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The Labour Life Group

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**Labour Life Group
A.G.M.**

Dear Friends,

“A New York City hospital is the subject of a lawsuit after allegations that it attempted to force a nurse to participate in a late-term abortion” (LifeNews.com)

In America, a nurse can make her deeply held pro-life views known and is able to withdraw consent from assisting in an abortion. Cathy Cenzone-DeCarlo had made her position clear from 2004, so why in 2009 do hospital officials threaten her with disciplinary measures if she did not honour a last-minute summons to assist in a scheduled late-term abortion? Federal laws prohibit hospitals that receive federal funds from forcing employees to participate in abortion procedures. And this was not an emergency.



It will be interesting to see the final outcome of this case. Do we know if employees in the U.K. undergo such pressures? This all hinges on the matter of ‘conscience’, doesn’t it? Could this be considered bullying? We have it in the House of Commons whereby the government whips seem to control a person’s decision on certain topics. This disgusting procedure, we have heard, is extremely unpopular with M.P.s and should be abolished. With the promised shake-up of the whole question of M.P.s expenses and how the system operates, will those in power be man enough to accept that no person should be bullied into voting against their ‘consciences’? Only when there is respect shown in Parliament will the public have confidence in any government.

Biased reporting in the newspapers we will always get, but why on the T.V. News can we not have factual reporting? The latest report concerning the Royal College of Nursing and their views on Euthanasia has completely muddled up the public. It was not a proper consultation to start with, but to use the information gained to give the impression that nurses are moving towards euthanasia is horrifying. Added to this misrepresentation, was the reporting on the Debbie Purdy case, which simply said that the lady was entitled to know whether her husband would be arrested if he assisted her in going to Switzerland to the premises of Dignitas, misleading too? Since the Swiss government is looking into the fact that they do not want to be known as the suicide centre for the world, and may make changes, it will be interesting to see how things develop. And then it begs the question of how any decision on the subject will apply to cases in this country. What is the government trying to achieve? It certainly is not the protection of its citizens.

Should citizens be able to expect protection from evil things happening? Is this not what governments usually do? Or is it up to the lobbying powers or interested groups and their economic clout that determines which laws get passed?

Editor

“RETURN OF THE CHILDREN”

Can you imagine forty million children leaving Heaven and returning to Earth? This is the basis for the most revolutionary novel ever to speak up for the pro-life cause. It could give some an eerie feeling to read of these children travelling across the starlit universe. Even more thought provoking is when these children are dispatched to the homes of their parents!

The numbers given suggest that it is happening in the U.S.A. where 60,000 children even appear to an abortionist who has terminated their lives, but they struggle to convince him that God still loves him.

Many women who have experienced abortion still want healing after years living with their memories and what might have been. Rebecca Porter from Florida writes: “I kept wondering and thinking about what it would be like if the Lord allowed all children to return for real and what it would be like if my own aborted children were to return. What a wonderful reunion for me, but it would be difficult for others. The Lord would definitely bring healing, and it would open people’s eyes to their ‘Choice’ in the future.”

This book by John Regan retails at \$9.95 and can be ordered through www.returnofthechildren.com/book.htm

GOOD NEWS!

Abortion Boat Won't Sail Again!

By Steven Ertelt (LifeNews.Com)

The Netherlands based abortion boat that targeted nations in Europe and South America won't sail again thanks to changes in law in Holland. The boat was meant to be a way for abortions to be done in international waters outside the reach of nations with pro-life laws protecting women and children.

Although surgical abortions were not done on the converted tugboat and its replacement, a sailboat, in recent years, its staff did promote the dangerous abortion drug.

Rebecca Gomperts founded the pro-abortion group, 'Women on Waves' that run the abortion boat and thought she would eventually preside over a fleet of ships registered in the Netherlands that would do abortions across the globe.

"I figured we would sail from country to country and help x number of women per day," she told the NRC Handelsblad newspaper.

However, with changes in the Dutch law, she has cancelled all planned trips for the abortion boat. The move follows a decision by the Dutch government to make it so only certain centres in the Netherlands are able to distribute the abortion drug RU 486, also known as mifepristone. Until now, Dutch Health Minister Els Borst allowed Gomperts' group to distribute the drug on the vessel.

"We had planned to campaign this year with a yacht off the coasts of Nicaragua, Chile, Brazil and Argentina," she told the newspaper. "Now people who get the abortion drugs from those nations risk prosecution in their own country if the Dutch Health Inspection rules that we are working outside the law. That's a risk we couldn't take, so we had to call off the campaign."

Not only has the law change prevented the abortion boat from sailing again, but the Dutch health inspection today asked the public prosecutor's office to prosecute Women on Waves for distributing the abortion drug off the coast of Spain in 2008.

Gomperts told the NRC Handelsblad that it is preparing a lawsuit challenging the new law. She admitted to the newspaper that the abortion boat wasn't successful and that surgical abortions were never done.

