Humanity of the Unborn

According to an article in the May 31, 1990 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, doctors at the University of California, San Francisco, have successfully performed major surgery on a preborn child. The 54 minute surgery repaired a diaphragmatic hernia in a 24 week old fetus. The baby was delivered seven weeks later and is a normal developing child.

This latest advance in prenatal surgery is another nail in the coffin of abortion. From the technology that led to the birth of Baby Louise Brown, the first widely-known "test tube baby", to this most recent advance in fetal surgery, the unborn baby itself is an active participant in the battle for its own recognition as a human being worthy of life.

As techniques become more sophisticated, science will be able to enlarge this "window on the womb" earlier and earlier. Some of the finest pictures of the preborn baby can now be taken by means of fetoscopy, the use of a fiberoptic endoscope thrust into the uterus itself. Beautiful pictures of the baby moving in its warm, fluid world are doing much to change abortion-bound minds to make a choice for life.

The life processes begin at fertilization, when the sperm unites with the egg to create a unique genetic entity for each preborn. After fertilization the growing cell cluster spends about three days in the Fallopian tube and three days in the uterine cavity before it begins burrowing into the wall of the uterus. Through placental chemicals and hormones, the tiny life begins to influence virtually all the mother's organs and tissues. In the small balloon-like sac of waters, the growing life nests in the soft lining of the womb. This burrowing is called implantation. Even before this, the cells start to organize themselves ("differentiation") as they multiply rapidly, and all the familiar bodily systems and organs of the tiny being appear in subsequent weeks.[1]

By 5 1/2 weeks, the preborn's heartbeat is similar to that of an adult and is sometimes traceable by electrocardiogram. At 6 and 7 weeks, the beating of the heart is functioning and readily observeable by the doctor. And all this happens before many women even seek tests to find out whether they might be pregnant.[2]

The preborn baby's electroencephalogram (EEG) is readable at three months, and 4 month old EEGs are influenced by sleep-inducing and stimulant drugs. Research on EEGs finds that each baby has a distinctive pattern that becomes personalized long before birth.

At 9 weeks in the womb, the baby can bend its little fingers around an object placed in its hand. He or she (the sex is fixed at fertilization) can suck its thumb and react to pain. The entire body is sensitive to touch, and the tiny baby can turn its head, curl its toes and fingers. The mouth can open and close, and might even smile. Since the vocal cords are completed, we are told that the baby would even cry if he could.

In the womb, a baby lives in a sea of sound. Researchers have eavesdropped on him by means of a tiny microphone inserted into the uterus. Daphne and Charles Maurer, authors of The World of the Newborn, describe the racket the baby hears from his mother's heart, intestines and lungs as very noisy. Dr. Jeffrey Phelan of the Maternal-Fetal Medicine department of Queen of the Valley Hospital in West Covina, Calif., played tapes to a pregnant woman of everything from bird songs to a passing train. A microphone in her uterus picked up almost every sound.[3]

By the 12th week of interuterine life, the small preborn baby is a fully developed, functioning human body in miniature, 3 inches in length and weighing about 1/2 ounce. The fetus, or little one, has fingerprints and facial expressions. Genetically, hormonally and in all organic respects save the source of its nourishment, this fetus is separate from the woman, its mother.[4]

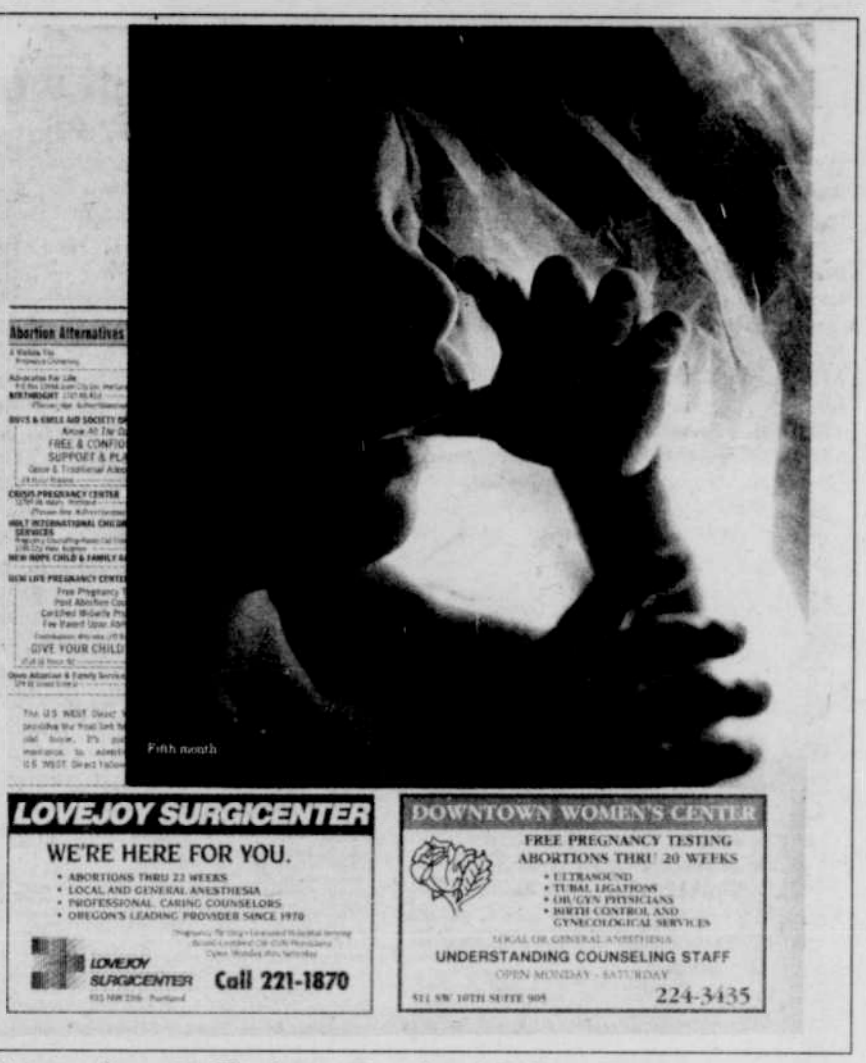
During the second trimester the baby, fully coordinated, curls as the mother moves and stretches when the mother rests. The baby can hiccup, and it kicks and punches the mother as it seeks a comfortable position within her. The baby has fine hair over its entire body and a white ointment called vernix protects its delicate skin from the waters surrounding it. Normally an unborn baby never experiences hunger or thirst. But if a mother does not consume sufficient nutrients, the baby's diet will not be adequate either. When a fetus is severely malnourished - for instance, because his mother's heavy smoking restricts blood flow to the placenta - Dr. Jason Birnholz, an ultrasound expert, believes, he has seen the baby's chest and throat making crying motions.[5] Some infants who might be born during this second trimester of interuterine life would survive outside the womb with adequate care.

