

Lifespan *Free Copies* news

Volume 33 Number 1

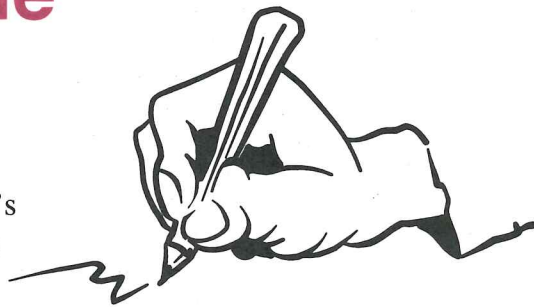
Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

January 2004

People's Override Underway

Right to Life - Lifespan will work with the People's Override Committee to allow the Legal Birth Definition Act to become law even though our Governor has vetoed it. As you know, Governor Granholm's action

will allow the abortionist to take the life of the preborn child in his/her final stage of development. This proposed legislation affects the state of Michigan only and is not the same as the ban on partial-birth abortion signed by President Bush in November.



The Constitution of the State of Michigan provides a means for the citizens of the state to draft their own laws for submission to the State Legislature. A formal request has been filed and approved with the language of the proposed law on it. A submission date is set and the people of the state can circulate the petitions. We expect the petitions to be come available by mid-January.

Our goal is to collect 325,000 signatures to ensure the validation of the petition. After the signatures are collected and verified by the State Board of Canvassers, the Michigan Legislature has 40 days to act on the petition language. Only a simple majority vote is needed in both the House and the Senate to approve the legislation and become law. The Governor cannot stop a Citizens' Petition.

Volunteers to circulate petitions will be needed. Training sessions are being planned to prepare petition circulators. Please call **248-777-9090** to volunteer for this effort or for more information.

Remember our goal — 325,000 petition signatures

**TOGETHER—WE CAN STOP
LATE-TERM ABORTION IN MICHIGAN**



Dear Friends,
Although the holidays
are over, there is one
story that I would like to
share. It involves a woman named Mary, a
baby and an angel.

Mary was a dear friend of mine. I met her
when she was 75 years old. For ten years, Mary would call
me up every couple of months, ask "if I was still helping
those babies" and then tell me she had been shopping and
had a bag filled with baby clothes for me.

Each month, when she received her social security
check, she would have "her Annie" (her daughter) drive
her to the stores to buy her gifts for the babies that she
cared so much about. She would then call me, and we
would talk for a while about our families and our lives.

At 85, she was independent, had her own home, was
always doing something for someone and she dearly
loved "those babies." One evening, just before Thanksgiv-
ing, she called telling me that she was having surgery the
next morning and how she hoped to be back home in a few
days as they were having pizza at the senior citizen meet-
ing. She never came home. A few days later as I was
making plans to visit the funeral home—Lee, a friend of
her daughter's (and a very special friend of Wee Care),
called and needed a layette for a newborn baby who had
nothing. We decided to meet at the funeral home where I
would give her the package for the baby. I quickly put
together a beautiful layette for the little one.

As I drove to the funeral home I was doing a mental
checklist making sure I had everything for the little girl
and suddenly realized that many of the gifts that she
would receive came from Mary's last bag that she had
given to me. So Mary was still taking care of "those little
babies." At that moment, I knew that my cherished friend
would always be with me and with my little babies. And
now, Wee Care has its own angel in heaven looking out for
us. We love you, Mary.

Karen Patrosso, Director 248-777-2727

Wee Care, A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

P.S. Now, I have to get back to work! As I write this—I've
asked Mary to help me get all these Christmas packages
put together, but she was a hard worker and would expect
me to hustle. I'm sure God and Mary help those who help
themselves!

Lifespan News

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The Human Spirit

We see them all around us
Yet often pay no heed
To what they must encounter,
All those with special needs.
Their lives can be a challenge,
Yet they hold their heads up high.
They face each day with courage,
And don't keep asking "Why?"
They may not hear what we hear,
Or see what we can see,
Nor have a full awareness
Or our mobility.
Yet they know their lives have value.
It's their strength to carry on.
Each day they handle living
Is a victory they have won.
I cannot help but marvel
At what crosses they endure.
Where does this courage come from
With futures so unsure?
It is the human spirit—
Intangible, yet real.
It keeps them striving onward
Despite how they may feel.
You and I possess this spirit.
It lives within us all,
And rises up when needed
In answer to our call.
It is the motivation
For determining our fate,
And conquers daily fears
Which are an all too human trait.
It's a pure and valued resource
For our strength and dignity.
When possessed in true abundance,
All we want we can achieve.
Therefore, you can be certain,
For I know of what I speak,
The handicapped are stronger
Than the ones who call them weak.
So next time when you see someone
You think is not quite "whole,"
Just know you're wrong, for you can't see
The strength within their soul.

—Kathy Sabol

Lifespan, Oakland/Macomb County Chapter Member

Just Imagine...

A Life Sunday Service, entitled "Just Imagine What Will
This Baby Be," will be held on **January 18th, at 7:00 p.m.,**
at Shepherd's Gate Lutheran Church, 12400 23 Mile Rd.,
in Shelby Twp.

For more information, please call Linda 586-781-8460.

Pro-Life Student Essay Contest Winners

Three metro Detroit teens won savings bonds in Lifespan's Pro-Life Student Essay Contest on Abortion, Infanticide or Euthanasia. The first-place prize of a \$1,000 savings bond will be awarded to **Crystal Howard**, 17, of Belleville, a senior, who is homeschooled. Crystal is the daughter of Thom and Nancy Howard. The second-place prize of a \$400 savings bond will be presented to **Alexandra Dugan**, 15, of Dearborn, a sophomore, who is also homeschooled. Her parents are Joseph and Melissa Dugan. The third-place winner of a \$200 bond is **Irene Wu**, 17, of Troy, a senior, at Troy High School. Irene's parents are Grace and Ko-Jen Wu. The savings bonds will be awarded at the Rally for Life at Madonna University, in Livonia, on Sunday, January 18 (see page 7).

