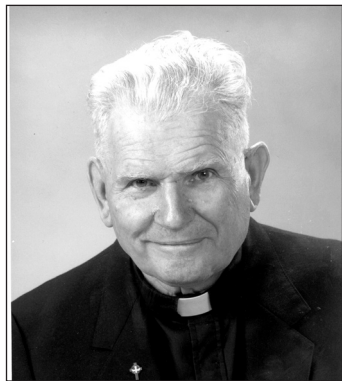


Welcome back to a new school year filled with so much promise and hearty challenges. *The Interim Plus*, in its own modest way, will try to help you keep the promise and meet the challenges by providing you select resources over the course of the school year.

The Father Ted Colleton Scholarship

We are happy to announce that the **Father Ted Colleton Scholarship** program is renewed.



Now entering its eighth year it offers senior high school students the opportunity to learn about life issues through an essay-writing contest. Application form, contest details and essay evaluation rubric may be found at www.theinterim.com. The applicants must submit (preferably by email) a typed original

essay, (approximately 800-1000 words in length) postmarked no later than **December 8, 2009** on the following topic:

The culture of death is all-pervasive, arising in one little corner and then engulfing the whole culture. Demonstrate whether there is a real link between contraception, abortion, embryonic stem cell research and euthanasia.

There are three prizes: **\$1500 first prize, \$800 second prize and \$500 third prize.** The writing contest co-sponsored by *The Interim* newspaper and Niagara Region RTL is a determining factor in the awarding of the scholarships. The winners will be declared by January 31, 2010.

LifeChain Sunday

Each year people prayerfully witness in support of the sanctity and dignity of human life from conception to natural death. The event called LifeChain will occur across all of North America on Sunday, October 4.

It lasts for one hour and people from all walks of life and all cultures and races, young and old, healthy and disabled

gather at a public intersection to silently pray for an end to abortion. Teachers and students may consult the posters in their local churches to find out the locations nearest to them. Information can be obtained by phoning 416-204-9749.

Is there a future for humanity?

On the face of it the question sounds strange or maybe silly. Then when one looks at certain facts, it may be a legitimate question to ask, or perhaps alter slightly, to what kind of a future do we face?

In the August edition of *The Interim*, editor Paul Tuns wrote an interesting piece that forms the basis of the question. His article entitled, ***Refusing to face the truth about our aging society***, presented evidence that raises grave concern about the future of Canada and other developed nations. Their future looks bleak.

Refusing to face the truth about our aging society

Paul Tuns, *The Interim*, August 2009

Over the last few months, numerous groups and media outlets have noticed that the world's population is aging – alarmingly so in the developed world – yet few identified the solution to the problem.

From the business pages of the daily papers to financial advisers, from the International Monetary Fund to the C.D. Howe Institute, alarm bells have been ringing about the rapidly aging populations of Canada, the United States, Japan and Europe. The developing world is also aging, though not as quickly. But all governments face a fiscal crunch in the future due to the rapid and unprecedented demographic shift that began after World War II when birthrates grew, then suddenly dropped after the **Baby Boom** generation became adults.

American economist **Edward Yardeni** wrote to clients to warn of the “the realistic and dismal demographic scenario” in which “the number of older people will grow faster than younger ones.” He called this phenomenon “the new Malthusian nightmare.”

