



Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

NEWSLETTER IMPOSED DEATH

November 2003
Newsletter #38

Excellent Speakers at Euthanasia Symposium

The Euthanasia Symposium in Toronto on October 25, 2003 featured speakers Ruth Enns, Dr. Ian Dowbiggin and Wesley Smith.

Ruth Enns, the author of the book "A Voice Unheard" - the definitive book on the Tracy Latimer case, spoke on the Latimer murder trial, the Canadian response to it and the disability perspective. Enns effectively demonstrated the relationship between the dehumanizing of Tracy and the reaction of Canadians to the trial.

She also explained the perspective of Canadians with disabilities by showing us how this case represented a part of the regular cultural experience of persons with disabilities.

Dr. Ian Dowbiggin, chair of the history department at UPEI and the author of "A Merciful End" examined the Euthanasia movement in the light of the eugenics philosophy. Dowbiggin proved how the eugenics movement and the euthanasia society were composed of the same leadership and philosophy as the eugenics movement.

Dowbiggin also explained the cultural implications of the eugenics philosophy and showed how it effects our society today.

Wesley Smith, (author of "Forced Exit")

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Euthanasia Prevention Coalition needs your support to help Toronto woman

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition is seeking to intervene in a case of an 81 year old woman in Toronto who is being denied basic life-sustaining medical care.

The woman, who is believed to have Alzheimer's Disease, has a legal power of attorney for personal care document which states that she wants medical treatment and her daughter who is her power of attorney supports her mothers wishes. The woman is not PVS.

In 1996, the woman's husband died from Alzheimer's Disease. She was disappointed with the level of care her husband received and wanted to make sure that her power of attorney would guarantee her medical treatment if necessary.

The hospital claims that her quality of life is poor and further medical care, beyond comfort care is futile.

Due to the woman's condition it is a basic necessity of life that she receive medical treatment.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition needs \$5,000.00 to proceed with application to intervene in this case. **Please help us.**

Life Death and Silence

By: Wesley Smith

The Daily Standard - Oct 31, 2003

Why the media elites won't tell the full story on Terri's prognosis and Michael Schiavo

For Months, as the Terri Schiavo case roiled much of the country, the establishment media all but ignored the story. But then, in the midst of her dying by dehydration, the Florida Legislature passed "Terri's Law," authorizing Governor Jeb Bush to place a moratorium on the dehydration deaths of certain cognitively disabled patients, including Terri. When that happened, the media blackout transformed into media frenzy.

It soon became quite clear, however, that increased media attention was not synonymous with increased dissemination of relevant facts. For despite carpet coverage of the controversy in establishment outlets, the full story *still* isn't being told for the simple reason that most media refuse to report it.

What are these ignored facts?

(1) Michael Schiavo has lived with his fiancée for nearly eight years and has sired two children by her. In the years since Terri's devastating disability, Schiavo has gone on with his life, fallen in love with another woman, and started a family. Few would hold this against him—if he

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would turn Terri's care over to her parents. Instead, Schiavo insists that he should retain all the rights of a husband—including inheritance and retention of marital property—as he simultaneously enjoys connubial bliss and sweet domesticity with his fiancé.

By siring two children with another woman, Michael effectively estranged himself from his marriage. Surely, thinking people would want to know this fact. Yet Schiavo's new family is consistently unmentioned. Instead, he is almost always depicted simply as a "husband" struggling in-laws and right-to-lifers to fulfill his wife's stated desire to die.

The entire episode is beginning to take on the feel of a conspiracy of silence. Consider the following very partial list:

Newsweek's extensive report on the story ("Who Has the Right to Die" by Arian Campo-Flores, November 3, 2003) laudably mentioned both sides of many of the controversies in the case—indeed more than most other stories—but significantly omitted Schiavo's new family.

Similarly, in the New York Times's many recent articles, opinion columns, and in its editorial against Terri's Law, Schiavo's extracurricular activities were completely ignored. Its October 23 editorial merely stated:

Michael Schiavo, her husband and legal guardian, went to court seeking to cut off the feeding tube that was keeping her alive. He testified that Ms. Schiavo, who did not have a living will, would not have wanted the feeding to continue.

Sounds reasonable. But imagine how different readers' impression of the case would be if the editorial had included the total context, by stating,

"Michael Schiavo, who remains legally married to Ms. Schiavo but has sired two children with his fiancée, went to court seeking to cut off the feeding tube."

The Christian Science Monitor editorialized on October 29 that challenges to spousal decisions in these matters by other family members "could lead to chaos." Would the editors have been able to express that opinion with a straight face if they had included the facts about Schiavo's new life?

Could it be that the reporters and editors who are writing and editing these pieces don't *know* Schiavo has established a new family? That's hard to believe. Indeed, in at least in one case I know the reporter knew the story because I told it to him and he still failed to report it (or perhaps, the editor removed it from his final copy).