We want to thank the judges who had a difficult job choosing the winners from so many excellent entries: **Ann Berger** is a homeschooling mother of six. She has been active in pro-life work for the past six years, especially in the last statewide election and in fundraising efforts for Pregnancy Helpline, a crisis pregnancy center. She and her family are members of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Howell, and her husband, Jeffrey, recently opened a faith-based medical practice, the Sacred Heart Medical Center. **Pat Deck** is from Grosse Pointe where she is a member of the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church and an active community volunteer. She is married with two children and is very involved in beautification groups throughout the state. Currently, she is first vice-president of Keep Michigan Beautiful. **Michelle Ervin** has been very active in pro-life activities for many years. She has a marketing degree from Oakland University and is a busy, stay-at-home mom of five children. She and her family are members of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Beverly Hills. Her husband, Patrick, is the grandson of Paula and the late Bob Ervin, founding members of Lifespan. **Marianna Liss** is a member of St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Southfield and has been active in the pro-life movement since the early 1980s. She is a professor of speech at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

First-Place Essay

My Missing Piece

A core part of my faith is my stance on the issue of abortion. Activist is a good way to describe me, but I prefer crusader...the meaning is deeper. I have been involved in various demonstrations, protests, fundraisers and attended informative conferences, all the while unashamedly proclaiming my pro-life stance to anyone and everyone. However, over the years, my activism has lacked adequate depth

a few very enlightening years, conviction found me amidst crosses on a hill.

In talking about the horror of abortion in the past, I've emphasized the fact that "we just need to put a face on the issue." But never so deeply did I understand what this statement contained until I joined my fellow teens to assemble the 2,000 Crosses Display at my church. 2,000 Crosses is a relatively new youth activity at our parish, but it is one that we teens take deep pride in. The placement of the 2,000 crosses representative of so many precious lives lost is a bittersweet sight fraught with meaning. Reflecting on the lives lost always comes with some bitterness, but sweetness is out there too in the homage to the innocent dead and in the lives that could be changed as a result of driving by and seeing the display.

We have set out this display twice, once my sophomore year (my first year with my youth group) and again my junior year. I participated in it both times, and in the period between these two events, I bonded with my peer group extensively. We gathered whenever possible, at least a few times weekly at church. We are so close, and safety in this group is key. We are built together in friendship—a true friendship based on faith, honesty and love. I recognize that the type of bond we share is very rare for teenagers today and feel even more blessed to honestly be able to say that it is true. These friends provide me with a unique kind of safety and are, without a doubt, one of my principle support systems. My friends support my pro-life stance and agree with it themselves; having their support was instrumental in my first step towards the "conviction-building."

Some people simply assume that because it is the faith of the church to believe in the sanctity of all human life, it would naturally follow that the church members would be supportive of such a display on our grounds. I am sorry to say that this was not the case for us. Our youth minister took an insurmountable number of calls (most from parishioners) following the display of the crosses that ex-

continued on page 10



*Crystal Howard
is a senior
who is
homeschooled*

(perhaps *conviction* is a better word). Something was missing. I was desperately in need of a completely solid foundation, and it became increasingly obvious that my foundation was missing a piece. My missing piece was aggressive conviction. But then came the question: Where could I search for conviction? Certainly not on any grocery shelf—it is just not that easy. I had to look deeper, and after



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Addresses

President

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Opinion Line 202-456-1111, M-F, 9-5
Fax Number: 202-456-2461
e-mail: President@whitehouse.gov

Dear Mr. President:

U.S. Senators

The Honorable (Carl Levin, Debbie Stabenow)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3121

Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
202-224-3121

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman
(last name):

Governor

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400
Opinion Line: 517-335-7858
e-mail: migov@aol.com

Dear Governor Granholm:

Michigan State Senator

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837

Dear Senator (last name):

Michigan State Representative

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837

Dear Representative (last name):

It seems amazing that after three decades of debate, we are still engaged in an effort to assure respect and dignity to all human life. One must wonder if the 1973 Supreme Court justices had any idea what the result of their *Roe v. Wade* decision would really be. Since that day in January 1973, forty-four million (44,000,000) babies have lost their lives to abortion. Women have died, been made sterile, suffered emotional problems, seen their marriages and relationships crumble and still they are told that they can't be really free unless they have the unbridled license to kill their unborn children.

While pro-life efforts have been made to stop the harm abortion does, not all of our efforts have been successful. However, those that have deserve our recognition.

The most important step in the past year has, of course, been the **Ban on Partial-Birth Abortion** signed by President Bush this past November. The issue will again be brought to court, but there is no denying that the education that occurred over the past eight years of debate on partial-birth abortion has resulted in 70% of Americans agreeing that this is just too much—that one human being ought not to be allowed to do this to another. The issue will go through the federal court system and probably back to the United States Supreme Court, but there is no denying that partial-birth abortion is too awful to allow.

Mr. Bush also signed the **Adoption Promotion Act**, which will increase incentives for states that encourage the adoption of older children.

The president has steadfastly nominated well-qualified men and women to positions on the **Federal Judiciary**.

Their constant rejection by pro-abortion senators is indicative of how fearful such senators are that cases involving human life might get a hearing from someone who does not support abortion.

Under consideration is **The Child Custody Protection Act**, which would make it a federal crime to take a minor child from a state that requires parental notice for an abortion to a state where no notification is required in order to have an abortion without informing her parent. About one half of all the states currently have such a law.

The **Abortion Non-Discrimination Act** would prohibit state and local governments from penalizing health-care facilities from refusing to perform abortions.

The **Unborn Victims of Violence Act** would recognize an unborn child as a legal victim if killed or injured during commission of a federal crime.

The above-proposed acts have all been introduced in Washington and are expected to be acted upon sometime during 2004. It is difficult to wait, and while we wait, babies die and women are harmed. While we wait, we must continue to speak up. If you would like more information on these measures or on issues on the local level, don't hesitate to call your local Lifespan office.

