

The Rose



THE PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER FOR ALBERTA PRO-LIFE

MARCH 2003

"As we have corresponded several times about this issue, I will not be responding further."

By Patty Nixon

This quote has become common in the hundreds of responses that Mr. Mar's office has been sending out. It would appear that Mr. Mar feels enough has been said on the topic and that he does not want to discuss it any further.

Mr. Mar initially told Albertans that abortion services would be reviewed along with all of the other medical services the Expert Panel was reviewing, and, as you now know, nothing of the sort will be happening. Mr. Mar accepted the Expert Panel's recommendation (I'd really like to know: who asked for the recommendation?) that abortion services not be reviewed at all. By doing this, Mr. Mar has made the funding of abortion-on-demand the top priority of this government, while all other medical services will be scrutinized to see if they are essential.

The Expert Panel has already submitted its first report to Mr. Mar's office, but it is not yet available to the public. When I talked to his office to ask whether the report contained a list of services that were going to be removed from the list of insured services, they simply told me that they could not comment on that. So, we'll have to wait and see what exactly Albertans are going to be asked to start paying for, along with the over 10,000 abortions we pay for each year.

The Premier routinely comments on the input he is getting on a variety of issues, all the way from scary sepa-

ratists to people upset about the high energy costs, but when was the last time you heard the Premier talk about the hundreds, and likely thousands of letters that his government has been getting on tax-funded abortions? There has been no mention of the public outcry to this, because they simply do not want to draw attention to it at all.

"So, what do we do?" you ask. We are certainly not prepared to do as Mr. Mar suggests, and no longer respond or correspond on this issue. To the contrary, we encourage all pro-life people to write, and write again. Once you've written, book a meeting with your local MLA, because it is your local MLA who is going to want your vote in the not too distant future.

If you know someone in your constituency who would represent your

views in government, NOW is the time to begin! Alberta Pro-Life has already begun discussions with several other provincial organizations to begin preparations for the next provincial election, and with your help we can begin to make a difference right at the polls! If you are interested in being a part of the mobilization committee for the next election, please contact us as soon as possible.

To get contact information on all MLAs phone the toll free government number: 310-0000. You can also visit the Legislature website at www.assembly.ab.ca to get e-mail addresses for all MLAs.

More than a few people have asked why this government refuses to consider removing funding for abortions. The most obvious reason is that there is no political advantage to doing so, and until there is, it is highly doubtful that the Klein government will remove funding for abortions.

US Supreme Court throws out convictions against pro-lifers

By Joanne Byfield

The highest court in the United States threw out convictions against Joe Scheidler and Operation Rescue activists that were brought under the draconian Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act, a law designed for organized crime groups. Abortion clinics and the National Organization for Women (NOW) sued the group 18 years ago after Scheidler and others tried to block women from entering abortion clinics. A federal court judge sided with the abortion advocates, fined the protestors \$250,000, and barred

them from protesting in front of clinics. However, on February 26, Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote that although the protestors interfered with the clinics and patients, "such acts did not constitute extortion," because they did not gain any property or material benefit from their protests. The win is a huge victory for pro-life activists but also for many other groups who believe in freedom of speech. Civil libertarians supported the pro-life position in this landmark case.

Will Canada legalize the killing of human beings for research?

By Joanne Byfield

As this issue of *The Rose* was being produced, the fate of Canada's Bill C-13 (the Assisted Human Reproduction Act), was up in the air. By the time you read this, the bill may have passed into law. If it has not, there is still time to affect the outcome of the vote.

Bill C-13 deals with very serious ethical issues. Most importantly, the bill would, for the first time in Canada, make it legal to kill human embryos for research purposes. If passed, the bill would result in researchers creating embryos, ostensibly for in vitro fertilization, but then using the "surplus" ones for research, even though embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) has produced no beneficial results for human beings.

The bill attempts to ban cloning, but experts in the field say that the wording of C-13 fails to include newer technologies and therefore, unless the wording is changed, cloning will also be allowed.

The all-party parliamentary committee that studied reproductive technologies recommended a moratorium on embryonic stem cell research, pending further study and research on the ethically acceptable practice of using adult stem cells, which have shown success in treating human beings. However, under tremendous pressure from researchers anxious to dive into the area of ESCR, the federal health department introduced legislation to approve and "regulate" the practice.

Pro-life MPs have introduced dozens of amendments to improve the bill, most notably, Liberal MP Paul Szabo's Motion 13, which would effectively ban any kind of cloning, and Calgary Alliance MP Jason Kenney's Motion 17, which would ban destructive stem cell research. It is essential that these two amendments to the bill be approved — and that will require rigorous lobbying by people who do not want this dangerous precedent in Canada.

The federal government seems to be playing politics with the bill. It was introduced without warning to parliament so that MPs scrambled to submit amendments. It seemed that the vote would occur after the two-week break at the end of February. Then, on February 20, the government said, with no prior warning, that it would be voted on the next day, Friday February 21. Many MPs, particularly western MPs, many of whom oppose this bill, return home to their constituencies on Fridays and are not available to vote. The Friday vote did not happen and pro-life MPs hoped to stall the vote until after the break.

Continued page 2.



Membership Renewals

If your membership is close to expiring (check expiry date on mailing label) we would like to encourage you to send in your renewal!

Some groups need to mail membership renewals directly to their local pro-life group. Please check info on coupon on back page.



LifeCanada Update

By Jakki Jeffs, President
LifeCanada - VieCanada

My sojourn in the pro-life movement has lasted eighteen years, not so long as some, yet longer than others. During this journey, I have served and continue to do so at local, provincial, and now national levels. I am acutely aware of the us-and-them syndrome both within our movement and with those whom we would consider our opponents.

