

# THE ERIE ECHO

*"voice for life"*

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May-June 2005

## Doctor Troubles at Erie Abortion Facility

The Erie branch of American Women's Services (AWS) did its first abortions in eight months on March 29. The abortion company, located in the 1611 Peach St. Professional Building, had been without a doctor since July. According to chief operating officer Linda Locke, AWS had considerable difficulty finding a physician willing to do abortions in Erie.

Anyone not familiar with the sordid background of AWS and its abortionist-owner, Dr. Steven Brigham, might have been very surprised on "reopening day" to see that the *new* abortionist was none other than the *old* abortionist, Dr. Harvey W. Brookman—the same Dr. Brookman that AWS fired a year earlier, on April 20, 2004, for doing abortions without a proper medical license.

"As soon as we confirmed that Dr. Brookman's license was not active," declared Linda Locke, "Dr. Brookman was terminated and is no longer working in any of our offices."

Brookman held an "active-retired" license, which authorized the 64-year old physician to treat only himself and immediate family members.

Brookman, who lives near Philadelphia, has worked at AWS locations in Erie, State College, and King of Prussia, and probably at AWS in Pittsburgh as well.

Although the reopening had been anticipated for several weeks,

the reappearance of Brookman had been considered unlikely. He had recently been charged by state regulators (on February 4, 2005) with unprofessional conduct and negligence, and his medical license was in jeopardy.

Nevertheless, Brookman reported for work and did abortions in Erie for three weeks in a row, on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings.

On Monday, April 18, the PA Board of Medicine suspended his license, calling Dr. Brookman "an immediate and clear danger to the public health and safety."

State regulators are now seeking to permanently revoke Brookman's license. They say he did "in excess of 2,400 abortions" from June 2001 through October 2004 without carrying medical liability insurance. Brookman also faces a \$60,000 fine.

Brookman was originally charged with practicing medicine without malpractice insurance, giving expired narcotics to patients, allowing unlicensed staff to administer narcotics, failing to check patients' age and identity, performing abortions without a licensed registered nurse in the room, failing to obtain voluntary and informed consent of patients 24 hours prior to scheduled abortions, and failing to determine whether an abortion was medically necessary, as

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## Mother's Day Carnation Project

The Mother's Day Carnation Project is People for Life's most important annual fundraising effort. It is a really big project that requires a lot of volunteers.

If you can help, please call Ed or Jean Hammer, the carnation project coordinators, at 456-0376. Feel free to call anytime, including evenings until 11:00 PM and weekends. If no one answers, please leave your name and phone number, and someone will return your call.

If your church is not yet a Carnation Project sponsor, why not talk with your pastor about getting the church involved and offer to coordinate the effort? People for Life will be happy to work with you to make sure everything runs smoothly. This is an enjoyable and satisfying project. The carnations practically sell themselves!

Churches typically make the carnations available for a suggested donation of \$1.00

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## New Billboard

People for Life's billboard at 16th & Peach has a brand new look. A new vinyl canvas was installed on April 4, replacing the canvas that was defaced by "poor-choice" vandals in early February.

This is the first total makeover the billboard has received since it was pressed into pro-life service during the summer of 2000.

Located just outside the building that houses the American Women's Services abortion facility, the billboard now features Care Net's national toll-free help line number and the Internet address for Care Net's *Option Line* website.

Care Net is a non-profit organization that supports a network of over 800 pregnancy resource centers in the United States and Canada. The organization is affiliated locally with the Women's Care Center of Erie County.

Erie area residents who use the contact



information found on the billboard will be put in touch with the Women's Care Center.

To help People for Life keep up with the monthly lease payments to the billboard company, please mail your check marked "billboard" to People for Life, Inc., P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512. You can also stop at Alternative Choices for Women, 1611 Peach St., Suite 321 (open between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM daily), or use the mail slot at People for Life's main location, 1625 W. 26th St.

# Doctor Troubles FROM PAGE 1

required by the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act.

Attorneys for the PA Department of State filed a revised list of charges on April 14. Several of the charges pertain to a case in which a young woman allegedly suffered severe injuries to her uterus and colon at the hands of Dr. Brookman during an abortion in 2002 at the AWS King of Prussia location. The woman had to be flown to Hahneman Medical Center for emergency surgery. A malpractice lawsuit was filed.