Sometimes we are called upon to do more than be a member or buy Christmas cards. Sometimes we are called upon to educate ourselves and then educate others.

Remember, many people operate under the illusion that silence on an issue means acceptance—and we cannot accept the loss of any more babies.

—Diane Trombley
Media Relations Director



Right to Life - Lifespan RESOURCE BOOK 2004

Advertising Contract

This book will contain pro-life informational material that will be used throughout the year. Your ad represents support for Lifespan's educational efforts. Fill out the form below and send it to us with your remittance included. **Deadline for submission is Wednesday, March 10, 2004.**

Advertising Contract: I wish to publish _____ page ad for the sum of \$ _____

Please run _____ last year's ad
_____ enclosed, new ad

Full page (7 x 10) \$275	1/4 page (3.5 x 5) \$110	1/8 page (3.5 x 2.5) \$60
Back cover (inside) \$300	Half page (7 x 5) \$160	
Back cover (outside) \$500		

Please attach copy-ready advertising slick, business card, business letterhead or typed copy of ad. Black and white is preferred. If you are not able to submit camera-ready art work, we will help you with your ad; call us. Add an additional \$10.00 if a photograph is included in the ad. Payment must accompany ad and contract. Advertisers will automatically receive a copy of the Resource Book. Lifespan reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems unsuitable.

A **complimentary dinner ticket** to the 2004 Mother's Day Dinner on Tuesday, May 4 will be given to any individual for every **\$200** worth of new ads obtained for the Resource Book. The ad seller's signature must appear on the contract below when the ad and remittance is received by Right to Life - Lifespan.

Contact Person _____	Phone (area code) _____
Name of Advertiser _____	
Address _____	City _____ Zip _____
Ad Seller's Signature _____	Phone (area code) _____

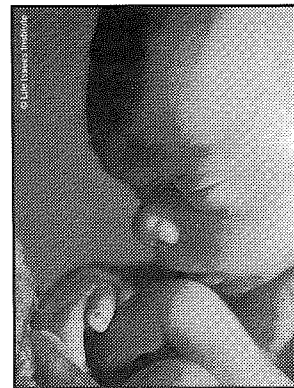
Make checks payable and mail to:

Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Ste. 127, Livonia, MI 48152

For further information, call (248) 777-9090

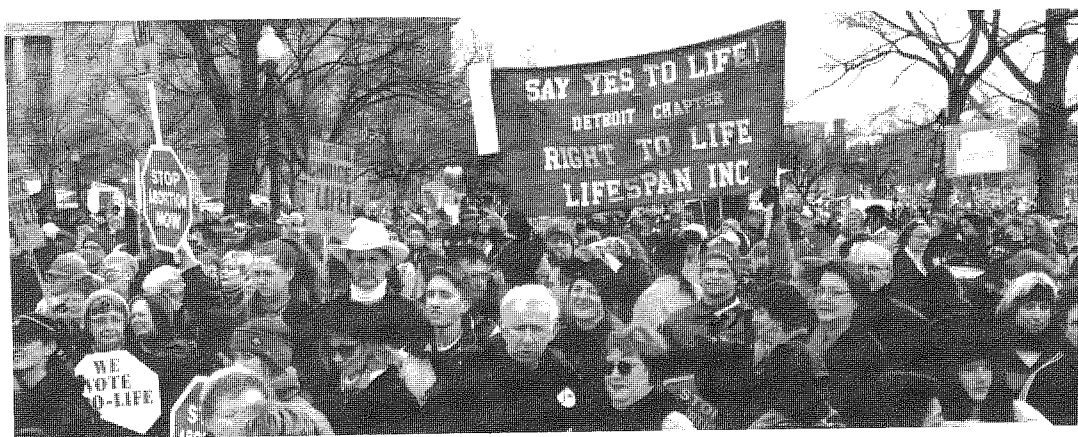
Contributions to Right to Life - Lifespan, Inc. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes; however, business ads are tax-deductible. Consult your tax advisor with any questions.

Be a Voice for the Child in the Womb!



**Get on Lifespan's bus for a three-day trip
to Washington, D.C. for the**

March for Life **on January 22, 2004**



**Departing Jan. 21, 5:00 a.m.
Returning Jan. 23, 11:30 p.m.**

For further information, call Right to Life - Lifespan 248-816-1546



Rally for Life

Sunday, January 18, 2004

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Madonna University

(corner of Schoolcraft and Levan in Livonia)

This is an outdoor Rally; dress warmly!

*31 years and over 44,000,000 abortions later—
America is still suffering the tragedy of *Roe v. Wade*
Be inspired to change hearts and save lives!*

Guests speakers include:

*Alvin Weathersby
Right to Life - Lifespan Member*

*Elizabeth Vier
Co-chair, Respect Life Committee
Madonna University*

*Alex Hastings
Director, Youth Division
Pinckney Pro-Life Organization*

*Sr. Clare Marie Klein, CSSF
Student, Madonna University*

*Pastor Christopher Brooks
Evangel Ministries, Detroit*

*Kara Jeffries
Senior, Canton High School*

*Mary Grace Denton
Teen Vocalist*

Sponsored by Right to Life - Lifespan
For more information, call 248-777-9090





detroit

17336 Harper PMB 293, Detroit, MI 48224-1980
Phone 313-640-8534 • Fax (same as phone)
Office Hours: MW 10-2; TThF Closed
Mary Cascos, Office Manager

Thank you, faithful church reps!

To all of you who worked so hard to sell our Christmas Cards and Entertainment Books and to all of you who bought them from us, we extend our most heartfelt thanks. May the New Year bring all of you the best health and happiness. God bless.