Manuel Roig-Franzia interviewed me for a story on Jeb Bush's ordering Terri's food and water restored. We spoke at some length during which I made a point of emphasizing Schiavo's current domestic circumstances. Yet, when his front page story appeared (including a brief quote from me), there was no mention of these facts, despite their clear relevance to the following assertion:

Terri Schiavo left no written instructions, but her husband testified that she told him she would not want to live in a vegetative state. The courts have been clear, legal experts said, that spouses have the authority to make decisions in such cases.

But the real issue is whether *estranged* spouses have the authority. In this case, shouldn't that be the pertinent point?

(2) Many medical experts believe Terri can be improved. Most media reports depict the medical prognosis for Terri as being settled fact. Thus, stories have described her as "comatose," which she is not, and vegetative, which remains a matter of dispute despite courts ruling otherwise.

But it is a matter of court record that many doctors and medical therapists who specialize in rehabilitating people with profound cognitive disabilities have testified that Terri's condition *can* possibly be improved. This includes board certified neurologists and reputable speech therapists, such as Sarah Green Mele from the world-renowned Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Indeed, Mele stated in an affidavit that Terri would, "within a reasonable degree of clinical probability, be able to improve her ability to interact with her environment, communicate with others, and control her environment if she were given appropriate therapy and training . . ."

But since the judge sided with Schiavo's experts, the media has acted as if that settles the matter. But this isn't akin to a situation of "he said / she said." We don't have to believe one side over the other. There is a simple way to find out for sure whether Terri can be improved: allow her to receive therapy for six months and then take another look. Too bad the media generally refuses to report that Judge George Greer of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court in Clearwater, Florida, won't permit that.

(3) Many opponents of dehydrating Terri are not "pro-life" The establishment media's consensus view is that the Schiavo controversy is being driven by religious, pro-life fundamentalists who have insinuated

themselves into a family tragedy in order to further their own narrow sectarian purposes. Thus, when Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry briefly surfaced as a defender of Terri's life, the New York Times happily splashed the story all over its front page warning darkly that religious conservatives intend to parlay the public interest generated by Terri's case as a wedge to "chip away at court rulings allowing abortion and banning organized prayer in schools and the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools, among other issues." (The article was titled "Victory in Florida Feeding Case Emboldens the Religious Right.")

It is true, of course, that many Christians—most of them conservative—have joined the fray, and good for them. But so too has Joe Lieberman, a top tier candidate for the Democrat presidential nomination. Lieberman, who is not Christian, not conservative, and not pro-life, courageously supported Jeb Bush's efforts to save Terri's life, telling the Associated Press, "where there is not a living will . . . we ought not to create a system where people are being deprived of nutrition and hydration in a way that ends their lives."

The politically liberal disability rights movement has also committed itself to saving Terri's life. Indeed, activists almost unanimously declare that dehydrating Terri would be an act of bigotry against her because of her cognitive disability. There was even an effort in Canada to obtain asylum for on this score. This is why more than a dozen national disability rights groups signed the National Disability Groups Joint Statement in Support of Terri Schiavo, which reads in part:

In this matter of living as a disabled person, those of us who live with a

disability are the experts—not husbands, not parents, not doctors, not ethicists. We know that life with a disability is worth living, and we know something we find appalling is the attitude of "better off dead"—an opinion that drives much of the thinking surrounding people like Terri-Schindler-Schiavo.

- Why is the establishment media covering the Schiavo story as if it wants Michael to succeed in his campaign to end Terri's life?

The establishment media usually reflects the attitudes of society's elites, who *do* generally believe that people like Terri are better off dead. On the other hand, talk-radio and the Internet—what I call dissident media—generated the unprecedented outpouring of support for Terri's life that culminated in Terri's Law. Members of the establishment disdain dissident media and perceive it to be a threat.

Thus, the Schiavo case has, for the mainstream media, become a potent symbol both of the culture wars—pro-life versus pro-choice—and an acute challenge by dissident media to its hegemony over news dissemination.

Too bad for Bob and Mary Schindler, Terri's folks: They aren't trying to lead a crusade. They don't want to undercut the cultural and media status quo. They just want to save their dear daughter's life.

Wesley J. Smith is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute and an attorney and consultant for the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide. He is the author of "Forced Exit: The Slippery Slope from Assisted Suicide to Legalized Murder."

Newly Released Schiavo Tapes Stir Emotion, Debate

Clearwater, Fl. (TNN)

November 10, 2003

The Pinellas County Court has released four hours of Terri Schiavo video never before seen by the public.

