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Pennsylvanians for Human Life / SWR

Spring 2006

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**PHL / BUTLER**

PENNSYLVANIANS FOR  
HUMAN LIFE / SWR

*Butler Chapter*  
PO Box 93  
Butler, PA 16003-0093

# Butler Chapter

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## **Frontal Assault on *Roe v. Wade***

On February 24, 2006, the South Dakota legislature passed a bill that prohibits abortion in all cases except to save the life of the mother. South Dakota's governor, Mike Rounds, signed the legislation into law on March 6, 2006, triggering the inevitable lawsuit by the pro-abortion forces and setting up a Supreme Court showdown over the fate of *Roe v. Wade*.

**Choose Life!**

**Spring 2006**

**Pray for Life!!**



South Dakota's legislature decided to pass this law now since suspected pro-life judge Samuel Alito has replaced retired pro-abortion justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court. The hope is that the remade Supreme Court sees *Roe* for what it is: bad law with no basis in the Constitution. Other states are beginning to follow suit with restrictive bans on abortion, expecting to take advantage of *Roe's* demise.

There are some in the pro-life movement that worry this frontal assault on *Roe* is a bit risky. Their theory here is that, should the Supreme Court end up striking down South Dakota's law and upholding *Roe*, it would give added credence to *Roe* and set the movement back. Though we have the best chance yet to get a favorable outcome from the Supreme Court, the best we could hope for is a 5-4 decision in favor of life. A decision this close could go the other way. Better to take a more cautious incremental approach and make certain that when *Roe* is ultimately challenged, it falls.

The incremental approach, though it has taken time, has worked for the pro-life movement. After the Human Life Amendment (a direct counterattack against *Roe*) failed, we had no choice but to chip away at *Roe* and change hearts and minds over time. Were it not for this new strategy and the successes it yielded, we may not have gotten to where we are today.

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## Getting Rid of Roe (cont'd)

Some of these incremental victories include:

- 1 Preventing federal funding for abortion;
- 2 Parental notification requirements on abortion;
- 3 Informed consent/waiting period laws;
- 4 Partial-birth abortion bans, and;
- 5 Unborn victims of violence legislation that recognizes unborn babies as victims in crimes perpetrated against their mothers.

True, some of these legislative victories have been overturned by pro-abortion courts, but each new debate and law has better prepared our country to accept, indeed welcome, the day when *Roe* is reversed.

As successful as the incremental approach has been, however, it seems to be an approach best followed when the direct assault cannot work. At no time in the last 33 years has the Supreme Court seemed willing to dismiss *Roe*. Now that is a possibility.

Waiting for a more ironclad pro-life majority on the Supreme Court carries its own risks. If, God forbid, the next nominee is presented by a pro-abortion president, we are at best in the same situation we are today (if the outgoing justice is pro-abortion) or at worst in a poorer position (if the outgoing justice is pro-life). Even if the next change in the Supreme Court involves a pro-life justice replacing a pro-abortion one, it could be some time off. South Dakota's challenge to *Roe* will not be decided for some time. If the Supreme Court moves more to the pro-life side in the near term, then when the case finally arrives before the Supreme Court, we will have that much better a chance of success. If the stronger pro-life majority comes along after this particular assault on *Roe* fails, there will certainly be another challenge lodged for the new Supreme Court to hear. Waiting for a stronger pro-life court makeup before challenging *Roe* could delay the entire process by years.

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A couple more things about the South Dakota situation . . .

- Planned Parenthood plans to get the ban on the November ballot for residents to consider.
- South Dakota's governor, though he signed the bill, would have preferred to attack *Roe* in a more piecemeal fashion.
- A South Dakota indian tribe has threatened to open an abortion business on its land, which is not subject to the ban, should the ban take effect.

## Donations

### LifeLine

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- John R. Stumpf* by Joe & Rose Stumpf
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- Baby Lorenzini & Rita Ehrman* by Mary Jo Koch
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#### In Memory of:

- Wilma J. Manuel* by Dorothy Kriley
- Samuel Lasky* by wife, Eleanor
- R. James Stepp* by Mary Jo Koch

#### Other Donations:

- Carol Foster Appraisals
- Dorothy F. Bober

## Thank You!

Our thanks to the many faithful members of our newsletter crew who gather, on very short notice, to help prepare the letters for mailing — fold, seal, sort, laugh, talk, snack! We couldn't do it without you.

Betty Jane & Mary Jo

## Visit the PHL Website

You are invited to visit PHL online! Our website, [phlbutler.org](http://phlbutler.org), contains past editions of our newsletter, lots of great links to other pro-life resources, current action alerts and other useful and interesting information. Among the topics/alerts currently receiving attention on the website are the Life at Conception Act and Representative Daryl Metcalfe's call to for state de-funding of Planned Parenthood.

If you are interested in receiving legislative alerts or receiving the newsletter electronically, please contact Marj Vincent at [marjvincent@zoominternet.net](mailto:marjvincent@zoominternet.net).

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## PHL Farm Show Booth Coordinator Needed

As you may know, PHL has an annual presence at the Butler Farm Show in August. This year we are looking for a volunteer to help organize the group's booth and coordinate the staffing of this booth. You won't be on your own . . . you'll have plenty of support from the group! If interested, please contact Betty Furka at 724-287-4955. Thanks!

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## Mother's Day Tribute

If you would like to honor loved ones by having their names printed in the *Butler Eagle* on May 13, 2006, please complete the following form, accompanied by \$2.00 per name. Forms must be received by PHL by May 4, 2006. Please mail to: Pennsylvanians for Human Life, Butler Chapter, P.O. Box 93, Butler, PA 16003-0093.

