

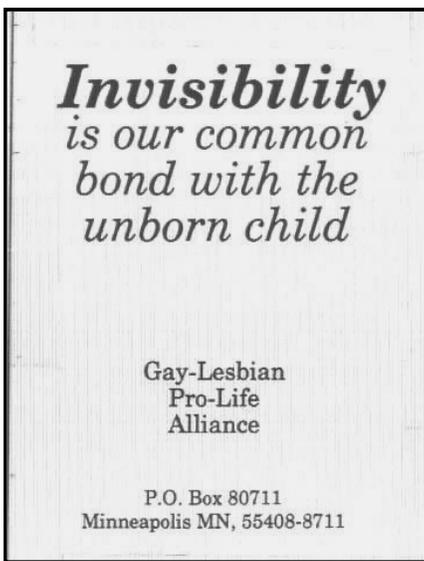
memorandum

from the pro-life alliance of gays and lesbians
fall 2003 number 45



A little bit of PLAGAL history

I thought it would be fun to recount some PLAGAL history that may not be well known to our recent members. A special thank you goes to John Stanek of Minnesota who forwarded these items for the archives. The following is how PLAGAL got its name.

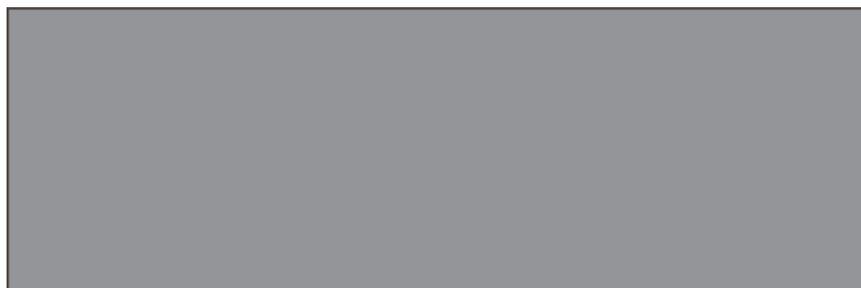


In a letter dated May 13, 1991, written by founder Tom Sena to members of one of the early chapters of PLAGAL (Gays and Lesbian Pro-Life Alliance of Minnesota) makes mention of the name change and Statement of Purpose. Here is the excerpt:

“We over here especially like the suggestion for a new name that came from over there: PLAGAL. As Kevin explained it to me, “plagal” is a musical term designating the central tone that holds a chord together; and he pointed out to me that our plagal note sits right there in the Statement: the idea that our rights as gay women and men, and the rights of unborn children, are the same human rights—not just similar, but exactly the same.

That really is the Statement in a nutshell (or in an ovum, if you like!), and PLAGAL captures it beautifully. I understand y’all will be making a final vote on the name tonight, and we here hope that you like PLAGAL as much as we do!

“(Notice also that the Statement makes no reference to God or to any religious moral standards. It draws instead from our own experience as oppressed people who know what it means to be treated as less than persons. That’s the touchstone for who we are and why we as an organization are pro-life, in addition to convictions we have as individuals.)”



Meet a PLAGAL Board Member

PLAGAL prides itself on the diversity of our membership. It is one of the few pro-life organizations that accept all those who are pro-life. PLAGAL members come from different social and economic backgrounds, different political parties, some have religious affiliations while others do not, we have members who are drag queens, parents, bisexual, single, those in long term relationships, and we even have heterosexual individuals in our group. Our Board of Directors mirrors our membership and we felt that it would be good for you to learn a little about our board. In the April 2003 newsletter, we featured eight of our board members.

Dave Styers *Treasurer*

I was raised a Southern Baptist in a quintessential small town in North Carolina in a “Leave It to Beaver” family. When I first came out of the closet in college, I unquestioningly bought into the Gay myth that all Gays, and especially Lesbians, are pro-choice, or more accurately pro-abortion. In fact, I have often found being Pro-Life even more troublesome and disconcerting to people than being Gay, partly because I am Gay and people just presume all Gays are unabashedly pro-abortion liberals.