Yet, somehow, here we are from one end of this country to the other united forever in this amazing struggle to defend human life. My vision of LifeCanada-VieCanada is like a "Lighthouse" built on solid Canadian rock shining out across the stormy moral sea that is our present culture.

They come in leaky boats, having lost their way, looking for ports of safety, trying to find a light in the dense moral darkness and there we are perched on the rock - shining out across the storm bringing truth and hope and life.

Hope is our greatest strength, truth is our foundation, words and actions our way of reaching others with life giving options. From local organizations to provincial and national, we shine out for life - beacons

of love in a world that is sometimes without love. Illuminating the issues of abortion, euthanasia, reproductive technologies, fetal and embryonic research - we challenge our culture to be more human, more embracing, more loving.

As LifeCanada-VieCanada joins the vibrant pro-life community, we hope to make that light shine stronger at the national level adding to the "lighthouses" across our country. We urge you to assist us in being as strong as we can - help us know what Alberta needs and how we can best serve this province in Ottawa. We ask you to subscribe to our newsletter, submit your ideas for our consideration, and help us to unite our movement more closely, thus making our differences our greatest strength.

We, in turn, will make sure that your light shines across this country. Together we will call our country back to defend its weakest, as we honour and protect the unborn, the elderly, the dying, those with disabilities, and our youth. I look forward to sharing our national adventure in future issues and to seeing you all in November at our national conference.



Welcome to
The Rose's
first editor,
Paula E.
Kirman

It is with great pleasure that we would like to introduce you to Paula! Paula has over ten years of experience in freelance writing and editing, and has a degree from the U of A in Secondary Education (English and Music). She currently contributes to several newspapers and magazines in Alberta and beyond, on a wide variety of topics. Paula also designs and maintains websites — you can visit her own website at www.calypsoconsulting.com. We are very pleased to be working with Paula, and she is getting to know a lot about the pro-life movement here in Alberta.

What is Alberta Pro-Life?

Alberta Pro-Life represents the pro-life position at the provincial level. We inform citizens, lobby politicians and work with local and national groups to effect change in our society.

Our members include individuals who have joined Alberta Pro-Life and local groups throughout the province who are either affiliates or amalgamated with us.

If you wish to become a member or would like more information about our activities, call our office at:

Phone (780) 421-7747 Fax (780) 421-7749 or
toll free at: 1-877-880-5433

e-mail: apl@albertaprolife.com

Website: www.albertaprolife.com



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Will Canada legalize the killing of human beings for research?

Continued from page 1.

LifeCanada and Campaign Life Coalition have urgently asked people to contact their MPs to ask them to support these two amendments. It is worth noting that in addition to many Alliance MPs, there are many Liberal MPs who also support the sanctity of life. It is important to contact these MPs to encourage them to vote for life. A list of the MPs is available at www.albertaprolife.com. To get contact information for these MPs, go to

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/senmemb/house/members/MemberList.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&Ses=1&Sect=hoccur>.

If Motions 13 and 17 pass, Bill C-13 will not be a perfect bill. There are still problems in several areas, including the current practices involved in IVF (in vitro fertilization), which routinely results in too many embryos being created, then frozen and eventually destroyed. There are problems with the power of the minister to appoint a panel to oversee research, and to alter the terms of the bill. Nevertheless, if these two motions are passed, we will have stopped cloning and avoided the legalization of the killing of human beings for research.

There are many who want to believe the claims of researchers that ESCR will lead to fantastic cures of all kinds of fatal and debilitating diseases. These claims are unproven at present. But, even if they were valid, the killing of one human being for the benefit of another can never be justified. Where would the killing end? If an unborn human can be sacrificed, why not a handicapped human? Or a terminally ill human? Or a human who is a drain on society's resources? Or one whose beliefs do not contribute to the betterment of our world? And, who will make these decisions?

We must act to stop this legislation as it is now written. We urge you to pray that politicians will respond to the ethical dangers this bill poses. We urge you to contact your MP and other MPs on this list, particularly Liberal backbenchers, and encourage them to protect human life.

We are called to protect the vulnerable and the persecuted. Babies in the womb, at whatever stage, are clearly vulnerable and persecuted in Canada. Respond to the call.

Life Digest

B.C. doctor held liable for Down syndrome birth

A doctor was ordered to pay \$300,000 for failing to insist that his patient undergo amniocentesis. B.C. Supreme Court Justice Michael Catliff found Dr. Ken Kan liable of medical negligence in the birth of now five-year-old Sherry Fung, born with Down syndrome who will never exceed the mental age of eight to 11 years. Dr. Kan must pay damages and the cost of future care to Sherry's parents Lydia Zhang and Simon Fung.

According to Canadian Physicians for Life, a recent British study discovered that a year's worth of amniocentesis in that country likely resulted in the deaths of 400 healthy children. Amniocentesis involves the insertion of a spinal needle into the amniotic fluid during an ultrasound, and can detect genetic abnormalities such as Down syndrome.

Breast cancer and abortion link: let women know

Women must be made aware of the link between breast cancer and abortion, despite accusations of fear-mongering, says Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, a breast cancer surgeon and clinical assistant professor of surgery at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey. Dr. Lanfranchi has witnessed the breast cancer link firsthand: in her practise, she has seen a growing number of patients in their 30's with breast cancer who have had multiple abortions. The February issue of the U.S. journal, *Obstetrical & Gynecological Survey*, concludes that "a statistically significant positive association between induced abortion and breast cancer cannot be easily dismissed," and that there is an "overwhelming need" for more research.

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topic "How would you convince your MLA and Alberta Health Minister Gary Mar to stop paying for abortions with taxpayer's money?"

