

CITIZENS
CONCERNEDBLAIR COUNTY
CHAPTER

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

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Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Spring 2017

Oratory Contest Winners

Isabel Sicree, a high school senior, is the First Place Varsity Winner of Citizens Concerned for Human Life 2017 Oratory Contest. Her sister, Genevieve, a sophomore, placed First in the Junior Division. Isabel and Genevieve are the daughters of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree, of Boalsburg, and are homeschooled. The judges for the Oratory Contest were: Elsie Shivas, Hollidaysburg; Patricia Hatch, Altoona; and Pat Forr, Altoona. Prizes of \$200 and \$150 were awarded to the winners. Congratulations to the Sicree sisters! Printed below is Isabel's oratorical presentation. Read Genevieve's presentation, beginning on back page.

The Fortune Tellers

By Isabel Sicree



Newly-weds Don and Patricia Carter are forced to stop in the little town of Ridgeview, Ohio after their car breaks down. While waiting in the local diner, they encounter a table-top fortune telling machine, one that promises to tell their futures by answering yes or no questions for one penny.

Though seemingly harmless, this Fortune Teller nearly destroys their lives.

After the Fortune Teller predicts Don's promotion, superstitious Don becomes convinced that the machine can in fact, tell the future. When the couple has a near miss with a car, Don tells his wife that they can't ignore the facts: they got "straight" answers from the machine. Soon Don is ensnared by the machine, feeding it one penny after another in a seemingly endless cycle of despair, destroying his self-confidence and free will.

What can a story like this have to do with abortion?

The Carters' story is eerily similar to stories of women seeking abortions in several ways. First, they are in a similar situation: a new couple in love when their plans are derailed by an accident. At least one member is afraid of the future, though the pregnant woman is not necessarily superstitious, and they seek outside help in the wrong

place, whether it be a Fortune Teller, or an abortion counselor. This counselor propels them to the same action, no matter the situation.

This neutral counseling isn't necessarily neutral, for Don or the pregnant woman. The Fortune Teller gets another penny for each question asked—it wants Don Carter to keep asking, so it gives extremely general answers that often require follow-ups: "Try again," "It is quite possible," "Your chances are good," and so on. All of these answers are slightly slanted, but they lead to the same result: the patron keeps coming back. In a similar way, the abortion counselor's advice is also slanted. Neglecting to properly inform women about all their options, being harsh, lying, and shooting down their patients' future hopes are just some ways that they can manipulate women into getting the abortion.

Jeri, a woman recalling her pre-abortion counseling, told David Reardon, "I said that I wanted to have my baby but my boyfriend wanted me to have the abortion."

"...The counselor seemed quite upset with me and plainly told me that I was being 'romantic,' while my boyfriend was being 'realistic.' How could wanting to give birth to my baby be romantic? I knew it wouldn't be peace and roses, but the counselor had no right to put me down like that, either. It seems to me that these people are so involved in fighting for abortions that they forget to look at young girls and their babies' needs."

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Celebrate Children with Down Syndrome

By Matthew Wagner

March 20th is World Down Syndrome day. It is an opportunity to celebrate children with Down Syndrome and recognize that it is not a disease or a disability, just a difference that should be respected.



I remember my experience with Down Syndrome. My wife was pregnant with our first child, and we couldn't be more excited. We were already planning a Pittsburgh Steelers themed nursery and could not wait. We had just found out we were having a boy, and had a follow-up with the doctor.

The doctor gravely informed us that our child had a club foot, and that could be a sign of him having Down Syndrome. He was recommending we go for additional

tests so we could decide what we wanted to do. Talk about a shocker... we weren't sure what to do. After a discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of the additional testing, I looked at my wife and told her if she wanted to have the test, we would, but that I wasn't sure what the point was...whether our child had Down Syndrome or not, he was going to be loved and cherished. Ultimately we decided not to have the test, and a few months later we were blessed with a healthy baby boy who happened to have a club foot. That baby boy will turn 11 four days after World Down Syndrome Day, and you wouldn't know he had a club foot by looking at him (see above for his 2015 soccer picture).

Now, I do not have any issue with parents who decide to get additional testing. I can understand the impulse to

know as much as possible about the new life you are beginning. What is concerning is the number of people who determine their child may have Down Syndrome, or any of the other "abnormalities" the testing finds and decide to have an abortion which will kill their baby. In fact, 93% of babies diagnosed with Down Syndrome are killed before they even have a chance at life (despite a 2.5% margin of error in the testing).

I encourage you to take a minute and get to know a child with Down Syndrome. Consider that he or she is one of the 7% whose parents decided they were going to love their child no matter what, and they were going to give him or her an opportunity to live life to its fullest.

—PA Pro-Life Federation, March 1, 2017

IF YOU DON'T WANT ME,
AT LEAST SEND ME TO
A TEAM THAT DOES.