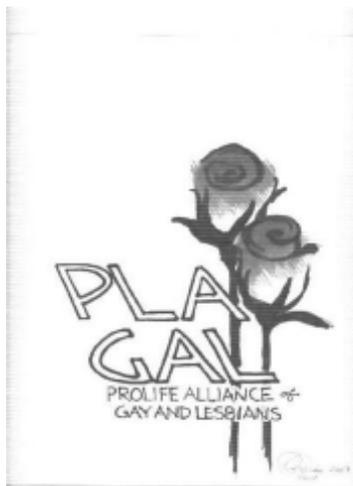
And although I fortunately have a wonderful Pro-Life Catholic as my life partner, have been a member of the Catholic Church myself for 7 years, am Treasurer of PLAGAL, and volunteer at a crisis pregnancy center, the clincher to being Pro-Life for me was a young couple in North Carolina expecting their second child.

At six months, doctors diagnosed a rare genetic disorder, and strongly encouraged an abortion, since they doubted that the baby would be born alive or, if so, that she would live long afterwards. After much struggle, the parents decided despairingly to have the abortion.

BOARD

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Standing in front of the abortion clinic, the very gates of Hell, through God's intervention, I believe, the parents locked their keys in the car. This was enough of a distraction to cause them to change their minds and continue with the pregnancy. God performed another miracle three months later when a healthy baby girl, my niece and godchild, was born. And ironically, her name appropriately is Rachel. She turned 8 this past February, and is an incredibly bright and energetic young girl without whom no one in my family could imagine.



PLAGAL at Youth Pride

by Laurel Harris

On Saturday April 12, PLAGAL participated in this year's Youth Pride event in Washington DC. Despite the wind helping to spread the word a little too well by blowing flyers around the park, the day was very much a success. Most of the people who came to the booth had never heard of PLAGAL and regardless of their beliefs supported our being there. The community was very welcoming and many people came up to the booth to not only thank us for being there, but to tell us how glad they are that a PLAGAL organization existed. Many youth came to the booth and talked to us about feeling alienated by the more liberal and pro-abortion G & L community. It was refreshing to hear young people who were passionate about the right to life and see that the issue is very much alive and at the heart of the youth in the area.

We had 13 new members sign up to be on the PLAGAL mailing list. I would like to thank Jackie Malone for coming from Baltimore for the duration of the day, as well as Chris Hinkle, who spent a few hours at the booth. I look forward to being there again next year.

Long Island Pride

by Maria Krasinski

The table at the LI Pride festival was an unqualified success. I lost count of how many brochures I handed out, and believe me I wasn't shoving them in people's hands. I was warmly welcomed by those staffing other booths especially the LGCs. I was given much encouragement by at least five individuals who were strongly pro-life. I was even approached by other lesbians and at least five of them took literature.... one of them quite young. Of course, I received some dirty looks by some lesbians, but they had the decency to just keep moving without saying a word. A number of women said they weren't pro-life when I offered them a brochure, but their conviction did not seem to be firm. I experienced only one rude person (hey, it's NY) but even she only said softly (because if she had said it loudly I'm sure she would have been escorted out of the park) "you ought to be ashamed of yourself" and she quickly walked away. I wish she had stayed. Just long enough for me to retort, "Not for having my daughter, I'm not!" She then made a conscious effort to intimidate me by passing by several times with menace in her eyes. I just kept smiling. I was doing a lot more business than I thought I would. Many thanks to my partner Joyce and to Lorraine Nelson for logistical support. I also managed to circulate and give business cards to every clergy I saw and they thanked me profusely. Joyce had such a good time doing this with me that she wants to do it again next year. Who knows? I may even talk her into coming to DC next January.