Rally for Life

Lifespan needs you, your family, your friends, your church and your organizations to come to our Rally for Life. We must send a powerful message to the people of Metro Detroit that... "NO, after 31 long years we are NOT discouraged. We will NOT give up our struggle until all our citizens are guaranteed the Right to Life." If you consider yourself pro-life, it's now time to act on your convictions and come to our Rally. It will only be an hour of your time

but it will send a message to the public that we will not go away. Our Rally this year will be held at Madonna University at the corner of Schoolcraft and Levan in Livonia from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Ask a friend to become a member

Make it a New Year's resolution to renew your membership to Detroit Lifespan and also ask a friend to become a member. We all have pro-life friends who are not members of Lifespan. Membership is the backbone of this organization. We receive no federal funds for we exist solely on membership dues and private donations. Let your friends know that with a membership, they will receive our High-Quality *LIFESPAN NEWS* on a monthly basis which will keep them up to date on all pro-life issues which the local media will never print. If you would like me to send them information on our organization and a membership envelope call the office at 313-640-8534 and leave their name and address on the answering machine.

Church representatives needed

The Detroit Chapter has 85 churches in Detroit who receive our newsletter and our monthly church bulletin notes, but we have only 15 churches with Lifespan representatives. If you belong to a church but your church does not have a Lifespan rep, please prayerfully consider becoming one. Call 313-640-8534. Thanks!

livingston

P. O. Box 1532, Brighton, MI 48116-9998
Phone 810-220-LIFE (5433)
Judy Zabik, Director

Dresser Ministry success

A dresser was filled with baby items at the WDEO (990 AM) religious radio station on Domino Farms and presented to an expectant mother just in time for Christmas. Our heartfelt thanks to station personnel and the many listeners who stopped by with donations.

We currently have two more dressers being filled with baby clothes, etc. One is at the House of Sofas on Jackson Ave, in Ann Arbor, and the other is at the Food Garden Family Restaurant in Ypsilanti. Please support these pro-life establishments!

Christmas card sell out

Our beautiful assortment of Christmas cards were completely sold out this year. Thanks to all who displayed them at your churches; your efforts are much appreciated.

Override Granholm's veto

We will be participating in the petition drive to override the Governor's veto of the "Live Birth Definition Act." We are looking for representatives at area churches to handle the petitions. Please call our office if you can assist in this most important endeavor.

Pregnancy Helpline dinner

This year's fundraising dinner for the Pregnancy Helpline in April, will feature Norma McCorvey, 'Roe' in the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court abortion decision. She will speak on her pro-life conversion since that controversial court ruling. Plan on hearing her amazing story!

Washington, D.C. bus trip

A bus trip to the March for Life in Washington is planned. Join us and show your support for the unborn. See page 6 or call our office for more information and reservations.

Rally for Life

Lifespan's annual Rally for Life will be held at Madonna University on January 18, 2:00-3:00 p.m. See page 7 for more information.



oakland/macomb

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540
Phone 248-816-1546 • Fax 248-816-9066
e-mail: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: M, T, Th, F 8-4; W 9-3
Irene Tharp, Director; Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.;
Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff

Renewal reminder

It is hard to believe that we are entering a new year! Each year, we send renewal notices to everyone whose membership with Lifespan expires. A goodly number of you renew your membership so that you can continue to keep up to date with our struggle to protect human life. However, busy schedules sometimes make our renewal pleas get "lost in the shuffle" so we are asking that you take a look at the label on the front of this newsletter (quick, turn it over right now so you don't forget) and look at the date that is alongside your name. If the year in that date is 2002 or earlier, your membership has expired. So, why, you ask, am I still getting the newsletter? Well, that is because we don't want you to miss the important information that is in it so we keep sending it. The problem is that it costs a great deal of money to send newsletters to non-members.

wayne west/downriver

27592 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150-2203
Phone 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116
e-mail: wwdr@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: M-Th 10-4; F Closed
Patricia Holscher, Director
Louise Carlson, Laurie Masiarak, Ofc. Staff

2004

Have you made all your New Year's Resolutions? If not, would you consider being more active in pro-life activities? Following are a few suggestions where you can help:

Attend the Right for Life Rally on Madonna University campus. We always need more live bodies and it's only for one hour. See page 7.

Go on the reserved bus to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. If you've never gone, it's a MUST! See page 6.

Help in the WEE CARE office; organize gifts for babies from Christmas Giving Trees.

Urge students to attend Youth Concerts/Outreach Programs.

Encourage teens to enter the Pro-life Essay Contest; see page 3 for 2003 winners.

Call to get petitions to override Gov. Granholm's veto of the *Legal Definition of Birth Act*; see front page.

Reserve the 2000 Cross Display for your church grounds; each of the 2000 crosses represents two babies who die by abortion each day; call the Oakland/Macomb office.

So, please, look at that date, and if your membership is due to be renewed, do it today. We need you—and so do the babies and their families. You speak for those who can't, and without you, their voices are silenced.

Lights for Life

We have dozens of candle kits available in the office for the evening of January 21st. This is a very quiet way of showing your support for human life. Place the candles on your porch or driveways on the eve of the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, and let the Light of Life shine for all to see.

Movement in motion

There are a limited number of spaces left on the Lifespan bus to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life. If you have never attended a March, you owe it to yourself to go. Sometimes we get a little discouraged when we see the same faces at all of our local pro-life events; when you get to Washington and see the thousands and thousands of people who travel from all over the United States to attend, it is a real eye-opener. We are not alone here in the Detroit area. We have the support of people all over the country, and our presence in Washington helps to support them too. It is a long bus ride, the accommodations are not exactly 5 star, but the rewards are fantastic. Call us at 248-816-1546 and see if there is a space left for you.

Renew your membership in Lifespan and sign up one new member; our lobbying efforts could double; think of the clout we'd have in passing pro-life legislation.

Offer to bake; we always need the extra income from bake sales.

Work at our booth at County and State Fairs; new faces are always welcome.

Volunteer to work in the office with mailings and computer work; many hands make light work.

Become a church representative; you'd be the liaison between Lifespan and your church.

Be a courier for mail/packages between Lifespan offices.

Arrange for a baby shower at your church for the Crisis Pregnancy Centers; Lifespan hosts approximately 40 showers on the second Sunday in March.