ADOPTION...
THE LIFE-GIVING OPTION.

Lennart Nilsson, Who Took the Most Amazing Photos of Unborn Babies, Passes Away at 94

By Dave Andrusko

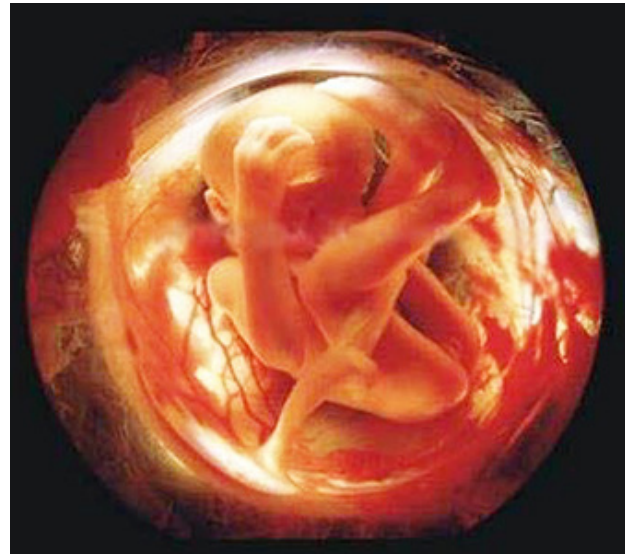
Each generation of pro-lifers is shaped and molded by what we might call common-core knowledge. For those of us who were recruited in the 1970s and early 1980s that stock of must-read/must-view information included The Willkes' "Handbook on Abortion," Jean Garton's "Who Broke the Baby?" and what were always called "the Nilsson photos."

The latter refers to a series of photos taken by Swedish photographer Lennart Nilsson which first appeared in *Life Magazine* and then in the book, "A Child is Born."

Mr. Nilsson passed away [January 28] at 94.

Here's how one publication described the impact of Nilsson's work:

His 1965 book, "A Child is Born," was one of the most successful photography albums ever, selling in the millions and becoming an iconic work for the anti-abortion movement. "Iconic" is one of the two or three most misused/overused words in the English language. In this case, it is absolutely accurate.



Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

"When the supporters of abortion were arguing that the baby was nothing more than a 'blob of tissue,'" said



The *Independent* newspaper said of Nilsson: He started as a freelance photographer in the 1940s but later experimented with photographic techniques to take extreme close-ups.

By combining that with very thin endoscopes that became available in the mid-1960s, he was able to take the photos that made him famous.

What I did not know about Nilsson until I read a brief obituary was "He is commonly credited with the first photographs of the AIDS virus and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus, using a scanning electron microscope."



Dr. Randall K. O'Bannon, NRLC Director of Education & Research, "these photographs were exposing that lie on the magazine racks of checkout counters all across America."

—LifeNews.com, January 31, 2017

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Legislative Update



Pennsylvania Senate Votes to Ban Brutal Dismemberment Abortions

A ban on the brutal practice of dismemberment abortions has been approved by the Pennsylvania Senate.

The measure, Senate Bill 3, will make it illegal to cause “the death of an unborn child by means of dismembering the unborn child and extracting the unborn child one piece at a time from the uterus through the use of clamps, grasping forceps, tongs, scissors or similar instruments.”

Under the measure, the legal limit for abortions in Pennsylvania would also change from six months’ to five months’ gestation, reflecting the fact that modern technology has been able to save babies at ever-earlier stages of development.

“Taking the life of an unborn child by tearing the baby limb by limb from a mother’s womb is cruel and unconscionable. It is a gruesome practice which most Pennsylvanians want to see banned, according to a statewide poll of Commonwealth residents. Not one Pennsylvania child should be subjected to this form of brutality—and not one mother should have to grieve a child killed in such a barbaric way,” said Maria Gallagher, legislative director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, an affiliate of National Right to Life.

Senate Bill 3, which is sponsored by state Senator Michele Brooks (Crawford, Erie, Mercer, and Warren Counties), provides exceptions for the mother’s life or for the “substantial

and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.”

“Poll results show that support for a dismemberment abortion ban in Pennsylvania is actually higher among women than men,” Gallagher added. “Sixty-four percent of PA women want to see this heinous practice banned once and for all. And they applaud those women lawmakers who are leading the fight to end this ultimate form of child abuse.”

The bill now moves to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for consideration.

To find out how your Senator voted on Senate Bill 3, the ban on brutal dismemberment abortions, please go to http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/RC/Public/rc_view_action2.cfm?sess_yr=2017&sess_ind=0&rc_body=S&rc_nbr=30.

If your Senator voted yes, please call and email him or her to express your gratitude.

If your Senator voted no, please call and email to express your profound disappointment.