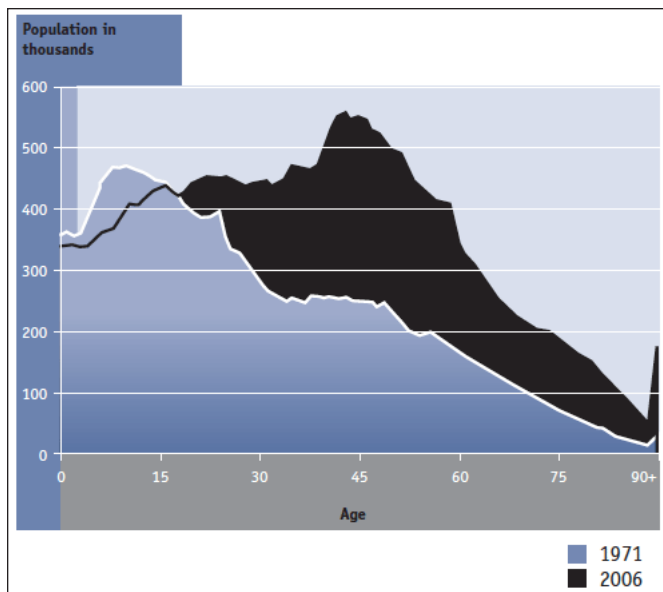


In the 1790s, **Thomas Malthus** warned that population would grow past the capacity of society to feed itself. He was spectacularly wrong. Yardeni is warning that the structure of the global population will be a different demographic bomb, with



more elderly and fewer workers to support them.

George Magnus, senior economic advisor with the UBS Investment Bank, wrote in the *Financial Times* that increased life expectancy in “advanced economies is expected to rise from 77 to 83” over the next few decades, “forcing us to think about the unique change in age structure.”



The U.S. Census Bureau released figures on July 19 that estimated by 2050, there will be six million centenarians



(people 100 years or older). It said that there will be 627,000 centenarians in Japan or about 1 per cent of its population. The U.S. will have more than 600,000 centenarians.

Today, there are a total of 340,000 in the world. In Japan, the median age will rise from 37 in 1990 to 55 by 2050, whereas in the U.S., the median age will grow more slowly, from 33 to 39. Such increases will strain state budgets as they try to pay for pensions, healthcare and other age-related expenditures.

The International Monetary Fund issued its quarterly *Global Financial Stability Report*, which warned that governments need to develop “exit strategies” from their costly stimulus spending in order to reduce their debts and be better positioned when there is a financial reckoning for aging populations. It estimated that the costs to governments could be 10 times higher than the G-20 tab for dealing with

the current recession. The IMF warns that the increased debt load today makes it more difficult to cover the costs of future entitlement spending.



As populations get older, the number of retirees grows and the proportion of workers supporting them (through taxes) decreases. When the number of workers decrease, tax revenues fall, spending increases, deficits and debt grows and both state and individual finances become unstable, imperilled and insufficient.

Magnus wrote in the *Financial Times* that, “We cannot afford simply to hope that a solution will turn up. We should not believe for a moment that financial engineering or adjustments to pensions, savings and benefits systems will provide an easy fix.” Magnus went on to propose adjustments to retirement ages, including eliminating incentives to early retirement. He also supported more flexible work schedules and environments, so that older employees could remain in the workforce. He wanted people to embrace a longer working life.

Jeffrey Simpson, a *Globe and Mail* columnist, cast some doubts on the IMF’s cost estimates, but endorsed the notion that governments need to control spending now so that they can pay for an aging population in the near future. He also supported policy changes, including tinkering with the tax, pension and health care system.

What Simpson did not do is mention, let alone propose ideas to rectify, below-replacement-level birthrates. Usually, policy makers look at immigration and playing with the retirement age as panaceas to the demographic bomb facing the developed world.

For the second time in four years, the C.D. Howe Institute, a centrist, Toronto-based economic think tank, issued a report panning the idea that increasing immigration will solve the problem of not having



enough working-age people to support Canada’s senior population. In “*Faster, Younger, Richer? The Fond Hope and Sobering Reality of Immigration’s Impact on Canada’s Demographic and Economic Future*,” Robin Banerjee and William P. Robson stated that for immigration to adequately address the demographic challenges of the near future, annual immigration would have to swell from 225,000 to 600,000.

That is unrealistic, so Banerjee and

Robson proposed three strategies: raise the retirement age from 65 to 70, increase the fertility rate from 1.54 to 2.1 (replacement level) and increase worker productivity (output per hour). However, in their 18-page report, the authors dedicated just one paragraph to “Higher Fertility.” Nowhere did they mention abortion, nor did they suggest specific policies to achieve their goal of reaching a 2.1 fertility rate – the number of children a typical woman will have in her lifetime – within 10 years. In fact, they said “pro-natal policies” are “politically controversial.”



