

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE

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MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

By Vicki Evans

On Sunday, April 25th, NOW, NARAL Pro-Choice America, Planned Parenthood, the Feminist Majority and the ACLU spearheaded a March on Washington D.C. to “celebrate choice.” They tried to decry the advances of the pro-life movement, such as the following:

- Passage of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act and the Ban on Partial Birth Abortion, which large majorities of the American public supported. The pro-abortion people villainize attempts by any group or by any state to impose any limits on abortion.
- Parental involvement laws to protect minors and informed consent laws to protect women seeking abortions from potential health risks. In response, pro-abortion people try to whip the media into a frenzy of support for Roe v. Wade by dire warnings that the decision is sustained by the slimmest of margins in the Supreme Court.

It would be wonderful if their rhetoric about the imminent collapse of Roe v Wade were true! But unfortunately this is yet another lie from people who reflexively avoid the truth of this issue.

When the truth about what abortion is becomes too horrific, too appalling, the pro-abortion movement does what any other group seeking favorable public opinion for its cause does. It changes the subject. This year’s subject change moves away from abortion and choice. Today, pregnancy itself is being cast as the dangerous alternative to abortion.

Take, for example, the poster slogans being promoted by the UCSF “Abstain from Ignorance” delegation to the March on Washington. According to information published on its website www.marchforwomen.org, here are some of the relevant “facts” that were being suggested for use on rally signs.

- Death from delivery=13/100,000. Death from safe abortion=1/100,000.
- 529,000 women die worldwide each year from pregnancy-related causes.
- 80,000 women die worldwide each year from unsafe abortions.

- Outlaw abortion, more children will have children.
- Research shows emotional problems resulting from abortion are rare and less frequent than those following childbirth.
- Research shows that the prominent emotional response of most women to first-trimester abortions is relief.
- Research shows up to 98% of the women who have had abortions have no regrets and would make the same choice again.
- Unwanted pregnancy, rather than an abortion, may be the cause of any guilt or depression.

These notions echo statements being made by Planned Parenthood. Maureen Paul, the chief medical officer of Planned Parenthood Golden Gate, recently stated, “Overall, abortion is safer than carrying a pregnancy to term and going through childbirth. The death from childbirth is about 10 times that of the risk of having an abortion.” When Paul was questioned during the recent partial-birth abortion ban trial in San Francisco, she told the court that “there is no evidence” of long-term adverse effects from an abortion, contradicting exhaustive research and personal testimonies from women who say they still suffer physical and emotional damage from their abortions.

In fact, Norma McCorvey, the infamous “Roe” of Roe v. Wade, has received official notification from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, that the Court will hear oral arguments in her attempt to overturn Roe v. Wade. Her arguments are based upon over 5,000 pages of evidence attesting to the humanity of the unborn child and the damage abortion causes to women, including affidavits from more than 1,000 women who say they have been harmed by abortion.

So the new debate goes on. Which is more dangerous---childbirth or abortion? In the eyes of a civilized society, in the eyes of a humane world, for the preservation of the human species, the answer is that this is a ridiculous question.

Hint: *ABORTION = ONE DEAD + ONE WOUNDED*

**THE FEDERAL "PARTIAL-BIRTH"
ABORTION BAN: THE MEDICAL
CONTROVERSY IGNITING THE NATIONAL
ABORTION DEBATE**

by Cecelia Cody

On Thursday evening May 20 INFORUM, a division of The Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, sponsored a debate on the recently passed "Federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban." According to a description of the event, "Supporters say the ban prohibits an inhumane act that causes pain to the baby and is never necessary to protect the health of a woman. Opponents say the ban would outlaw most abortions performed after 12 to 15 weeks in pregnancy, is overly broad, and lacks any exemption for the health of the woman. Panelists will explore this controversial subject and discuss whether the ban could lead to the overturning of Roe v. Wade." The debate delivered what it promised.