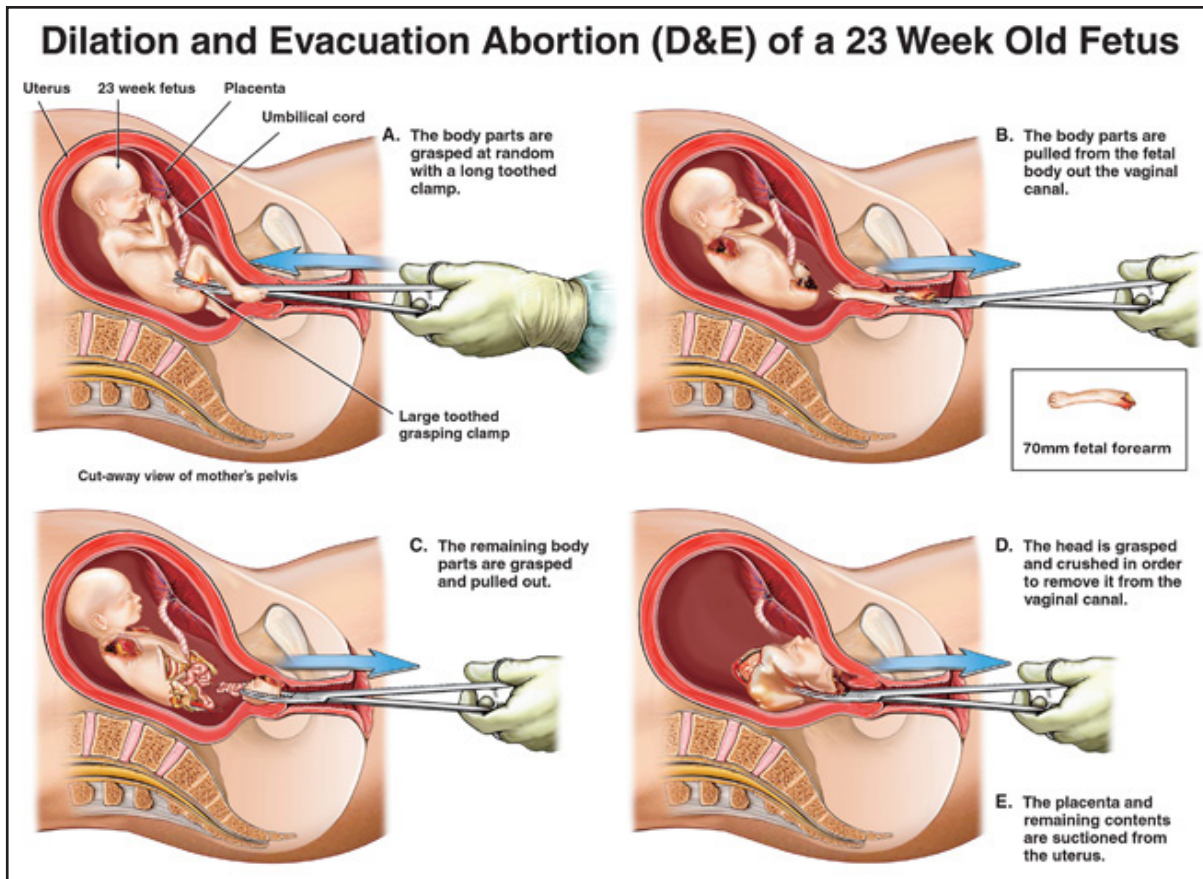
Please now consider calling and emailing your representative in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and urging him or her to support a ban on brutal dismemberment abortions in PA.

Also, please consider writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper in support of banning dismemberment abortions in Pennsylvania.

In addition, please consider making an appointment to visit your state Representative and state Senator to let them know how important this issue is to you and to the health and safety of both babies and their mothers. For the phone number and address of the district offices near you, please visit the websites of your state Representative and state Senator.

We can protect babies and their mothers from the harm of dismemberment abortions—but we need your help to do so!

News and infotainment organizations, such as the *Philadelphia*



Here is how a LifeNews article describes a Dilation and Evacuation, or D&E abortion: ... a pair of forceps is inserted into the womb to grasp part of the fetus. The teeth of the forceps twist and tear the bones of the preborn child. This process is repeated until the fetus is totally dismembered and removed. Usually the spine must be snapped and the skull crushed in order to remove them.

Daily News and Glamour magazine, have actually put out pro-abortion action alerts urging readers to urge members of the PA House of Representatives to vote against a ban on dismemberment abortions. These organizations have the potential of flooding legislative offices with pro-abortion propaganda. That is why it is so important that we call, email, write, and visit our state representatives and let them know that we do not want babies to be killed by ripping them apart, arm by arm and leg by leg.

Thank you for your help in ensuring that women and children in Pennsylvania are protected from the barbarity of brutal dismemberment abortions! Please share this information with your family, friends and co-workers—and thank you for standing up for the health and safety of children and their mothers!