Indeed, they are. In over 20 recent studies, reports and media accounts on the issue of aging societies, only one mentions abortion. *London Free Press* columnist Rory Leishman wrote “at least one part of the solution is obvious: a major reduction in” abortion. (Leishman expands on this idea in his column in this issue.) He wrote that the slight decline in abortion rates “is encouraging, but hardly sufficient” to address the demographic imbalance.

Robson and Banerjee note that if fertility rates were to recover to replacement level, combined with an increase in the retirement age to 70, much of the future increased costs of an aging population would be covered.

Without significant changes in Canada’s demographics and policies, the C.D. Howe Institute estimates that the increased cost of entitlements for those over 65 will be \$1.5 trillion over the next 40 years.

An important component of raising fertility rates is recriminalizing abortion. In Canada, there have been more than three million abortions since 1969; that is a lot of missing workers and having them would have maintained the balance between workers and dependent elderly.

The missing three million would not reduce the expense of caring for the elderly, but would have helped distribute the costs among a larger taxpayer base.

To help bring back an economically sustainable demographic balance, policy makers and opinion leaders must reconsider abortion on demand. As the growing pile of reports and articles attest, the financial day of reckoning is getting closer and the window of opportunity to deal with the coming demographically driven economic crisis is narrowing.

Questions

1. How can a nation’s birthrate influence/affect its wellbeing?
2. What is the difference between the birthrate and the fertility rate?
3. List and briefly explain some of the most important general factors that may influence the one and the other?
4. Who are the groups reporting on population problems?
5. What statistics are considered troubling?
6. What is meant by the statement that the “world’s population is aging”?
7. What is the “new Malthusian nightmare”?
8. How does this demographic shift impact on the future of our societies?
9. Research the potential fall-out of a rapidly aging population on
 - a) the work force
 - b) housing
 - c) pensions
 - d) school enrolment and education field
 - e) health care
 - f) retirement age
 - g) government revenues and spending
 - h) immigration rates
 - i) national security
 - j) political stability
10. What are some of the proposed solutions to this “aging” problem?
11. Which of them appear to be feasible? How would these goals be achieved?
12. What solution does Tuns offer as a necessary component to increasing the live birth rate?
13. What are the disastrous consequences if no action is taken in the face of these demographic developments?
14. Has the legalization of abortion liberated women or made them even more subject to men?

Sources to consult

The World Food Crisis and Political Malthusianism
Government failure, not overpopulation, is the cause of higher food prices , Ronald Bailey | July 8, 2008
<http://www.reason.com/news/show/127428.html>

Retiring baby-boomers will be drag on recovery
The Times, George Magnus: Economic View , August 3, 2009

<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/columnists/article6736846.ece>

Global Financial Stability Report GFSR Market Update Policies Have Reduced Systemic Risks But Vulnerabilities Remain

July 8, 2009

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fmu/eng/2009/02/>

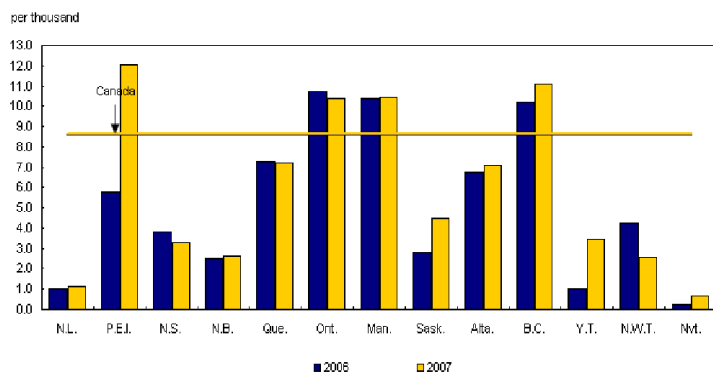
Faster, Younger, Richer? The Fond Hope and Sobering Reality of Immigration's Impact on Canada's Demographic and Economic Future by Robin Banerjee & William B.P. Robson

<http://ideas.repec.org/s/cdh/commen.html>

Ending abortion necessary to easing cost of aging society

Rory Leishman, *The Interim*, August 2009

As the huge costs of caring for Canada's rapidly aging population become ever more apparent, more and more Canadians are finally beginning to realize that the collapse of the birthrate in Canada over the past 40 years threatens the economic prosperity of future generations.