Baltimore Pride

by Jackie Malone

Baltimore Pride was yesterday and it went great! 18 people signed up on the list. I told everyone that signed up that we were looking to start a Baltimore chapter of PLAGAL and they all said they would be interested in getting involved. I had a few more who said they would look up our website and possibly sign up later. During the whole day there was only one girl who decided she "needed" to come up and have a debate. It didn't turn ugly though and she took several brochures to read. Brochures were popular all day though and over 50 of the white ones left the table. I also got interviewed by a local radio station. They wanted to know who we were, what we were about, and what kind of response we had been getting from the GLBT community there in Baltimore. So PLAGAL may not have gotten ink on this one, but we did get air. Overall I think it was a huge success and I'm really looking forward to seeing if we can get a chapter off the ground here.





PLAGAL Membership Form

2004 DUES ARE NOW WELCOME

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State
Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Status: _____ member _____ mailing list only

Dues and Contributions

Annual dues: \$20.00 _____

Contribution: _____

PLAGAL is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowable by law. Make checks payable to PLAGAL.

Participation

I am willing to organize a local PLAGAL group.

I am not willing to organize a group but would be willing to join and participate in one.

I can represent PLAGAL by helping out at Pride and other LGBT events in my area.

I can represent PLAGAL by participating in events within the pro-life community.

I am willing to become a local contact for PLAGAL.

I am an articulate speaker and would love to become part of the PLAGAL's speakers bureau.

I am willing to be part of a committee if needed.

I am a fabulous writer and would be willing to write op-ed articles and other things for PLAGAL.

Please return form to P.O. Box 33292 Washington, D.C. 20033-0292 or via E-mail to plagal@plagal.org.



Atlanta Pride

by Rick Hoffman

I've never spent so much time in a Home-(o) Depot in my entire life. Who knew constructing a simple, little float would be so hard?!

When Mattie Peltier, Atlanta Pride Co-Coordinator for PLAGAL, and I first talked on the phone at the end of May, we thought we had it so easy. I had already done the booth last year with little effort, and now I would have both her and her grown children's help. The news that the Atlanta Pride "marketplace" ran out of space hit me like a ton of bricks, but we were resilient. We quickly shifted gears and signed up for a place in the Atlanta Pride Parade. Mattie put my mind at ease when she said she had a lot of experience with this kind of work.

And so the daunting task began. Knowing that we would be one of the most controversial floats in the parade, we chose a theme that everyone could agree on: the birds and the bees. Who doesn't like nature? I was quickly relegated to the position of Mother Nature (in drag, of course). Mattie recruited her children and neighbors, and I recruited some high school friends, and the construction began with the center of it all, a \$20 light-up arch complete with shimmery goss wrapped around it.

Then our planning efforts turned to outreach. How would we get our message out effectively? It was an unspoken agreement that the old guard of the pro-life movement's pictures of aborted babies or just babies in utero would not go over well with the Pride participants. As sad as it sounds, we had to marketable with our message. Equipped with our new logo thanks to Mattie's crafty skills as a web designer, we made buttons and tie-dye t-shirts all with our logo and Web site (PLAGAL.org) on them. We also figured that not contracting HIV or other STIs was a very pro-life notion, and so we ordered 500 condoms, a non-abortifacient method of contraception, to distribute also complete with a sticker of our logo and Web site. For a little added humor, we bought 700 latex gloves, the "lesbian condom" as we dubbed it. That, along with our Web site and logo, we tagged with "Girls just want to have fun. Just do it safely." We also threw in some Mardi Gras beads and American flags to show that we are celebratory and patriotic. Hey, remember we were going for the win here!

see *PRIDE* on page 4

Here's where the time at Homo Depot comes in. We bought plywood and astroturf in order to cover our float's floor with "grass." Fencing that was bought originally to construct some kind of rainbow arch quickly shifted to fencing around the float not only to protect the kiddies but also to secure our fake flowers from Michael's and give us a place to attach our multitude of yellow and black balloons (which incidentally smelled like dead fish). After consultation with a designer-friend of Mattie's, we had figured out that we would make the float appear to be a giant bumble bee, and so that is where the balloons and some small dowel rods with rainbow-painted styrofoam spheres (antennae) came in. In the spirit of inclusivity, we purchased both a bisexual and a transgender flag. This along with a flag with a baby on it and "Choose Life" from one of Mattie's previous events and two rainbow flags (one with a peace sign on it because after all anti-war is pro-life) all on big dowel rods stuck in pipe tubes made for a stunning array in the front of our flatbed trailer.