"The abortion boat is a myth," says Gomperts. "Our only real strategy is letting women know that there is such a thing as the abortion pill. They have to know that there is medication available for pregnancy termination."

With the abortion boat out of commission, Gomperts has founded a new organization called 'Women on Web', based in Canada, that mails the dangerous drug to women worldwide. The group asks women a series of questions and then mails them the abortion drug from various sources in several nations.

"For many women this is huge progress," she says, but she doesn't tell the newspaper whether she lets them know that the drug has killed more than a dozen women and injured more than 1,200 in the United States alone.

Gomperts says several hundred women get the abortion drugs every month and that 15 % of them pay nothing to get the drugs. Women in more than one hundred countries have received the abortion pills.

The abortion activist was reportedly reluctant to talk about Women on Web and said she doesn't represent the organization.

"It is such an important project, helping women in more than a hundred countries. I don't want to say anything that could jeopardise the project. A lot of people want to thwart its efforts," she said.

She confirmed that officials in Ireland, which prohibits abortions, are confiscating the drugs and also confirmed that the group is targeting internet users who search for terms as 'Abortion pill'.

The abortion boat will be remembered for a series of controversies. In 2004, crew tried to sail for the Portuguese shore, but the Catholic country's top officials called on a naval vessel to block the ship and prevent it from docking at a harbour in the northern part of the country. Although the abortion boat did not do any abortions on its Portugal trip, the ship's trip may have been a success if only because the nation eventually approved a ballot proposal legalizing abortion.

In 2008, the Dutch-based abortion boat arrived in the South American nation of Ecuador, where abortions are illegal. On its way there, the Women on Waves ship, Harmony, ran aground in a tropical storm. The abortion boat will be remembered for promoting the misuse of an ulcer drug to cause abortions.

In 2004, prevented from taking Portuguese women aboard their ship to distribute abortion drugs, operators of the Dutch abortion boat appeared on a Portuguese talk show and told women to misuse an over-the-counter ulcer medication to induce an abortion.

Appearing on the talk show "SIC 10 horas", Gomperts told women to use the ulcer drug Misoprostol to abort a pregnancy. However, makers of the drug, also known as Cytotec in the U.S. or Arthrotac in Portugal, have issued warnings saying it is not safe to use in abortions.

In August 2000, more than a month before the RU-486 was approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Searle, and the maker of Cytotec, sent out a strongly worded letter, with the cooperation of the FDA, saying Misoprostol "is not approved for the induction of labour or abortion". The letter said misuse of the drug can cause adverse effects such as a ruptured uterus, vaginal bleeding and "maternal or foetal death".

Doctor Randy O'Bannon, director of education and research at the National Right to Life Committee, told LifeNews.com that the decision to promote Cytotec abortions was "highly irresponsible".

"What these people are proposing is not some revolution in women's health, but something which promotes their radical abortion agenda quite possibly at the expense of women's health," O'Bannon explained.

O'Bannon blames operators of the abortion boat for telling women to use the drugs and providing no follow-up care. "The Women on the Waves" people promote it, but where will they be when the women are having complications with developmental malformations that have been brought on by the drug?"

NUMBER OF ABORTION CENTRES IS FALLING

Source – www.LifeNews.com

A pro-abortion legal group that represents abortion businesses in lawsuits against pro-life laws in almost every state in America says that the number of abortion centres nationwide is falling. The figures some as Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion business, increases its number of abortion facilities.

The Centre for Reproductive Rights (CRR) released the results of a study it conducted saying that the number of abortion businesses and abortion practitioners has decreased by 25% since the 1990s. CRR indicates that some states like Mississippi and North Dakota have only one abortion facility while Missouri has 3. Alabama has 7 while Texas has 40 abortion centres.

The pro-abortion group says the proliferation of state legislation limiting abortions, with laws such as parental involvement, informed consent and waiting periods, has lowered the number of abortion centres.

“The number of abortion providers in the U.S.A. fell by 25% alone from 1992 – 2005. Without providers, the right to abortion is meaningless,” CRR president Nancy Northup said.

According to CRR, nationwide 87% of counties in the country have no abortion facility, and nearly 25% of women do not have one within 50 miles of where they live. At the end of 2008, the total number of Planned Parenthood centres dropped from 855 in 2007 to 844 last year. The number of local affiliates of the Planned Parenthood federation decreased from 108 to 99. Though Planned Parenthood is working hard to change its image from an abortion business to a women's health care outlet, the numbers make it clear that more of its resources are going into doing abortions. The numbers also show that the abortion business is putting more of its weight behind using the dangerous abortion drug that killed more than a dozen women worldwide and injured 1,200 in the United States alone.

While the number of surgical abortion centres it runs dropped from during last year, the number of places using mifepristone abortion drug rose from 108 to 121.

Do we see a trend?

A NEW LIGHT FOR PRO-LIFE

By Dr. Elizabeth Parisi.

I've been in contact with the Oxford University Pro-Life Society (OUPLS) and there's much work done in the field of pro-life. They sponsored a series of lectures open to all University students and people with pro-life interest.

