



# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 1

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## PROGRAM NOTES

### Short Notes on a Long Art

Newsletter of the Program in Human Rights & Medicine

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

John M. Dolan, Editor

*Life is short, the art long; opportunity fleeting,  
judgment difficult, experiment, dangerous.*

Hippocrates

*Without music, life would be an error.*

Frederick Nietzsche

## I. Program News

### Program Web Site

As many of you already know, the Program's web site has been up and running since the second week of October. We urge you to visit the site if you haven't already done so. We also remind you that every scholar associated with the Program is invited to submit a biography for inclusion in the web site. At the moment, we have biographies for only a dozen of the Program's scholars. If we don't have yours, please send it in electronic form to our e-mail address:

phrm@tc.umn.edu. Our web site address is: <http://www.umn.edu/phrm>.

### [Benhams Rescue Little Girl in China](#)

We reported in the last issue that Pat and Randy Benham, inspired by remarks of anthropologist Steven Mosher at one of our seminars, would be adopting an infant Chinese girl. They left for China on the 20th of January to complete the complex process of adoption. With considerable joy, we just learned that their new daughter, Alexandria, is in splendid health and safely in their custody. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the three of them should have completed the journey back to the United States. Pat and Randy are very grateful for the prayers many of you offered on their behalf and Alexandria's.

### **Mary Krumholz Now Mary Clifford**

Mary Krumholz, RN, BA, Associate Program Director of our Program was wed on the 27th of December. Her husband, Larry Clifford, also a health professional, shares Mary's deep interest in medical ethics, and has been involved in the Program's activities for more than a year. Mary's

fellow officers wish her and Larry every happiness and promise to make a serious effort to learn to refer to her by her new name.

### **The Program's Hours**

Just a reminder that the Program's new home is in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Minnesota, and that our address is:

Program in Human Rights and Medicine  
Box 164 Mayo University of Minnesota  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
420 Delaware Street SE  
Minneapolis MN 55455

Our office is in room 12-190 Moos Tower, located in the Health Sciences complex on the East Bank campus. The Program office hours are 1-5 PM, Monday through Friday. Our telephone number is (612)626-6559. We have voicemail, so it is possible to leave messages anytime. Faxes can reach us at (612)626-0665. Our e-mail address is: [phrm@tc.umn.edu](mailto:phrm@tc.umn.edu). Our web site address is: <http://www.umn.edu/phrm>.

## **II. This Year's Calendar**

### **Internship and Essay Contest Results to be Announced**

The deadline for our student human rights internship competition and prize essay competition was the 31st of January, and the submissions are all in. The results of the competitions will be announced in March. Advisory board member Noam Chomsky, who is speaking here under our sponsorship in April, will be presenting the awards to the successful students.

### **Dr. Paul Byrne and Controversial Film Open Bioethics Film Festival**

Our "Bioethics Film Festival" opens on a dramatic note on Saturday, the 8th of February, with a screening of a controversial and rarely seen BBC documentary, "Are the Donors Really Dead?" The documentary, which calls into question widely accepted "brain death" criteria, includes an interview with Dr. Paul Byrne, a neonatologist who is traveling here to discuss the issues raised in the film and answer our questions. The screening of the forty-minute film will start at 3PM on the 8th of February in room 2-650 Moos Tower, located in the Health Sciences Complex on the East Bank campus. Readers of this newsletter are welcome without charge.

### **Remaining Films in Bioethics Film Festival**

The two remaining films in our Bioethics Film Festival" are "Rain Man" (which will be screened on the 20th of February at 7PM) and "The Verdict" (which will be screened on the 27th at 7PM). Each screening will be followed by a discussion led by various faculty members. The faculty for the "Rain Man" session includes John Makepeace, Rod Rosse, PhD, LP, and John M. Dolan, PhD. Dr. Rosse is a friend of the autistic man with whom Dustin Hoffman associated for an extended period in order to place himself in a position to portray a person with autism. The faculty for the "Verdict" session will be Steven E. Calvin, MD, and Jasper Hopkins, PhD, RN. Both of these films will be shown in 2-230 Owre Hall. Nurses attending the films can earn continuing education credit (without cost).