In a recent report, "Faster, Younger, Richer? The Fond Hope and Sobering Reality of Immigration's Impact on Canada's Demographic and Economic Future," Robin Banerjee and William Robson of the C. D. Howe Institute point out that if current trends continue, there will be scarcely two Canadians of working age for every retired person in Canada in 2057, down from the present ratio of nearly five to one.

Many Canadians suppose that **increased immigration** can take care of the problem, but that is not so. On average, immigrants to Canada are not much younger than the native-born population. Banerjee and Robson estimate that Canada would have to take in so many additional immigrants, to prevent any further increase in the ratio of retired persons to workers, that the projected national population in 2058 would have to soar to a staggering 210 million.

That's out of the question. It is exceedingly

unlikely that Canada could attract enough additional young immigrants over the next 40 years to prevent any further increase in the proportion of retirees per Canadian of working age.

Increasing the standard age of retirement to 70 from 65 would ease the burden of retirees, but only temporarily. Within a few years, a rapid increase in the ratio of retired persons to workers would resume.

Correspondingly, **boosting the productivity of each worker** by such measures as slashing government spending and corporate tax rates would help. However, Banerjee and Robson estimate that even a 50 per cent increase in productivity would not solve the aging problem.

There is no escaping the conclusion that the impending crisis of old-age dependency in Canada cannot be solved without a sharp increase in birthrates. For the past 30 years, Canada's total fertility rate – the average number of children per woman – has remained far below the replacement level of 2.1. According to the latest data from Statistics Canada, the current rate is just 1.59.

Banerjee and Robson suggest that Parliament and the provincial legislatures safeguard the living standards of future generations by both boosting the standard retirement age to 70 over 20 years and increasing the total fertility rate to 2.1 over the next 10 years. However, the authors have nothing to say about how our **elected legislators might encourage more births**. That's unfortunate. Their only observation is that "pro-natal policies are uncertain in their impact, not to mention politically controversial."

Indeed so. Quebec has undertaken to boost birthrates by introducing an expensive new system of **enhanced benefits for parental leave and child support**. However, extensive research in Scandinavia and elsewhere has shown that such measures can only boost fertility by a few tenths of a per cent per woman – not nearly enough to get the Quebec or Canadian ratios back to the replacement level of 2.1.

In Britain, Conservative party leader David Cameron is promising to restore the status of **marriage**. Among other reforms, he has pledged that his government will refocus tax benefits on

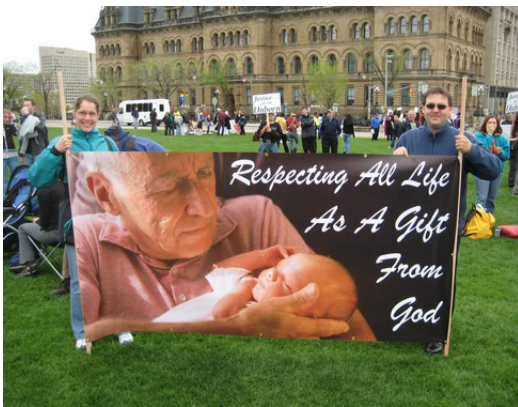


traditionally married couples, as distinct from those living common law or in same-sex relationships.

Canadian legislators should do the same. Strengthening marriage would not only promote the well-being of parents and their children, but also serve to boost birthrates. Traditionally married couples are far more likely than singles or common-law couples to beget children.

However, there is no escaping the truth: Canada is never likely to return to a population-sustaining fertility rate without a **substantial cut in the calamitous rate of abortions**. At present, nearly 30 Canadian babies are deliberately aborted for every 100 who are born alive.