If a preborn is not human, what is it?
If not alive, why kill it?
If not a person, why abortion?

Later in the pregnancy the baby can use all of his senses. Brian Satt, a research specialist in clinical psychology in California, has parents sing a lullaby-like "womb song" to their unborn baby. The baby often develops a specific, consistent movement pattern when his song is sung. After birth, the parents can use the "womb song" to calm the fussy newborn!.[6]

Vision is perhaps the sense which is least important in the womb. However, a bright light shining on the mother's belly causes the baby to open its eyes and turn his face toward the light. He can see a faint glow.

Taste buds are well-developed and the baby prefers a sweet taste, according to doctors. The skin of the baby thickens and begins to look polished. A layer of fat is stored beneath the skin for insulation and as a food supply, as the little preborn triples in weight and grows in length.



Fifth month — 20 Weeks — Portland Yellow Page
There is never "a good reason" to kill a baby.

On the day of birth the child, already a living and active person as we have seen, makes a change in his place of residence. As he has already gone through many progressive, overlapping stages of growth and development, so will he, from birth, continue the life begun nine months ago, moving through childhood, adolescence, maturity, old age and death. All that is needed is nourishment, loving care and time to grow.[7]

1. Bernard N. Nathanson, M.D., Aborting America. Doubleday & Co, Inc., 1979. pg. 198.
2. Ibid. pg 198
3. "The Fascinating World of the Unborn", by Henci Goer. Reader's Digest, November, 1989. Pg. 151.
4. Nathanson, op. cit. Pg. 204.
5. Reader's Digest. op. cit. Pg. 152
6. Ibid. 152.
7. "When You Were Formed In Secret", Gary Bergel, with remarks by C. Everett Koop, M.D. pamphlet. Intercessors for America, Co 1980. P.O. Box D., Elyria, Ohio 44036.

"Our Western way of life has come to a parting of the ways; time's takeover bid for eternity has reached the point at which irrevocable decisions have to be taken. Either we go on with the process of shaping our own destiny without reference to any higher being than man, deciding ourselves how many children should be born, when and in what varieties, which lives are worth continuing and which should be put out, from whom spare parts - kidneys, hearts, genitals, brain-boxes even - shall be taken and to whom allotted. Or we draw back, seeking to understand and fall in with our Creator's purpose for us rather than pursue our own; in true humility praying, as the founder of our religion and our civilization taught us: Thy will be done.

"This is what the abortion controversy is about, and what the euthanasia controversy will be about when, as must inevitably happen soon, it arises. The logical sequel to the destruction of what are called `unwanted children' will be the elimination of what will be called 'unwanted lives' — a legislative measure which so far in all human history only the Nazi government has ventured to enact.

"In this sense the abortion controversy is the most vital and relevant of all. For we can survive energy crisis, inflation, wars, revolutions and insurrections, as they have been survived in the past; but if we transgress against the very basis of our moral existence, becoming our own gods in our own universe, then we shall surely and deservedly perish from the earth."

Malcolm Muggeridge (London Sunday Times as reprinted in Prolife Resource Manual, "Why We Stand." Boca Raton, Florida.)

From Abortion to Holocaust?

"How will we treat preborn humans?" That is the basic question. How we decide to treat preborn humans, will also decide how we treat born humans — infants, women, handicapped, elderly, racial/behavior/religious groups. German physicians destroyed preborns, handicapped, the mentally inferior, and homosexuals long before they went after the Jews.

You say, "No, that can't happen here. It will stop." How? When? Who will stop it? The self-appointed elite in government, media and family planning/population control/feminist organizations who imposed abortion upon America in the first place, aren't about to stop it. Faye Wattleton, Pres. of Planned Parenthood has said: "Ours is a grand mission....abortion is the tip of the iceberg."If they are calloused toward the unborn, the most precious and innocent being in all of creation, this is their standard. Will we allow them to run every aspect of our lives from education to economics to laws to "who lives and who dies" using a standard that disrespects human life? If this elite takes increasing control of the state with no moral standards guiding them, you may be next. Moral restraints are gone, replaced by self-interest, convenience or pleasure. Who or what will stop the slippery slope toward holocaust if you and I do not?

If, in your heart and in your conscience, you know abortion is wrong — that our country cannot promote what is wrong, and endure — here is your chance to help right the wrong by voting "yes" on Measure 8 and pro-life candidates. If you have observed that our society's standards and morals have been deteriorating, here is your chance to vote to stop the decay process — to help rebuild standards that respect the dignity of human life.

We can construct the type of society we want by how we vote. Do we want a society where defenseless humans are killed for mere selfish convenience?