The OUPLS also hosts a women service for female students regarding conception issues. The Oxford University Pro-Life Society also has a direct link to the Labour Life Group website, where students and researchers can access directly.

The Society held a lecture earlier this year in March, addressing the subject of the scientific realities that pro-life needs.

From Merton College, within the University of Oxford, there has been informed collaboration with the Wellcome Trust in the work of the genome project. A recent outcome this year was the funding of the "autism genome". Further research into this genome – indicated Merton College researchers – can be used to definitely isolate the autism causes in new-born babies.

As well, in the same field of stem-cell research a published feature in the Science Museum website news shows that science is just a step forward into putting into practice stem cell research treatments in hospitals.

There is always the big question of the use of embryonic stem cell research, but this debate is a must to consider and follow by researchers, science as well as the pro-life wing and also the general public.

Useful websites: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/antenna

www.herald.ox.ac.uk

LLG PROFILE

Dr. Elizabeth Parisi



Doctor Elizabeth Parisi studied law and graduated as a solicitor in Buenos Aires twenty years ago in 1989. Dr. Parisi came to study in London in 1994 and graduated from the University of London through a scholarship system.

Dr Parisi became interested in Life issues during her career in England and made this area the focus of her research into physical and life sciences. She is a part-time Heritage assistant working in a local history museum in London, whilst working, at the same time, in a project within the Science Museum in London.

IMMANUEL KANT & ABORTION

By Haven Bradford Gow

As professor of ethics Dr. Vernon Bourke points out in 'History of Ethics' (vol.1. pub. By Axios press) many scholars consider Immanuel Kant (1724 – 1804) “the greatest moral philosopher of modern times”. According to Kant, we should live our daily lives by these moral principles: - “Act as though the maxim of your action were by your will to become a universal law of nature.” Also: “Act so that you treat humanity, whether in your own person or in that of another, always as an end and never as a means only.”

In my view, it would be instructive to apply the thinking of Immanuel Kant to the explosive issue of abortion. For Kant, in weighing the morality or immorality of actions, we should ask if we would like others to emulate our conduct in similar or identical situations.

Kant said we must treat persons as ends in themselves rather than as mere means to selfish gratification. Kant essentially was restating the Golden Rule so eloquently enunciated by Confucius and Christ, that is, “whatever you want men to do unto you, do also to them.”

In discussing the morality of abortion, then, we ought to put ourselves in the place of the unborn child. For example, would we, as unborn babies, want our mothers and fathers to opt to kill us rather than give us an opportunity to accomplish something worthwhile with our lives?

As unborn babies, would we want our mothers to abort us for personal, social and economic convenience?

Would we, as unborn babies, want our parents and physicians to kill us because they thought our mental or physical handicaps would mean we would be born less than ‘perfect’?

Kant’s significant moral teaching should be applied in the abortion debate because it focuses much needed attention on your moral obligations and on the need to treat people with respect for their God-given, intrinsic moral worth and dignity and unalienable right to live.

BLOOD TEST TO REPLACE AMNIOCENTESIS?

Source: LifeNews.com -- August 10th, 2009

The British National Health Service is working on a new blood test that could replace amniocentesis and save countless unborn children who are normally threatened by them. The amniocentesis test puts the lives of unborn children at risk and can lead to abortions that may not have occurred otherwise.

The London Guardian indicates that NHS has put about \$3 million into new technology and that the blood test could become the standard and replace amniocentesis. Although the test will not alleviate concerns about increased abortions based on the test results, the newspaper indicates it would save as many as 265 babies in the United Kingdom alone who die as a result of premature delivery brought on by it.

The new test involves a sample of maternal blood and is called a non-invasive prenatal diagnosis (NIPD). It would be easier to administer, provide faster results and be able to be used earlier in pregnancy.

“NIPD is exciting because it could mean that in future many thousands of women will not have to undergo invasive tests, which carry a risk of miscarriage, to diagnose genetic and chromosomal conditions in the babies as they develop,” Professor Lyn Chitty told the newspaper.

During the current procedure, amniotic fluid is withdrawn from a woman’s uterus to test for certain problems in the unborn baby such as genetic defects, foetal infections, foetal lung immaturity, or Rh sensitization. A needle is typically inserted through a mother’s belly into the sac of amniotic fluid that surrounds the baby and a small amount of fluid is removed. The fluid contains skin cells the baby has shed and biochemical substances the developing child has produced.

Amniocentesis increases the risk of miscarriage with as many as anywhere from one in 200 to one in 500 babies born prematurely. The procedure also carries a low risk of uterine infection, maternal or foetal haemorrhaging, and there is a risk that the needle used during amniocentesis can hit a crucial foetal area and cause permanent damage.

Meanwhile, pro-life advocates look down on the procedure because mothers are sometimes persuaded by a physician to have an abortion when the test shows, perhaps incorrectly, that the baby has development problems.

The NIPD test isn’t without controversy itself.

