## Michigan ban on assisted suicide back in effect

Lansing, MI — Helping someone commit suicide became a felony again on June 22 in Michigan when a court decided to review a ban aimed at Jack Kevorkian, who has been present for 16 suicides.

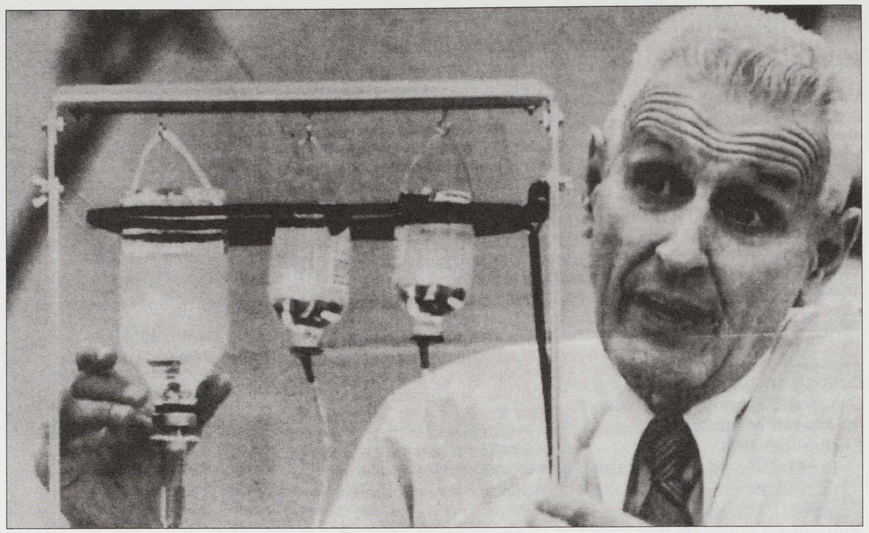
The state Court of Appeals voted 2-1 to hear oral arguments in the case as soon as possible and blocked a judge's order that overturned the ban.

The Legislature rushed the law into effect February 25 to stop Kevorkian, a retired pathologist who invented a suicide machine. The law makes assisting in a suicide punishable by up to four years in prison and a $2,000 fine.

On May 20, Circuit Judge Cynthia Diane Stephens struck down the law on technical grounds.

Kevorkian has vowed to defy the law and had been "present" at one suicide since the law took effect. He wasn't charged, however, because prosecutors said there wasn't enough evidence that he "assisted" the suicide.

State Attorney General Frank Kelley asked the appeals court to review Stephens' ruling, which came on a challenge of the ban by the Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.



## Dutch back off slightly from killer law

The Dutch government said on June 11 that it would amend a controversial euthanasia law in concession to the Senate, the upper chamber of their parliament.

The draft law allows doctors to perform mercy killings at a patient's explicit request as long as they comply with strict guidelines.

The amended law will make clear that doctors who perform voluntary euthanasia according to the official guidelines will be prosecuted only in exceptional circumstances, while in contrast, involuntary euthanasia would almost always lead to prosecution.

In both cases, euthanasia will technically remain a criminal offense.

The Netherlands hopes the new law can take effect by January 1, 1994, making it the first country to regulate euthanasia. Most other governments have found the issue too controversial to legislate.

### Hemlock wavers on "civil disobedience" killing

The Hemlock Society, a pro-euthanasia group, does not want to be officially associated with a new Washington-based group, Compassion in Dying, which will "assist with the rational suicide of terminally ill persons" but they are perfectly willing to promote the group in their newsletters.

"This organization will knowingly practice civil disobedience," the paper said.

The new organization's address is given out through their publication in Florida but they hastily add a disclaimer saying, "Because assisted suicide is a felony in Washington State and in most other states, The Hemlock Society U.S.A. cannot provide such assistance."

"I guess Hemlock is not very committed to their 'cause,'" said one pro-life observer. "This new group, it seems, wants to legitimize the Kevorkian method — Kill'em first, and let the courts sort it out!"

## Clinic aborter offers newsletter from prison

John Brockhoeft, currently serving time in a federal penitentiary in Ashland, Kentucky for the burning of Planned Parenthood's Margaret Sanger Center abortion clinic in December of 1985 in Mt. Auburn, Ohio, has released a newsletter, *The Brockhoeft Report*, which discusses abortion, the use of force, and other issues.

Brockhoeft, of Hebron, Kentucky, first served 26 months in Florida after being apprehended carrying explosives in the trunk of his car in the vicinity of the infamous Ladies' Center in Pensacola. He was later charged with the other fire.

Brockhoeft has described himself as a member of the "Army of God for the Unborn."

His seven-year sentence almost ended after 23 months with parole in December of 1992, but an outcry from Planned Parenthood and the judge who had sentenced him resulted in a reversal of the Parole Board's decision.

Brockhoeft's newsletter is printed and distributed by a friend residing in Oregon and is available upon request to P.O. Box 5212, Grants Pass, Oregon 97527 and $8 for printing costs. None of the money goes to Brockhoeft himself, who says that the friend is "too shy to ask" for the donation.

## Impeach Clinton... for real?

Reports have reached some in the pro-life community that a movement to impeach President Clinton is afoot. One of the organizers of the Impeach Clinton Campaign (P.O. Box 671054, Dallas, TX 75367) claims to have done extensive research and discovered that a president can be impeached if he "causes injury to the confidence of the nation."





# Political Correctness and Dr. Gunn

by Laurette Elsberry

The reigning American media wasted no time in condemning Michael Griffin as a monster as soon as it was announced that it was he who had shot mass abortionist, Dr. David Gunn. Gunn was entering a Florida abortorium to begin another grisly day killing yet another dozen or so innocent, defenseless, prenatal babies to add to the tens of thousands he had personally killed. Gunn died two hours later in surgery.