Sunday, June 29th quickly rolled around. As our luck would have it, the truck Mattie had convinced her friends to let us borrow (they were pro-choice!) wrecked. With high stress but high spirits nonetheless, we plunged forward attaching our 11 foot trailer to the back of Mattie's green (for life and for nature!) minivan. But this turned out to be perfect because it went with our pro-family image. To fit with the Atlanta Pride 2003 theme of "Freedom to Be" we decided we should have the freedom to be a family. Just to be cute, with some washable paint we wrote on the windshield where Mattie was driving "lesbian soccer mom." It was a hot, hot day, and wearing my forest green, half-priced, thrift store, prom-like dress and long, brunette wig did not help much. It was, however, exhilarating to wave at the cheering crowds and to hand out our vast collection of goodies to eager participants. In essence, we spent a month working our noses to the grindstone for three hours of glory, but we hoped that we would have lasting efforts.

After the parade, we had a quick tear-down. I continued strolling around Piedmont Park where the festival is held every year in drag, of course, until the time for results of who won. Alas, we did not beat out the rest of the non-profits, but in our hearts we know we had won because we made it possible for PLAGAL to have its first ever float in a Pride parade.



Official E-mail List and Listserv

Are you hooked up the Internet? Find out about action alerts and other stuff quickly. Sign up for the PLAGAL official email list. It is confidential and it is an outgoing/information list only. Average mailings: 1 per month. Contact plagal@plagal.org to sign up. If you look at your mailing label it will either have a check mark or an x in a box. If there is an x, then we do not have a valid email address for you. Please consider passing on your email address. We are trying to conserve time and money by doing as much as possible on the Internet versus long distance phone calls and snail mail. Please note that some email addresses we have from you have expired. Please check your mailing label to make sure we've got yours.

Do you like to chat with others about PLAGAL and the pro-life cause? Then the listserv is for you. Average mailings (depending on topic): 2 per day. Contact plagal@plagal.org to sign up.

Did PLAGAL Get Ink?

When anything appears in the lesbian and gay media discussing the Pro-Life movement, or in any media discussing PLAGAL, Please, PLEASE send it to us. We do not have — and cannot afford — a clipping service or subscriptions to the multitude of lesbian and gay media. We are always discovering — sometimes months after the event — that we were mentioned somewhere. As has become our custom, we would also like to remind our readers that PLAGAL needs the names (and addresses, voice and fax numbers, and now e-mail addresses) of local gay and lesbian media.

In Volume 7, Number 3 of the Southern Harbinger- There was an article making mention of PLAGAL and the March for Life. The Southern Harbinger is the newsletter of STS. Sergious and Bacchus Church in Decatur, Georgia.

Cecilia Brown, President of PLAGAL, was interviewed by **Michelangelo Signorile** on June 25th at 1:14 p.m. EDT on SIRIUS Satellite radio. The show airs daily from 1-4pm Eastern.



Logo

The board of directors has expressed a desire to update our Web site and with that comes a brand new logo. However, most of the board does not have an artistic bone in our bodies and needs the help of our membership. The current logo is a pink fetus which we have named "Li'l Nellie" over a rainbow triangle. We have received a few ideas for a new logo and have included them in this newsletter. If you're artistic and would like to submit a logo, please send it to Cecilia Brown PO Box 44313 Cleveland, Ohio 44109 or E-mail submissions to plagal@plagal.org. We want to present all the submissions to the membership for voting at the January 2004 board meeting. The new logo will be for the website, brochures, letter head, etc.



