioned people voted as they promised, the Parental Notification bill would be law.

There was one final vote on a motion to remove SB 126 from Consumer and Public Affairs to go to Judiciary. This motion failed. Again, all the Republicans and the following Democrats voted for this: Rep. Kandi Cordova, Rep. Andy Nunez, and Rep. Dan Silva. All other Democrats voted against this motion.

COMMENTARY

There are a lot of games played in our State Legislature. When you vote to table a bill and it fails, then you vote for the bill, it leaves a question as to how supportive this legislator was of the bill. Most think only their final vote will be given to their constituents, so the real heroes are those who voted in support of the bill in the whole process.

Why did so many Democrats promise to support "blasting" the bill out of committee and then didn't? I can only speculate. In

2002, Gov. Richardson sent the word to the House Democrat leadership that he did not want this bill on his desk. This very possibly happened again. Minds can be changed with the threat to veto a legislator's bills, running someone against them in a primary, or no funding for his/her campaign.

You should ask your legislator, especially those who said they would help and then didn't, why they changed their mind. Tell those who voted against the bill that you disagree with their vote. AND PLEASE DO THANK THOSE WHO GAVE FULL SUPPORT. To get their addresses, call you County Democrat or Republican Party listed in the telephone book or call your County Clerk.

I know this is a long report, but you need to know all the details and events as they occurred. Only then will you see the need to get more involved in getting pro-life candidates elected, to help in their campaigns, and contribute to RTLCNM PAC so that we can do more to support these good men and women. The representatives are up for election in 2006, and we can take those steps that will assure the passage of Parental Notification in 2007 along with other pro-life legislation by supporting those representatives that supported RTL and not supporting those who stood against our bills.

One last note. The Right to Life Committee is accused of being pro-Republican. We are not. We are in support of a legislator or a candidate that supports our goals and mission. In this session, however, it would appear that the Republican Party and its legislators were for the family and that most of the Democrats and their party were not for the family. The Parental Notification bill was a vote for the family.

I want to thank all those who wrote, called, e-mailed, or contacted their legislator to support this bill. You did make a difference. I was told that Kandi Cordova was heavily lobbied by her constituents. Thank you Valencia County pro-lifers. If you did not contact you legislators, all I can say to you is that there is no magic wand. If you want results that make good changes, YOU MUST ACT ON THOSE THINGS YOU CAN DO! APATHY IS OUR PROBLEM. ARE YOU PART OF THE PROBLEM OR PART OF THE SOLUTION?

MURDER IN FLORIDA

Commentary by Dauneen Dolce

I am not prone to use the word "murder," especially when it applies to abortion, since abortion is "legal." However, in the case of Terry Schiavo, the removal of her feeding tube and letting her die of dehydration/starvation when she was not dying is murder.

We put to death an innocent human being. It was not done in an act of war or in self-protection (unless her husband was trying to protect himself from her giving information that could do harm to him), and she was not tried by a jury and convicted of a crime.

Terri's death will not be vain, as sad as it is. The nation now has to take a hard look at the issue of euthanasia and MUST be provided with factual information on the subject.

The Right to Life Committee of New Mexico will be offering a great deal of euthanasia information at the workshop being given by Burke Balch at the April 23, 2005 State Convention. Living Wills, or RTLCNM's alternative Will to Live, and a Durable Power of Attorney will be addressed. The case of Terry Schiavo is well known by Burke who worked long hours from NRLC's office along with other pro-life lawyers on Terry's behalf.

YOU MUST BE INFORMED SO YOU CAN INFORM OTHERS.

In the future, RTLCNM will be addressing this subject with seminars, lectures, etc. However, Burke Balch is considered an

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Murder in Florida...

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expert on this subject, and we are most fortunate to have him come to New Mexico. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

A complete write-up on the case of Terry Schiavo will be provided in the future. We must prevent non-dying, disabled people from being killed. If we don't, it will be the elderly, who are not productive; the chronically ill, whose care costs "too" much; and newborns and handicapped people who nobody wants. Please don't say this won't happen. Who would have thought that in America a person who was not dying could be killed?

Your best response to this whole terrible event is to be informed and guided as to what steps need to be taken to prevent this and other euthanasia acts from taking place.