We pro-lifers should never tire of persuading our



fellow Canadians of the tragedy of abortion. Above all, we should emphasize that ending abortion is essential to protecting the well-

being of Canadian mothers and the very lives of literally hundreds of thousands of their babies.

In addition, we should point out that curtailing the abortion licence in Canada is **necessary to sustain the living standards of future generations of Canadians**.

Questions

1. How is the shrinking youth sector and an expanding aging sector to the population of Canada an economic problem and/or a spiritual challenge?
2. “..There will be scarcely two Canadians of working age for every retired person in Canada in 2057, down from the present ratio of nearly five to one”. Why is this projection a serious problem?
3. Is large scale immigration a viable solution? What complications may result from such a solution?
4. How effective would be the other solutions mentioned by Leishman (increasing the standard age of retirement to 70 from 65 boosting the productivity of each worker by such measures as slashing government spending and corporate tax rates)?

5. How could legislators encourage more live births? Why is this solution “controversial”?
6. Has the legal redefinition of marriage by the Canadian parliament dealt a blow to population growth?
7. Why would strengthening the traditional institution of marriage help the situation?
8. How does the rate of abortion affect the failing birthrate?
9. What logical conclusion does Leishman draw regarding the abortion rate?
10. What stands in the way of government doing what is economically necessary as well as morally prudent and correct?
11. What concerns should young people, the future work force, have regarding the growing imbalance between young and old?
12. Is euthanasia an unthinkable solution to these growing problems of demographic imbalances?
13. Is respect for human life and human dignity on the wane or is it being strengthened by the march of the “culture of death”?

Youth plan modesty fashion show

Jenna Murphy, *The Interim*, August 2009

At a time when the affronts to life at every stage are enough to leave one’s head spinning, a group of summer interns at Campaign Life Coalition, the political arm of the Canadian pro-life movement, has decided to put its energies into hosting an uplifting charity event for all ages: a fashion show celebrating the dignity of each human life. All proceeds from the show are set to go towards women and new mothers in need of assistance in the Toronto area.

“The idea for **Pure Exposure 2009** was floating around in many of our heads and, when we started dreaming about pulling it off, we realized it was actually feasible,” says Melissa Vasquez, 21, one of the members of the show’s organizing committee. “Before we knew it, the contacts were coming out of the woodwork. It’s amazing how many professionals find our mission worthy of pro-bono support!”

The fashion show’s organizing committee has set August 20 as the date for Pure Exposure’s Toronto debut at Woodbine Banquet Hall and Convention Centre near the airport.

The committee has developed a mission statement in an attempt to classify the need for **dressing in such a way as to be consistent with the dignity of the human person**. The statement reads: “Pure Exposure

is at once a fashion show, as well as a celebration of the gift of each individual life. We recognize that each person brings with them a world of talents and that by their mere existence, they add infinite value to the fabric of our society. True fashion, therefore, as an individual choice should, by its very nature, adorn the body in accordance to its worth, but also, by necessity, it must testify to the inestimable value and beauty of the human person.”



The event will be hosted by **Toronto designer and TV personality Lisa Canning** and will include intermittent talks on **modesty in dress, self-worth** and how one can remain true to oneself while remaining relevant in

the midst of today’s “anything goes” fashion trends.

A 2007 Ryerson graduate, and recently a featured designer on HGTV’s *Marriage Under Construction*, Canning completed her fashion design honours thesis on **modesty and how it actually reveals true femininity**. After her undergraduate studies, she began speaking in order to enlighten young women to the fact that they need not “bare it all” to adhere to the latest fashion trends.

“I believe that **there is a massive appeal in dressing modestly**. Unfortunately, this seems to be the fashion industry’s best-kept secret, but many are working to change that,” said Canning. “Most

of the people with whom I graduated are now in high places in the fashion world actually creating the trends. Many of these people, instead of raising their eyebrows at my thesis topic, were instead intrigued. We need to **reconsider our own standards**.”

The clothing featured in the fashion show will have been carefully selected from the fall lines of popular Toronto clothing stores to emphasize the idea that **modesty need not be equated with expensive, “ultra-conservative” or even rare**. The message the organizers say they hope to drive home is that respecting oneself is always in season. The show will also feature clothing from several local independent designers.