Important Notice — Due to an oversight, PLAGAL's Washington **post office box was closed** and the mail returned to sender. Any mailed correspondence sent to PLAGAL prior to approx. 1 May 2003 was most likely not received. If you have sent us correspondence or donations since the first of May and have not received response or confirmation that your donation was received, please accept our apologies and try to send us the item again. The mailbox has been reopened and any mail sent on or after 24 June 2003 will be received. Thank you.



Guidelines: Needs to look good in grayscale for printing on our brochures. You can add one of the following slogans on it: Human Rights Start When Human Rights Begin or Abortion=Death.

ANNUAL MEETING AND MARCH FOR LIFE

All members and friends are invited and encouraged to attend the annual meeting of PLAGAL. This is usually a fun time where our members get to meet each other and socialize while voicing their concerns and ideas for the future of PLAGAL. It is also the time when we recognize the work done on behalf of PLAGAL and accept nominations and vote for the board of directors who will serve PLAGAL for the following year. This year, we will meet on Wednesday, the 21st of January 2004, at 7:00 p.m. at the Dignity Center. The Dignity Center is located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. at 721 8th St. SE. The closest metro stop is Eastern Market station and it's a three-block walk from there.

As customary, we will gather at the Old Post Office located at 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue on January 22, 2004 at 11:40 a. m. Then, we will go as a group to the march. Due to national security and changes that were made since 9/11, the exact place of the Rally or the starting point of the march is unsure. This makes it difficult for us to have a set location on where we will be standing once we are all gathered together. For those of you who cannot meet us at the Old Post office, just look for the PLAGAL banner. We are assuming after the usual speeches, at about 1:30, the march will

proceed up Constitution Ave passed the Justice Department Building, the National Gallery of Art, the Federal Courthouse, and the Senate Office Buildings, and will end at the Supreme Court Building. This has been somewhat of a tradition for the march. We do not see that changing.

Many of you are aware that last year, members of PLAGAL were able to participate in the March for Life without incident. A letter was sent thanking Miss Nellie Gray and the Board of Directors for not ordering an arrest of our members and putting aside our differences for the good of the Pro-life movement. We have not heard back from them. I would love to assume that everything will be alright again this year. However, with all gains in civil rights the LGBT community has experienced this year I am sure that there will be some tension at the march. Many Christian groups have geared up for a battle against the LGBT community. They are upset over the Supreme Court Ruling dealing with Sodomy. They are upset over Canada allowing Gays and Lesbians to marry. They are upset that the Episcopal Church now has an openly gay bishop. Not to mention the domestic partnership registry in Cleveland Heights, Ohio which was voted in by the voters. Etc.... It would be

foolish to think that we would be exempt from their anger. Many individuals who have supported us in the past may not be so quick to support us this year because they are upset with the strides the GLBT community has made. As always, PLAGAL will carry ourselves in a respectable way and just deal with what happens as it unfolds. Just in case, bring bail money.



post office box 33292
washington,d.c. 20033
tel:202.223.6697
fax:202.265.9737
plagal@plagal.org
<http://www.plagal.org>

Hello everyone:

It has come to our attention that Planned Parenthood, NARAL and NOW are having a march in April 2004. They are calling it March for Choice. While it does not bother me that they are getting together to march and protest being a great believer in the right to free speech, I am deeply concerned about the LGBT organizations cosponsoring the march. It bothers me that LGBT organizations link abortion rights with the rights of LGBT people. They are not one and the same. These organizations do great work to further the LGBT cause. Let us remind them that when they support abortion on demand that they are not speaking for all members of the LGBT community and that they are alienating those of us who would otherwise support them on other issues. Please take the time to contact these organizations and ask them to withdraw their support of the March for Choice. I have enclosed a copy of my letter that I have sent out to each organization. Please feel free to use any part of the letter to help you put together your own letter.