Attend the Mother's Day Dinner; meet Jennifer O'Neill, actress, model and now a member of "Silent No More" an organization of women who regret their abortions.

Buy a business or personal ad in our Annual Resource Book; see page 5.

Nominate your mom for Mother of the Year; see page 12.

Have Breakfast with your Legislators and talk to them about your pro-life concerns; this event usually occurs in September or October

Request a pro-life speaker for any event; hear the experts tell the pro-life story.

The list goes on and on; call the office to find your "special place" in the right to life movement and help to end abortions.

Have a Blessed New Year filled with Peace, Love and Hope.

First-Place Essay

My Missing Piece

continued from page 3

pressed outrage and disfavor towards the message being demonstrated. Our adult leaders told us about the unfavorable response when they asked if we would like to set out the crosses the second time. I was very inspired when some of the boys (who had days off school the week following the display) volunteered to come in and answer phone calls from angry people if we did choose to do the display again. I valued my friends even more then.

While setting the crosses the first time, I was overwhelmed by the number of crosses that lay at my feet. Trying to picture that number doubled was even more staggering. 4,400 abortions per *day*...400 people was about the size of the high school that I attended. Yes a small school, but a realistically large number for me to picture none the less.

The second time I put up the crosses, I was aware of and sadly used to seeing the great number of crosses. But this time, something different struck me...the *individuality* of each and every life represented. The proverbial "light bulb in my head" finally came on. Each one of my friends had become more familiar and more valuable to me since the first time we had done the crosses together two years before. Each person's uniqueness was amplified by all of our time spent together during those two years. I looked on each cross and tried to picture, really put the faces of my friends, to each death. The emotion that I felt was unable to be put to words, as I really understood for the first time what a fraction of the loss of those aborted could feel like.

I wholeheartedly feel that my sense of conviction was not slow to come because of lack of faith in the cause, but instead from lack of understanding. This process led me to a greater sense of the cause as I gained wisdom. My family's undying support of my efforts to aid the pro-life cause, my friends eternal support and gaining understanding of the true value of one human life were all key building blocks that helped to construct my missing piece. All of these steps together have helped me to become more committed and confident in my pro-life stance.

I will continue to stand up for what I believe in for as long as the need endures. Even in this world of chaotic views and twisted media, I feel blessed to have been born. I was born with a voice into truth; the truth was taught to me and it became my foundation. This truth I will speak, and this truth will set me free. ■

Second-Place Essay

Close Abortion's Door

Life is born at conception. This is the simple, perpetual truth. The law has been "written on our hearts"; every human being must comprehend this fact. Why else would guilt emerge with

such intensity after one has undergone an abortion? There are consequences for murderers. How is it that the general public now tolerates abortion? I believe the answer to this can be illustrated with the image of a door. Typically, the lock is on the inside of a door, verifying that no unwelcome individual can enter without permission from the occupants. In reality, the impending peril is that a building's owners would yield to their adversary's demand for entrance, perhaps for the sake of negotiation. Once any leeway has been given, the upper hand is surrendered.

In 1930, a massive tidal wave of economic struggle swept over Germany. Unable to withstand it, the parliament collapsed. Adolf Hitler was inaugurated as chancellor.

The Nazis received less than three percent of the vote in the election of 1928. Even so, Hitler offered German citizens answers to their problems that were comfortable and easy to swallow. Again, we can see a door. The more trying the time, the more appealing this became, hence by 1930, he had enough credibility among the populace to take charge of the chancellorship.

His grasp firmly set, Hitler rapidly seized control of the rest of the government (through the Enabling Act) and the people (through media, the teaching of Nazism in schools and organizations, and dictatorship, using concentration camps as an alternative to obedience). He then began his generalized racial purity campaign (which included abortion!) ultimately introducing his loathing of Jews directly by making it continually more difficult for them to acquire



*Alexandra Dugan,
15, is a sophomore
who is
homeschooled*

work, possess property and live like normal citizens. The doorknob had revolved gradually, but the ensuing horrors are well known.

In 1966, a law was passed to legalize abortion in situations where the mother had been raped. Previously, it had been entirely outlawed. The opening was slight, but adequate.

Abortion was subsequently permitted for those who, through their birth, presented substantial danger to their mothers, or were liable to be born with severe handicaps or illnesses. In 1973, it became legal for any abortion to occur provided that the unborn child was under 24 weeks old.

Various laws, like those regarding mothers under age eighteen, were enforced and then depleted of their power numerous times, but whether or not they exist does not stop abortion from proceeding at a high rate. The door is now swinging on its hinges and partial-birth abortion, the next step in this evil course, is being debated.

I believe Nazism is a good paradigm of the history and frame of mind of abortion, and scores of other examples exist. This is not to conclude that they are perfect replicas of one another; they are not. Nonetheless, all have gone through similar processes of gaining first acceptability and then popularity a little at a time due, in part, to the determination of those who supported them, the way they were (and abortion still is) hyped and sugarcoated by the media. How deeply human nature strives for its comfort and ease while disconcertedly waving away any thought of consequence. Hitler massacred the Jews; America is killing thousands of unborn children as she tries to ease her conscience into allowing it. But she knows what she is doing; she is choosing, though the choice is not hers to make. She is choosing death.

Abortion is a synonym for murder that has been sadly diluted in far too many minds by relativism, outright lies and egocentric aspirations. Humanity seems to think that if it convinces itself something is right, then it is. The trouble with this sentiment is that it is false. Capable though we may be of refuting consciences to suit comforts, our acceptance of the permissibility of a certain action does not change the heart of the issue, only the face. Abortion is the process of killing children! Humanity has drilled into its head that these are not the same, that abortion or a "woman's right to choose" is nothing more than diminishing mere tissue into nothingness...after all, a fetus is just a cellular mass, isn't it? *Is life nothing more than a compilation of cells to be disposed of at will?* Something that takes such intricacy, such astonishing design to create...something like this is not to be thrown away. Don't let another child die. Close the door. ■

Third-Place Essay

A Silky Happiness

Silk is a treasured piece of luxury that cannot be obtained in every place of the world. However, to claim possession of such delicate extravagance, silkworms must be sacrificed as they lay asleep in their cocoons. But no one asks them if they are ready to give up life for another's happiness. In the moments before blossoming into a new creature, it is destroyed. It's the same with abortion. America must refrain from treasuring happiness over life.