For more information about dismemberment abortions, please visit <http://www.nrlc.org/statelegislation/dismemberment>.

— Maria Gallagher, Legislative Director
 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, February 8, 2017



He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.

~ Martin Luther King ~

Pro-abortion Gov. Wolf would protect this heinous practice

By Maria Gallagher

Legislative Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

I started to describe this heinous practice to a woman—the mother of a daughter who had been born prematurely—who literally trembled at the description. What was it?

It was the same painfully accurate language that Pennsylvania state Senator Michele Brooks used on the floor of the Senate, when she explained the act of complete callousness that upwards of 2/3rds of Pennsylvanians want to see outlawed.

It's a method, Brooks explains, that is used by abortionists to "end the life of a six-month-old (preborn) baby" by "tearing (her) legs and arms apart from (her) body so (she) bleeds to death."

As the legislator succinctly stated, "Regardless of what side of the (abortion) issue a person is on, how can we possibly say that this is humane?"

Brooks was talking about Senate Bill 3, which would ban the brutal practice of dismemberment abortion.

Even to describe this gruesome act which causes the death of an unborn child is to invite nightmares. This abortion "technique" dismembers a baby and extracts the child "one piece at a time from the uterus through the use

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Gov. Wolf Would Protect Heinous Practice of Dismemberment Abortion

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of clamps, grasping forceps, tongs, scissors or similar instruments.”

SB3 recently passed the state Senate by a whopping 32-18 margin. This vote accurately reflects the large support a dismemberment ban has in the Keystone State.

A statewide poll showed that the vast majority of Pennsylvanians—Republicans, Democrats, and

Independents—support a ban. Most women surveyed back the ban—in fact, 64% of female respondents approved.

The poll showed a dismemberment ban has the support of a majority of residents in all the major metropolitan areas of Pennsylvania—including Philadelphia, home to the notorious abortionist Kermit Gosnell. Gosnell is now serving life sentences for killing three full-term babies by delivering them alive then “snipping” their spinal cords. Gosnell was also convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death of a female immigrant patient, Karnamaya Mongar, who died from an overdose of anesthesia administered by Gosnell’s woefully under-trained staff.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. Mike Turzai, wants to see a dismemberment ban delivered to Governor Tom Wolf’s desk. And it should not be difficult, given that last session, the House passed a similar measure by a huge, bipartisan margin (132-65).

It is important to note that both the sponsor of the Senate bill, Sen. Brooks, and the prime sponsor of last session’s House version, Rep. Kathy Rapp, are female. This demonstrates quite clearly the depth of support among Pennsylvania women for a ban on the unconscionable practice.

Meanwhile, pro-abortion Gov. Wolf has been circling the state, holding news conferences with representatives of the abortion industry and their allies. He is threatening to veto a ban on brutal dismemberment abortions. This should not be surprising, since Wolf himself once served as a clinic escort for a Planned Parenthood facility.

Wolf suggests his aim is not political (he is, after all, up for re-election next year), but medical. Yet, Senate Bill 3 provides exceptions to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or “the substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the woman.”

How is this for unintended irony? The Governor’s website touts the importance of early childhood education. And yet Gov. Wolf now is campaigning against a bill that

would prevent those same children from being torn limb by limb from their mothers’ wombs—never to have the chance to read, to write, or to dream.

As one Facebook user who had been branded with a poor prenatal diagnosis said, “Before I was even born... Mom was told just abort him. He’ll be too costly. He will always be in and out of hospitals. He will never walk, talk. He will be blind.

“Guess what? The doctors were wrong about me never walking, talking, and being blind.

“Yes, I have been in and out of hospitals my whole life, but (I am) glad to be alive.”

—National Right to Life News Today, February 17, 2017

Our Right to Vote for Judges

Unfortunately, once again, a bill has been introduced in the Pennsylvania state Senate which would take away your right to vote for appellate judges in Pennsylvania.

Please call and email your state Senator with this urgent message: **I do not want my right to vote for judges to be taken away. Please oppose Senate Bill 361!**

If you do not know who your state Senator is, or you need contact information, please visit <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/#address>.

Please note: This is a state issue, not a federal one, so you do not need to contact U.S. Senators Bob Casey and Pat Toomey.

Background:

Senate Bill 361 is sponsored by pro-abortion state Senator Anthony Williams (D-Delaware and Philadelphia Counties). It would take away the people’s right to vote for appellate judges and, instead, give the power to pro-abortion Governor Tom Wolf to appoint Justices to the PA Supreme Court and judges to the PA Superior Court and Commonwealth Court. The Governor would nominate judges based on a list of names supplied by a small elite group unaccountable to voters. The process would not eliminate politics from the system of electing judges—it would just put politics behind closed doors, away from public scrutiny.

Thank you for calling and emailing your state Senator and letting him or her know you do not want your right to vote for judges taken away!