Some private companies are using it to allow pregnant mothers to determine the sex of their unborn child and it has prompted concerns that it could lead to sex-selection abortions.

Others are concerned that it will lead to further stigmatization of disabled people.

DID YOU KNOW?

Three groups of pro-life college students converged on the capital, Washington D.C. on August 15th after spending months in a cross-country walking trip to bring awareness about the horrors of abortion. The 40 young people walking with the pro-life group Crossroads concluded their journey.

The students encountered a warm welcome and outpouring of support from pro-life Americans as they passed through 36 states, thousands of municipalities, towns and cities, and logged 10,000 miles collectively during the summer pilgrimage.

James Nolan, president of Crossroads Pro-Life, told LifeNews.com that the trip reinforced the polling data out recently showing a majority of Americans are pro-life. He said, “While the latest polling data is encouraging, we have long known that America is a pro-life country because, unlike polls that take a small, phone-based sample, we have had the advantage of directly interacting with thousands of Americans. And the support for the rights of the innocent unborn has always been in the majority.”

“The reality is that the Obama Administration is sadly out of touch with the values of mainstream America,” Nolan continued. “We know because what we experience firsthand from local authorities, citizenry, and civic groups is in stark contrast to the strident stances coming from the leadership in Washington D.C.”

Nolan talked about one experience that sticks out as evidence of the political realities pro-life advocates face today. He said that the ill effects of such wrong-headed policies as the so-called extremist list that named pro-lifers as a threat were on display as a group of walkers sought to traverse the federally run Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.

Three female walkers were stopped immediately before entering the park by a male ranger who said they would not be permitted to continue unless they changed out of their pro-life T-shirts. The shirts are solid colours with the words “Pro-Life” emblazoned on the front.

Nolan related the ranger said that pro-abortion people in the park might find the shirts offensive. After getting legal help, the walkers were eventually allowed to continue.

“There is no doubt in our minds that this was a case of thinly veiled harassment based on nothing more than political ideology,” Nolan said. “We’ve seen this in the past from certain authority figures, but never before has it been so emboldened by an Administration that chooses to portray concerned young citizens as pseudo-terrorists. It is shameful, and frankly a great waste of national resources at a time when the economy is already suffering,” he told LifeNews.com.

Since 1995, Crossroads has organized 12 week long walks across America from the Pacific coast to Washington. A walk in Canada is also concluded about the same time that saw marchers go from Toronto to Ottawa. During the journey, each walker averages 1,000 miles and takes an active role in the organization's mission by speaking to parishes and pro-life groups. Crossroads walkers also engage local communities through peaceful, prayerful protests and sidewalk counselling at abortion centres in the cities they travel through along the way.

www.LifeNews.com – Florida.

According to this website, one of the three abortion facilities in Sarasota, Florida, U.S.A. has closed. It was the only one where 2nd Trimester abortions were carried out. Local pro-life advocate Jim Styer informed LifeNews.com of this recent development. Jim said, “up to 450, 2nd trimester abortions a year were carried out in the county, but last year's figures were down to 129. Potential clients were thought to have gone elsewhere for their abortions. Later, it appears that Matthew Kachinas had been dismissed from 3 other abortion facilities where he had worked, in Florida. Some people thought the closing of the centre was temporary in Sarasota, but the answering service has stopped, the website has been dismantled, the phone number ceased service, and the property was listed for sale or lease. No web searches found any references to Kachinas doing abortions elsewhere in the area. What does this indicate?

ARE YOU HAPPY TO BE ALIVE?

Reading snippets of a lecture given by Don Feder, the Communications Director for “World Congress of Families”, he stated: ‘In the past, people didn't ask ~ “Why have children?” ~ Any more than they asked “Why do we breathe?” or “Why do we eat?” It was such a natural part of existence that it needed no rationale.... You had children because, in the act of procreation, humanity finds its future. You had children to share the joy felt at being alive.’

Pondering on these sentiments made me think back to how I saw happy families playing on the beach in the summer, using their imaginations as they created sand castles and moats and laid pebbled roadways. Then there was the amazement on the faces of the children when they couldn't understand why the moat around the castle would not hold the water they patiently carried bucket after bucket, from the lapping water of the sea?

I remember my own children creating a realm of pirates as they leaped into the shell of a rotting rowboat found on the shore. The wonder of passing on the skill of flying a kite on the beach, and then later on in their lives, the excitement bubbling over when Dad taught them to fish in the freshwater loughs of the Emerald Isle,

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was a joy to behold. Years after learning to gut and skin a fish, the skill has stayed with my three sons and my daughter. The interaction of the children in any situation brings so much joy, as I experienced in Dallas, Texas, when we took grandchildren to meet up with second cousins at a Science Museum. Huge sand-pits in the Children's Archaeological Section provided riveting adventure for 3 year-olds – 10 year olds as they proceeded to dig up bones. What are they? Parents and grandparents were expected to make the leap to the massive skeletons swinging above amongst the artificial trees!