Cecilia Brown, PLAGAL President

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

120 Wall Street, Suite 1500 New York, NY 10005-3904

<http://www.lambdalegal.org/cgi-bin/iowa/index.html>

Human Rights Campaign

1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20036-3278

<http://www.hrc.org>

Equal Partners in Faith

1040 Harbor Drive Annapolis, MD 21403

<http://www.us.net/epf/index.html>

LA Gay and Lesbian Center

<http://laglc.org/home.htm>

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center

208 W 13th Street New York, NY 10011

<http://www.gaycenter.org/>

LLEGO (the National Latina/o LGBT org)

11420 K Street, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20005

<http://www.llego.org/>

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

1325 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Suite 600 Washington, DC 20005

<http://www.nglft.org>

Dear Board of Directors:

I am writing because I have recently learned of your sponsorship of the March for Choice in April 2004. Many of our membership as well as myself are outraged at the fact that you link abortion rights with gay and lesbian rights. No one doubts the work that you have done is very much needed to help further the rights of those within the GLBT community. You have done a good job with that cause. But I have to ask you, does supporting abortion on demand further the gay and lesbian cause? I think not. As members of the GLBT community, we know all too well what it is like to be considered less than human. We know what it is like to be unwanted. How can we support legislation that attacks helpless individuals, some who no doubt may be part of the future of the GLBT community? It is a false belief that if we support a so called women's right to choose, we are securing the rights of those within the GLBT community. Who we love and who we sleep with is certainly a different issue. It is different because it involves two consenting individuals. In abortion, it is not an action that both parties are in favor of. The unborn child is never given a voice. Let us not forget that abortion is the atrocity of the heterosexual community. While those within the GLBT community struggle for parental rights and the ability to adopt, many within the heterosexual community are throwing away their children as if they were garbage. How can we support such legislation? How can we fight for the humanity of those within the GLBT community while ignoring the humanity of the unborn child? I must ask, by your support of abortion on demand, is your issue really about helping women or is it securing abortion no matter what? Many women don't chose abortion because they want to. They do so because they feel they have no choice. At that moment in their life having a child may seem an unbearable burden. Maybe she is hurting financially or does not have health care coverage. Maybe she is alone or really lacks the resources that are necessary to raise a child. If we really want to help women, we should work on legislation that gives women the ability to make real choices. Instead of focusing on only one choice, women obtaining abortions, we should focus on issues that make it so that a woman does not feel that abortion is her only alternative. We should work on issues such as affordable health coverage, safe and affordable child care, child support, a living wage so that a woman can afford safe housing, food, and utilities, safe environments for women to raise their children, protection in the work place, etc. Only by working on this type of legislation are we really giving women real choices. Please reconsider your stance on cosponsoring the March for Choice. It is no pride to work for the rights of the GLBT community while at the same time taking away the rights of the unborn. I know I speak for myself and other pro-life members of the GLBT community when I say that I do not want my rights as a member of the GLBT community to come at the expense of the unborn. It is far better not to take a stance on the issue of abortion as it relates to fighting for the rights of the GLBT community than to combine it and lose the support of those who otherwise would work with you on other worthwhile causes.

Cecilia Brown, PLAGAL President

PLAGAL Survey

During the last Annual Meeting that was held on January 21, 2003, some PLAGAL members brought to the floor the issue of in vitro fertilization and other issues dealing with the destruction of human embryos. The in vitro fertilization committee was formed and the following is their presentation that is open for all members of PLAGAL to voice their opinion. A final vote will be held at our annual meeting. Please read the following carefully and send your thoughts and comments to the individual that is specified. For those who are unable to attend the annual meeting but wish to place their vote please see the section titled Vote and Debate on how to send your vote.

CONSIDERATION - EXPANDING PLAGAL'S PLATFORM TO INCLUDE IN VITRO ISSUES, STEM CELL RESEARCH AND CLONING: SINCE THE FOLLOWING ISSUES INVOLVE A POTENTIAL CHANGE TO PLAGAL'S PRO-LIFE PLATFORM, ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THEIR 2003 DUES ARE ABLE TO VOTE.

PLAGAL's official platform regarding pro-life issues is the opposition of abortions. PLAGAL defines the term "abortion" as the intentional (versus miscarriage) killing of a pre-implanted zygote (i.e., during the first week(s) after fertilization), implanted zygote, embryo, or fetus.