Of course, the *Roe v. Wade* event in 1973 was one of the greatest jolts the U.S. endured as a new set of controversies arose. Imagine being that poor child whose mother publicly fought the Supreme Court to legally kill her baby. Sometimes, people forget that the human forming within a pregnant woman is capable of bonding with friends,

pondering, overcoming burdens and smiling. It's easy to overlook the intricate miracle of how a single infinitesimal cell can become a mass of organs that are able to support new life. A doctor can often detect a heartbeat in an embryo that is only four weeks old. In about 16 weeks, the fetus knows the difference between sweet and bitter, senses light, makes facial expressions and even yawns and hiccups. But in 1999, the American Life League stated that more than 532 million babies were killed in the United States alone. The Alan Guttmacher Institute revealed in May 2003 that 54% of women sought abortions because of contraceptive failures. However, it must be questioned how desperate these women are. Obviously, contraceptives aren't 100% efficient. The true protection from pregnancy is abstinence, which seems to be a hard concept to accept today. Women may end up just using abortion as a trap door; a quick and seemingly harmless murder to preserve their own selfish lifestyles. Legalized abortion will not necessarily reduce the demand for it. The government cannot legalize theft in hopes of reducing the nation's desire to steal. People must acknowledge the views from all sides when perusing a controversy. Just because the unborn child is silent, doesn't mean he or she should be ignored.

Most Americans are not extremists; the majority detests abortion with some exceptions. In cases such as rape, a woman may be subject to unwanted consequences. Nevertheless, pregnancy from rape happens less than one percent of the time. Yet, when rape unfortunately does happen, and a baby starts to form, should the child pay for the mistakes of another? It's not the baby's fault that it was conceived in such a painful manner. It's enough torment



Irene Wu,
17, is a senior
at Troy High School

for the child to know that he or she is a living reminder of a crime; they at least deserve to live. Yet, when should a group of cells be considered a child? The Abortion Access Project states that "90% of all abortions occur by the end of the first twelve weeks," perhaps hinting that an early abortion won't cause any damage. Does it really matter when the abortion occurs? Each unborn child has the potential to become a full-grown adult who is loved by family and friends and contributes to society. Dr. Thomas

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Seeking Mother of the Year 2004

All mothers may qualify for this honor, including your mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, niece, neighbor or very dear friend. Nominations must be submitted in writing, in a minimum of 1000 words, explaining why the nominated person qualifies for "Mother of the Year." Nominations must be received no later than noon, Wednesday, March 10, 2004. The "Mother of the Year" must be a resident of Wayne, Oakland or Macomb County and able to attend the awards dinner. She will be an honored guest at Lifespan's Mother's Day Dinner on **Tuesday, May 4th, at the San Marino Club, in Troy**, where she will be awarded a plaque, a dozen long-stemmed roses and a gift certificate to Marshall-Field's. If your nominee is chosen, you will also receive a free ticket to the dinner. If the "Mother of the Year" is nominated by two or more individuals, the first one received will be eligible for the free ticket, and the nomination letter will be printed in the dinner program and *Lifespan News*. You will be asked to read your nomination letter at the dinner. In nominating the Mother of the Year 2004, please include your name, address and phone number and also the name, address and phone number of your nominee. **Mail or deliver your nomination for "Mother of the Year 2004" to be received no later than noon, on Wednesday, March 10th to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Ste. 127, Livonia, MI 48152. For more information, call 248-777-9090.**

Educational Center for Life

As the Educational Center for Life celebrates 30 years of pro-life education and service, we want to thank all of you for your prayers and financial support.

We start the New Year with several exciting projects, one of which is our annual Mothers' Day Dinner Auction. **THE AUCTION'S SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU!** Do you know someone who has a cottage or condo who would donate a week as an auction item? We encourage you to go to salons, restaurants, shops and businesses that you frequent for gift certificates. Tickets to the theater, ball games or hockey games are always a very popular item. If you know someone who knits, does wood carving or other creative activities, remind them of the opportunity to support our pro-life efforts. Money raised from the Auction allows us to bring in dynamic speakers such as Father Frank Pavone and Jennifer O'Neill this coming May. **PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND A DONATION FOR THIS YEAR'S AUCTION.**

We are also repeating our billboard campaign with the message from Jennifer O'Neill. In April, we will be co-sponsoring with Michigan Nurses for Life our annual conference on the direct relationship of abortion and breast cancer. We hope to see you there. More details to come!

Educational Center for Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G; Troy, MI 48084-3540
248-816-8489 • Fax 248-816-9066
info@edcenterforlife.org • www.edcenterforlife.org

Our Second Civil War

By Patrick Conroy

Eleven score and eight years ago, our forefathers established a new nation based on the principle that all men are created equal and are endowed by their creator with inalienable rights, including Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. When people of conscience opposed the ruling of seven Supreme Court Justices that slaves were entitled to but three-fifths the rights of white men, we suffered the most tragic type of conflict—civil war.

A score and eleven years ago, the Supreme Court legalized abortion on demand and again denied full citizenship to many of our citizens, not on the basis of race, but because of their stage of maturity, residence and absence of political power. Additionally, the court usurped the states' rights in the process, resulting in a crime against our youngest citizens and a second tragic conflict—civil war in defense of the unborn.

On January 22, 2004 we commemorate the 31st year of this crime, which has taken the lives of more victims—all completely innocent—than were taken in two World Wars. We remember 31 years of this crime, which has infected most of the globe and continues to wreak havoc in individual lives and in our culture.