Doesn't this all depend on a completely unselfish attitude, where a person wants to pass on knowledge, skills and excitement to those young ones you love? Do these kinds of activities pre-suppose that we are happy to be alive?

It begs the question that those people who wish to rid themselves and society of children, may themselves be unhappy? Could that be so? Has the world become so materialistic that the love of money has taken over from love of people, and that it is causing this change? Instead of commitment and sacrifice to children and of parents, it seems that nowadays adults are being asked to show that same sacrifice and commitment to their work places in the knowledge that this brings bigger rewards? Another word that springs to mind is POWER ~ is this not evident when watching most of the T.V. series where violence is portrayed? Wouldn't it be better if screen-writers and film-makers sought to portray love and devotion on the screens? Why do greed and selfishness and violence have to keep surfacing in the world of entertainment? Why do some people talk about wanting to be free of commitments? Does that actually mean 'free of responsibilities'?

Are those people who sign up to pro-choice, happy to be alive? If so, for what is their purpose in life? If it is to kill unborn babies and bring in euthanasia for the elderly and terminally sick, what do they gain?

By Elaine Halton ~ A.T.C.L. Dip. Ed.

DAVE'S DIGEST

Kill the pain, not the patient!

Wisconsin Medical Society's Council on Health Care Ethics considered a resolution in late August, supporting physician-assisted suicide legislation. What a relief when the Council voted it down! Pro-Life Wisconsin commended the Council's decision to reject physician-assisted suicide legislation. Pro-Life Wisconsin Deputy State Director, Matt Sande, made the following statement to the press conference:

“We are shocked that the Wisconsin Medical Society's Ethics Committee was even considering this deadly resolution. Assisted suicide is decidedly unethical; it offers death as a final solution to elderly, disabled, depressed or terminally ill people, and thwarts the very meaning of care. Killing is not caring, and doctors are the last people who ought to be considering such ideas.

“In an age of soaring healthcare costs and cutbacks, we must conscientiously fight the temptation to turn the healing art of medicine into a calculated cost/benefit analysis. If this idea of physician-assisted suicide should take hold in Wisconsin, how much longer until the ‘right to die’ becomes the ‘duty to die’? How much longer until those considered a ‘burden’ on society are systematically denied healthcare and life saving measures in order to cut costs? Whose interest is really being served under physician-assisted suicide – the patient's interest or the provider's interest?

“The ‘Right to Die’ forces routinely speak of patients dying in intractable pain. They call killing yourself a ‘basic human right’ that should be constitutionally protected. Yet medical studies show that virtually all pain can be alleviated at the end of life. The World Health Organization (WHO) found that 95% --100% of the pain experienced by people at the end of life can be adequately controlled. Instead of killing the pain, ‘right to die’ activists focus on killing the patient. Few of them seem enthusiastic about educating healthcare professionals about the amazing advances in palliative care.

“We send a message to all physicians – Have courage! Don't take the low and hopeless road offered by assisted suicide. Be true to your call to heal. Show true compassion to the vulnerable disabled, elderly, depressed and marginalized. We can do better than assisted suicide.”

Source: Brisbane, LifeNews.com

An insurance company in Australia says it will not cover abortion practitioners who give out the dangerous RU 486 abortion drug because giving the pills out may not be legal. The Australian State of Queensland is in a legal debate over whether it should make such abortions officially legal. Hospitals in the Australian State of Queensland are stopping abortions as doctors react to the resistance from the state government to modify

its abortion law. Although Premier Anna Bligh has tried to assure physicians, they are concerned that the state government will not officially legalize abortions using the mifepristone pill. Although surgical abortions are allowed, abortion using drugs remains technically illegal and doctors who want to do abortions are concerned that they may face prosecution. Knowing that, Avant Law's Queensland manager, Harry McCay, told the Australian state government that doctors would not be covered.

DID YOU KNOW?

More information is coming to light about why the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has made the decision to stop human trials involving embryonic stem cells. The reasons mirror the concerns pro-life advocates have had for years with the research, which has yet to help any patients.

Geron Corporation has applied for permission to try injections of embryonic stem cells, which can only be obtained by destroying the lives of unborn children at their earliest stage of life, in humans. But pro-life advocates said they didn't think it would work because of problems in animals. When used in animal research, injections of embryonic stem cells formed tumours afterwards and also prompted the immune system of the intended recipients to reject the cells. The FDA delayed the trials in order to review studies of the therapy, called GRNOPC1, in use with the animals.

Now, new reports indicate problems associated with the animals in Geron's studies, prompted the FDA to halt the human trials. Specifically, the animals developed cysts at the injury sites after the injections. Geron tried to play down the concerns and said in a statement that "a very low frequency of injected animals developed microscopic cysts in the regenerating injury site" but the cysts were "non-proliferative, confined to the injury site, and had no adverse effects on the animals."

It added that none of the animals developed teratomas.

"We have submitted this data to the FDA and are in discussions with the Agency to answer its questions and proceed with the clinical trial," Geron said.