The video, taken last year without the permission of her husband Michael, shows Terri smiling at the voice and touch of her mother, following the path of a balloon with her eyes on several occasions, moaning, and responding to a command to open her eyes.

The Schindler's say the most profound evidence that Terri is not in a "persistent vegetative state" exists in the following sequence of events:

Dr. William Hammesfahr, a Clearwater neurologist asks Schiavo to open her eyes. At first, her eyelids flutter. She slowly turns her head toward Hammesfahr, gradually opening her eyes. Then her eyebrows lift into an arch - she appears to display an expression of astonishment. "Good job!" the doctor exults on tape. "Good job, young lady!"

Michael Schiavo and his attorney, George Felos, say all the actions exhibited on the tape are "involuntary reflexes," and are pursuing legal action to have her feeding tube removed again.

Terri Schiavo has been incapacitated for the last 13 years after her potassium levels dropped so low her heart stopped beating. Doctors say the incident caused trauma to her brain. But the question of how much trauma is what lies at the center of the controversy.

"She looks at you, she can follow commands," said Clearwater neurologist William Hammesfahr. Hammesfahr's opinion was echoed by Drs. William S. Maxfield and John Young, who have examined Schiavo at her parents' request during the long legal battle over her fate. Maxfield, a radiologist, said CT scans from last summer show some damage but not the massive loss of tissue described by others. "People ought to know she can be rehabilitated," he said.

Tectin TM clinical trials successful

International Wex Technologies Inc.: Phase IIa Interim Analysis on Tectin(TM) for Severe Cancer Related Pain to be Presented at Scientific Meeting

International Wex Technologies Inc. is pleased to announce that the results of the Phase IIa interim analysis have been accepted for scientific presentation at the 18th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Biological Therapy of Cancer to be held in Bethesda, Maryland between October 30 and November 2, 2003.

The abstract will be presented on November 1, 2003 by Dr. Edward Sellers, Senior Medical Consultant to the Company and President & CEO of Ventana Clinical Research Corp.

The first author of the abstract is Dr. Neil Hagen, the study's Lead Investigator and Head of the Division of Palliative Medicine, Department of Oncology, University of Calgary, Alberta. The Phase IIa trial was primarily designed to assess the efficacy and safety of tetrodotoxin (Tectin(TM)) in cancer patients with medically refractory pain at seven Canadian centres: Saskatoon,

Edmonton, Calgary, London, Montreal, and Toronto.

The interim analysis showed Tectin(TM) to be clinically meaningful as it relieved chronic pain in more than two-thirds (68%) of cancer pain patients pain in this study.

Dr. Edward Sellers stated "This study is special because these patients have failed to respond to existing treatment. In these individuals, that level of response is particularly important. Continued on Last Page

These interim results are quite encouraging and they indicate that a double-blind, controlled trial should be initiated immediately".

As was announced on October 21, 2003, the Company is taking immediate steps to file a Clinical Trial Application (CTA) with Health Canada to begin a Phase IIb/III pivotal clinical trial. International Wex Technologies Inc., a publicly listed neuro-bioscience company (WXI), is focused on the development and commercialization of innovative drug products, primarily for pain management. The Company's lead compound, Tetrodotoxin, a sodium channel blocker, is the platform for the Company's development of a portfolio of proprietary products in the field of analgesia, drug addiction withdrawal treatment, and local anaesthesia.

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"Power over Pain", "Culture of Death" and attorney for the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide) spoke about the case of Terri Schiavo and the Culture of Death that has invaded medical ethics.

Wesley explained the background information in the Schiavo case within its historical context and emphasized how this case has the potential to reverse the onslaught of "Mercy Killing" in our society. There has been a slippery slope concerning the starvation and dehydration of people with cognitive disabilities. For the first time a face was associated with starvation and dehydration.

Terri's law was passed by the Florida legislature in two days giving Governor Jeb Bush the ability to intervene in cases of starvation and dehydration. This was possible only due to the force of the public demanding that Terri be saved.

The second part of Wesley Smith's presentation concerned the invasion of a Culture of Death into medical ethics. The second part of his talk dovetailed with the first.

Wesley explained that the concept of Do No Harm (Hippocratic Oath) has been eroded by the bio-ethics movement. The most respected bio-ethics writers consider quality of life as the determining factor for deciding whether to provide medical care. The problem with the quality of life ethic is that it is completely subjective and results in the abandonment of the most vulnerable people in society.

The Symposium video tapes can be purchased from the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition for: **Ruth Enn** Tape \$15.00, **Dr. Ian Dowbiggin** Tape \$15.00, **Wesley Smith**: Tape #1 - Terri Schiavo \$15.00, Tape #2 - Culture of Death \$15.00 both Tapes \$25.00, all **four Tapes for \$50.00.**

To order the Symposium Video tapes call: 1-877-439-3348.