

# church and state

## Letter from the Editor

### Terri Schindler-Schiavo: A Slippery Slope of Death

Friday, March 18 marked the third time that 41-year-old Terri Schindler-Schiavo's feeding tube has been removed, causing her to slowly die of dehydration and starvation, what medical experts agree is perhaps the most painful, tortuous, and agonizing way to die.

Whether you are for or against this action, you may be misinformed about the facts surrounding Terri's condition and situation.

The media has reported her as "brain dead" and a "vegetable", claiming that she is being kept alive by life support. None of these things are true.

The facts are Terri is NOT any of the following: being kept alive against her will, brain-dead, in a coma, in a persistent vegetative state (PVS), or dying. She also is NOT being kept alive by extraordinary means or life support. Before Friday, she received her food and water through a gastro feeding tube, like thousands of disabled people. Terri breathes on her own and all her vital organs are working fine.

Visit terrisfight.org and you can view videos of her responding to her family, smiling, trying to speak, feeling pain. In addition, with therapy she could be in much better physical condition and achieve significant recovery, even learning to swallow food on her own.

Board-certified neurologist, Dr. Jacob Green, said after he examined Terri, "She is not in a vegetative state." When asked if it would be ethical to remove her feeding tube, he replied, "I'd call it murder." Four board-certified neurologists, two board-certified internists, 2 speech pathologists, a neuro-psychologist and numerous other doctors all say Terri is not PVS. ([www.terrisfight.org](http://www.terrisfight.org))

Just because Terri's case seems to be an isolated one doesn't mean that we should ignore it and think it will all go away. This one situation will open the floodgates to a culture of death. Just as the mass murders by Hitler and the Nazis started with "humane" euthanasia of the terminally ill and handicapped and ended with millions slaughtered, the same has already begun to happen in America. It started with abortion; it is moving to euthanasia of the elderly and handicapped; and it will snowball to include the systematic murder of all those who we deem a burden, not worthy of our precious resources, the helpless. Those we as Christians are called to care for. Proverbs 24:11 says: "Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering towards slaughter." Isaiah 1:17 reads, "Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow."

Not even animals and criminals die as inhumane a death as Terri is at this very moment. We must teach future generations to value life at all stages, from fertilization until natural death. All life is precious and deserves protection not elimination.



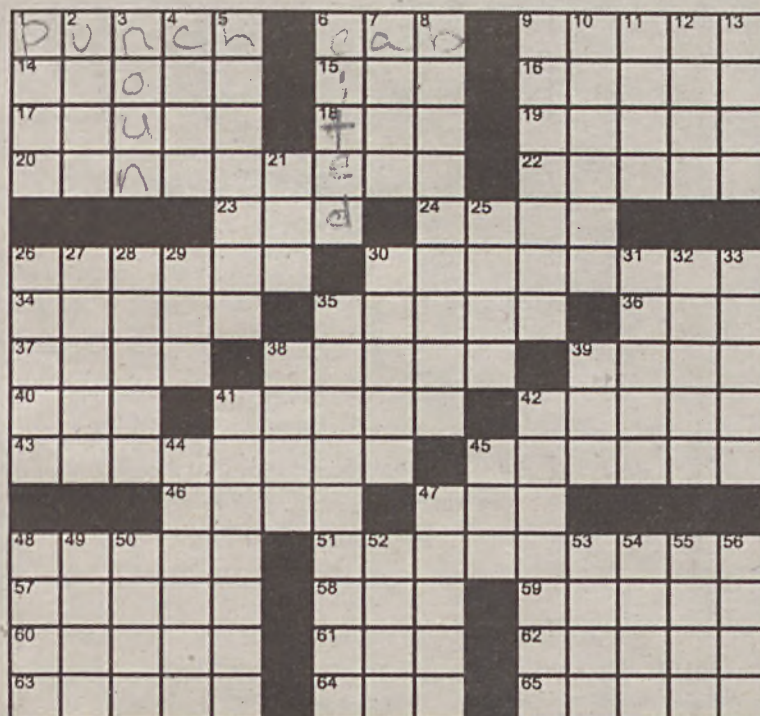
March 23, 2005

#### ACROSS

- Hit
- Taxi
- Praise
- Characin
- Retirement savings vehicle
- Accustom
- Lend one of these
- Spasm
- Trick partner
- Tail end
- Cottonseed containers
- Used to own
- Close off
- Depth measurement
- Small telescope
- German sub
- Pesky insects
- Not he
- Emporium
- Victual
- Dick and Jane's dog
- Immature newt
- Exploits
- Mutsuhito
- Secretive
- Nicotinic acid
- Visage
- Not hers
- Soft palate pendant
- Manicurist's tools
- Mathematical term
- Publicity
- Optimal
- Vassal
- Enemy
- Rent
- Totaled
- Finish
- Type of seal

#### DOWN

- Jones of *The View*
- List of offerings
- Thing
- Trick
- Hearing distance
- Quoted
- Solo
- Ball motion
- Soldier packs
- Open
- Contest



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- Type of test
- Groups
- Beret
- Looked
- Raged
- Toward the stern
- Rich cake
- # 21 Down, e.g.
- Grayish
- Clear jelly
- Japanese partition
- Inset
- Seafood utensil
- Reject
- Ocean
- Sore winner did this
- Store incorrectly
- Affirm
- None
- Climbed
- Calif. university
- Null
- Type of car
- By and by
- Thought
- Shakespearean king
- Soothe
- Winter vehicle

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