Brookman now faces charges that he (1) injured the 17 year-old patient during an abortion in King of Prussia; (2) carried out the abortion at an outpatient clinic far from any hospital while placing the patient under intravenous sedation anesthesia; (3) practiced medicine without malpractice insurance; (4) misrepresented or concealed the lack of malpractice insurance to obtain a medical license; (5) practiced medicine beyond the scope of his practice; (6) failed to determine whether abortions he performed were medically necessary; and (7) failed to obtain voluntary and informed consent of patients 24 hours prior to scheduled abortions.

Brookman voluntarily surrendered his New Jersey medical license on February 13, 1996 after the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners alleged that he failed to maintain adequate patient records; materially altered the records of ten of his patients; and committed acts of medical negligence.

After reviewing New Jersey's case against Brookman, the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct permanently revoked his New York state license on December 19, 1996. The New York medical board declared that Brookman had "not shown the he has the appropriate capabilities or moral characteristics to practice medicine in the State of New York." The board further noted: "[Brookman's] lack of integrity, character and moral fitness is evident in his course of conduct in New Jersey and his testimony before the Hearing Committee. Respondent did not provide the Hearing Committee with any reason to issue any penalty other than revocation. Respondent's acts were deliberate, not accidental, not unconscious and not technical."

In February of 2001, Brookman was sued for \$50,000 by a Philadelphia area couple for doing a routine abortion on a woman with a tubal pregnancy and subsequently failing to diagnose the tubal

pregnancy even after complications developed and the woman was experiencing increasing pain and bleeding. The woman eventually underwent emergency surgery.

Another AWS physician, Dr. Gerald B. Applegate, was disciplined by the Pennsylvania Board of Medicine during his tenure at AWS in Erie. Applegate was fined \$5000 and given a 90-day suspension in February 2004 for prescribing controlled substances for his wife on 86 occasions over a two-year period without maintaining proper medical records. Applegate suddenly stopped working for AWS in July 2004, and no more abortions took place at the Erie location until Dr. Brookman resurfaced on March 29.

## Reopening Soon?

Although closed once again, with the suspension of Dr. Brookman's medical license, the AWS Erie location may reopen soon, perhaps even before this newsletter reaches our readers. There are indications that a replacement for Dr. Brookman is currently waiting in the wings.

## Responding to AWS

Since October 1999, when abortionist Dr. Steven Brigham purchased a section of the 1611 Peach Street Professional Building, public demonstrations—a minimum of two one-hour demonstrations each and every week—have taken place on the public sidewalks outside the building.

Brigham eventually opened for business as American Women's Services (AWS) and began providing abortions on September 19, 2003.

Abortions were usually done two days a week, typically on Thursday evenings and Friday mornings. For a number of weeks in early 2004, however, abortions were done four days a week.

Demonstrations have taken place each and every time AWS has done abortions. Some of the demonstrations have lasted seven hours or longer. They are conducted (1) to remind everyone in northwestern Pennsylvania that unborn human beings are being systematically killed and (2) to encourage abortion-bound mothers to consider alternatives to abortion.

The demonstrations are without exception quiet, orderly, and completely lawful and

peaceful.

In another response to the abortion facility, People for Life maintains an office called Alternative Choices for Women (ACW) in Suite 321 of the Professional Building. The office is located just across the hallway from AWS. It is staffed from 9 to 5 or later Monday through Friday and whenever AWS is carrying out abortions. ACW provides information about abortion and alternatives to everyone who is interested.

Although People for Life strongly supports the public demonstrations, every effort is made to avoid any connection between the demonstrations and our ACW office. The staff does not participate in the demonstrations, and demonstrators are not permitted to visit the office.

Demonstrators are, in fact, consistently instructed to stay off the Professional Building property at all times before, during, and after each demonstration.

## Carnations

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each, \$5.00 a half dozen, and \$10.00 a dozen. Additional donations towards the educational work of People for Life are always appreciated.

Some churches prefer to use a different approach. Some, for instance, take orders from members of the congregation ahead of time. Others buy an exact number of carnations and give one to each mother. Churches are welcome to tailor the project as they choose to best suit their particular circumstances.