### **David Bryden on Rape and Affirmative Action**

Later this year Professor David Bryden, advisory board member and the Gray, Plant & Mooty Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota's Law School, will be giving a sequel to the enthusiastically received seminar on "Redefining Rape" which he led under our auspices in May of 1995. The sequel will draw on a book length monograph he has recently completed on that topic.

In March Professor Bryden will be conducting a seminar on another controversial topic, "Affirmative Action: Are Compromises Tenable?" This seminar will take place on the 27th of March at 7:00 PM, in Room 365 Ford Hall, in the Philosophy Department library.

### **Chomsky to Lecture & Present Awards in April**

On the 15th of April, at 12:20 PM, Noam Chomsky will be presenting a major address under our sponsorship in the Great Hall of Coffman Union. The title of his lecture is "Democracy and Rights: Reflections on the Current Scene." He tells us that he plans to deal with "leading contemporary themes, ranging from 'the common good' and 'democracy' on." As we've mentioned before, Chomsky always attracts a vast crowd, so it is best to plan to arrive early in order to be sure of finding a seat.

### **Philip Regal on the Bonobo**

Professor Philip J. Regal, PhD, of the University's Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, who is writing a book on the primate biologically closest to human beings, the Bonobo, is presenting a seminar on the Bonobo for our Program in May. Scheduled at 7 PM on the 14th of May (a Wednesday), the seminar is titled: "The Bonobo: Our Closest Primate Cousin is Near Extinction. What is Being Lost?" The seminar will be held in room 365 Ford Hall.

### **Program Organizes Conference for Medical Professionals**

Steven Calvin and John Dolan, the co-chairs of our Program, have organized a conference for medical professionals titled "Vulnerable Patients and the Aim of Medicine." Sponsored by the Program in Human Rights and Medicine, Human Life International, and the University's Department of Continuing Medical Education, the conference has a faculty staff which includes several distinguished local physicians (Ruth Bolton, former member of the Department of Family Practice, Ron Hoekstra, of Children's Hospital, Mahmoud G. Nagib, of the University's Department of Neurosurgery, and Konald A. Prem, from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology) and distinguished scholars and physicians from abroad. The event carries 6.0 hours of continuing medical education credit, and has a modest registration fee of \$30 (which includes a box lunch). It will be held in Bloomington, Minnesota on Saturday, the 19th of April. Brochures are available at our Program office in 12-190 Moos Tower. Call (626-6559) or stop by to get one.

## **III. Scholarly Activity**

### **Kirk Allison**

Kirk Allison, regular participant in our seminars and graduate student of German at the University of Minnesota, is in Salzburg, Austria this academic year, writing a doctoral dissertation on the topic "Gottfried Benn, Physician and Expressionist Poet." In addition, he will be teaching three courses, "Translation Techniques," "American Media," and "Contemporary American Society," this coming semester at the University of Salzburg.

### **G.E.M. Anscombe**

Professor G.E.M. Anscombe, LLD, of Cambridge University, co-founder of the Program and member of our advisory board, recently concluded her teaching and lecturing duties in the new chair endowed by the Prince of Liechtenstein and conferred on her by the Internationale Akademie für Philosophie im Fürstentum in Liechtenstein. Her inaugural lecture, titled "Die Wahrheit Thun" ("To Do the Truth"), examined the idea of "doing the truth," which has its earliest known expression in the 1st Epistle of St. John (I, vi).