Wesley J. Smith, a bioethicist, says he thinks the research done on humans using cells from aborted babies showed eventual problems and he believes the FDA needs to significantly slow down Geron's plan to proceed quickly.

"You know, tumours formed in a child given foetal cell treatment s three years after the injection, and so I wonder how long an animal would have to be followed to determine safety," he said. "And we can't forget that the company apparently has not tested the product in large animals, and so there is some swimming in the dark here," he added. "Nevertheless, the FDA did the right thing here in pure safety."

Geron had planned to begin the trials this summer but said it would halt that pending the FDA review and did not know how long it would take the regulatory agency to conduct its evaluation. The FDA initially cleared the trials in January, which would involve 8 to 10 patients.

Embryonic stem cell research has never cured or helped any patients to this point. Only the use of adult stem cells and treatments derived from them have cured or reduced effects of any diseases or conditions afflicting patients.

Geron Corp., based in California, will use the treatment with 10 spinal cord patients with injuries the company hopes to treat with an experimental drug containing embryonic stem cells. The patients in the trials will be ones who can receive treatment within 14 days after a spinal cord injury has left them paralysed. They will need to be followed for a year to determine if the treatments had any effect.

Evan Snyder, a neuroscientist who heads up the stem cell research centre at the Burnham Institute for Medical Research in San Diego, warns that the research may not be ready for humans. "There's a lot of debate among spinal cord researchers that the pre-clinical data itself doesn't justify the clinical trial," Snyder said and he is still working on using neural stem cells himself.

Snyder said that the mice Geron used to conduct per-human trial research had more excessive injuries that scientists would normally prefer to see prior to trying the procedure in humans. Those concerns existed in 2005 and may not have been addressed. Snyder said that Geron should do more animal testing first to make sure the tests would be on the same injuries that humans have.

"I'm not convinced that they have done that yet," Snyder concluded.

Jerry Silver, a neuroscience professor and stem cell researcher at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, told Knight Ridder back in November 2005 that Geron was moving too fast and needed to do more tests on animals before seeking human patients.

"Frankly, I cannot conceive of a human trial with the use of human embryonic stem cells following immediately from experiments in rodents only," he said then. "Many treatments that work in rodents to alleviate disease fail miserably in humans."

Source: www.LifeNews.com August 27th. 2009

Slovakia President has signed into law a bill that would inform women of the dangers of and alternatives to abortion. The measure would also require parental consent before a teen can get an abortion. The measure would also furnish women considering an abortion, with information on the development of their unborn child.

Similar legislation in dozens of states in the U.S.A. has proven effective in lowering the number of abortions.

President Ivan Gasporovic signed the bill into law on 26th August after the nation's parliament voted to approve it. Democratic Slovakia M.P. Ludmilla Muskova, one of the sponsors of the measure, said women deserve to have a right to know about abortion's problems and options.

"A woman has the right to choose from several alternatives and shouldn't find herself in a situation in which she feels that she doesn't have her life in her own hands and there is no other solution than abortion," Muskova said, according to the Slovak Spectator.

The Bill flies in the face of repeated pressure from the United Nations for Slovakia to do more to promote and expand abortion. Many people the world over will be pleased with this vote. Marie Smith, director of the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues said, "This pro-woman, pro-life amendment is great news for Slovak women, who will now have access to the true facts about the harmful physical and psychological effects of abortion. They will also be offered alternatives to abortion, and be fully informed on the development of their unborn child."

The Seimas voted 80 –7 in favour of the pro-life measure and its abortion limits, which is a strong vote, Smith explained, since the legislative body is evenly split on the question of legal abortions.

"Slovak lawmakers found 'common ground' in agreeing that women deserve to know the truth about abortion," Marie Smith told the editor. "The lawmakers realized that women need to know the alternatives to abortion; should have resources to help them successfully deliver and take care of their infants; and be informed on the age and development of their unborn child."

Lawmakers were also careful to support the right of parents to know that a minor daughter is pregnant and seeking an abortion. This measure will help prevent the cover-up of sexual crimes against young women. Smith believes the vote holds critical importance because parliamentarians agreed that the amendment is "in accordance with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, with the international treaties and other international documents binding for the Slovak Republic."

Marie Smith concluded, "Pro-abortion NGOs from around the world heavily lobbied the Slovak lawmakers in opposition to giving women vital information about the consequences of abortion, including US-based Centre for Reproductive Rights, Ipas etc. Why don't pro-abortion NGOs trust women with the facts on abortion?"

Estelle Duval, of the local Familiokratos Coalition, also commented on the passage of the pro-life bill. She said, "While international abortion groups seek to put pressure on this parliament to restrict a woman's choice, it is paramount that abortion is not a human right under European law. All individual States have the sole authority to determine the protections they wish to afford to life and to women's health."

Source: LifeNews.com

Pro-life pharmacists won a legal victory last week in Illinois, when a court granted them a temporary injunction preventing them from being forced to disseminate drugs that

violate their moral and religious views. The case revolves round a mandate former Governor Rod Blagojevich put in place. Last Friday, the circuit court in Springfield issued a preliminary injunction.