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 1st Place - \$300 each
 2nd Place - \$200 each
 3rd Place - \$100 each

All entries must be received by midnight, April 7, 2003. Only entries submitted in e-mail format to apl@albertaprolife.com will be considered and a complete bibliography must be included. Please send attached files in a "text only" format. Essays must be not less than 500 and not more than 1000 words, and word count must be posted in a header that also includes first and last name of student, birth date, grade level, names of parents/guardians, school/home school, mailing address and phone numbers. Any entry without complete information may be disqualified.

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Airdrie & Dist. Pro-Life
Ph: 403-948-3127
hvandergugten@telus.net

Airdrie organized a public meeting with Myron Thompson, MP on February 28 Mr. Thompson discussed the status of some of the bills that are before the house, such as the ones about which we have been signing petitions and writing letters. We had first wanted a politician from both the provincial and federal government, but our own MLA was not available. Gary Mar, Minister of Health, was asked but refused to come.

We are doing a membership drive this spring and are looking forward to many people becoming members. We now have our very own telephone number: 403-948-3127.

Calgary Pro-Life Assoc.
Ph: 403-243-0691
pro_life@telusplanet.net

Camrose Pro-Life
Ph: 780-672-7110
brwilson@ccinet.ab.ca

Choose Life Athabasca
Ph: 780-675-4442
wurfel@telusplanet.net

Citizens Helping in Life's Defense (C.H.I.L.D.)
Ph: 780-962-8108
sheila053@hotmail.com

Our group is pleased to have Patty Nixon back on board. We are also very pleased to welcome Shannon Williams, who will be representing our youth for pro-life. She was in Toronto for a very powerful pro-life conference, and inspired us all with an extremely dynamic presentation of all she had learned. We have received a few generous donations from Spruce Grove Knights of Columbus, and the Hope Christian Reformed Church, both of which have supported our cause for quite some time now, and to whom we are

so grateful, praise the Lord! We have also updated our church contact lists, so we are able to organize delivery of pro-life news and updates to the numerous churches in the area.

Drayton Valley Respect for Life
Ph: 780-542-7546
mlsmith@telusplanet.net

Drayton Valley Respect for Life has designated February as Membership Month. We are reminding our members whose memberships have expired to renew, and are getting our church representatives to talk to their church congregations about becoming members.

Edmonton Prolife
Ph: 780-425-1637
edmpl@interbaun.com

On January 28th, defying -20 degree temperatures, about 200 pro-life supporters showed up for a peaceful protest outside the Edmonton Law Courts. That day marked the 15th anniversary of Morgentaler's successful Supreme Court challenge to the so-called abortion law. A diverse group from the very young to the old showed up to stand in solidarity with the unborn.

Through the Safeway Community Caring Coupons program, every time you shop at Safeway, you can support Edmonton Prolife's educational work. Each booklet costs \$20.00 and consists of four \$5.00 coupons, plus two bonus coupons for 10x Air Miles and savings on Safeway products. The \$5.00 coupons can be used any time you spend a minimum of \$50.00. Use is not restricted to any specific month but they must be used before the end of 2003. With the sale of each coupon booklet, Edmonton Prolife will earn \$8.00 - that means 40% from every booklet sold goes directly to our

NEWS

from

GROUPS

organization. If you would like to purchase one or more booklets, please give Ethna a call at the office at 425-1637 or Liz at 434-5089.

Our #1 educational project for this year is to design and maintain a professional, accurate pro-life website. A basic version of www.edmontonprolife.org will be launched by March 1 and will include contact information, the EPL newsletters, membership forms, and links to pro-life and pro-family websites. It will also provide a catalogue of some of EPL's most important resources.

Fort McMurray Pro-Life Association
Ph: 780-791-7777
a7d7h84@hotmail.com

Grande Prairie Voice for Life Assoc.
Ph: 780-538-3344
vfl@telusplanet.net

Grande Prairie Voice for Life is in need of an up-to-date LCD projector, for our educator. (Right now, if a school doesn't have one we are borrowing from a local business) They run around \$3500.00. If you know of a good used one or would like to help us purchase one, please give Lila a call at 780-538-

3344(mornings).
High Prairie Pro-Life
Ph: 780-751-2239
idonahue@hotmail.com

High River Pro-Life Assoc.
Ph: 403-395-2106
rayfree@telusplanet.net

Lakeland Pro-Life
Ph: 780-639-3601
rlirette@telusplanet.net

Lethbridge & Dist. Pro-Life Assoc.
Ph: 403-320-5433
lprolife@shaw.ca

Application forms are now available for Southern Alberta grade 12 graduates entering their first year of post secondary education who have fostered leadership in respect for all human life in their home, church and community. Call the office for an application form at 403-320-5433. The annual Hike For Life fundraiser takes place on Saturday, May 24, 2003 at Henderson Lake in Lethbridge. You can call our office to have a Hike pledge form mailed out to you.

Medicine Hat Pro-Life
Ph: 403-527-2144
jstigter@meplane.com

Medicine Hat Pro-Life was proud to host Stephanie Gray for a few days of

youth presentations. She has such a passion for igniting the power of the truth in today's youth! We know that many young lives were impacted through Stephanie, and we are thankful for that! Med. Hat Pro-Life is gearing up for a new fund-raiser this year.

Pembina Pro-Life
Ph: 780-674-2962
bdening@telusplanet.net

Red Deer Pro-Life
Ph: 403-340-2229
llouiseo@telusplanet.net

Taber Pro-Life Assoc.
403-223-8452
emoedt@theboss.net

Wainwright Life Matters
Ph: 780-842-6135
kdcam@telusplanet.net

We have been quite busy here in Wainwright. On Feb. 17 we had Cartoonigans Family Entertainment from Edmonton as our performers for our 6th annual Family Day Celebration.

Our turnout was about 60 children and 40 adults (parents and grandparents) — not as many as in previous years, but a good-sized crowd for the games.