CARNATION PROJECT WORK SCHEDULE		
Date	Time	Activity
Thursday, May 5	1:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Make corsages Fill special orders
Thursday, May 5	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Tent set-up
Friday, May 6	1:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Sort carnations Prepare carnation buckets for delivery
Saturday, May 7	9:00 AM - ?	Deliver carnations
Saturday, May 7	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Make bouquets Fill special orders Make corsages
Sunday, May 8	7:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Deliveries and pickups
Sunday, May 8	8:00 AM - Noon	Fill orders Make bouquets
Sunday, May 8	Noon - 9:00 PM	Count returned carnations Clean buckets
Monday May 9	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Make bouquets Clean buckets
<b>At the Jean &amp; Ed Hammer Residence 2816 Florida Ave., Erie 814-456-0376</b>		

## — For the Record —

**Time to die** “Grandmama is old and I think it is time she went home to Jesus. She has glaucoma and now this heart problem, and who would want to live with disabilities like these?” – MRS. BETH GADDY, LaGrange, Georgia, explaining why she recently placed her grandmother in a hospice with instructions that she not be given food or water.

**Better off dead** “The disabled are not so much afraid of getting anthrax or being shot; they are afraid that society will toss them away like a used tissue and kill them. The disabled are terrorized by those holier-than-thou self-proclaimed bioethicists who have no morality and no sense of humanity and proclaim, like Adolf Hitler, that the disabled are ‘better off dead.’” – RON PANZER, President, Hospice Patients Alliance

**Terri Schiavo** “Yes, Murder. Terri Schiavo was in fact murdered by being deprived of food and water for 13 days.... Moreover, it is inaccurate to describe Terri Schiavo’s death as peaceful and gentle. I was with her for several hours the night before she died and again the next morning up until ten minutes before she died. She was in an agony unlike anything I have ever seen, and to describe it in any other way is irresponsible and dishonest.” – FR. FRANK PAVONE, Director, Priests for Life

**In favor of Life** “In cases 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.” – PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH, on Terri Schindler-Schiavo

**Not inevitable** “...pernicious ideas that now dominate our culture were hatched in the minds of thinking and acting persons. When we realize that the acceptance of something like abortion wasn’t historically inevitable, but was the result of a concerted effort of a relatively small number of human beings, then reforming the deformed culture becomes a possibility—if only we think clearly and act courageously as architects of a culture of life.” – BENJAMIN WIKER, Ph.D.

**Courage** “Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid.” – RONALD REAGAN

**Protection** “... if we as a society cannot find the will or the courage to protect mothers and their unborn children, in the final analysis, we will never truly find the courage to protect any kind of liberty for anyone.” – U.S. REP TRENT FRANKS (R-AZ)

**Mindless mantra** “... the fact that most of the world’s cloning opponents aren’t Taliban types hasn’t penetrated the iron-plated skulls of the mainstream American media, which continue to happily chant the mindless mantra that therapeutic-cloning opponents want to impose their religious views on the country.” – WESLEY J. SMITH

## All lives are equal under the law

By Steven Eidelman, Executive Director, The Arc of The United States and Stephen Drake, Research Analyst, Not Dead Yet

Terri Schiavo died on March 31. Her fate was a topic of intense debate for months, and it is clear now that her death will not end the dialogue. In fact, Terri Schiavo’s death may propel end-of-life issues even further into public consciousness. If there is anything positive to emerge from her ordeal, perhaps it is that more Americans will consider having the difficult end-of-life conversation with all of their loved ones.

The case of Terri Schiavo raises a number of troubling questions for Americans. For people with disabilities and their families, the case represents a “slippery slope” and raises the possibility that the right to life of people with significant intellectual and/or physical disabilities might one day be questioned.

It was just 20 years ago that many of us were enmeshed in the “Baby Doe” case when the starvation and dehydration of a newborn infant with Down Syndrome exposed this all-too-common practice in the United States. In that case, two separate judges sanctioned the death of the infant, an infant whose life could have been saved without heroics. Although few would agree with those judges’ rulings today, they were fiercely defended as protecting a private matter between families and doctors back in the mid-1980s.

Today, there are thousands of people with disabilities who use feeding tubes. For them, a feeding tube is not life support or heroic intervention, but the normal way they get food and water. When they are hospitalized for any reason—however minor—they risk having their normal means of eating and drinking being classified as “extraordinary treatment” or “life support.”

Few of us have enough experience with severe disability to make an informed choice in an advance directive, but clearly, having a significant disability does not mean you are “pre-dead.” People with disabilities agree with the Americans with Disabilities Act—that “disability is a natural part of the human experience.” Indeed, so is death.