### **Steven E. Calvin**

Last term, Dr. Steven Calvin, Co-Chair of the Program, delivered a lecture on abortion to the law school course taught by advisory board member David Bryden and John M. Dolan. This term, he is, once again, with John M. Dolan and Jasper Hopkins, teaching the graduate course, Philosophy

5325, "Biomedical Ethics," required of graduate students minoring in bioethics. On February 13th, Dr. Calvin will speak on the topic of "Abortion Practices Past the First Trimester" at a session of the annual Winter Lecture Series sponsored by the Student Committee on Bioethics at the University of Minnesota. Later this month, on the 27th, with Jasper Hopkins, Dr. Calvin will be making a presentation on the ethical issues raised by the film, "The Verdict." In April Dr. Calvin will visit Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa; he has been invited to spend a day meeting with students to discuss with them the significance of the Christian perspective in issues of medical ethics.

### **Noam Chomsky**

During the break between the fall and spring semesters, advisory board member Noam Chomsky, PhD, Institute Professor of Linguistics and Philosophy at M.I.T., spent a month in South America and a shorter time in Europe giving lectures on topics in linguistics, philosophy, foreign policy, and human rights. During the extended trip to South America, which he characterized as both exhilarating and harrowing, Dr. Chomsky spent time in Brazil, Chile, and Argentina, delivering lectures at the University of Rio de Janeiro and the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, the University of Concepcion in Chile, and the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina. In Europe, Dr. Chomsky visited Italy and Spain, delivering lectures at the Istituto S. Raffaele in Italy and at the Universitat de les Illes Balears in Mallorca. Over the past eighteen months or so, while maintaining his normal crushing load of public lectures all over the planet, discharging his demanding teaching and graduate duties at M.I.T., and conducting research into topics over a broad range of subjects, Dr. Chomsky has published three new books: *Power and Prospects*, *World Orders Old and New*, and *The Minimalist Program*. He has underway several book projects at the moment, and other scholars also have in the works book length publications of hitherto unpublished material by him.

### **John M. Dolan**

John M. Dolan, PhD, who had the title "Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of Philosophy" conferred on him last year, will be delivering four papers at the Human Life International conference in April of 1997 and two papers at the conference for medical professionals the Program in Human Rights and Medicine is holding in the same month. His article, "Is Physician-Assisted Suicide Possible?," appeared in a special issue of the *Duquesne Law Review* devoted to assisted suicide (Volume 35, No. 1 [Fall, 1996]). Another of his papers is included in an anthology on suicide scheduled to appear later this year.

This fall, Professor Dolan and Donald Davidson, the eminent philosopher who holds an endowed chair at Berkeley, will be teaching two courses at the University of Minnesota, an upper division course devoted to philosophy of language and a graduate seminar focused on moral philosophy. Davidson, who was awarded a Hill Professorship at the University of Minnesota for the fall term, will deliver several public lectures in addition to the teaching he will be doing with Dolan. During his visit, Davidson and the distinguished minimalist artist Robert Morris will participate in a symposium devoted to a remarkable series of drawings by Morris which incorporates substantial texts by Davidson. These very large drawings, entitled "Blind Time Drawings with Davidson," have been exhibited at the Guggenheim in New York, the Centre George Pompidou in Paris, and other major centers around the world. Two will be shipped to the University to be exhibited in connection with Davidson's symposium with Morris.

### **Jasper Hopkins**

Jasper Hopkins, PhD, RN, advisory board member, professor of philosophy at the University of Minnesota, and internationally recognized authority on the thought of Nicholas of Cusa and the thought of St. Anselm, gave the third annual Cusanus Lecture ("Faith and Reason in the Thought of Nicholas of Cusa: Prolegomena to a Sketch of his View") at the University of Trier, Germany, last academic year and is currently teaching a graduate course in medical ethics with Drs. Steve

Calvin and John Dolan. The Institut für Cusanus-Forschung (in Trier, Germany) has invited him to deliver an address next academic year. The lecture he will be giving is entitled "Die Tugenden in der Sicht des Nikolaus von Kues. Ihre Vielfalt, ihr Verhältnis untereinander und ihr Sein." ("Nicholas of Cusa's View of the Virtues: their Diversity, their Relation to One Another, and their True Nature").