On Feb. 21 we had Lance & Christine Paranych and Michael Chiasson of Life Vision Communications from Radway out. They spoke on chastity, with four presentations in the public junior and senior high school and then a longer presentation that evening at the Evangelical Free Church for our integrated youth night. We had about 40 kids show for the evening, while at the school they spoke to over 200 students!

We want to give a big thank you to those who have given of their time to make these events happen. It is very much needed and appreciated!

Wetaskiwin & Dist. Pro-Life Society
Ph: 780-352-6893

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Calendar of Events

M A R C H

March 11

C.H.I.L.D. — **Parkland Pro-Life's** next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 pm at the St. Francis Centre in Stony Plain. The centre is located just over the train tracks on the west side of 48 St. (5th Meridian). We encourage anyone interested in preserving the sanctity of human life to join us.

March 21

Wainwright Life Matters is holding an Appreciation of Life entertainment night, featuring essays, drama, and songs by local youth. It is in the theatre at the Communiplex starting at 7 pm, with dessert to follow. Admission is free.

March 21- 22

Alberta Federation of Women United for Families' annual conference: Human Rights Gone Wrong, Calgary. Call AFWUF at 403-228-2190 or visit www.afwuf.org.

March 27-29

Lethbridge & Dist. Pro-Life Association's Spring Bake Sale will be held at Centre Village Mall. Please mark this on your calendars and support us with your baking, crafts or volunteer abilities. Call the office at 403-320-5433.

March 29

Drayton Valley Respect for Life is hosting a brunch at the Westwinds Hotel, featuring Joanne Byfield as guest speaker. This will also be a time to honour Anne Pinkoski, who is stepping down from our board after many years of faithful service. Tickets are \$15.00/adult and \$8.00/youth. Contact Mark Smith at 780-542-7546 if you would like a ticket or further information.

A P R I L

April 5

Grande Prairie Voice for Life Assoc. is having an Easter bake sale at the Prairie Mall from 10:00 am to

6:00 pm. They are looking for baking and/or two-hour shift workers. Give Lila or Wanda a call at 780-538-3344 (mornings).

April 26

Facing the Harder Truth youth workshop presented by Mark Isinger and Joanne Pollock at Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton. Special guest: Stephanie Gray of the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform. There will be a small registration fee, which will include a pizza lunch. Call Alberta Pro-Life at 1-877-880-5433

M A Y

May 3

Annual General Meeting for Alberta Pro-Life at the Calgary Life Centre with guest speaker Link Byfield. (See display ad on page 8).

May 9

Medicine Hat Pro-Life has Friday, May 9th circled in red for a celebration of motherhood, right in time for Mother's Day! We hope to put on a fund-raising/public awareness dinner in support of our two hands-on pro-life community efforts, Pregnancy Support and the new ministry of "Rachel's House." Plans are to include information on this new teen maternity home, still very much in its "first trimester," and to sponsor tickets for single moms to come out for good food and Christian fellowship. We're looking forward to a special evening, and to more opportunities to send out the message in our city that "All life is precious."

May 10

Edmonton Prolife will be hosting a Salute to Motherhood. It will be a joyful, light, fun look at motherhood. A line-up of short comic skits and song is guaranteed to bring a smile to any mother's face. During the evening, there will be a silent auction, so if you have any new or almost-new gifts or services you'd be able to donate to our auction, please phone our office or call Liz at 780-434-5089. Tickets will sell for \$12 each.

May 14

March for Life in Ottawa. Check out the display ad in this newsletter.

May 14

34th anniversary of the passing of the Omnibus Bill, legalizing abortion in Canada. Show your solidarity with the unborn. Peaceful protest at the steps of the Alberta Legislature at 10:30 -12:00. noon. Signs will be provided by Edmonton Prolife. Bring a picnic lunch for afterwards.

May 24

Hike For Life takes place on Saturday, May 24, 2003 at Henderson Lake in Lethbridge. Registration is 9:30 a.m. with the walk starting at 10:00 a.m. Feel free to bring your in-line skates if you prefer. Please call the Lethbridge & Dist. Pro-Life Assoc. office at 403-320-5433 to have a Hike pledge form mailed out to you. This is always a wonderful family day including a walk, free donuts, pop, hotdogs, t-shirts, balloons, prizes for the highest pledges collected, and lots of prizes for kids. Come out and walk for life while sharing fun and fellowship with others.

J U N E

June 3

Edmonton Prolife's Annual General Meeting 7:30 p.m. at the EPL office. All members are encouraged to attend. Consider coming on board our Board!



June 6, 2003

The Celebrate Life!! Walk-a-Thon will be held by the Grande Prairie Voice for Life Assoc. Location to be announced - check the group's April newsletter for more information.

July 18

Deadline for applications for the **Elsie Alexander Pro-Life Scholarship**. Application forms are now available for Southern Alberta grade 12 graduates entering their first year of post secondary education who have fostered leadership in respect for all human life in their home, church and community. \$1,000 will be awarded to the applicant who is selected. Call the Lethbridge & Dist. Pro-Life Assoc.'s office for an application form at 403-320-5433.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada —
protecting the sanctity
of human life.

*"Yahweh called me
when I was in the
womb, before my
birth he had
pronounced my
name."
Isaiah 49:1)*

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
website: www.cwl.ab.ca
email: cwlabmk@cwl.ab.ca

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RADICAL TEENS

take on D.C.

March for Life 2003

by Joanne Pollock

Every year since the US legalized abortion on demand, pro-lifers have come to the March for Life in Washington DC to proclaim the truth about the sanctity of all human life and protest the killing of millions of innocent babies through abortion. The year 2003 marks 30 years since the 1973 Roe v. Wade court decision, which overruled state legislation against abortion and guaranteed a woman's "right" to choose to have her own baby killed.