—Maria Gallagher, Legislative Director
Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, February 8, 2017



If a single living cell was found on a distant planet, scientists would exclaim that we have found life elsewhere in the universe. So why is a single living cell found in the womb of a pregnant woman not considered life?

~ callherhappy.com ~



House Votes to Overturn Obama Rule Forcing States to Fund Planned Parenthood

By Steven Ertelt

The House of Representatives voted [February 16] to overturn a rule pro-abortion President Barack Obama put in place preventing states from defunding the Planned Parenthood abortion business. The rule from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) prevented states from blocking Title X funding to abortion companies like Planned Parenthood.

The House voted 230-188 to overturn Obama's anti-defunding rule with Republicans voting 227-2 for it and Democrats voting 186-2 against it.

In recent years, several states receiving Title X family planning grants have opted to direct those funds to county health departments, community health centers, or other types of providers, in preference to organizations engaged in objectionable activities, such as Planned Parenthood.

H.J. Res. 43, if passed by the Senate and signed by the President, would mean that states, if they chose, could continue to attempt to redirect Title X funds away from objectionable organizations like Planned Parenthood.

Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) and Rep. Diane Black (R-Tenn.) filed bills to overturn the rule and the House passed the measure.

"According to its 2014-2015 annual report, Planned Parenthood performed 323,999 abortion procedures in just one year. Taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize the abortion industry in this country. Nor should they be forced to foot the bill for an organization like Planned Parenthood that has displayed such blatant disregard for human life."

—Excerpted from *LifeNews.com*
February 16, 2017

U.S. Supreme Court Nominee Neil Gorsuch

Pro-abortion forces and their allies in Congress are expected to launch an aggressive campaign to keep Neil Gorsuch from being confirmed for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gorsuch is a judge in the mold of Antonin Scalia, who will strictly interpret the Constitution, rather than make laws from the bench. To overturn the tragic U.S. Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, we need jurists such as Neil Gorsuch on the Supreme Court.

Please call and email Senators Bob Casey and Pat Toomey with this critical message: *I urge you to vote to confirm Neil Gorsuch for the U.S. Supreme Court. He is highly qualified and will serve the nation with honor and integrity.*

For background information about Neil Gorsuch, testimonials, and additional resources, visit www.confirmgorsuch.com.

Senator Bob Casey, Washington, D.C.: 866-802-2833

Senator Pat Toomey, Washington, D.C.: 202-224-4254

To email Senator Casey through his website, visit <https://www.casey.senate.gov/contact>

To email Senator Toomey through his website, visit <https://www.toomey.senate.gov/?p=contact>

Thank you for making these critical calls and sending these important emails!

—Maria Gallagher, Legislative Director
Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation



Photographed above are just a few of the good folks from Blair County, PA who participated in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. this past January.

The Fortune Tellers

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Like the Fortune Teller in the story, it doesn't matter who their advice goes to since it's always aimed for the same result: the benefit of the 'advisor.' The counselor works for the abortion industry; anything that benefits the abortion industry benefits him or her.

Like Don Carter, women seeking an abortion are trapped. Pulled in by extreme circumstances, these women are promised that they have a right to choose an abortion. But many women feel like they don't have a choice. They may be forced by their family, the father of the child, a sense of incompetence, or many other reasons. The American Psychological Task Force on Abortion and Mental Health found that up to 64 percent of abortions involve feelings of being pressured to have an abortion or other coercive factors.

This brings about a sense of helplessness, especially when it comes to repeat abortions.

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, about 45% of abortions are repeat abortions, and the women who have them can be far from stable. They feel helpless, in a traumatic cycle that they cannot escape, caught in a pattern of reenacting their first abortion. This destructive pattern can destroy women's lives, in more ways than just losing the children. They lose control over their lives, and are more likely to have a divorce, rely on public welfare, or be involved in substance abuse. Some even use repeat abortions as a form of self-punishment, thinking that they don't deserve the enjoyment of motherhood. Others are still caught in the abuse and coercion from their families and boyfriends that caused the first abortion.

They are lost in a sense of helplessness. On a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, one woman, Shelly, described her situation: "After my first abortion, I felt like my life had spun completely out of control. With each abortion, I was crushed. I couldn't believe that things could possibly get any worse. Eventually, I felt like I didn't deserve to ever become a mother, a wife, or anything. I was paralyzed by depression, anxiety...fear."

We can see this in our story, too. When Patricia becomes afraid of how the Fortune Teller is controlling their lives, she tells Don, "Can't you see that you made up all the details—and all that, that thing did was give back generalities?"

In the end, it is Patricia's love that pulls Don Carter away from the evil machine—and evil it is most certainly, complete with a devil's head on top of it. Because Don loves his wife, he listens to her and leaves the diner—and the Fortune Teller—behind, restoring his confidence and his free will.