The panelists included Jennifer Lahl, Executive Director of the Bay Area CBC, Cynthia Gorney, a journalism professor at UC Berkeley, and Susanne Martinez, Vice President of Public Policy for Planned Parenthood. The moderator was Judy Campbell of KQED Radio.

Cynthia Gorney began the evening with a summary of the history of Partial Birth Abortion, concentrating on the 1992 paper by Dr. Martin Haskell of Ohio presented at the National Abortion Federation meeting in September 1992, in which he explained step by step how to perform the method. A set of line drawing sketches created based on Dr. Haskell's description appeared in the July 3, 1993 issue of the American Medical News. For the first time people were able to see pictures of this grisly procedure.

Jennifer Lahl of the Center for Bioethics and Culture then detailed the four major reasons why a woman might consider any abortion procedure: stillborn baby, severe congenital abnormality, mother's health, and unwanted child; three out of the four reasons are WANTED children! Mrs. Lahl went on to explain that, as a registered nurse, she feels strongly that these reasons are best addressed in a high-risk labor and delivery setting, rather than a clinic in which the primary objective is expediency rather than ongoing care of the mother. Mrs. Lahl went on to explain the psychological value in the family being able to hold the intact stillborn baby and grieve the loss, and also the value in having the baby even for a short time. (This reminded me of the book Waiting With Gabriel reviewed in our last newsletter.)

Susanne Martinez of Planned Parenthood then took the microphone and presented her position on why the partial birth abortion ban ought to be overturned. Her major premise was that the procedure of Dilation and Evacuation (D&E), the most common form of abortion, usually done at 12-15 weeks, when the "fetus" is too developed to allow for the early term "suction abortion," sometimes results in the delivery of an intact "fetus" and the partial birth abortion ban would make this illegal. Ms. Martinez commented that she had worked in Congress for over 20 years and sees this law as part of an overarching agenda to outlaw all abortion.

Ms. Gorney then detailed the current federal law on abortion: not allowing states to put any "undue burden on the woman before viability" (although "viability" has never been defined) and after "viability" only to protect the "health of the mother." The companion case Doe v. Bolton defined "health of the mother" to include not only physical but also emotional health and Ms. Gorney commented almost every woman considering an abortion fit into the "emotional health" exception.

The discussion then shifted to the topic of pre-natal testing for genetic abnormalities, especially amniocentesis which is usually performed around the 16-18th week of pregnancy with the results available at 18-20 weeks gestation. Mrs. Lahl explained that the majority of genetic abnormalities have no known cure at this time, and also the most common genetic abnormality that leads parents to choose abortion is Down's Syndrome, which has a broad range of severities. She also noted that often doctors can be mistaken in their diagnosis.

I found it interesting that Ms. Martinez stated several times during the discussion that Planned Parenthood wants the woman to have all the information, to be able to seek out expert advice, so as to make an informed decision, yet opposes all informed consent attempts.

In her closing remarks Ms. Martinez stated that in countries where there are not safe and legal abortions there are over 80,000 deaths annually worldwide.

Ms. Gorney closed with a reminder that if the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade it would not outlaw abortion nationwide, but rather send the legislative decision back to the individual states, and both California and New York, which had abortion laws before Roe v. Wade, would continue to have legal abortions.

CROSSROADS 2004

by Cecelia Cody

On Friday May 22, a group of energetic pro-life college age youth (age 20-24) began a "Pilgrimage for Life" across the United States, witnessing to the sanctity of human life from the single-cell stage to natural death. A group from CA Right to Life Education Fund joined them for the first phase of their walk – across the Golden Gate Bridge. The Crossroads youth then continued on and will eventually reach the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington, D. C. on August 14. Another group began their pilgrimage from Los Angeles taking the southern route, also planning to arrive in Washington, D.C. on August 14. [More details and pictures can be found at: [http://www.crossroadswalk.com/.](http://www.crossroadswalk.com/)]