But also on this day, we honor another generation of heroes—all who have joined in any manner in the Crusade for the Innocent. Many have fought this battle from the beginning and are resolved to continue the battle until all God's creatures do indeed enjoy their inalienable rights.

The world will little note nor perhaps long remember what those of us in the battle say or do, but we must remain dedicated to the unfinished work we have already advanced. For this work will eventually yield a new measure of justice and meaning to the noble goals originally intended by our country's founders and forefathers.

—President, Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati

Crisis hotline numbers

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call your local Lifespan office, pp. 8-9. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hot line number **800-BETHANY**.

Sheltering homes are available to women in crisis pregnancies, call Abigayle Ministries **586-326-0459** or Casa Vitae **248-559-5407**.

For post-abortion counseling, call Project Rachel **888-722-4355**.

For those with life-limiting illnesses, call Angela Hospice **734-464-7810**; Cranbrook Hospice **248-334-6700**, or Hospice of Michigan **888-HOM-5656**.

Project Life, Archdiocese of Detroit, offers pastoral guidance to persons considering abortion or assisted suicide. If a relative, friend or even yourself are in need of this counseling assistance, call **800-281-2102**.

Making Abortion Unthinkable

— A can't-miss seminar! —

Where: **Evangelical Covenant Church**
 Dearborn, MI

When: **Spring 2004**

After previewing the seminar materials, Right to Life - Lifespan leaders agreed...this seminar is a "must see" for anyone who wants to effectively persuade others to a pro-life position.

Spend a Saturday with us getting back to the basics of abortion while learning the Art of Pro-Life Persuasion.

Dennis Kasproicz facilitates a powerful presentation from the Stand to Reason Video Seminar Series.

The registration fee will be \$10.00.
To hold the price down, participants should bring their own lunch, beverages will be provided.

Look for further details on our website: www.rtl-lifespan.org
or in our next newsletter.

Seating is limited. Call the Main Office for reservation information — **248-777-9090**.



Third-Place Essay

A Silky Happiness

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Sullivan, who is a pediatric neurologist, says that a baby can feel pain "perhaps as early as eight weeks, but certainly by thirteen and a half weeks." No matter where the growing process is interrupted, an extinguished life is inevitable. Some may argue that unwanted babies will only crowd orphanages and lead to more cases of child abuse. CNN reports that child abuse has actually "increased since *Roe v. Wade*, despite the fact that over twenty million preborns have been slaughtered." Since America is demeaning precious human life before it even begins, how can it be expected that life will be respected after birth? Once this chain of violence starts, it will be even more difficult to shatter.

The U.S. will not be limiting freedom by fighting against the "choice" between life and death for another. Some matters definitely need to be controlled. Should the government offer the public a choice to support drunk driving, murder, abuse, illegal drugs and family violence? But what if the world's population grows too fast for supplies to maintain? First, killing humans should not even be considered as a solution. Yet the United Nations predicts that the peak of the world's population will reach approximately seven billion near the year 2040 and decline afterwards. There is no reason why the future generation should be so casually tossed away. Who is worthy enough to say who deserves life and who doesn't? Unfortunately, WebMDhealth posted an article with a study revealing that "80% of women were not depressed after having an abortion." Do these women understand what they are doing? Murdering their own children? One of the strongest bonds known to mankind is between a mother and child! They've become no better than animals; some species kill their offspring to defend territory or simply eat them, as hamsters do. But the fear comes where the possibility that these women will conform to abortion again and again; each time becomes easier to justify their actions as they approach the abortion clinic. What exactly do they tell them in the clinic? Do they give choices of dismembering the infant with suction aspiration or tearing the baby apart while crushing the head with dilation and evacuation? Even if the majority of the population demanded abortion to remain legal, it isn't necessarily all right. America once thought slavery was all right.

Selfishly, America has currently decided to rate happiness over life. To retain the stable, comfortable and original lives, other lives are deemed unworthy. Since the *Roe v. Wade* incident, America has only one victory: making dilation and extraction abortion illegal. At least the U.S. cannot have abortionists thrust scissors into a child's skull to strip out the brains. Still, it is a victory. The silky happiness has made the U.S. greedy, but those innocent silkworms, who are too hastily sacrificed, will have more triumphs. ■

"In Sickness"

continued from back page

have been challenging this idea for more than a hundred years. Where are they now? Feminists for Life is the only feminist group to object to Michael's nearly total control over his wife's destiny. Regardless of one's opinion about what course of action is in Terri's best interest, the court having given Michael such unfettered control ought to be a cause for concern.

The Florida legislature has given Terri a reprieve from her death by starvation, allowing for a little more time to sort out the wrenching issues illuminated by her predicament. I hope that Michael will divorce Terri and allow her parents to assume responsibility for her. They are convinced that with therapy, her condition can improve. Their belief is supported by recent research described in a recent *New York Times Magazine* article ("What if There Is Something Going On in There," September 28, 2003). This research suggests that "even after an injury that leaves a brain badly damaged, even after months or years with little signs of consciousness, people may still be capable of complex mental activity," and that "a vast number of people who might once have been considered vegetative actually have hidden reserves of mental activity."

This year, a man named Terry Wallis woke up after 19 years in a coma. His wife never gave up on him. If Michael is successful in his efforts to give up on Terri, we'll never know what surprises she might have for us.

— Rosemary Oelrich Bottcher, a former president of the Board of Feminists for Life of America, lives in Florida. She is a former columnist of the Tallahassee Democrat. National Review Online, November 13, 2003

Baby Showers

Lifespan is planning its 15th annual Baby Shower for crisis pregnancy centers on **Sunday, March 14.**

Continuing the tradition of caring for mothers and their babies, born and yet to be born, Lifespan will host approximately 40 baby showers simultaneously at different locations throughout the metro area. Showers are usually held from 2:00-3:30 p.m., but may also be held after church services or simply as a gift drop-off shower. If you or your church is interested in co-hosting a baby shower, please call us at 248-777-9090.