By showing love and compassion for the women faced with unplanned pregnancies, we can guide them away from Planned Parenthood. According to Pro-Life Wisconsin's Sidewalk Counseling Handbook, of the women who had chosen abortions, 82% said that they would have chosen life if even one person had encouraged them not to [have the abortion]. So husbands need to stand by their wives and unborn children, parents by their daughters and

grandchildren, and friends by their friends, especially in times like these. We must break the women free from the abortion imprisonment, and restore their confidence in themselves as mothers.

For not every story has a happy ending like Don's and Patricia's. Even as this couple walked out the door of the Ridgeview Diner, a haggard and more desperate couple walked in behind them. Seeing the same Fortune Teller, they started putting in one penny after another, trapped in the very cycle that the Carters had just escaped, trapped just like our women are trapped.

The Carter's story is fictional—a television episode called "Nick of Time" with Don Carter played by William Shatner, more famously known as Captain Kirk from the original Star Trek series. And the series that "Nick of Time" takes place in? Well, as the closing narration says: "Two people permanently enslaved by the tyranny of fear and superstition, facing the future with a kind of helpless dread... Two others facing the future with confidence, having escaped one of the darker places of the Twilight Zone."

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Thomas Forr, president of Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Blair County Chapter, presenting award checks to 2017 Oratory Contest Winners, Genevieve and Isabel Sicree

Against the Men

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For example, at Oxford University in 2014, a debate about abortion between two men, one from each side of the issue, was cancelled. Oxford's Women's Campaign, a feminist group on campus, protested the debate and got the debate's location permission revoked for "mental and physical safety" concerns. Oxford's Students For Life, which was hosting the debate, couldn't find another location, so the debate was cancelled. So the feminists first try to shut the men up because "abortion doesn't affect them" and then everyone else because the idea that abortion is debatable might offend someone. (To be fair, not all pro-abortion people are like this; the pro-abortion man in the debate, Brendan O'Neill, was all in favor of free speech.)

Even if the Ad Hominem argument was not so faulty, it would still be false because it claims that since men can't have an abortion, they aren't affected by it. But men are affected by abortion in many ways. First, half the babies killed are little boys. Take Josiah Presley for example. He survived an abortion at two months gestation, but was born with a deformed arm and put up for adoption. Why can't he talk about the very thing that nearly killed him? Also, for every mother there is a father. Everyone agrees that a man is responsible for his child. He has to pay child-support at the very least. Why? Because that is his child: he participated in that child's conception. Why is there this nine month delay when it's "a private decision between a woman and her doctor," and none of the man's business what happens to his unborn child? Some men suffer terribly from depression or even suicidal thoughts after an abortion of their child.

The fact is that abortion is an issue of basic human rights, no matter which side of the issue you're on. It's the issue of whether a person has the right to control what happens to her own body or...whether a person has the right to control what happens to his or her own body, from either the mother's perspective or the baby's.

It all boils down to this: if abortion is wrong, then everyone can speak out against it, no matter if you are directly affected or not. For, as Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Injustice anywhere is everyone's concern." Non-Jews can speak about the Holocaust. Non-blacks can talk about slavery. When one unborn child is killed, it affects all of society.

For as John Donne says, "No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less,... any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind."

What's more, we're not just all allowed to speak out against injustice, but we in fact have a duty to do so. If we don't, we will be guilty of letting the injustice continue, for silence implies consent. For Christians and Jews, the Bible says in Proverbs 31:8: "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for all the rights of the destitute." But this applies to everyone. The Irish statesman Edmund Burke said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

We need men to speak out against abortion. So many women wouldn't consider abortion if they had their child's father to support them, but so many women don't. In fact many men go the opposite way and even pressure their girlfriends or wives to abort their children. All of us, men and women, must urge our brothers to take a stand and not to remain silent.

Sources:

<https://feminisonline.wordpress.com/2005/05/14/why-men-should-have-no-say-on-the-abortion-issue/><http://www.patheos.com/blogs/bad-catholic/2013/01/6-reasons-why-men-can-speak-on-abortion.html><http://right-to-life.org.uk/comment-opinion/men-cant-talk-abortion-fauxminist-fallacies><http://nullifyabortion.org/men-cant-have-opinions-about-abortion/>

Silent No More pamphlet



What she called her choice, was actually my daughter.



Crisis Hotline Numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Contact **Precious Life, Inc.**, 1716 12th Ave., Altoona, 814-944-2669; or **Every Life Matters (ELM)**, 221 Hospital Dr., Ste. 3, Tyrone, 814-650-7899; or **Real Alternatives, Inc.** (www.realalternatives.org).

For post-abortion counseling, contact **Project Rachel**, 814-884-8000; www.ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org; or **Rachel's Vineyard**, 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463), www.rachelsvineyard.org/.