The persistent vegetative state diagnosis is another matter, however, one fraught with unreliability. The fair and just allocation of health care and long term support resources is often in the back of our minds, whether we talk about it or not. These are ample reasons why we must put aside the partisan posturing and have an open and inclusive discussion of the issues at hand.

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### “Due process of law must appreciate the wishes and interests of people with disabilities, even if their lives are devalued by other people.”

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The disability community today is troubled by the possibility that Terri Schiavo’s life—and death—may cause legal protections for people who have guardians to be dismantled, making it easier for guardians to kill by withholding food and water. There must be a way to balance a person’s right to expressly refuse treatment against a person’s right not to be deprived of life without due process of law. Due process of law must appreciate the wishes and interests of people with disabilities, even if their lives are devalued by other people. Today, we fear that is not the case.

Terri Schiavo’s wishes were not documented, and her husband and family had many conflicts. Advocates for people with disabilities would never have wished to deprive Terri Schiavo of her right to self-determination regarding the end of her life, had her wishes been documented in a living will and/or power of attorney. But they were not.

Given these ambiguities, the disability community feels that the courts should have ruled on the side of sustaining her life, not allowing her to die. The disability community, from many years of grappling with these issues, feels that in such cases, it is best to assume that life is preferable over death. This is the position of 26 national disability groups, many of which represent people like Terri Schiavo who have guardians.

State laws governing surrogate decision-making vary and are often the result of well-funded advocacy from a narrow group of professionals, not involving the viewpoint of people with disabilities. When a guardian is needed—particularly a state-appointed guardian—the possibility for conflicts of interest is clear. Thus, the Schiavo case has focused attention on the need for a “federal floor” to protect people under guardianship. Research indicates that people with living wills and advance directives frequently change their minds when the time comes to implement those directives. Once people experience severe disability, their sense of horror about disability usually fades. We also know that people who “cannot speak for themselves” are often able to use assistive technologies that allow them to communicate their wishes, hopes, fears, and good-byes even if they can no longer speak. In today’s climate, it might be even more important to write down what you do want than what you do not want.

In addition, we must, as a society, stop using the term “persistent vegetative state.” Too  
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# CANDIDATE SURVEY

## 2005 Municipal Primary Election May 17, 2005

Y = Yes; N = No. b = Did not reply yes or no. Empty = No response; did not return or acknowledge our questionnaire.  
Pro-life, or more resolutely pro-life, responses are in **BOLDFACE CAPS**. Other responses are in lower case.  
D = Democrat; R = Republican; Cross = Cross filed

QUESTION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Erie County Judge of the Court of Common Pleas</b>									
Sue Anthony Pfadt (Cross)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Christine Fuhrman Konzel * (Cross)	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
John Garhart (Cross)	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Larry D. Meredith (Cross)	Y	Y	Y	b*	b*	b*	Y	b*	b*
Jerry Vilella (Cross)	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<b>Erie County Executive</b>									
Mark A. DiVecchio (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Thomas P. Loftus (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y*	Y
Dale R. McBrier (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	N*	Y*	Y*	Y
Art Oligeri (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<b>Erie County Sheriff</b>									
Bob Merski (D)									
<b>Clerk of Records</b>									
Patrick L. Fetzner (D)									
<b>Erie County Council 2nd District</b>									
Joe Giles (D)									
Vicki L. Taylor (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<b>Erie County Council 4th District</b>									
Ronald Whitey Cleaver (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	y	Y	Y	Y
Dale DeCecco (D)									
Gary P. Zielonis (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
William D. Buseck (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<b>Erie County Council 6th District</b>									
Michael Leyda (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
William McLellan (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
David E. Mitchell (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<b>Magisterial District Judge 3</b>									
Joseph F. Giannamore (D)	Y	Y	Y	b	b	b	n	Y	Y
Thomas Carney (Cross)									
<b>Magisterial District Judge 4</b>									
Joseph R. LeFaiver (Cross)									
<b>Magisterial District Judge 5</b>									
Dominick D. DiPaolo * (Cross)	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
<b>City of Erie Mayor</b>									
Linda Bebko Jones (D)									
Rick Filippi (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y	Y
Barry Grossman (D)									
Tim Pearson (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Joe Sinnott (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Mary Elaine Taylor (D)	Y	Y	Y	n	Y	y	n	Y	b*
Jack Anderson (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Tim Zarnick (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y

**1. INFORMED CONSENT** Should abortion providers be required to offer basic information to a woman who is considering an abortion to inform her about medical risks, alternatives to abortion, fetal development, the probable gestational age of her unborn child, and the availability of assistance benefits if the woman decides to continue her pregnancy? (Pennsylvania law currently requires these things.)