Calendar of Events

Jan. 13	Nurses for Life mtg.
Jan. 18	Rally for Life, p. 7
Jan. 21	Luminaries Displayed
Jan. 22	March for Life, p. 6
Jan. 31	Teen Concert; call 248-816-1546
March 10	Mother of the Year Nominations due, p. 12
March 10	Resource Book Ads due, p. 5
March 14	Baby Showers, p. 14
April 3	Nurses for Life Seminar
May 4	Mother's Day Dinner/Jennifer O'Neill

**Donations have been made—
In loving memory of:**

Gustie Ann Fitzgerald

Given by: Norm & Doris Macika
Pat Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. Gladwin Pascuzzo
Anonymous

Jack Burr

Given by: Ned & Terry Torti
Mici Bregant
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Charles & Catherine LaPratt
Mel & Patsy Gay
Tom & Kristi Sickles
Charles & Becky Wilson
Bill & Laurie Johnson
Mike & Cathy Clark

Paul Cuschieri

Given by: Gregory & Claudia Taffe

George Burger

Given by: Edward & Margie Soltis
Terry Colwell & Elizabeth Longley
Dr. Owen & Patty Berger
Southfield Radiology Associates

Nancy Wagatha

Given by: Wayne West/Downriver Board & Friends

Robert Troutman

Given by: Wayne West/Downriver Board & Friends

In honor of the First Birthday of:

Meghan Salter

Given by: John and Mary Martin

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died; a memorial card will be sent by Lifespan in your

name to the family of the deceased. Donations may also be made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide. A bequest in your will to Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Send donations to your local Lifespan office.

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Wow!! 2004. Where has the time gone? So many of us repeat that question at the end of one year and the beginning of the next. We are all so busy, our lives seem to blend between what we've done, what we are doing and what we have to do. Books are written on time management and how to best utilize the time we have. Yet, many of us have trouble implementing this due to the amount of work we need to do.

Why do I bring this up? It is because planning is essential in using time wisely. It is time for all of us to prioritize our time and make plans for future activities. After God and Family, each of us must act on our deep convictions as to what else is important. I ask you to consider the pro-life movement as one of your top ten choices. Be a part of the civil rights movement that will restore personhood and give constitutional rights to the preborn child. Be a part of Lifespan and our activities. There is something for everyone in which to become involved. NOW is the time—What is in your plans to stop the killing? Will Lifespan be included in your top ten list? Everyday, approximately 4400 unborn human beings die through abortion. If just a small number of people used a small amount of their time to change hearts and minds, we could change the world. In the financial world, you hear "time means money." In the pro-life world, "time means LIVES."

My sincere thanks to those of you who have made *time* for Lifespan—without you, we can do nothing. With you, in *time*, we will change the world.

—Diane Fagelman, President

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Membership Form

Right to Life - Lifespan believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the monthly newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.



_____ Annual Membership \$ 20.00
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 10.00

_____ Monthly pledge \$ _____
_____ Other \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Suite 127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736.** For more information, call 248-777-9090. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

"In Sickness"

The unfettered right to love, honor, and pull the plug

By Rosemary Oelrich Bottcher

Terri Schiavo is a married woman. Her husband, Michael, promised at their wedding to love her, to honor her, to comfort her, to keep her in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, and to be true to her as long as they both should live. After Terri was rendered severely brain-damaged due to hypoxia 13 years ago, Michael filed a medical-malpractice suit on her behalf. In his testimony for that lawsuit, Michael reaffirmed his devotion to his now-disabled wife: "I believe in the vows I took with my wife: through sickness and health, for richer or poorer. I married my wife because I love her and I want to spend the rest of my life with her. I'm going to do that." The sympathetic jury awarded Michael \$640,000 for loss of consortium; Terry was awarded nearly \$800,000 to be used for her rehabilitation and lifetime care. Because he is Terri's husband, Michael has the authority to administer this fund and to make medical decisions regarding her care.

Less than a year after the money was in the bank, Michael apparently suffered a little cognitive deficiency himself, because he seemed to forget all about his promises to his wife and to the jury. The plans for rehabilita-

tive therapy that he presented to the jury were squelched. He had a do-not-resuscitate order placed on Terri's chart. He repeatedly denied treatment for infections that Terri suffered. He began to date other women, and currently lives with a woman who had a child by him. They are expecting another and plan to marry when Terri dies.

Terri's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, objected to what they perceived as Michael's neglect of Terri's needs, so in 1993 they filed a petition to have him removed as Terri's guardian. Thus began one of the ugliest family feuds of all time.

Michael demands that Terri not be fed or given water, claiming that she told him before she became disabled that she would rather die than be dependent on tubes. He declares that Terri has no significant mental function, so it is up to him as her loving husband to ensure that her desire to die be fulfilled. Terri's parents say that they have known her a lot longer than Michael has, and they never heard her say any such thing. Furthermore, they claim that Terri is not a vegetable, and that she responds to their attention in a meaningful way. They want Terri to live, and they want her to be provided the rehabilitative care that was supposed to have been funded by the malpractice award.

Michael has prevailed in the courts. Even Michael can offer no evidence about Terri's wishes but his word. He is her husband; therefore, the courts have agreed that he should have nearly absolute control over her fate, and her parents none at all.

Why did the courts accept such weak evidence as to whether Terri would want to be fed in her current condition? (If she did tell her husband what he claims she did, was it a well-thought-out opinion or just the sort of casual remark that healthy young people are prone to make?)

Michael wants to marry his current girlfriend but of course cannot as long as he is married to Terri. But if he simply divorces her he will no longer stand to inherit her property, including whatever remains of her medical fund (incredibly, the court allowed him to pay his legal fees from this fund, which was intended to provide care for his wife; he has already paid his lawyers nearly \$400,000 from it in his efforts to end her life.)

It seems odd that a husband with such questionable motives should be granted so much power over his wife's life. The case reminds one of the old view of marriage as the incorporation of the wife into the husband's legal and social identity: Married women had no independent rights. Feminists

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Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

**Wayne West/Downriver Chapter
27592 Schoolcraft Rd.
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