Family Life, Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown, offers pastoral guidance, call 814-886-5551; email: familylife@dioceseaj.org.

Regional CCHL Chapter News

The **Bedford County Chapter of CCHL** is holding its annual Pro-Life Dinner and Silent Auction, on Saturday, March 25. The Silent Auction is from 5-7 p.m.; Dinner starts at 6 p.m., with Dr. John Bruchalski as guest speaker. The event will be held at Crossroads Bible Church, 5564 Business 220, Bedford PA. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students. For information, call 814-652-6755 or go to bedfordcountyprolife.org.

Words of Wisdom

Abortion: Another Word for Failure

Editor's note: Sadly, Jean Garton passed away this past December. Jean was best known to pro-lifers as the author of the classic, "Who Broke the Baby?" Over the years, she not only spoke at the annual NRLC Convention but also contributed a number of wonderful essays for National Right to Life News and National Right to Life News Today.

By Jean Garton

One of the most frayed and tattered books in my office is a treasure I found at a garage sale. It was in a dirty cardboard box filled with dusty old volumes. A scribbled sign read, "10[cent] each."



My bargain book is a 60-year-old copy of *Roget's Thesaurus*. Unlike the newer copy on my shelf, the old one contains words which,

in current usage, sometimes have been emptied of their meaning. When I need an alternate word for a speech or article, the old version is a valuable resource.

One day when I was seeking a synonym for the word "failure," the thesaurus provided the following options: "successlessness, blunder, defectiveness, abortion...."

Abortion? A synonym for "failure"? Pretty wretched company, especially since so many people today associate abortion with such benign and positive words as "choice," "privacy," and "rights."

The results of abortion are indeed wretched, as most women know who have experienced this first hand. But, we might ask, if abortion is another name for blunder and defectiveness (and failure and pain and disappointment), why don't more women tell other women?

One reason victims are reluctant to "go public" with their "choice" is because often concealing an abortion quickly becomes their highest priority. These unfortunate women have learned to their everlasting regret that yesterday's "solution" has become today's (and tomorrow's) ever-present problem. Managing guilt, suffering, and loss can absorb all their energies. But the conspiracy of silence is not limited to the grieving woman whose child has died.

After all, she has a family, friends, and the baby has (had) a father. How do we explain the unwillingness of others around her, including those who are personally pro-life, to "go public" with what they know to be true?

Perhaps part of the explanation is that while it is unborn babies who die as a consequence of abortion, a nation's moral imagination—its ability to empathize—can also be killed. To think that we can kill without something very important in us dying is a dangerous illusion.

I recall one column that glowingly touted the chemical abortion pill, RU-486. The author dismissed concern for the unborn child as insignificant. After all, she said, what is involved is "no larger than a grain of rice."

She didn't mention that RU486 is used at a time when the unborn child has a beating heart, spinal cord, two brain lobes, internal organs, and even a face. After de-

cadecades of pro-life education and legislation, how is it possible for people to be so ignorant of reality? Perhaps it is there are "none so blind as those who refuse to see."

But in the end, because the pro-life movement has gone public with the truth, despite the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that was supposed to have "settled" the abortion question, abortion remains today the most unsettled question in our public life.

Looking back over lo these many years, it is obvious that my old 10[cent] *Roget's Thesaurus* had it right.

Abortion IS a failure—a failure to care, a failure to protect, a failure to help.

—National Right to Life News Today, November 16, 2016

In Memory of the 59 Million

By Maria Gallagher

You were a miracle, a reflection of the majesty of God.
You were unique and irreplaceable, a gift of immeasurable worth.
You were love itself, a manifestation of divine Love.



You were the embodiment of hope, promise, possibility, and joy.
You were beauty beyond that of a sunrise, and nobility exceeding royalty.
You were a mother who never lived to see her children...
a father who never held his son in his arms.
You were the missing sister...the mystery brother.
You were the victim of a legal ruling you never had a chance to read.
You died while trying desperately to live.
You were important, you mattered, even though no one knows your name.
You had incredible gifts that the world never got to see.
Your death severed an entire branch of the family tree.
You were, simply, a treasure, and our nation is much poorer without you.
Today, you number more than 59 million.
You are the children lost to *Roe versus Wade*.
While your face is unknown, you will never be forgotten.
And I can only pray that the tear-streaked memory of you may prevent at least one more child from joining your ranks.

Guest Columnist

Observations of a Guest at the March for Life

On a cold January day, I went to our nation's capital. For years, I've wanted to go to the March for Life and I wasn't disappointed.

The speakers were great, especially Kelly Anne Conway and Vice-President Pence, as well as others. I enjoyed hearing the speakers talking about something more than themselves—to have concern for a person they didn't even know. In essence, they became a voice for the voiceless, to become the protector for a person who cannot protect himself/herself.