This year, Mark Isinger and I were able to attend the March for Life as well as a week of Rock for Life training. It was a very powerful experience for both of us to be able to stand with over 100,000 pro-lifers and witness to the truth about abortion.

The Rock for Life training week that we went to before the March was amazing. Each day started with mass, followed by prayer at Planned Parenthood. We also prayed and protested outside Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Choice, the Supreme Court, and the FDA (the US Food and Drug Administration, which approved RU-486, a drug which aborts babies early on in a pregnancy). Each day also included talks by Bryan Kemper and Sara McKalips, the directors of Rock for Life and many other people who work with American Life League, and other pro-life organizations.

Another great thing about the Rock for Life training week was that Mark and I were able to meet a lot of awesome people who are involved in pro-life all over the US. I'm sure we'll stay friends with them. Actually, we even met another Canadian there: Trina VanStratten, from Stettler!

As "the Canadians" we probably heard nearly every Canadian joke you can think of, but they were pretty funny. A lot of the people in the US didn't understand some of the Canadian stuff we say, so they came up with a sentence for us, combining some of those words: "We got a whole whack of snow yesterday, so let's go find our toques and go tobogganing...good idea eh?" The craziest thing is that all those Americans actually taught me to say "eh," because I never said it before I went to Washington, and now I say it without even noticing.

One thing that was said again and again throughout the training week was that everyone born after 1973 is a survivor of the abortion holocaust. As survivors it is our responsibility to fight for the lives of those of our generation who are being killed through abortion. Yes, we are the future of the pro-life movement, but that future is now.

Being in Washington also made me realize how much work we have to do in Canada. I think pro-life work is harder here than in the US, but that doesn't mean we should do less...it means we need to work twice as hard.

The final day we were in Washington was the March for Life. It was very powerful and encouraging to be with so many other dedicated pro-lifers. On the other hand, it was really sad that there had to be a March at all.

When we gathered at the site of the March, Bryan Kemper told everyone that even though there were 100,000 pro-lifers with us, this was not a cause for celebration. The celebration will be when abortion ends and all human life is valued and protected from conception until natural death.

Until the day of that celebration, I have committed to fighting for the lives of the unborn, and all others whose lives are threatened. God is in control and when this culture of death ends, it will be His victory. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it, John 1:5. For now, all that we do as pro-lifers is for God's glory, and in the end what matters is 'not that we were successful, but that we were faithful' (Mother Teresa of Calcutta).

The Rock for Life training and the March for Life were a great inspiration to me and Mark and gave us something to work towards in Canada. We also had a chance to tell everyone what we are working on in Canada when we were asked to give two talks on pro-life activism. We received lots of encouragement from that.

Something else that was really neat was that many times when I told people that I was from Calgary, someone would say, "Oh! You have that awesome Bishop." It reminded me how lucky we are in Alberta to have bishops that do so much to stand up for life.

After the March for Life, I had the opportunity to go to New York and do some volunteer work with the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Renewal, and the Sisters of Life,

two amazingly pro-life religious orders. The Franciscans are known for their prayer and sidewalk counseling outside abortion clinics. They also run two homeless shelters where I was able to help with the cooking.

From there I went to stay with the Sisters of Life. I helped at a home for young mothers who choose to keep their babies rather than have an abortion. They sent me home with a ton of new pro-life brochures and a few baby models from their pro-life library.

The time I got to spend in Washington and New York was really awesome. I am very thankful to everyone who helped me go on this trip, especially Alberta Pro-life. I'd like to end with a quote from Pope John Paul II:

To the young people:

"Be bearers of the 'message of truth' in the world. Be witnesses to Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the light of the world and the salvation of mankind! By your example, show everyone that the truth must be loved! The truth must be known and therefore sought with love, dedication and method, and above all the truth must be lived!"



"youth need action."

by Mark Isinger

This past week, I had the privilege of attending the annual Rock for Life training and activism weekend in Washington, D.C. with Joanne Pollock and Trina VanStratten. Many, many thanks go out to Alberta Pro-Life and Edmonton Pro-Life for making my trip possible. It was an amazing and continually eye-opening experience.

There were about 200 people from across the U.S., primarily youth, who attended. We stayed in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, where all of our training took place. The U.S. Capitol building is only a five-minute walk away from the Hyatt, and it could be seen through many of the hotel room windows. The Hyatt is accustomed to hosting senators, congressman, and other people of high political influence, so it must have been quite a shock to have a couple hundred "radical" pro-life teenagers running around for four days.

Our training consisted of afternoon sessions covering relevant pro-life issues from RU-486 to the myth of overpopulation. We also learned about some of the outreaches of American Life League: Crossroads, STOPP International, and, of course, Rock for Life.