For many years, RTLCSNM has stated that abortion would lead to euthanasia. We call it the "Slippery Slope". It is here and now. We may have avoided being aborted, but will we be protected from euthanasia? Only we, who are existing in our state and country, can stop that from happening. Will you help?

STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT

The case of Terri Schiavo raises complex issues, yet in instances like this one where there are serious questions and substantial doubts, our society, our laws, and our courts should have a presumption in favor of life. Those who live at the mercy of others deserve our special care and concern. It should be our goal as a nation to build a culture of life where Americans are valued, welcomed, and protected – and that culture of life must extend to individuals with disabilities.

STATEMENT FROM POPE JOHN PAUL II

"Every human person – no matter how vulnerable or helpless, no matter how young or how old, no matter how healthy, handicapped or sick, no matter how useful or productive for society – is being of inestimable worth created in the image and likeness of God. This is the dignity of America, the reason she exists, the condition for her survival – yes, the ultimate test of her greatness: to respect every human person, especially the weakest and most defenseless ones, the unborn."

WE WILL SORELY MISS THIS GREAT PRO-LIFE RELIGIOUS LEADER. HE IN THE MOST LOVING WAY GUIDED US TO THE TRUTH AND DEFENDED THE "UNWANTED". MAY THE NEXT POPE LEAD AS EFFECTIVELY.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE MOURNS THE DEATH OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

"Pope John Paul II was an unfaltering voice for the unborn, the disabled, and the elderly and was a strong defender of the right to life," stated Wanda Franz, PhD, President of National Right to Life Committee. "His stalwart opposition to the evils of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia was grounded in compassion and love, and he will be deeply missed. Pope John Paul II will be remembered with love for his dedication to the pro-life cause and for the millions of lives he has touched around the world through his words and actions."

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CHERRY LYLE - "A FEW GOOD MEN"

Yes, we are looking for a few (or many) good men and women who are interested in helping our efforts to spread the

word about "life issues" to all who will listen. There are many opportunities available from simply making phone calls to becoming a speaker. We all have talents, and we would love to discover and utilize yours.

The Education Committee meets regularly on the third Wednesday of every month at the State Office, 2800 San Mateo Blvd, Suite 107, Albuquerque. Our members are Mary Blain, Joan Herman, Tom McBride, Ken Dickerson, Dauneen Dolce, and Cherry Lyle.

Our mission, as defined by the State Board of Directors of RTLCSNM, is to oversee all educational programs, including the annual Educational Conference and the State Fair.

Additionally, we review and select educational materials.

For 2005, our committee has set as a priority the introduction of Right to Life Committee of NM speakers into the public and private schools, civic groups, and retirement facilities. We need your help in our efforts. Please call Cherry Lyle at 281-1544/239-0284.

LET'S DISCUSS ABSTINENCE PROGRAMS

Although RTLCSNM does not provide sex education talks per se as other organizations do, we are well aware of the importance of conveying the message of abstinence. This message is not only for teenagers but also for adults. Recently, these programs have been under attack. The programs RTLCSNM is aware of are carefully crafted and are very informative and give great guidance. Those organizations and groups who oppose them believe that contraceptives are the answer. We must look at some important facts.

In articles from around the nation and in New Mexico, there is evidence that teen pregnancy is declining. The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention says the birth rate among American girls ages 10 to 14 has fallen to its lowest level since 1946. The drop has been 38% from 1994-2002 alone, even though the number of girls 10-14 climbed 16% during the same period. CDC attributed the decline to sex education. However, abstinence education came into its own during this period. Sex education, which had some abstinence information but was very geared for contraceptive use, was used before this period. Parents have also become more involved. Black and Hispanic girls had higher abortion rates than did White and Asian.

The National Center on Health Statistics said that girls aged 15-17 are engaging in sex less and that the number again has declined 38% since 1995. Teenagers are avoiding or postponing sexual activity. The results are less unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

New Mexico, however, still ranks third in the nation for teen pregnancy. Six out of 10 Hispanic girls will be pregnant before turning 20. There has been a discussion to refuse the funding provided under the Bush Administration for abstinence, since it does not address contraceptives sufficiently or at all, but President Bush has increased funding for abstinence programs. The Senate and the House approved funding for \$104 million for community-based abstinence educational grants. This is a 39% increase over the \$70 million used in 2004. Parents want abstinence programs, according to polls. Numbers show 96% of parents surveyed said abstinence programs are best for teenagers. Only 39% polled said both abstinence and contraception should be taught. These programs have been used in other states with great results, yet we in New Mexico who have a major problem with teen pregnancies want to reject that which works.