**2. TIME FOR DELIBERATION** After initially consulting with a physician, should a woman who wants an abortion be given 24 hours to carefully consider her decision before an abortion is carried out? (Pennsylvania law currently requires this.)

**3. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT** If someone who is seeking an abortion is less than 18 years old, should the consent of at least one parent be required unless a judge determines that extenuating circumstances are involved? (Pennsylvania law currently requires this.)

**4. LEGAL PROTECTION FOR THE UNBORN CHILD** If *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, would you favor the enactment a state law prohibiting abortion unless necessary to prevent the death of the mother, or prohibiting abortion with certain exceptions? (Please specify what exceptions, if any.)

**5. LATE TERM ABORTIONS** Should abortions be prohibited in all cases where the unborn child is mature enough to survive apart from his or her mother?

**6. GOVERNMENT FUNDING** Should public funds be used to pay for abortions?

**7. ASSISTED SUICIDE** Should physician-assisted suicide be prohibited?

**8. PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS** Are you comfortable with peaceful, non-obstructive individuals using public sidewalks near abortion facilities to express opposition to abortion or to advocate alternatives to abortion?

**9. SIDEWALK COUNSELING** Does the First Amendment in your opinion protect individuals who politely communicate with abortion facility customers by offering literature or suggesting alternatives to abortion to the same extent that other kinds of literature distribution and public discourse are protected?

City of Erie Controller									
Casimir J. "Kaz" Kwitowski (D)									
Maryann Olszewski-Genis (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
City of Erie Treasurer									
Susan E. DiVecchio (D)									
Bonny Kubia (D)									
Erie City Council (vote for 4)									
Mark Aleks Aleksandrowicz (D)									
Carl Anderson (D)	Y	Y	Y	b	Y	N	n	Y	Y
Michael D. Benedict (D)									
Jim Casella (D)	Y*	Y*	Y	Y*	Y	N*	Y*	Y	Y*
Jim Casey (D)	Y	Y*	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Lonny Gatlin (D) *	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Rubye Jenkins-Husband (D)									
Curtis Jones, Jr. (D)									
Ian Murray (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
James N. "Jim" Thompson (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
William Bill Watson (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	n	Y	Y
James H. Eichler (R)									

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Casella RE #1 "I am a City Council candidate. Have no power over most items.  
 Casella RE #2 "I am a Catholic and believe in the teaching of the Church."  
 Casella RE #4 (Exceptions) "The fetus would not survive or is beyond medical help."  
 Casella RE #6 "Public Funds are involved too much already."  
 Casella RE #7 "We have the ability to keep these people pain free."  
 Casella RE #9 (Yes) "As long as they are willing to receive that material freely."  
 Casey RE #2 "Possibly longer."  
 Cleaver RE #4 "Let state set exceptions." (Support exceptions for a variety of cases.)  
 DiPaolo "As you probably already know the Rules of Professional Conduct and Cannon Law does not permit the Judiciary from responding to such a survey."

Filippi RE #6 (Yes) "However, I do not believe extraordinary medical measures should be employed where there is no hope of recovery. People should be permitted to die with dignity and respect."  
 Garhart RE #4 (Exceptions?) "Rape and incest"  
 Gatlin "I do not believe it is appropriate for a candidate for the office of Erie City Council to take a position on this issue.... I feel that any decision by the voters of the City of Erie respecting my qualifications and fitness for office should be based on factors other than my personal views regarding this issue." (Gatlin recently characterized himself as "pro-choice" in a conversation with a People for Life member.)  
 Konzal "As a candidate for judicial office within the Commonwealth, I don't feel it is right for me to respond to these questions."  
 Loftus RE #8 "I have personally done that