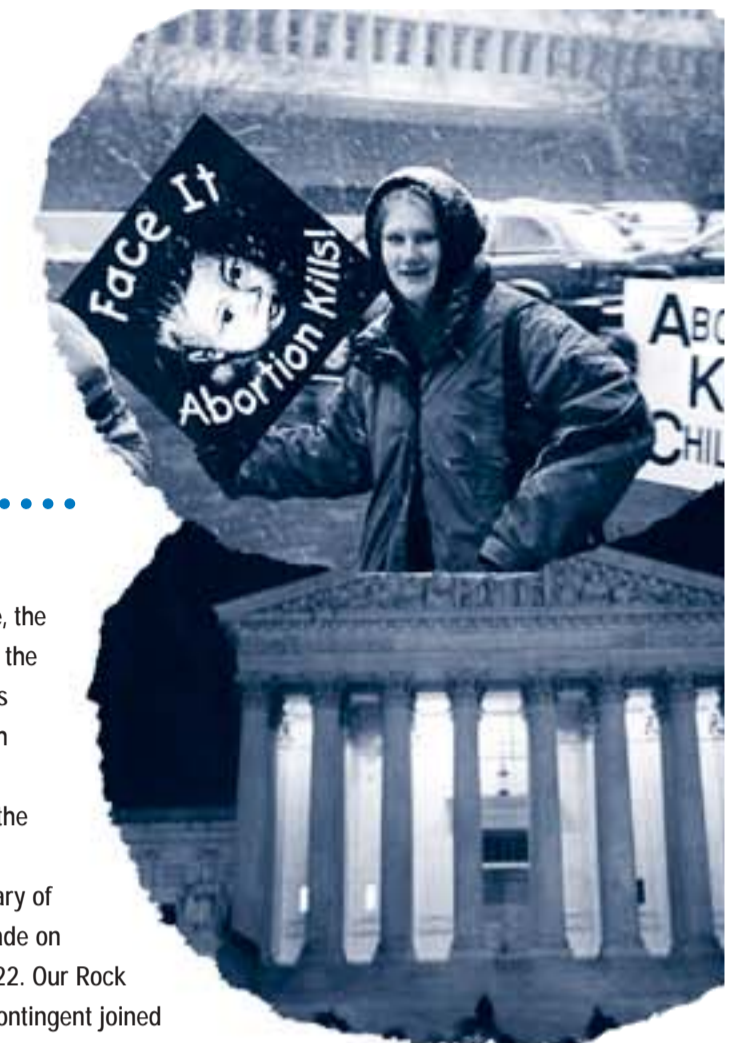
The other half of our schedule — activism — took place in the mornings, and it was something I really enjoyed. Youth need action. We need something tangible to do, and activism provided a positive outlet for us. Our activism consisted of prayer and picketing outside of many influential buildings: Planned Parenthood, Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom, the Supreme Court Building, and the Food & Drug Administration. We prayed to ask for mercy, not only for the people in the buildings we stood outside of, but also for ourselves. We picketed to show why we were there and how we felt. Bryan Kemper, the founder of Rock for Life, would lead the protest, while a priest named Fr. Tony led us in prayer. Bryan continually stressed the necessity of being peaceful and non-condemning, because we, the youth, were representing the pro-life movement.

It was a beautiful experience, united with so many other youth from across the continent for the same purpose: college students, punks, preps, homeschoolers, and everyone in between standing up for the pre-born. I made many friends from across the U.S.: Seattle, St. Louis, Boston, Dallas and Atlanta.

Of course, the climax of the week was the March for Life, marking the 30th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade on January 22. Our Rock for Life contingent joined an estimated 100,000 others who

marched on the Supreme Court. The March was basically a giant parade, the largest I have ever seen, but quite a different parade. As Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia put it, "We are not here to celebrate, but to mourn." We marched, shoulder to shoulder, down Constitution Avenue, so thick that you would not have been able to cross the street. The parade was so long that people were still reaching the Supreme Court three hours after the March began. The March had 10 times as many people as the anti-war protest four days earlier! President Bush addressed the March from St. Louis and assured us that banning late-term abortions was at the top of his agenda.

I was overwhelmed and encouraged at the conviction of so many people who, like myself, profess the tragedy of abortion. This past week was confirmation to me that the pro-life movement is alive, well, and gathering steam in the United States. I hope and pray that we, as Canadians, can follow suit, and I hope and pray that I may do everything in my power to see that we do. The battle is ours, but the war belongs to God. God bless Canada.



"Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God"

By Richard Patterson

In the December 2002 issue of *The Rose*, Mr. Mark Isinger described how pro-abortion propaganda inundates our culture and keeps people ignorant of the truth. Everything he wrote is absolutely correct, and we should take every opportunity that God gives us to proclaim the Biblical view of life.

However, knowledge can only be one component of the pro-life movement. Depending on the worldview of the recipient, knowledge can be used for good or for evil. For example, prenatal tests can be used for good or for evil. They can be used out of a genuine concern for the health of a mom and her baby; or the testing can be a eugenic search and destroy mission: same knowledge, same equipment, but different motivations.

The situation we face goes beyond knowing mechanical facts about reproduction and abortion techniques. But that is certainly not unique to our era of history. The ancient Greeks were fully aware of where babies came from and how to kill them, which is why Hippocrates wrote his oath. The ongoing difficulty for pro-lifers is that people, "who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve those who practice them." (Romans 1:32, NKJV) Even though most people over five years old know that the bump on mom's tummy is a real human baby, the 2000 poll (cited by Mr. Isinger) indicated the 88 percent of Canadians found abortion acceptable. Should these people not know better? Is their judgment only impaired by the lack of facts?

Abortion is a symptom of a much larger problem. This problem is described in Genesis 3:15, namely a

clash of the seed of the serpent with the seed of the woman, a clash of worldviews. The humanist wants to crown Man as a god, and wickedly uses abortion and euthanasia in a vain attempt to assert Man's sovereignty over life and death. The Christian declares faith in the triune God who created the heavens and earth and all that is in them, and defends human life made in His image. A titanic clash indeed, but we know that if "God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31 NKJV)

About one hundred years ago, the American Medical Association said that any doctor who approved of abortion was "a modern day Herod." Now the medical profession insists that abortion is every woman's right. How did we get where we are now? We return to the clash of worldviews. The Church was once considered to be the epicenter of the culture, without whose salt and light the surrounding culture would descend into depravity. Of course, by "church" I do not mean any particular denomination; I mean the body of all Christian believers. But the Church has largely (although not entirely) bought into the myth of pluralism, which turns all this around. The pluralistic culture demands that the Church be a club for private piety, and that humanists are to run everything else. It is hardly surprising, then, that the culture is descending into depravity. But I think that before pro-life activities will be successful (and they will be), the Church needs to reclaim her rightful role (and she will), and thunder God's glorious Word around the World.

