

# Yuba-Sutter Right to Life Committee

Quarterly Bulletin

Phone 674-9843! email [webmaster@ysrtl.org](mailto:webmaster@ysrtl.org)! [www.ysrtl.org](http://www.ysrtl.org)

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## Pro-Life 101

Wow! We can't think of a better word to describe Scott **Klusendorf** and his Pro-Life 101 Seminar. Scott is a truly dynamic presenter who is able to synthesize the pro-life argument into just a few points that anyone can learn and use to defend life. Around 40 people attended our seminar on April 7. We even received positive coverage in the *Appeal Democrat!* We hope to be able to bring Scott back and give more people the opportunity to participate in a similar forum.



Scott emphasizes a point

We also hope that those who attended were motivated to become more involved in the pro-life movement. We need more members to **actively** participate in our ministry. Please prayerfully consider what **you** might do, such as give a presentation to your church or other group. We're here to help—give us a call (Maureen, 673-1437) or email ([webmaster@ysrtl.org](mailto:webmaster@ysrtl.org)).

This was the first time Yuba-Sutter Right to Life sponsored such an event. It was a lot of work but well worth the effort. Special thanks go to Event Coordinator Patty Justus.

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## Assisted **Suicide** & Euthanasia

There is a growing movement in this country to allow assisted suicide. In fact, there are even those who promote the idea that those of us who have outlived our normal lifespan, or are seriously ill, constitute a drain on the economy and have a **duty** to die.

Our neighboring state Oregon legalized assisted suicide in 1997. Californians have in the past voted against measures to legalize it, but make no mistake, proponents will be back with more attempts to allow physicians to assist their patients into death.

The California ProLife Council has produced a video, *Death as a Salesman*, to help counter this movement. The video succinctly describes the difference between **causing death** (assisted suicide) and **helping a person through the dying process** (hospice and palliative care). We purchased a copy and if you are interested in viewing it, either individually or perhaps setting up a presentation for your church, please contact us.

## Designer babies?

“Oct. 4, 2000—Like a lot of sick kids, 6-year-old Molly Nash has just had a bone marrow transplant, which aims to replace her diseased bone marrow with cells taken from a sibling.” (*Gay Franken-field, RN, WebMD Medical News*)

Gosh, modern medicine is just great, isn't it? A little girl has a good chance of surviving because her sibling, fortuitously, was a suitable donor. But there's more to this story, and it will make your blood run cold.

Using in vitro fertilization, doctors have been creating **embryos** outside the womb for a number of years. The

## New YSRTL Brochure

Our old brochure had long been in need of revising and updating. We needed something that would attract the eye of the potential member—if the brochure didn't look appealing, no one would pick it up and thereby reap the benefits.

Patty Justus volunteered to spearhead this project. Thanks to her hard work and dedication, we are pleased to enclose a copy with this Newsletter.

Please share your copy with others, and contact us to obtain more copies.

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## **STD** Epidemic

A recent Associated Press release reports that more than 65 million Americans are infected with one or more sexually transmitted diseases. That's an astounding 22 percent of the population. The article also notes transmission of many of these diseases can be prevented by using condoms. **No mention is made that ALL infections can be prevented by abstinence, or by a lifelong, monogamous relationship—i.e., marriage!**

technique is generally used to enable previously infertile couples to have children. Every time egg and sperm are united, a new life begins. Embryos thus conceived are then implanted, if they're lucky. If more than one egg and one sperm are involved, the “extra” embryos (**new lives**) are frozen and, most often, later discarded. This has been going on

for decades, and now the next step has been taken.

Little Molly was born with Fanconi anemia, a rare genetic disease that could cause her death by age 35. Her parents wanted to conceive another child so that the new baby could provide an umbilical cord blood transplant. They didn't want to take any chances that the sibling would also have the disease, so 15 embryos were created and grown to between eight and 12 cells. One cell was then removed from each embryo and tested. Only one of the embryos was free of the disease, and was implanted in the mother. **The other 14 embryos were destroyed.**

Columnist Ellen Goodman put it perfectly with her comment that this child was conceived "...not just to be a son, but a medical treatment."

We don't know if the term "abortion" is technically correct to describe the destruction of these 14, and all the other unwanted, embryos, but it is no less the termination of human life which begins at conception. And how long will it be before we start screening embryos not just for disease but for other undesirable traits? We are living in a *Brave New World* as

outrageous as that envisaged by Aldous Huxley in his 1934 novel.

## Legislative Update

Following are some of the bills we are tracking that potentially impact life issues. For more detailed information, please visit our website, [www.ystrtl.org](http://www.ystrtl.org).

### Federal:

**Unborn Victims of Violence Act (HR 503, S 480):** On April 26 the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 503 by a vote of 252-172. This bill, which was supported by the Bush administration, legally recognizes unborn children as victims when they are injured or killed during the commission of one of 68 already-defined federal crimes of violence. Twenty four states already have laws that recognize unborn children as victims of violent crimes.

While this is further recognition at the Federal level of the reality that unborn babies are human, it also explicitly exempts legal abortion. However, it is at least another step in the right direction. As this is written, it appears

the deadline for action in the Senate is mid-June. Please contact Senators Boxer and Feinstein and request their support for this Bill. Their address is U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20004.

### State:

**SB 780: Protection of the Exercise of Constitutional Rights:** This bill, known as a "Pro-Life Profiling" bill provides state civil remedy for the commission of acts prohibited under federal law (certain activities that interfere with a person's access to reproduction health facilities). **Passed out of Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committees May 1 and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.**

**SB 862: School Safety:** States that a person is prohibited from knowingly approaching a pupil within 8 feet, without the pupil's consent, for the purpose of passing a leaflet, displaying a sign, or engaging in oral protest or counseling with the pupil within a radius of 100 feet from any entrance to a public school. This would discourage distribution of pro-life literature on school campuses. **In Senate Committee.**

**Maureen is scheduling people to work at the Yuba-Sutter Fair August 1 through 5. If you have worked the booth in the past and want to work again, please call 673-1437 and let her know when you are available. If you have not worked but are interested, also let her know.**

We encourage you to renew your annual membership in YSRTL for 2001 by returning this form along with a \$10 check for your membership dues. However, if you want to remain on our mailing list but cannot afford the dues at this time, please check the appropriate box.

If you have recently paid for your membership or made a contribution, please confirm by checking the appropriate box and returning the form.

- Membership contribution enclosed:
  - \$10       \$25       \$50       \$100       \$250       Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Membership for 2001 already paid
- Mail list only
- I would like more information about the following:
  - Doctor's Office Literature Project       Fair Booth Volunteer
  - Speakers Bureau       Life Chain       Library Project
- I am interested in becoming more active in pro-life activities. Please contact me.
- Please correct my address, as follows: \_\_\_\_\_