with your group and just not when a TV camera is around."  
 McBrier RE #5 (Yes) "But I can imagine extraordinary physical handicap that would mean the child had no hope or consciousness that would suggest a cause for finality."  
 McBrier RE #6 (NO) "Unless (candidate refers back to response for question #5.)"  
 McBrier RE #7 (Yes) "But this is harder. Does a person die with less dignity if assisted or more dignity."  
 McBrier RE #8 "The right of public assembly is protected by the Constitution."  
 Meredith RE #4, 5, 6, 8, 9 "No opinion"  
 Sinnott RE #4 "If the laws would be constitutional alternatives to federal law. Federal law generally supercedes state law."  
 Taylor (Mary) RE #9 "Not sure, willing to find out."  
 Thompson RE #4 "It is difficult to say under what exception other than to prevent the death of the mother, but somehow there will always be an exception, but who and how that is determined is beyond me."  
 Villella RE #4 "In the increasingly likely event that *Roe v. Wade* is overturned or modified to give the states more power to regulate abortion, we in Pennsylvania will no doubt be presented with a heated debate on the issue of pregnancies resulting from rape.... The pro-life community needs to be ready to define the terms and conditions of any proposed rape exception to protect life and maintain consistency of the position, without giving the opposition a reason to portray us as uncompassionate to rape victims.... [I]f this type of circumstance is the only exception which is enacted other than saving the mother's life, virtually all abortions will be prohibited, and we would have to consider the pro-life cause victorious in an imperfect world."  
 Zielonis RE #4 "Perhaps rape and incest —adoption counseling as an alternative in these cases."

**All lives are equal FROM PAGE 3**

many people with significant disabilities have been called "vegetables," and this needs to stop. It is beyond demeaning. It is dehumanizing. In fact, some of the people who use the term most freely are doctors, and what often comes next is a discussion of the death or warehousing of the individual with such a pejorative label  
 For a person with serious disabilities, the debate should not be about whether or not they are going to "get better" some day. Disability is a fact of life, every day of our lives. Millions of Americans are disabled, and for millions more, it is just a matter of time. None of us is guaranteed an able body or mind for life.  
 People with disabilities sometimes have wonderful lives, and sometimes they have

lousy lives. They are just like other Americans. Just because a person has a significant disability does not mean that he or she does not love life. It does not mean that they should be assumed to be better off dead.  
 It is time for a call to conscience to both the Right and the Left. Guardianship should not be a death ship. People like Terri Schiavo, people with disabilities, are persons under the law, and they deserve constitutional protection.  
 The disability community is grateful that so many in Congress stepped up to support Terri Schiavo's right to live, even though we are concerned about the precedent that was established. We would like to see Congress follow up with the same level of concern in making sure we can provide care and support for the millions of Americans with disabilities by supporting *Medicaid*

*Community Attendant Services and Supports Act*, legislation that would allow thousands of adults with disabilities who have Medicaid funded services to have a life in their communities, not just stay to alive in an institution. We call on the Congress to ensure continued support for Medicaid and other programs people need; and we look forward to the passage of the *Family Opportunity Act*, to allow families of children with significant disabilities to buy into the Medicaid program in order to help their sons and daughters live at home in the community, rather than being banished to a nursing home or institution.  
 Terri Schiavo's case is every family's nightmare. But disability doesn't have to be a nightmare. Even if our nation disagrees on how we define compassion, we must certainly agree that all lives are equal under the law.



## New Library Additions

Two new books are available to borrow from People for Life's lending library:

**Architects of the Culture of Death** By Donald De Marco, St. Jerome's University of Waterloo, Ontario and Benjamin Wiker, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. Exposes the roots of abortion, euthanasia, "therapeutic" cloning, and the like through a scholarly, yet reader-friendly delineation of the mindsets of twenty-three influential thinkers, including Ayn Rand, Charles Darwin, Friedrich Nietzsche, Karl Marx, Jean-Paul Sartre, Alfred Kinsey, Margaret Sanger, Alan Guttmacher, Jack Kevorkian, and Peter Singer. De Marco and Wiker unravel the aberrant thinking and oftentimes-malevolent intentions that have shaped the Culture of Death.

**Consumer's Guide to a Brave New World** By Wesley J. Smith. Unravels the mystery of stem cells and shows what's at stake in the controversy over using them for research. He describes the emerging science of human cloning—the most radical technology in history—and shows how it moves forward inexorably against the moral consensus of the world. But at the core of this highly readable and carefully researched book is a report on the gargantuan "Big Biotech" industry and its supporters in the universities and the science and bioethics establishments. Smith reveals how the lure of huge riches, mixed with the ideology of "scientism," threatens to impose on society a "new eugenics" that would dismantle ethical norms and call into question the uniqueness and importance of every human life. "At stake," he warns, "is whether science will continue to serve society, or instead dominate it."