Soldier on, faithful servants, for the battle belongs to the Lord. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

Alberta Pro-Life's Annual General Meeting & Coffee & Dessert Night

with Guest Speaker

Link Byfield

Chairman of the Citizens Centre for Freedom & Democracy and Publisher of the Citizens Centre Report Magazine.

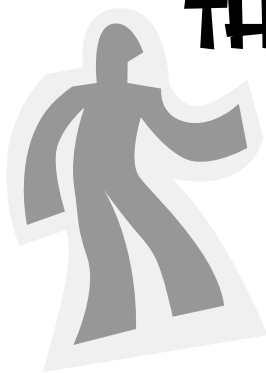


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Who:

This workshop is geared for mature junior & senior high students, as well as young adults. Parents are welcome to attend.

Date: Saturday, April 26, 2003
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Rock for Life clothing and merchandise will be available at this workshop.

www.albertaprolife.com

Registration Form

Space for this workshop is limited. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration includes a pizza lunch and snacks.

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Pro-Life 101 book (\$10) \$ _____

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*After April 19, 2003 fee increases to \$25/day

Students are responsible for their transportation to and from the workshop. Parents are welcome to sit in for \$10 each.

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Speakers:

Stephanie Gray

Stephanie is the dynamic twenty-two year old Executive Director of the Canadian Center for Bio-Ethical Reform and has spoken to thousands of people presenting and defending the pro-life position on university campuses, in schools, and at conferences.

Mark Isinger & Joanne Pollock

Hear about their journey in the pro-life movement. They have started Rock for Life chapters in the Edmonton and Calgary areas and speak about the evils of abortion to anybody who will listen.

"Despite the clarity of the argument, many people are confused about abortion because they think the issue is complex. Actually, it's not. There is only one question to resolve, not many. If pro-life advocates are right about the humanity of the unborn, elective abortion is a clear moral wrong. If, on the other hand, abortion does not take the life of an innocent human being, it requires no more justification than having your tooth pulled."

Scott Klusendorf, *Pro-Life 101*

Operation Outcry Invites Participation

By Patty Nixon

"The Texas Justice Foundation, a non-profit public interest law firm in cooperation with the National Foundation for Life Litigation Project and the Protectors of Women's Rights Movement are leading Operation Outcry. The Texas Justice Foundation has the honor of representing Norma McCorvey (former "Roe" of Roe v. Wade) and Sandra Cano (former "Doe" of Doe v. Bolton, the companion case to Roe). Both of these women came to realize the truth behind the lies of the pro-abortion movement. They both desperately want to see their cases that brought abortion on demand to America overturned."

- Taken from <http://ooc.lexi.net>

The website gives a very good overview of this project, but there were a few questions I had after going through the whole site. I talked to Mr. Allan Parker, the CEO, Founder and Head Attorney for this project, to answer a couple of questions that I had.

Can Canadian women participate in sending in their affidavits?

Yes, Mr. Parker says that they welcome affidavits from women all over the world. Women do not need to put their full names on them, initials only are sufficient, and even though physical addresses will remain confidential information,

they need to be included on the original affidavit. Also, by submitting an affidavit it does not mean that you will have to appear in court. Lastly, all affidavits must be notarized.

What is the timeline?

They plan to file a motion this year, but would like to have all affidavits in by May 1st, 2003.

What is your response to skeptics who say that this action will not be successful because the U.S. Supreme Court is not friendly to this issue?

Mr. Parker stated firstly that, "By the time this motion got to the Supreme Court, there could be in fact "friendly" people in place, and secondly, that they feel that the affidavits from the women themselves were powerful enough to change the hearts and minds of Supreme Court Justices like Sandra Day O'Connor and David Souter." Mr. Parker estimates that it will take at least one to three years for this case to reach the Supreme Court level.

Mr. Parker also would like it mentioned that all of the costs associated with doing this case are supported by private donations. Your financial assistance would be greatly appreciated, and you can donate directly from the organization's website.

Demers loses at Court of Appeal

By Joanne Byfield

BC carpenter Jim Demers lost his case before the BC Court of Appeal in January. Demers was charged in 1996 with violating the bubble zone in front of a Vancouver abortion clinic after he held a sign which read, "Every human being has the inherent right to life. United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights." Demers was jailed even though his was a silent protest. He did not harass people going to the clinic.

In court, Demers based his case on section 2 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees freedom of speech, but also on section 7 that guarantees the right to life, which, he argued, includes the unborn child. Lawyer Jeff Tuomala cited international treaties signed by Canada, which include unborn children as persons. He also quoted from the Charter's preamble, which states, "Canada is a nation founded on the principles which recognize the supremacy of God, and the rule of law." God, he argued, grants the right to life, not government.

The three justices rejected his appeal, citing previous Supreme Court of Canada rulings that have rejected the concept of fetal rights. The Court of Appeal said that the recognition of fetal rights was not a role for courts, but rather for legislatures based upon "broad social, political, moral and economic choices." It is interesting to note that courts do not take that view with respect to homosexual rights, which have been "read in" by judges in several cases over the past decade. Demers says he finds this reasoning "outrageous. Subjecting the rights of whole groups of human beings to the normative process of allowing government to decide who is worthy of life and who is not, is the very process that allowed black slavery in America and death camps like Auschwitz in Europe."