In the strictest sense, the term 'abortion' refers to the killing of pre-birth humans that live within the mother's womb. Since the advent of in vitro techniques, however, our culture now is involved in practices that kill or otherwise jeopardize the lives of pre-birth humans outside of the womb. The In Vitro Committee was formed to take a look at these 'out-of-womb' practices and present them for PLAGAL's consideration and voting. This presentation is as follows:

Issue #1 - IN VITRO FERTILIZATION: Should PLAGAL expand its pro-life stand to include opposition to In Vitro Fertilization techniques? Please choose from one of the following.

1A: ___ PLAGAL should NOT expand its pro-life platform to include opposing in vitro fertilization practices

1B: ___ PLAGAL should expand its pro-life platform to include opposing ALL TYPES of in vitro fertilization practices. This would include opposing in vitro practices that result in unplanned deaths of pre-birth humans due to either their inherent risks or conscious disregard for those risks and the long-term physical, social, or cultural implications to the child and society as a whole. This would include opposing single-zygote in vitro practices due to their inherent risk of death (even though such practices do not result in the freezing or deliberate killing of the out-of-womb zygotes or embryos). This would include opposing in vitro practices for couples that are unable to conceive naturally (i.e., many straight couples and all gay couples). This would NOT include "turkey baster" techniques or other techniques used to introduce gametes (sperm or unfertilized eggs) directly into the uterus of a female.

1C: ___ PLAGAL should expand its pro-life platform to include opposing ONLY those in vitro fertilization practices that result in the deliberate killing of pre-birth humans (excluding freezing and other suspended animation techniques unless they result in death. This would NOT include freezing or other suspended-animation techniques that are performed with the intent of later implanting the pre-birth human (i.e., the intended goal being to achieve a full-term pregnancy and live birth), even if the risks involved in such practices are great.

1D: ___ PLAGAL should expand its pro-life platform to include opposing ONLY those in vitro fertilization practices that result in the deliberate killing or suspended animation of pre-birth humans? In addition to opposing the practices defined under item "1C" (directly above), this would include opposition to those in vitro practices that result in freezing or other techniques that result in a state of suspended animation of pre-birth humans. This opposition would be based on the inherent risk or ethical human-rights issues regarding pre-birth humans (regardless of whether the intent it to later attempt to implantation or whether the intent is to later kill).

Issue #2 - STEM CELL TECHNIQUES: Should PLAGAL expand its pro-life stand to include opposition to stem cell techniques that obtain tissue from pre-birth humans? Please choose from one of the following.

2A: _____ PLAGAL should NOT expand its pro-life platform to include opposing stem cell practices

2B: _____ PLAGAL should expand its pro-life platform to include opposing ALL TYPES of practices that harvest stem cells from pre-birth humans This would include opposing techniques that take stem cells from pre-birth humans because of the inherent risk or ethical human-rights issues regarding pre-birth humans (regardless of whether the stem cell harvesting deliberately or accidentally resulted in the death or injury of the pre-birth human — and regardless of whether the tissue was taken from in vitro, in-the-womb, aborted, or miscarried pre-birth humans). This would NOT include the harvesting of stem cell tissue from umbilical cords and placenta. This would NOT include the harvesting of stem cell tissue from living adults and post-birth children.

2C: ___ PLAGAL should expand its pro-life platform to include opposing ONLY those stem cell practices that result in the deliberate killing of pre-birth humans. This would include opposing stem cell harvesting techniques that result in the death of in vitro pre-birth humans. This would NOT include those techniques that do not kill the pre-birth humans from which the tissue is being obtained. This would NOT include those practices that result in unplanned deaths of the pre-birth humans (due to the inherent risks involved in vitro techniques).