No matter what some people in society may say today, an unborn child is a person. Just think about what they say—it is a fetus, it is a mass of flesh or it is not a baby. Really, how silly! Ten toes, ten fingers, two eyes, a beating heart—mothers sing to their babies and play music, and the baby reacts to the sound. Anybody who is dealing with reality has to admit that this is a baby.

One thing that I remember was walking along and hearing a group from Pittsburgh praying the rosary, and it just felt natural to join in the prayers for the unborn. I also enjoyed listening to a group of monks sing hymns. I saw people from all walks of life, and they were all there for one reason—to be the voices for unborn children.

Sincerely,
John Kasun



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Given by: Carol Jean McCoy

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Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died or to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

Blair County *Life News* will publish your name as well as the names of those you are honoring and/or remembering. Send donations to **Blair Co. CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601. Thank you!**



"I just don't see abortion as helping women. And I don't love my career that much to say, 'I'm going to remain silent on this.' Many people are a part of this great sin in this country. Some of you didn't have the abortion, but paid for it, so you have contributed to this. ...over [59] million in the United States alone, and 45 million die every year in the world. These are all God's children and God brings them home. God forgives you and now He needs you to begin to accept forgiveness." —Jim Caviezel
Jim and his wife, Kerri, have adopted two children from China, both of whom have special needs.



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 President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.
 Secretary/Editor: Marge Bradley
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 Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational organization dedicated to educating and upholding the truth about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research. CCHL is composed of chapters made up of persons of all ages, sexes, races and cultural backgrounds. CCHL, Inc. is an affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation and the National Right to Life Committee. Donations are not tax-deductible.
 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; phone: 814-946-0681
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Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.

Blair County CCHL believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you our quarterly newsletter.

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Against the Men

By Genevieve Sicree



Several years ago, I was at our local Life-Chain, which is a silent annual protest where we stand alongside the road holding signs that read, “Abortion Kills Children” or “Adoption: the Loving Option.” I’ve gone ever since I can remember in all sorts of weather. But every year there’s somebody who’s mad at us. Sometimes it’s just drivers giving us rude gestures, but other times it’s college students in a house nearby suddenly playing loud, obnoxious rock music—presumably

trying to “drown out” a silent protest. And then there are people who come up to talk to us—or to yell at us.

This time it was to yell.

This was at the end of the protest, so we were free to talk. I don’t remember exactly what the young woman said to us, but I do remember that she got even madder when our assistant pastor, Father Matt, tried to answer her.

“Why are you here?” she asked. “You’re a man—you can’t say anything.”

This is an emotion that pro-lifers come up against again and again: the feeling that because men can’t get pregnant that they should not speak out on abortion. At the time, Fr. Matt just backed off and let the women in our group talk to her, which was the easiest immediate solution. But behind this attack there is a deeper bias: a bias that permeates the whole pro-abortion agenda.

An argument like this, an argument against the speaker rather than the speech, is called an Ad Hominem argument, which is Latin for “against the man.” You find it in blogs everywhere. It is also the weakest type of argument. You are not trying to prove your opponent is wrong; you are just trying to disqualify him from speaking. Now a speaker should keep in mind the limits of his own experience: for example, someone born wealthy has to be sensitive when talking about poverty. But saying he cannot speak at all

is taking this too far. Pro-lifer Timothy Stanley puts it this way, “The idea that an ethical decision can only be debated by the people directly affected by it is self-evidently unintelligent.”

Some pro-abortion women who try to silence men this way are inconsistent. They will allow pro-abortion men to speak, but not pro-life men. Others, however, are consistent and argue that no men should even speak out in favor of abortion. A few go to the extreme of saying that men should not be allowed to vote on women’s issues. (Some men agree: former Wyoming U.S. Senator Alan Simpson said, “Men legislators shouldn’t even vote on abortion.”) Wouldn’t this also mean that only men can vote on men’s issues? But no one has ever suggested that. This is absurd as well as undemocratic and unconstitutional. The only good thing about that position is that it would mean throwing out *Roe v. Wade* because all of the Supreme Court justices who decided the case were men. But don’t try to call this democracy.

For that’s what this is, an attack on democracy. If you can’t even talk about an issue, how are you supposed to vote intelligently? Why do pro-abortion women use an argument as faulty as this one so often? Well, unfortunately, the argument often works. Either the men back off, and the pro-abortion women win by silencing half their opponents, or the discussion changes from abortion to free speech, and the pro-abortion women win by not having to talk about abortion anymore.

The reality is that these women don’t really have a problem with men involving themselves in a “women’s issue.” What they have a problem with is men trying to tell them they shouldn’t kill their child; they want the power to decide life and death to rest solely in their hands. Because they have the upper hand and abortion is legal, they are trying desperately to make everyone think it is settled law and so it can’t be changed or debated.

It is becoming increasingly hard to have civilized debates about the issue, especially on college campuses.

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