Demers will seek leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

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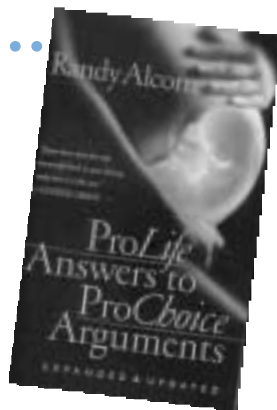
By Patty Nixon

Forbidden Grief — The Unspoken Pain of Abortion

by Theresa Burke with David C. Reardon — www.afterabortion.org



It is very difficult to describe this book in a short paragraph. I think "sobering" is the best word that I can use to describe its contents, and it would be very hard for anyone to read this book and still hold the position that abortion is good for women. Theresa Burke acknowledges early on in the book that she has dealt only with women who have sought help after their abortions, and in many cases it was many years after the abortion itself. The stories of grief, pain and trauma are continuous throughout as Mrs. Burke describes the myriad stages of grief, denial, and trauma that women experience as a result of their abortions. The content of Forbidden Grief goes against all of the pro-choice rhetoric that is so commonly heard. I would encourage everyone to purchase a copy of this for their local clergyman, as it is an excellent resource.



ProLife Answers to ProChoice Arguments

by Randy Alcorn — www.epm.org

Whenever I get asked to do a radio show, this is the book that I reach for! I like it because it actually contains questions and answers to commonly heard arguments, and gives precise responses from several angles. It includes both Christian and secular responses and also includes an exhaustive list of references for the materials from which he quotes. I would recommend it for anyone involved in the pro-life movement who does any media work, and as another great resource for church libraries. Copies of this book will be available at a reduced cost at the National Pro-Life Conference in Edmonton in November.

Why You Can't Stay Silent — A Biblical Mandate to Shape our Culture

by Tom Minnery (Vice-President of Public Policy for Focus on the Family) — www.fotf.org



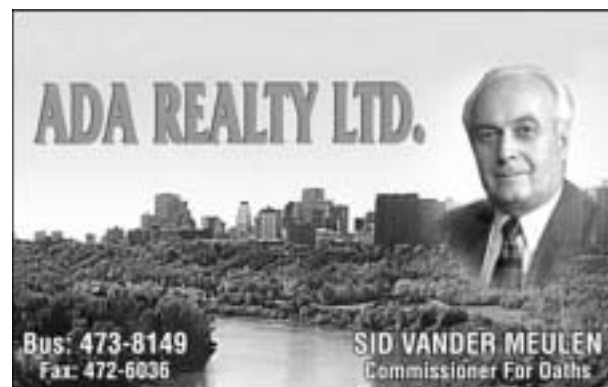
"Christians who are willing to speak up for righteousness are continually asked to stay silent by the world. Minnery encourages believers to stand firm and actively walk in the truth so that people can witness our faith and be changed by it. He suggests that those Christians who coast along in life, content and blissfully unaware of current events, have no real understanding of Christ's powerful metaphors of salt and light," according to a book jacket quote. Tom Minnery covers a variety of social issues in his book, but it is an overall good read for those wondering what the role of a Christian is in the public square. He gives practical help to identify areas of strengths in people's lives, and how they can translate their talents into effective activism on important social issues.



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"Tolerance" from the Globe and Mail

By Joanne Byfield

Toronto's Globe and Mail newspaper is one of the most respected publications in Canada. In early February, however, columnist Heather Mallick wrote an amazingly vicious and irrational piece about pro-life MPs. Ms. Mallick was incensed that the three MPs—Elsie Wayne, Tory MP from New Brunswick, Alliance MP Maurice Vellacott from Saskatchewan, and Ontario Liberal MP Paul Steckle—disagreed with an earlier column in which Mallick recommended that Henry Morgentaler should receive the Order of Canada for his work in the abortion industry.

The MPs responded to her column with a letter pointing out the harm the abortionist had done to women. They said in part, "The evidence is mounting of the dangerous effects of abortion for women: a higher risk of breast cancer, emotional and psychological trauma, child abuse due to problems bonding with subsequent children, sterility, substance abuse, and more." All of these effects have been documented in medical studies and reported in peer-reviewed journals but rarely reported in Canada's mainstream newspapers.

Instead of dealing with the points the MPs made, Ms. Mallick launched into personal attacks on the MPs. She poked fun of Mr. Vellacott for being part of the Alliance party and described Mr. Steckle as "a Liberal but a farmer-from-Huron-Bruce kind of Liberal." Then, this female, pro-abortion columnist took a swipe at Elsie Wayne who is "consistently voted worst-dressed MP in the House and a giggly, daft sort of woman."

She dismissed their comments because, "two of the MPs are men and the other an older lady. The effects of any abortions they might have are, therefore, very much moot." She called them "The Three Stooges."

Ms. Mallick describes herself as a "newspaper junkie" and because she has never seen any of these studies reported in newspapers, they cannot be true. Her final shot is, "The letter from Vellacott, Wayne and Steckle (sounds like a feed store, doesn't it), I attribute to something else: the laziness of Canadian voters that gets fools like these into Parliament. Next election, turf them, please."

Because they disagree with her, they are fools. Or, because they are rural people and don't belong to a party she supports, they are fools. Or, because they don't dress properly, they are fools. Or, is it perhaps because she cannot respond coherently and convincingly to any one of their arguments, she is forced to resort to cheap, personal attacks and hope that her sophisticated readers won't notice that she lost the argument.

It would be comforting to think that Ms. Mallick was just having a bad day. However, Henny van der Gugten, APL Vice-President, sent her an email objecting to the column and praising Elsie Wayne. Ms. Mallick's response was short and pointed. "Elsie Wayne is a moron, like you, and gee, how did I know you'd be from Airdrie?"

Ouch. This issue seems to hit a nerve doesn't it? And they say pro-lifers are emotional and irrational.

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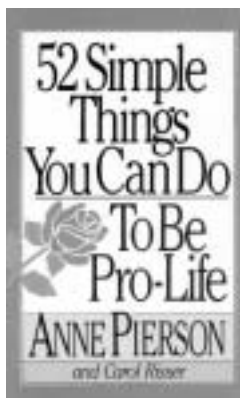
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