There is a question on the use of contraceptives as an effective birth control. First, it requires maturity to use either the condom or the pill properly. Secondly, the danger of the pill, or the morning after pill, on young growing bodies is

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Let's Discuss Abstinence...

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very great. There is a delicate balance of hormones in a human body, and a teenager does not have that balance in place. The use of powerful hormonal drugs can alter this balance permanently and invites changes that can lead to cancer and other physical problems.

Condoms do not always work. In fact, a recent *Consumer Reports* stated that the ones given by Planned Parenthood were one of the worst type of condoms available.

Condoms do not prevent sexually transmitted diseases. Two of these diseases are on the rise in New Mexico - syphilis and gonorrhea, which saw a 31.5 % rise from 2001-2002 with 1,427 cases in 2002. The state says that this happened because of unprotected sex.

Studies show that condoms break or slip 1.6 to 3.6 percent of the time. This represents a potential risk of pregnancy and transmission of STDs. Condoms cannot completely protect against any STD that has been studied. Thus, STD infection can occur in both males and females whether a condom is used or not.

What occurs when one gets a sexually transmitted disease?

SYPHILIS: Syphilis is passed from person to person through direct contact with a syphilis sore that occurs mainly on the genitals, vagina, and anus or in the rectum. Sores also can occur on the lips and in the mouth. Symptoms may not show up for years. Thus, bacteria are spread by people who do not even know they have the disease. In the primary stage, a single sore can appear, but there may be multiple sores. It appears in about 21 days where the syphilis entered the body and can be treated and healed at this stage. The secondary stage will have rash and mucous membrane lesions (wounds). The rashes don't itch, and sometimes they are faint. Other symptoms are fever, swollen lymph glands, sore throat, patch hair loss, headaches, weight loss, muscle aches, and fatigue. Without treatment, the late stage occurs. At this point, the infection will damage internal organs, including the brain, nerves, eyes, heart, blood vessels, liver, bones, and joints. This leads to difficulty with muscle movement, paralysis, numbness, gradual blindness, and dementia. The damage could cause death.

Notice: Oral sex, which also has been encouraged by those who do not support abstinence, will not be protected from this disease.

GONORRHEA: Gonorrhea is a common sexually transmitted disease transmitted through contact between penis, vagina, mouth, and anus. Gonorrhea can also be spread from mother to baby during birth. It is a bacterium that grows and multiplies in warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract, including the cervix, uterus, and fallopian tubes in women and in the urethra of both men and women. It can also spread to other unlikely parts of the body, such as an eye. Symptoms show up in 2-5 days but can take up to 30 days. There is a burning sensation when urinating or a white, yellow, or green discharge from the penis. Sometimes men get painful or swollen testicles. Women have fewer symptoms or none at all. This could appear to be a bladder infection or vaginal infection. This too can have a burning sensation when urinating or vaginal bleeding. The rectum in both men and women can exhibit a discharge, anal itching, soreness, bleeding and sometime painful bowel movements. Infections in the throat may cause a sore throat.

Complications of gonorrhea in women are pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). This can cause a painful abdomen and fever. PID can lead to abscesses (pus-filled pockets) that are very hard to cure. This leads to long-lasting chronic pelvic pain. PID can cause infertility or can damage the fallopian tubes enough to cause an ectopic pregnancy.

In men, gonorrhea can cause epididymitis, a painful condi-

tion of the testicles that can lead to infertility. Without prompt treatment, gonorrhea can affect the prostate and can lead to scarring inside the urethra, making urination difficult.

If a mother passes gonorrhea to her unborn baby at birth, it can lead to blindness, joint infection, or a life-threatening blood infection.

OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES INCLUDE:

BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS: Having BV increases a woman's chances of getting HIV infection

HIV-AIDS: This disease is spread by sexual and blood-to-blood contact.

HEPATITIS C & B: These diseases are caused by viruses and can be contracted by having sex with another infected person and can cause liver damage for a lifetime and even death. HCV can cause cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver. This can become a long term infection or develop into chronic liver disease. Death can then be a result of liver cancer and/or cirrhosis.

TRICHOMONIASIS: This disease is a microscopic parasite that affects men and women.