## "Thanks, Phil!"

Please thank Congressman Phil English for cosponsoring the *Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act* (H.R. 356). This important legislation would require abortion providers to inform women who are 20 weeks or farther along in their pregnancies that their babies can feel pain. The bill would also require the abortionist to offer pain medication for the baby if the woman still wants to proceed with an abortion.

## Bebko-Jones wants human cloning and embryo killing

Pro-abortion State Rep. Linda Bebeko-Jones, along with 10 other members of the PA House of Representatives, has introduced a bill that would specifically authorize and facilitate human cloning and the killing of human embryos.

It is a vague and misleading piece of legislation replete with trick terminology and disingenuous lip service concerning the "ethical implications" of what it is the bill seeks to authorize: killing human beings for the sake of scientific research.

The bill, H.B. 864, authorizes and facilitates the killing of human embryos "from any source." This includes embryos created by in vitro fertilization in the course of fertility treatment and embryos intentionally created for embryonic stem cell research either by in vitro fertilization or by human cloning. It also authorizes and facilitates the use of stem cells taken from the bodies of aborted babies.

The bill employs terminology that tends to disguise the abortion connection. It misleadingly defines the term "human embryonic germ cell" to apply to "stem cells derived from fetal tissue." In the real world, the term "germ cell" normally applies specifically to the cells that produce human gametes, that is, sperm cells and egg cells—but not to stem cells from aborted babies.

While embryonic stem cell experiments have produced no practical medical treatments, non-embryonic stem cells from adults, which can be obtained without harming the donor, have already proven effective in treating at least 58 medical conditions.

## Rep. English: President Bush needs your support

Early in his first term, President Bush authorized limited funding for experiments involving human embryonic stem cells. However, to ensure that the availability of federal funds would not encourage the killing of additional human embryos, the President declined to fund experiments using embryonic stem cells derived from human embryos killed after August 9, 2001, the day he allowed the limited funding.

Now there is a strong movement in Congress to pass legislation that would overturn the Bush policy. The main piece of legislation designed to do this is H.R. 810. It has a very large number of cosponsors—over 190. Thankfully, Congressman English is not among them.

There is some reason for concern, nevertheless. Rep. English's signature appears on a letter to President Bush that calls on the President to "expand the current federal policy concerning embryonic stem cell research." The letter is dated April 28, 2004.

English has explained that he would favor expanding the President's policy, but in a way that would not violate the ethical concerns of his pro-life constituents. Unfortunately, this sentiment was not at all apparent in the letter to the President. The letter was clearly a call for the President to fund unethical, embryo-killing research.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Please contact Rep. English to thank him for his strong pro-life commitment and to encourage him to remain faithful to his principles by voting against any expansion of the Bush policy on funds for embryonic stem cell research.

### Honorable Phil English

1410 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-5406 | 202-225-3103 Fax

### Erie County Office

208 East Bayfront Parkway, Suite 102  
Erie, PA 16507  
814-456-2038 | 814-454-0163 Fax

## Living Wills

A growing number of people are thinking and saying that when a person becomes disabled and needs to be cared for, he or she would be better off dead. This can be especially dangerous to disabled people who, because they are mentally impaired, depend on others to make their medical decisions.

Medical care is now being denied not because it is judged to be too painful or otherwise burdensome for the patient and not because it is too costly, but simply because it would help the patient live rather than die. Invasive surgeries and complicated life support machinery are no longer the issue; now patients are even being denied food and water.

The case of Terri Schindler-Schiavo, a mentally impaired woman who died of deliberate dehydration and starvation on March 31, provides a chilling illustration.

But not only the mentally impaired are at risk. In early April, a woman in Georgia, Mae Magouirk, was denied food and water for 10 days. A judge was finally persuaded to reverse his earlier decision in favor of a granddaughter who felt it was time that Magouirk "went home to Jesus." Her disabilities? Glaucoma and a recently diagnosed heart condition.

In the wake of the Terri Schindler-Schiavo case, you might be interested in signing a "living will." Beware! Many living wills are influenced by the attitude that the lives of people in less than ideal physical condition are less valuable. By signing such a document you might be assisting people who, sometime in the future, will be a lot more anxious for you to die than *you* are.

Before signing a living will, please examine the *Will to Live* from National Right to Life. It is a "living will," but with an important distinction: a presumption for LIFE rather than DEATH.

The *Will to Live* specifies what medical treatments should be withheld under specific, clearly defined conditions, but it also protects the patient from denial of treatment by overzealous individuals, (doctors, hospital administrators, insurance managers, lawyers, judges, and even family members) who

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# Living Wills

## FROM PAGE 6

believe that people with a less than perfect quality of life or less than perfect chances of complete recovery are "better off dead."