2D: _____ PLAGAL should expand its pro-life platform to include opposing ONLY those stem cell practices that result in the deliberate killing of pre-birth humans AND to those that use tissue from aborted pre-birth humans. In addition to those items detailed under item 2C (directly above), this would include opposing stem cell harvesting techniques from aborted tissue. This opposition would be based on antiabortion considerations or ethical human-rights issues (i.e., regarding the use of aborted tissue and how such use could impact societal views regarding the value or sanctity of aborted pre-humans). Based on the same concerns, this would include the use of umbilical and placenta tissues obtained via abortions.

Issue #3 - CLONING PRACTICES (PRE-BIRTH HUMAN): Should PLAGAL expand its pro-life stand to include opposition to cloning-practices that obtain tissue from pre-birth humans? Please choose from one of the following.

3A: ___ PLAGAL should NOT expand its pro-life platform to include opposition to cloning practices that involve pre-birth human tissue.

3B: ___ PLAGAL should expand its pro-life platform to include opposing ALL TYPES of cloning practices that involve tissue from pre-birth humans or tissue or gametes from post-birth humans used in the creation of new organisms (i.e., fertilized eggs, zygotes, embryos, or fetuses). This would include opposing any cloning techniques that use tissue from pre-birth humans because of ethical human-rights issues regarding such practices. This would include opposing any cloning techniques that create new organisms (fertilized eggs, zygotes, embryos, or fetuses) made up in part by tissue or gametes from post-birth humans. This opposition would be based on ethical human-rights issues regarding such practices. This opposition would be whether the new organism (fertilized egg, zygote, embryo, or fetus) was cloned with 100% human tissue or human tissue or gametes combined with tissue or material from animal or other organic or inorganic material. Opposition would exist whether or not such cloning practices placed at risk the life of the pre-birth human (or organism made up in part of human tissue or gametes).

3C: ___ PLAGAL should expand its pro-life platform to include opposing ONLY those cloning practices that result in the deliberate killing of pre-birth humans or living organisms containing pre-birth human tissue, AND ONLY those cloning practices that result in the creation of part-human living organisms (i.e., fertilized eggs, zygotes, embryos, or fetuses containing a combination of human and non-human tissue or gametes). This would include opposing those techniques that result in the deliberate killing of pre-birth humans (or organisms made up in part of human tissue or gametes). This would include opposing those techniques that are known to result in developing an unsustainable life (pre-birth human, or organism made up in part -of human tissue or gametes) e.g., cloning techniques that result in the development of a human-tissue organism that cannot remain viable through maturity. This would include opposing cloning practices that involve the creation of organisms (fertilized eggs, zygotes, embryos, or fetuses) that contain only part human tissue (and part animal or other organic or inorganic tissue or material) — whether or not the organism can live to maturity. This would NOT include cloning practices that involve the creation of cloned pre-birth humans containing 100% human tissue (gametes) that live to maturity (except where restricted via the passage of any of the items referenced above under the in-vitro-fertilization or stem cell sections).

VOTING AND DEBATE: All PLAGAL members are strongly encouraged to communicate their views and opinions, pros and cons, regarding the above items up for vote. Please do so before the debate period is over (i.e., December 30, 2003). The debate period is from the time this email was sent to December 30, 2003. **For those who are unable to attend the annual meeting but wish to cast their vote must do so by December 31, 2003.** Votes received by (or postmarked) December 31, 2003, will be tallied and the results will be communicated to the full PLAGAL membership by the next annual PLAGAL meeting (January 21, 2004). Name and address must accompany all votes. Only those who have paid their 2003 membership dues may vote.

Please email your comments, concerns, and debates to the complete PLAGAL listserv at plagal@topica.com (so the complete membership, as much as possible, can hear and consider one another's viewpoints).

Please email or mail your votes to the In Vitro Committee Chair and PLAGAL Secretary (Kenneth Teise) at TeutonWolf@aol.com. Mailing Address: Kenneth Teise, 45 Dorothea Street, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043.

Please reference in the subject line a reference to "In Vitro".

If you submit an opinion and then later wish to change it (before the December 31, 2003, deadline), please indicate on your E-mail or letter that the item is a CORRECTED SUBMISSION.