On Saturday evening I was honored to be invited to join the Crossroads youth for a light supper and to learn more about their Pilgrimage for Life. During the walk, they will stop at local abortion clinics along the route to participate in prayerful, peaceful protests and sidewalk counseling and will be speaking at various churches and other venues as they walk across America "Saving Lives One Step at A Time." Crossroads recognizes the need to spread the message of life and love through the means that the modern world provides, actively participating in radio, television and newspaper interviews with the mainstream media as well as religious media outlets. You may have heard them interviewed Friday, May 28 on Immaculate Heart Radio.

AROUND THE OFFICE

With the end of the school year we received several requests from students looking for guidance and assistance on school projects, term papers and speeches. We assisted a group of high school students in southern California prepare for a debate. After the debate the students thanked us for all the materials we provided. ***So THANK YOU for your support so we can be there for the students, and provide them with materials and other resources.***

We are currently working with students at a Northern California High School who are starting an on-campus pro-life group. They have the students, now they need the supplies to distribute at their information table. It will cost us about \$200 to get them started. ***Please consider a special donation to assist in this effort.***

The decision by the FDA to **NOT** to allow the Morning After Pill to be sold over the counter brought several media calls; on the day of the decision we were interviewed by the Sacramento Bee, and a UC Davis journalism student interviewed Cecelia for an article that was published in their student newspaper.

READERS' CORNER

If you have recently read a book of interest to the pro-life community that you would like to review for this column, contact us at callife@calright2life.org

Detour

Forced onto a new Road when our unmarried daughter becomes pregnant

By Donna Calwell Rosser

Donna Calwell Rosser's unmarried daughter tells her she's pregnant. This revelation has a way of getting a parents attention, as possibly nothing else can.

This small book (only 103 pages) chronicles through poetry and prose the impact this event has on the entire family. Mrs. Rosser comments it is nothing short of devastating to all concerned. The pregnant college girl is forced to make some mature decisions she was not used to making, the parents have four other children to consider as they try and do what is best for their daughter and her unborn child. There are relatives, friends and acquaintances to contend with. Most of all the decision regarding the pre-born child had to be made. Abortion was immediately ruled out as an option. Keeping the child and trying to raise the child as one's own, while juggling the other priorities in a college person's life, would create problems too. Adoption would bring with it the enormous pain of the loss and separation.

Throughout the story there was the emotional strain of coping day to day with the reality no one had planned for or wanted. What do you do? To whom do you turn? How do you find the strength to carry on? This book gives hope to those who may have to face and those who support those facing a similar situation.

REMEMBERING PRESIDENT REAGAN

CA Right to Life thanks President Reagan for his Personhood Proclamations. We pray that he will continue to serve as an inspiration for all Americans who strive to further respect for the unborn.

For Life,
California Right to Life Education Fund

Upcoming Events

Saturday September 11, 2004 6:00 PM

Quarterly Marin County Respect Life Pot Luck Dinner. Speaker will be Jennifer O'Neill, National Spokeswoman for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. For further information call 415-945-0180.

West Coast Walk for Life SATURDAY JANUARY 22, 2005

Mark your calendars now for the **West Coast Walk for Life** on Saturday January 22, 2005 right here in San Francisco. The planning is just beginning, so if you are interested in helping, please contact this office. ***PLAN TO JOIN YOUR FELLOW PRO-LIFERS FOR WHAT PROMISES TO BE AN EXCITING EVENT.***



Your donations are greatly appreciated, and your support makes possible our ongoing efforts in pro-life education, including information tables, pamphlets, media appearances, and our website at www.calright2life.org. THANK YOU!

WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?

This is the newsletter of California Right to Life **Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. We are an affiliate of the American Life League, headed by Judie Brown. Donations to us are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-4343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life; and pro-life political advocacy. CRLC, Inc. is not permitted, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both share the same "no-exceptions" beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.