A copy of the *Will to Live* for Pennsylvania residents can be obtained locally from People for Life or downloaded from [www.nrlc.org/euthanasia/willtolive](http://www.nrlc.org/euthanasia/willtolive).

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual election meeting of People for Life is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Monday, May 16, 2005. It will be held at the Pro-Life Center, 1625 West 26th St., Erie, PA. Everyone is welcome. Members whose dues are paid one month in advance of the meeting will be eligible to vote.

## NOMINEES

First Vice-President.....Rose Ann Yadeski  
Second Vice-President ..... Bob Theiss  
Third Vice-President ..... Dale Klobusnik  
Secretary ..... David Halligan  
Treasurer ..... Jean Hammer

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor with the permission of the nominee, who must be a member of People for Life.

## Msgr. Robert Goodill: Defender of Life

The Erie pro-life community suffered a great loss recently with the death of Msgr. Robert Goodill. He was highly admired for his tireless teaching and preaching about the sanctity of human life and against abortion.

Msgr. Goodill, was the founding pastor of St. Luke Catholic Church. He served there as pastor from 1954 until his retirement in 1985.

Msgr. Goodill was a beloved friend and respected advisor to People for Life. Our organization was honored to have him as the main speaker at our annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast in 1997.

He preached the Word—including the Truth about human life—in the style of Paul the Apostle: "in season and out of season... with great patience and careful instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2). Let us all do our best to follow Msgr. Goodill's shining example as we continue to fight the Culture of Death.

# Memorials

### Given by

Jean & Ed Hammer  
Jim & Rose Ann Yadeski  
Jean & Ed Hammer  
Jean & Ed Hammer  
Jim & Rose Ann Yadeski  
Jean & Ed Hammer  
Veronica Nigbor

### In Memory of

Msgr. Robert Goodill  
Vincent Madlehner  
Ray Palumbo  
Daniel A. Ropelewski  
Dan G. Ropelewski  
Margaret "Peggy" Shickler  
Margaret "Peggy" Shickler

### Given by

Jean & Ed Hammer  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Jack & Margie Walsh  
Jack & Margie Walsh

### In Memory of

Lawrence "Larry" Wilczynski  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Jackie Ennis receiving the Women of History Award  
Joanne Starr's Birthday

### Given by

### In Honor of

People for Life is an all-volunteer, non-profit, citizen's organization committed to affirming the intrinsic value of human life. We are dedicated to advancing true justice by working for the protection of all innocent human lives, whatever the age, race, sex, physical condition, economic status, or place of residence (including the womb). We encourage local involvement through education and

by fostering political awareness. We advocate loving alternatives to the primitive and violent "solutions" of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. Together, we can create a society in which all human lives are held sacred.

The *Erie Echo* is published bimonthly in Erie, Pennsylvania by People for Life, Inc. Tim Broderick, editor

PEOPLE FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP				NEW	RENEWAL
NAME _____		DATE _____			
ADDRESS _____					
CITY _____		STATE _____		ZIP _____	
E-MAIL _____		PHONE _____		FAX _____	
STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT _____		ORGANIZATION _____		OCCUPATION _____	
<small>Church, Business, Civic Organization, etc.</small>					
<b>MEMBERSHIP DUES</b>		INDIVIDUAL \$10 _____		FAMILY \$20 _____	
STUDENT \$5 _____		GROUP \$25 _____		PATRON \$50 _____	
		BENEFACTOR \$100 _____		SENIOR CITIZEN \$5 _____	
ADDITIONAL DONATION FOR:		Peach Street Billboard _____		Other Purpose (please specify) _____	
<b>VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Mailing		<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Breakfast	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Center Attendant		<input type="checkbox"/> Erie March & Motorcade for Life	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalk Counseling		<input type="checkbox"/> March For Life Bus Trip	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Literature Distribution		<input type="checkbox"/> Public Demonstrations	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Fair Booths		<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day Carnation Project	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling		<input type="checkbox"/> "Call when you need an extra hand."	
<p><i>Please make your check payable to:</i></p> <p>PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC. 1625 West 26th Street P.O. Box 1126 Erie, PA 16512</p>					
<p><i>Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible.</i></p> <p><i>The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.</i></p>					

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