



PENNSYLVANIANS FOR HUMAN LIFE

Education Services

Summer 2006 Volume 38 Issue 2

Knowledge is Power

We recognize that the greatest threat to human life is the lack of information about the biological, intellectual and social uniqueness of every human person. Our mission is to provide clear and accurate information to persons of all ages on the process of human development before and after birth, especially as this process is thwarted by the practices of abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

We are a unique organization. Not only have we had a solid and historic presence since 1972, but we are constantly evolving. We do this by researching and monitoring life issues. Our speakers pass that information on to the public.

What remains constant is our dedication to the protection of human life.

Technology!...We have begun the task of updating our databases so that they fit into the "e" age! We will begin to communicate with supporters electronically to reduce our costly mailings. An email to us - Pennlife@Verizon.net with your address is appreciated. We welcome volunteers with computer experience in this endeavor.

ON CHANGES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

How many of us...and me at the top of the list...are so happy to see the middle of June roll around so that the rigors of the school year begin to ease a bit? June and early July afford us the opportunity to slow down just a bit and assess the ups and downs of the past nine months.

The same holds true of all of us here at PHL. Our fiscal year and school year both end in June. And if there was ever a year to celebrate, 2006 would be it! We began our year with a move into a beautiful, spacious office in West Chester and ended it with an incredible milestone for our organization: **the combination of students reached with a PHL presentation and visitors to our informative website reached nearly 100,000!** We take great pride in the efforts of our Executive Director, Martha Short and our dedicated volunteer speakers and benefactors for making that number possible. The "ripple" effect of those 100,000 hearts and minds is truly staggering and serve as such a motivating force for the 2007 school year. Can you join in that effort by encouraging your local schools to invite PHL in?

The events happening in the arena of pro-life are exploding all around us. And we hope to be a source of that information for you and our students. It is always my fervent hope that there will come a time when the service that PHL provides is no longer needed. Until that time, please join in with us in anyway possible to advance the cause of life.

Thank you all...and have a beautiful, SLOW summer!

Anita Nardone, President, Board of Directors



PHL Happenings...

PHL's Celebrate Life Banquet was held in February. We managed to avoid snow and football and basketball playoffs and enjoyed one of the most financially successful banquets. Father Tad Pacholczyk treated the audience to a thoughtful and informative presentation on stem cell issues. We are grateful to Robin and Al Conicella for chairing a wonderful evening and for agreeing to chair next year's event as well. It is scheduled for Sunday, February 25, 2007.



California's assisted-suicide bill (AB651) has failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee, handing a major defeat to assisted-suicide proponents across the country. The Committee voted 3-2 with Joe Dunn, a democrat, casting the deciding vote. He said he could not trust that this bill would not open the door for active euthanasia for those not suffering from terminal illness. (9/26/06)

Opponents of the bill argued that it was unnecessary because under California law terminally ill patients already enjoy the right to refuse extraordinary treatment and have full access to advanced pain treatment.

Recent polls have shown that once the public understands what assisted suicide is, the support for it drops.

The bill was opposed by a broad coalition of 34 organizations, including civil rights and disability rights groups that include American Academy of Medical Ethics, American Association of People with Disabilities, California Disability Alliance, Center for Independent Living, Justice for All, National Council on Disability, National Spinal Cord Injury Association, NOT DEAD YET, Physicians for Compassionate Care, Scholl Institute of Bioethics, Southern California Cancer Pain Initiative, The California Catholic Conference, American Academy of Medical Ethics, California Nurses for Ethical Standards and the Californians for Disability Rights, just to name a few.

The 2005-2006 School Year

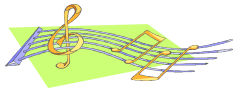


This year, 47,982 visitors accessed the informative PHL website,

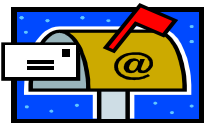
www.Pennlife.org

This website averages 135 visitors each day.

Inquiries have been received from around the world!



**The Ruby Red Benefit
A Concert for PHL
July 27, 7 pm
Bonner Auditorium
Come and watch students
from Bonner, Prendie and
O'Hara perform songs
from award-winning
musicals!**



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This year, twenty-nine of PHL's dedicated, volunteer speakers gave more than 800 presentations to a total of 110 schools and organizations. We reached more than 40,000 students, parents and adults in public, private and parochial elementary schools, high schools, colleges, medical schools, CCD, PREP programs and adult groups. The Middle School Program was presented to students in 65 schools and the High School Program was given in twenty-two schools. We are privileged to work with such dedicated and selfless volunteers who are constantly challenged to keep up with the latest legislations and breakthroughs in medical research. They are Jessica Bayer, Sue Beattie, Stephanie Bock, Gerri Burton, Arlene Campbell, Nancy Carey, Maureen Coath, Martha Cushwa, John Donohue, Bunny Dugan, Marianne Gordon, Pat Graham, JoAnn Griffith, Marybeth Hagan, Deacon Phil Heaney, Rowland Hill, Megan Horstmann, Don Hreha, Pierce and Katie Keating, Kathy Myer, Anita Nardone, Brad O'Brien, Becky Rigsby, Theresa Stanton, Jane Touey, Jim White and Joe Wusinich. A heartfelt thank you to each of you. You are treasures. Our mission could not be accomplished without you because your time and talent are irreplaceable!

PHL's beautiful pro-life programs were exhibited at the National Middle School Association (NMSA) Convention in November. We met school administrators, teachers and support staff from around the world. PHL staff were asked to coordinate the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation's Teen Convention, assembling guest speakers including Terri Schiavo's brother, Bobby Schindler, and Chris Godfrey from Athletes for Life. We also recruited and scheduled the many volunteers.