GENITAL HERPES: This disease can cause fatal infections and may have a role in the spread of HIV.

CHLAMYDIA: This is a common sexually transmitted disease caused by bacteria. This disease can damage a woman's reproductive organs and create sterility. This damage can take place before one even knows they have the disease.

While those urging contraception for the sexually active, those who really care, who really are seeking solutions, and who want a healthy loving society will support abstinence. We are grateful President Bush backs these programs and for all the organizations and school districts backing this sane, viable message.

The source on sexually transmitted diseases is from the Centers of Diseases Control and Prevention for Infectious diseases. They have flyers with even more details.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 23: THE RIGHT TO LIFE STATE CONVENTION IN ALBUQUERQUE AT THE WYNDAM HOTEL AT THE AIRPORT. CALL: 505-881-4563.

JUNE 16-18: NATIONAL RTL CONVENTION - MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. MAY REGISTER ON LINE AT: www.nrlc.org/convention or call: 202-378-8842.

**SEPT 9-26, 2005 STATE FAIR: ALBUQUERQUE, NM
SEPT. 24, 2005 BORN TO RUN: ALBUQUERQUE**

ISOTOPES HAVE BEGUN!

Spring is officially here, and that also means that baseball season is in full swing (pardon the pun). We had three major league teams at Isotopes Park this past weekend, and this week starts regular league play for our local team. This means another chance for RTLC-NM to earn funds to support pro-life education via TV ads, billboards, bus ads, radio spots, educational conferences, the State Fair, and many other opportunities. We are signed up to work at 42 games this season, so we will need a minimum of 12 volunteers per game and 15-20 people on big game days. We're taking signups **immediately**. A calendar for the months of April and May and our days of participation is enclosed/attached. Individuals or organizations are most welcome. Please join other pro-lifers for a great time at the ballpark while helping RTLCNM. It's work, but we have a



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ISOTOPES...

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Thank you for your tremendous selflessness for the babies. You are what makes this all work.

BRAIN INJURED WOMAN REGAINS SPEECH — 20 YEARS LATER

Sarah Scantlin, 38 years old, spoke the words to her parents: "Hi, Mom" and "Hi, Dad, Happy Valentines Day" after 20 years during which she could only communicate by blinking her eyes. Her actual first words were "OK, OK", which came during a speech therapy session a few weeks before.

Sarah had been hit by a drunk driver in 1984 and suffered near fatal injuries. Her first miracle was surviving the terrible crash. She underwent surgery for eight hours, where a clot the size of a fist was removed. Later, there was a second surgery.

Over the years, Sarah made small but important strides. She was able to focus and follow someone with her eyes, very gradually beginning to turn her head when people entered the room. Her caregivers noted she could blink her eyes once for no and twice for yes. Doctors theorize that pathways in her brain had gradually regenerated allowing her to form words.

Every time her family visited her, Sarah said goodbye with a smile and the words, "I love you." This means everything to her family. Her father says, "They have given my daughter back."

CHINA SHOULD LOSE 2008 OLYMPICS

If it doesn't stop forced abortions, the 2008 Olympics scheduled to take place in China should be cancelled, Congressmen Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Tom Tancredo (R-CO) said in Congressional hearings. They want an end to the one-child population control policy that has led to the abuses, which also include forced imprisonment at re-education labor camps and torture. Forced abortions and sterilizations are given when the policy is not followed. Rep. Tancredo told Human Events that there is little Congress can do to put pressure on China, but linking the population control abuses to the Olympics could help human rights watchers get more publicity for Chinese victims.

OLDER WOMEN HAVE INCREASING ABORTION RATES COMPARED TO TEENAGERS

New research shows that the abortion rates for older women are on the rise, as pro-life groups and pregnancy centers focus on providing pregnancy help and assistance to teenagers and college students. The Beverly LaHaye Institute, a think tank sponsored by Concerned Women for America, shows that women over the age of 25 are having a larger share of abortions. The data shows that such women are also having repeat abortions at a much higher rate - some having four or more abortions. Abortions on women who have already had at least one child are also more common. This data reveals that abortion is being used as birth control. Nearly half of all the abortions today are repeat abortions, and 60% of all abortions are to women who have previously had a live birth, according to this report.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I understand that the Right To Life Committee of New Mexico (RTLNCNM) 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 RTLNCNM, 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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