“The Attorney General’s Office has repeatedly argued that the Healthcare Right of Conscience Act does not apply to the practice of pharmacy,” said Francis J. Manion, ACLJ senior counsel. “While this is not a final decision on the merits of our lawsuit, the writing is on the wall. Our clients are entitled to run their pharmacies according to the dictates of their moral and religious belief. This is what the law allows, and this is what the court has affirmed.”

Source: LifeNews.com August 2009

British Scientists have pioneered a breakthrough technique involving adult stem cell research to help patients who may otherwise need a hip replacement. The new technique which involves the use of a patient’s own stem cells shows that adult cells continue to be more promising than embryonic ones. Doctors in Southampton are relying on a patient’s stem cells to rejuvenate dead hip bones. They are using purified cells from bone marrow extracted from the back of the pelvis. Patients involved in the breakthrough therapy are hailing the results, saying they are able to walk again without pain and without the need for hip replacement surgery. Doctors at Spire Hospital told the London Telegraph newspaper that six patients were involved in the trials and five of the six patients met with success after the adult stem cell transplants. The stem cells used in the process are mixed with “cleaned, ground-up” bone from another patient after a hip replacement operation. The mixture of stem cells and bone is used to fill in the cavities in the patient’s bones in the hip area. Carl Millard told the newspaper that, following the use of the adult stem cells, he can walk normally and without pain.

Source: London, England – LifeNews.com Sept. 09

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK?

Well, Erma Bombeck wrote many things down when she found out that she was dying of cancer. The sudden news hit her and made her really think about her life so far. Oh, the silly things she could have stopped insisting on in her life which made no sense at all now. She wished that she had enjoyed life as it came and was not so pedantic with how her family should have the house looking! Had she really needed half the things she had bought? Slowly she began to realize what should have been important to her. I was sent the long list of things she should have done in her life. As I read the list, one sentence struck me:-

“Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I’d have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.”

How well put!

AN EXPERT'S OPINION

Haven Bradford Gow is a rare individual in this day and age – a journalist in the popular media who is pro-life, pro-family, in favour of traditional values, and who speaks out quite vocally about his views. Besides writing articles for many American newspapers, he has also appeared on radio and T.V. in Chicago, New York, Denver and Washington D.C. debating such issues such as abortion, sex education, pornography and other topics. In an interview, he was asked this question: **‘How do reporters slant or inject bias into their stories?’**

His answer: The media consistently use words and images that implicitly favour abortion rights proponents.

Abortion rights supporters are quoted more often and characterized more favourably than the anti-abortion people.

Events, facts and issues favourable to the pro-life people sometimes are ignored or downplayed. For example, during the oral arguments in April 1980, regarding the Constitutionality of the Hyde Amendment, the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart observed that almost all our laws – for example, laws against theft and murder – have a religious origin in the Ten Commandments. Justice Stewart’s trenchant remark concerning abortion and the legislation of morality was not reported by the major newspaper and T.V. networks.

Question: **“How do you feel about the media’s biased use of language with regard to abortion?”**

Answer: George Orwell warned us. The eminent British novelist and social critic warned us six decades ago about the abuse and decline of the English language, and the degenerative effects such a decline would have on public discussion of important issues, and on the moral and political climate of a nation. The abuse and decline of the English language, he knew, is a symptom of our inability to think clearly, but he knew, too, that it is easy to have foolish, inaccurate and imprecise thoughts, because of the sad decline of English.

Question: **“How can the public deal with and counteract liberal bias within the news media?”**

Answer: Brent Bozell, president of the Media Research Centre in Virginia, says that conservative-minded people should be guided by the following principles when confronting liberal bias in the news media:-

1. Seek balance, and not necessarily objectivity, in journalism; strive for objectivity, but acknowledge our biases.
2. Seek fairness and honesty. If we are biased toward a conservative viewpoint, be honest and acknowledge it.
3. Distinguish between bias and sloppy reporting; sometimes what we are seeing on the air is not ideologically motivated reporting; rather, it really is careless, reckless, thoughtless reporting.
4. Distinguish between the liberal ideologue who is a reporter from the reporter who happens to be liberal; there is a big difference between a liberal reporter who is trying to do his job in an honest, fair, and conscientious manner, and a liberal ideologue-reporter who is deliberately manipulating the media to promote his own social-moral-political agenda.
5. Help journalists do their jobs in a fair, balanced and objective manner; send them articles and research; tell them about conservative organizations and spokesmen.
6. Improve marketing of conservative views; send T.V. and Radio news personnel our material so they can use it and publicize our views.
7. Keep a sense of humour so we can keep a rational perspective on life, people, and events.
8. Help more conservative minded people become members of the media so that they can have a good influence.

Quotation: Thomas Jefferson, in 1809, said, ‘The care of human life and happiness, and not the destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government.’”