Presentations were given to a variety of groups this year in addition to PHL's traditional school programs. They include four medical schools, the *Voices of the Unborn* radio program, and the Malvern Retreat House. Speakers traveled to Danville, PA., to train a group as they prepared to introduce a pro-life educational program in their community. We were also asked to speak to students, teachers and moderators at the annual Archdiocesan High School Pro-Life Leadership Day.

Representatives from Pennsylvanians for Human Life attended the recent National Right-to-Life Convention in Nashville. We heard from Fred Barnes, KellyAnne Conway, Ramesh Ponnuru, Dr. David Prentice, Richard Doerflinger, and the Schindler family. We look forward to incorporating the information we received in the numerous workshops and general sessions in this coming school year.

Thank you!

With your support, Pennsylvanians for Human Life Education Services has been educating students, teachers and many others on the wonder of human life. Your donations have supported research, school visits, educating, recruiting and training our speakers and maintaining our informative website.

PHL funding comes from donations from this newsletter, honoraria, proceeds from the annual Celebrate Life Banquet and from those who select PHL as the recipient of their Donor Choice contribution to the United Way. PHL's designated number is 00482.

A memorial contribution to PHL offers a fitting way to honor a deceased family member or friend; honor a loved one or to celebrate an event such as a birthday, anniversary, new baby or a special occasion. Acknowledgement will be sent to the recipient.



PENNSYLVANIANS FOR HUMAN LIFE EDUCATION SERVICES

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Peter Singer: Sanctity of life will be destroyed

Princeton bioethics professor Peter Singer, considered by some the most influential philosopher still breathing, is well-known for his long-time advocacy of infanticide, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and bestiality.

He now predicts that, by 2040, “the traditional view of the sanctity of human life will collapse” under the weight of science and technology, and “only a rump of hard-core, know-nothing religious fundamentalists will defend the view that every human life...is sacrosanct.” “By then,” he says, “an increasing proportion of the population in developed

countries will be more than 75 years old and thinking about how their lives will end. The political pressure for allowing terminally or chronically ill patients to choose when to die will be irresistible.” [Singer, “The Sanctity of Life, *Foreign Policy*, Sept./Oct., 2005]

In Europe, German parliamentary members have compared him to Nazi henchman Martin Bormann [*Washington Times*, 3/30/98] and disability right groups around the world have denounced him for, among other things, advocating the killing of disabled newborns. When

asked if it is ethical for parents to have a child just so they can kill her and use her organs for their ill, older child, Singer replied, “It’s difficult to warm to parents who can take such a detached view, (but) they’re not doing something really wrong in itself.” [Olasky, “The most influential philosopher alive,” townhall.com, 12/2/04]

For additional information on Peter Singer, visit www.internationaltaskforce.org and www.notdeadyet.org

Check this out!

Noted euthanasia opponent Wesley J. Smith is an attorney and author who has written extensively on bioethics issues. The following quote was recently selected for Starbucks’ “The Way I See It” programs which prints conversation-sparking thoughts, opinions, and expressions on the company’s coffee cups.

It states: “The morality of the 21st century will depend on how we respond to this simple but profound question: Does every human life have equal moral value simply and merely because it is human? Answer yes, and we have a chance of achieving universal human rights. Answer no, and it

means that we are merely another animal in the forest.”

Mr. Smith’s most recent book is [Culture of Death: The Assault on Medical Ethics in America](#).

For additional information, visit www.wesleyjsmith.com

Awareness studied in unconscious patients

Incredible stories of brain-damaged, non-responsive patients suddenly waking up after years of unconsciousness have been in the news lately. For years, the medical community down-played such cases, since there was no scientifically plausible explanation for such “awakenings.” But now, technology is giving researchers the tools to actually peek into workings of the unconscious brain.

In a recent study, published this year in *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation*, positive emission tomography (PET) scans were performed on a patient in a persistent vegetative state (PVS) and on healthy, conscious subjects. The scans showed that, when English sentences were spoken, the reactions within certain brain regions were the same in both the PVS patient and the conscious subjects. Subsequently, magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) done on the PVS patient showed that his cortex responded to semantically ambiguous sentences, a response usually indicative of higher levels of speech comprehension. [*The Scientist*, 9/12/05]

Another study, published in *Neurology*, used fMRI technology to examine cortical networks in two minimally conscious state (MCS) patients. The researchers found “active cortical networks that serve language functions,” indicating that “some MCS patients may retain widely distributed cortical systems with potential for cognitive and sensory function despite their inability to follow simple instructions or communicate reliably. [N.D.Schiff et al., “fMRI reveals large-scale network activation in minimally conscious patients,” *Neurology*, 2/05: 514-523]



World News

*United Kingdom - Three organizations involved with palliative care have condemned the Voluntary Euthanasia Society’s decision to change its name to Dignity in Dying. In a letter to **The Guardian**, representatives of Help the Hospices, Marie Curie Cancer Care, and the National Council for Palliative Care, wrote “the implication of this now widely publicized name is that euthanasia is the only dignified death... This is manifestly untrue and will be misleading for vulnerable patients and their families. We believe the development of excellent palliative care at the end of life in the last decade has ensured that thousands of people have experienced a dignified death.” (The Guardian, SPUC, 1/27/06)*

*Italy—A man who was in a coma for two years after a traffic accident has recovered consciousness. Salvatore Crisafulli told reporters, “The doctors said that I wasn’t conscious, but I understood everything and I cried in desperation.” His brother Pietro told the **Corriere della Sera** newspaper, “I don’t expect that he will be like he was, but it’s already a miracle... And to think that some doctors said that it was all useless and that he would be dead in three, four months.” (LifeNews.com, 10/5; SPUC, 10/7)*