### **Carl M. Kjellstrand**

Carl M. Kjellstrand, MD, PhD, member of our advisory board and member of the faculty at the University of Alberta, is on sabbatical conducting research at the Department of Public Health Sciences of the Bowman Gray School Of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Starting in March, he will be carrying out his studies in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Washington in Seattle.

### **Sandra Menssen**

Sandra Menssen, PhD, advisory board member and associate professor of philosophy at the University of St. Thomas, helped to arrange and participated in an ecumenical, interdisciplinary philosophy of religion symposium held at St. Thomas last summer. Other participants came from Ireland, Texas, Kentucky, and Minnesota, and represented the disciplines of Mathematics, Economics, Law, Theology, and Philosophy. She and her colleagues are planning a second symposium in Ireland in 1998.

Dr. Menssen chaired St. Thomas's Diversity Committee during the school's recent major curriculum review and oversaw the development of criteria for a new undergraduate requirement in courses on human diversity. She now serves on St. Thomas's Diversity Review Committee, which approves courses proposed to satisfy the new requirement.

In September Dr. Menssen's article "Must God Create?" (co-author: Thomas D. Sullivan) was published in Faith and Philosophy. She and Dr. Sullivan presented a paper entitled "Unnoticed Assumptions in the Free-Will Defense" at the Minnesota Philosophical Society meetings in October. In March she will present a paper entitled "Maximal Wickedness vs. Maximal Goodness" at the American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Meeting in Buffalo, New York. Her article "Grading Worlds" is due to be published this spring in the American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly.

### **Konald A. Prem**

Konald A. Prem, MD, member of our advisory board and former head of the University of Minnesota's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, attended the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, from January 31 to February 2. He also is attending the 1st Annual Post-Graduate Course sponsored by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, which is being conducted in Tucson, Arizona, the first week of February. On the 19th of April, he will make a presentation at the Program's conference for medical professionals.

### **Leo B. Twiggs**

Leo B. Twiggs, MD, Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and member of our advisory board, traveled to China in the fall of 1996 to meet with Yong-liang Gao, MD, Director of Zhejiang Provincial Cancer Research Institute in Zhejiang, China. While there, Dr. Twiggs worked with a number of physicians to establish research opportunities at the University of Minnesota, and developed a mission statement and goals for a continuing relationship between the two institutions. During his visit, Dr. Twiggs also helped plan an ongoing cooperative educational effort to be developed between the University of Minnesota's Comprehensive Cancer Center and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Zhejiang Tumor Hospital in Hangzhou, China.

While in China, Dr. Twiggs gave presentations on "Laparoscopic Staging of Endometrial Carcinoma: A Model for the Application of Minimally Invasive Surgical Techniques" and "The Role of HPV Typing and Testing in Cervical Carcinoma." This winter Dr. Twiggs also has presented papers at several national and international congresses, including one in Seoul, Korea, and one in Paris, France. In January of 1997 Dr. Twiggs oversaw the publication of the first issue of "The Journal of Lower Genital Tract Disease," for which he serves as editor-in-chief.

### **David Weissbrodt**

Professor David Weissbrodt, member of our advisory board and Co-Director of the Human Rights Center, is in Geneva where he is working with the United Nations on the preparation of a book to provide guidance to the monitoring efforts of on-site U.N. human rights field operations. The book deals with observing assemblies, elections, trials, and the process of returning refugees as well as visiting refugee camps and prisons. In January 1997 he chaired a meeting of experts to provide guidelines for the U.N. Decade on Human Rights Education. Professor Weissbrodt taught a course on human rights at the Graduate Institute of International Studies of the University of Geneva during the fall term 1996, and will teach a seminar on the right to a fair trial during the spring semester of 1997. In August 1997 Professor Weissbrodt will serve for the second year as the U.S. member on the U.N. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. In 1997-98 he will be returning to the University of Minnesota Law School, where he has just been re-appointed for another seven years as the Briggs & Morgan Professor of Law.