Professor Peter Kreeft – professor of philosophy at Boston College observes: “There are three steps, or premises, to the argument for outlawing abortion. The first one is that one of the most fundamental purposes of law is to protect human rights, especially the first fundamental right – the right to life. The second is that all human beings have the right to life. The third is that already-conceived but not-yet-born children of human beings are human beings. From these three premises it necessarily follows that the law must protect the right to life of unborn children.”

Haven Bradford Gow concludes: “When unborn babies are aborted merely for convenience sake; when newly-born babies are permitted to die simply because they are disabled; and when the elderly are encouraged to die because they are unwanted and cannot care for themselves; it then becomes easy for parents, guardians and caretakers to view and treat children as toys to be used and abused, and discarded after use.”

ABORTION – A TRADE UNION ISSUE?

This is the title of a trade union leaflet put out by the Abortion Rights organization and supported by Unison.

This raises the question about trade unions using member's subscriptions to promote pro-abortion organizations and even help to fund their existence.

Abortion Rights says: “money from membership and affiliation fees, donations, and our fund-raising pro-choice lottery scheme is crucial to sustain our important work”.

We all know that the Pro-Abortion Lobby is very powerful and well funded, but did you know that your money, as a Union member, could be used indirectly to promote abortion?

UNISON has an ‘affiliated political fund’ (APF) from which donations are made to organizations. But not all unions are forthcoming in their lists of affiliations, so it is possible that you may not easily find out if your union is one of these. The Trade Unions that we know have had their names on the pro-abortion leaflets are:-

UNISON, Unite, Bectu, ASLEF, CWU, Napo, RMT, TSSA, FBU, UCU, AMICUS, NATFHE, T& G, PCS.

The Unions will say that their pro-abortion stance is something that was agreed at their conferences by delegates. Did they speak for you?

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

L.L.G. Fringe Meeting 2009

Val Pizzey & Elaine Halton committed to 4 days to attending the conference in Brighton. Scanning the Fringe Listing Guide, it became evident that the 'Labour Life Group' was the only Pro-life Fringe Meeting in those listings. Is this an indicator that other groups see no advantage in publicizing their organization in a Labour context? Perhaps they do not realize the value of holding a Fringe Meeting at such an event, where the public as well as the delegates are present, can give support and encouragement to those who may be thinking of the whole realm of Pro-Life issues for the first time or as committed persons fighting for what is ethically right.

L.L.G. staged a successful Fringe Meeting at the UMI Hotel overlooking the sea, and attracted 39 people in all. After David Taylor, M.P. had spoken to those assembled, during the question and answer session which followed; it became evident that there were 4 Prospective Parliamentary Candidates present. They were willing to support our cause and one apology from another P.P.C. who could not attend due to work commitments, but wished she could have been among those present. One attendee expressed that his interest in the pro-life field had only surfaced after the birth of his first child.

Jim Dobbin, M.P. and David Taylor, M.P. has made it quite clear, pro-life laws are made in parliament and NOT in the courts! Therefore, if we want changes in the law, we must work through our M.P.s. It is vital that all L.L.G. members write and urge their sitting members of parliament to vote for any EDM which has been put forward for the Pro-Life cause.

David Taylor was horrified that ministers had actually taken decisions regarding the Human Fertilization & Embryology Act during the summer recess, without consultation, but Mr. Taylor was adamant that these actions would be questioned in the House by the A.P.P.P.L.G.

Those persons who attended the Fringe Meeting and left their names, addresses & e-mail addresses with the secretary, will be kept in touch by the Jim Dobbin. Any member of L.L.G who wishes to be notified of the next meeting in Parliament with Jim Dobbin M.P. and possibly other pro-life members of parliament who can make the meeting, please contact the secretary Elaine Halton ~ ashdale@masdafish.com There are other issues not mentioned here that L.L.G. will urge the government, through the All Party Group, to address.

THE LABOUR LIFE GROUP

PROTECT THE UNBORN CHILD

c/o Mrs E. Halton.

Ashdale,

Lower Oakley

Diss, Norfolk, IP21 4AP

A PRO-LIFE GROUP IN THE LABOUR PARTY

Labour Life Group's aim is to protect the unborn child. A just society protects its weakest and smallest members. It cherishes the disabled, born and unborn. It treats all human beings as equal, regardless of sex, race, creed, wealth, size or age.

I WISH TO JOIN THE LABOUR LIFE GROUP AND ENCLOSE MY SUBSCRIPTION/DONATION

(Single £12, Couples £18, Unwaged £5). Please give more if you can afford it, less if these rates are too high. Your support is greatly appreciated. Please make cheques payable to LABOUR LIFE GROUP.

I declare that I support the aims and objectives of the Labour Life Group.

Date..... Signature.....

Please accept my subscription / donation of £.....

If renewal of subscription please tick box

Please complete the following in block capitals:

(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Rev'd).....

Address.....

.....

Telephone..... Occupation.....

It would greatly help the group if you pay by Bankers Order. Please tick the box if

you would like a bankers order form.

LABOUR LIFE GROUP
For The Humane Alternative

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