Please honor the following people in the *Butler Eagle*:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Living  Deceased

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Living  Deceased

Deadline: May 4, 2006

## Positive Press in *Glamour*? Life Important for the Young Set

I'm a guy and I usually don't read *Glamour* Magazine. As a Dad of two teenage kids and a child at Penn State, I do not match the typical profile of the reader that *Glamour* is looking for.

My curiosity was piqued, though, when I was in a waiting room and saw an article on why young women are not "pro choice" anymore. My impression of *Glamour* is that it has a liberal bent to it. Their articles usually don't include positive articles on the pro-life movement . . . but I was wrong.

The article talked about women now being aware that it **is** a baby . . . and when one has an abortion, it **does** kill a precious little one. It talked about three key things:

1. Technology like the GE 4-D ultrasound that allows them to see the baby in the womb of the mother. They see it suck its thumb, move around, and often what sex the young one is. It is a **baby**!
2. Partial Birth Abortion has been seen as cruel and ruthless murder of babies that could easily be born. Pictures and descriptions of the baby that has been in the womb of his mother for almost nine months who is already 75% outside of the birth canal but has an incision placed in the back of his neck so that an abortionist can suck out the contents of his skull are more than most of the civilized citizens of America can handle.
3. We are no longer dependent on TV and our newspapers for the truth. There are websites, blogs, the internet, and other ways to gain access to information that previously was hidden or hard to get to.

Men and women, aged 18-30, are now the **most** pro-life group in America. This is one of the main reasons why abortions are at the lowest levels in over 25 years. Young people are now making decisions for themselves based upon the truth that is now available to the entire world. For those who are interested in more information about the trends and reasons why abortions are going down, go to our website, [phlbutler.org](http://phlbutler.org).

Sincerely yours,

Larry Black  
Chairman

## Pro-Life Panoply

As new pro-life legislation from the Dakotas winds its way up the judicial ladder towards a Supreme Court which seems to be more pro life, I can't help but think all of those pro-life pioneers that have labored in the trenches of local organizations for many years . . . years of pushing pro-life legislation, working to elect pro-life candidates, chiding politicians who support abortion, assisting the mothers with material, emotional and spiritual needs. This may be as good a time as any to give these soldiers a vote of thanks for all their efforts.

I was reminded of the need to express this gratitude by a PHL/Lifeline worker who spoke to me after church last Sunday, passing on regards of the PHL officers in Butler. While this column will single out four pro-life workhorses, there are many others who deserve our thanks. Perhaps workhorse is not a flattering term, particularly to the ladies. Maybe a football term like the "fearsome foursome" is more flattering. I know pro-abortion politicians fear to see them coming.

Larry Black, Gretchen Cararie, Mary Jo Koch and Betty Furka are the rocks of pro-life granite I refer to. Larry has been PHL Chairman in Butler for more years than he cares to admit. He has guided the organization through the shoals of abortion folks trying to limit our tax-exempt status, and has helped organize many educational

activities over the years. All of this while keeping a firm hand on the administrative tiller and, of course, raising a family with his wife, Pam, and keeping up a successful business career.

Among her other positions, Gretchen Cararie has been the organizing genius behind the Butler County March for Life contingent since the *Roe v. Wade* decision came down (I think she was in high school when she organized the first bus trip). I remember we started off with one bus leaving from St. Paul's. Now we take at least twelve busloads each year for the march.

Mary Jo Koch has held a number of leadership positions in PHL, including treasurer and Mother's Day ad coordinator. She has kept PHL in line for years as to what we could afford to do. To those of us who have trouble balancing our own checkbooks, Mary Jo has been a Godsend. She also has been in the leadership of Lifeline, the crisis pregnancy center.

I first met Betty Furka, along with her husband Steve, when I became involved in the movement in the late 70's. Steve was a stalwart in PHL (and an excellent teacher in the Butler schools) until his death from cancer a few years ago. Betty has been the soul, if not the heart, of Lifeline since its inception. She, Mary Jo, and others, have always encouraged the PHL wing of the

## Pro-Life Panoply (cont'd)

movement to get involved in training the Lifeline workers so that they would be knowledgeable not only in counseling techniques, but in the legislation and political intricacies of the abortion issue.

Over the years, of course, there have been many other pioneers who have worked hard in Butler for the pro-life cause: Sandy, Windy and Dorothy, Bob, Mary Lou, Dorothy and Rudy, John, etc., etc. I know I am leaving out many names. We are grateful for your long-standing service. And we are also thankful for those who

have joined the fray since those early days of the 70's and 80's.

Whenever I would get tired of going out and giving another slide presentation to maybe eight people on a snowy night in Slippery Rock, I would try to remember St. Paul's admonition, "Never grow weary of doing what is right." These folks have heeded the call and God will say, "Well done good and faithful servants."

- Rick Givan

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## Lynn Swann to Run for Governor

Lynn Swann, a Hall of Fame receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers during the 1970's, will be opposing Governor Ed Rendell in the November 2006 Pennsylvania gubernatorial race.

In a recent interview, Swann stated that he opposes abortion and is gathering more input on stem cell research before forming an opinion on it. When asked if he would sign legislation banning abortions should the Supreme Court overturn *Roe v. Wade*, Swann replied, "Well if they send it to the states to decide . . . as opposed to making a decision that abortions are illegal, then I would sign [legislation] making abortions illegal."

Asked what it means to be pro-life, Swann answered, "That you're in favor of life. That you do not believe in abortion. That you look for alternative measures and means other than having an abortion."

With regard to stem cell research, Swann indicated that he was "not an expert when it comes to that kind of research at this particular time," and that he would need to learn more about the science involved and consult further with the medical community.

In 2004, Governor Rendell lent his support to the pro-abortion group NARAL to raise \$25 million for its election efforts.