Pro-life activists are not surprised at the media response. We are not surprised that the wrathful abortion industry, and their sexual liberation friends, the militant homosexuals and radical feminists, joined in the resulting media hysteria, trying to whip people into a frenzy of fear at the specter of rabid pro-life "fanatics and zealots" ready to ambush every abortionist at his doorstep at the next available opportunity.

All of the pro-death forces jumped at the chance to decry all pro-life efforts and anyone who supports or even holds pro-life sentiments, since, by implication, pro-life thinking was the ultimate cause and all pro-life activists were accomplices in the killing of Dr. Gunn.

We do not know the state of Michael Griffin's mind or what his intentions were, and may never know the, at least in this life. Was he acting as a mad and vengeful assassin? Or, was he acting in a last-ditch defense of a dozen babies who would otherwise soon be killed by Dr. Gunn, that day?

The single act itself, however, has had a tremendous impact on media coverage of the national battle over abortion. There is no doubt but that the impact will be as negative as the national media can possibly make it. The media feel empowered to abandon even previous pretenses of fairness, and to call into question the very legitimacy of pro-life "rhetoric" and "peaceful" protests or civil disobedience.

Griffin will be considered more than a killer. He will be a pariah. A killer of a humanitarian physician. A murderer of a man whose life was selflessly devoted to serving women, even at mortal risk to himself, a true martyr for "choice." And the worst media epithet of all: Griffin was a "pro-life Christian." The media went out of their way to report on his Church attendance and prayers. All pro-life Christians are to share the guilt and shame of his crime, unless they reform and abandon their obsession with defending the lives of "fetuses."

Now please contrast this, if you will, with a murder which occurred in California about three weeks after Dr. Gunn's death. A once-convicted pedophile, Daniel Driver, was shot dead, while sitting in custody in a courtroom. He was shot five times in the back of the head, without warning, during a recess, by the mother of one of his victims.

Except for a brief "letter to the editor," there has been no comparison made between the two deaths. To comprehend, however, the virulent enmity of the media against the pro-life movement, and in determining the role of "political correctness" in the application of justice, it is helpful to look at the phenomenon of Driver's death here in California.

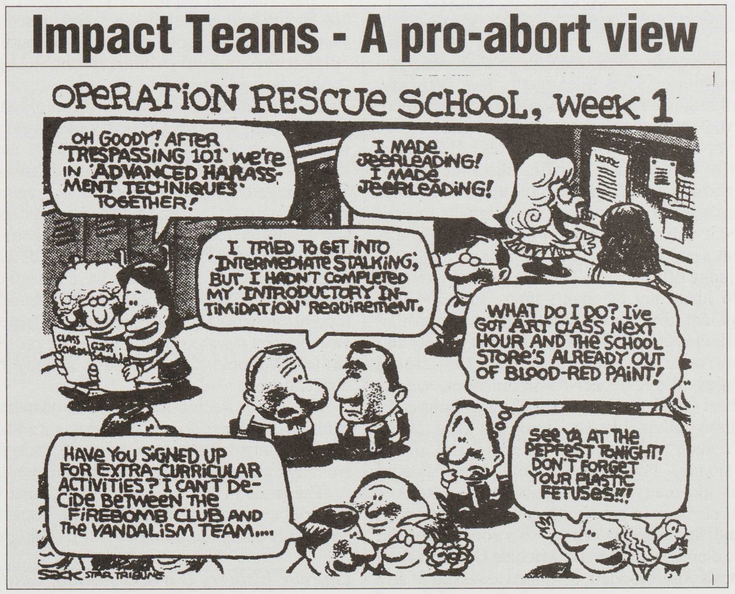
On April 2, 1993, a 40-year-old mother of two, and her 11-year-old son, were in court in the historic California gold mining town of Jamestown. The mother, Ellie Nesler, and her son were to testify against a man accused of molesting the boy several years before. During a recess, and prior to the boy's having to testify, Ellie Nesler approached from behind the accused, Daniel Driver, seated in the courtroom, placed a pistol to the back of his head, and shot him five times. Driver died 35 minutes later.

Ellie Nesler was shielded by supporters who called out to the bailiff not to shoot her, as she dropped her pistol under a chair after firing the five shots into Driver's head, and then surrendered.

The reaction to this event was an enormous outpouring of support, praise, and glory for Ellie Nesler. She was the darling of the media. Her face appeared in the news for days. Her every move was publicized. Jamestown residents organized fund-raising events for her defense. Bumper stickers with "Nice shootin', Ellie" sold like hotcakes. Ellie Nesler was a hero. "She did the right thing," said some. "I'd have done the same thing," said others. "Way to go, Ellie." Her public appearances were accompanied by exuberant supporters carrying picket signs with slogans congratulating her and celebrating her courtroom killing.

Nesler's supporters indicted the justice system as responsible for the death of Driver. They emphasized that he might not have had to die if it seemed like he would have been punished for his crimes. They cited case after case of child molesters going free to prey on children again and again. Ellie Nesler's brand of justice took care of Driver. Other child molesters might be out there to molest children, and children were certainly not safe from molestation, but one possible victory had been clearly achieved: It was certain that Daniel Driver would not be doing anything at all anymore, much less possibly harming another little boy — ever again. And most said "Amen."

Note that Driver, who was in custody, was not regularly molesting boys, and had no opportunity or discernible intention to molest boys that day, or for the foreseeable future. Dr. Gunn was clearly, regularly engaged in a mass abortion career at several abortuaries and was intending to kill perhaps ten or more innocent defenseless babies in the hour or two which followed his death.

The media did not defend Michael Griffin and say that his action was excused or even

## Impact Teams - A pro-abort view