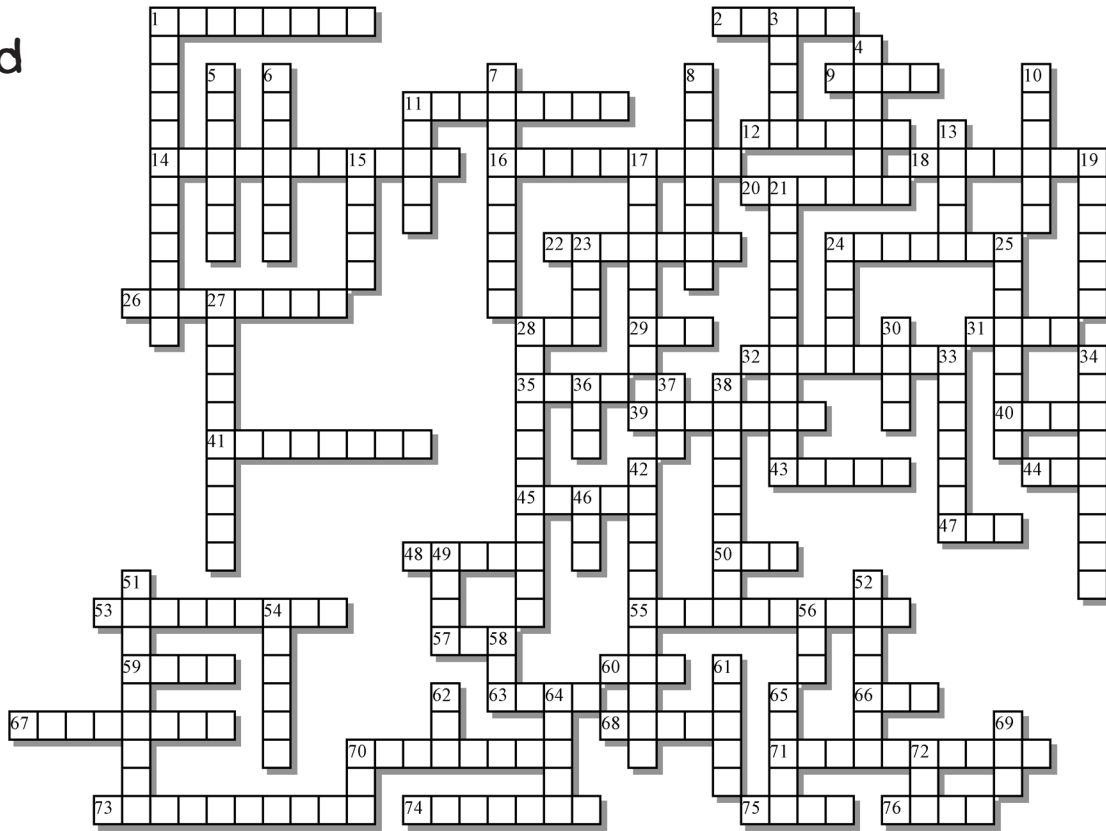
Questions

1. Define the term modesty.
2. Are fashion shows a proper format for displaying modest attire?
3. What is the current prevailing trend in fashion? For women? For men?
4. What motivated the Campaign Life summer interns to stage a fashion show?
5. How does proper dress respect the dignity of the human person?
6. Designer Lisa Canning believes that “there is a massive appeal in dressing modestly. Unfortunately, this seems to be the fashion industry’s best-kept secret.” Based on the evidence on television, magazines, the internet, newspaper advertising – would you agree or disagree?
7. Many schools have adopted school uniforms or at least dress codes. What is the purpose behind these rules? Do the uniforms and dress codes encourage modesty? If not, why not?

PUZZLES

A new feature of The Interim Plus is to provide some fun activities related to life issues in the news and to the articles that appear in the current edition of The Interim Plus itself. There are both word searches and crossword puzzles to entertain and educate.

Crossword



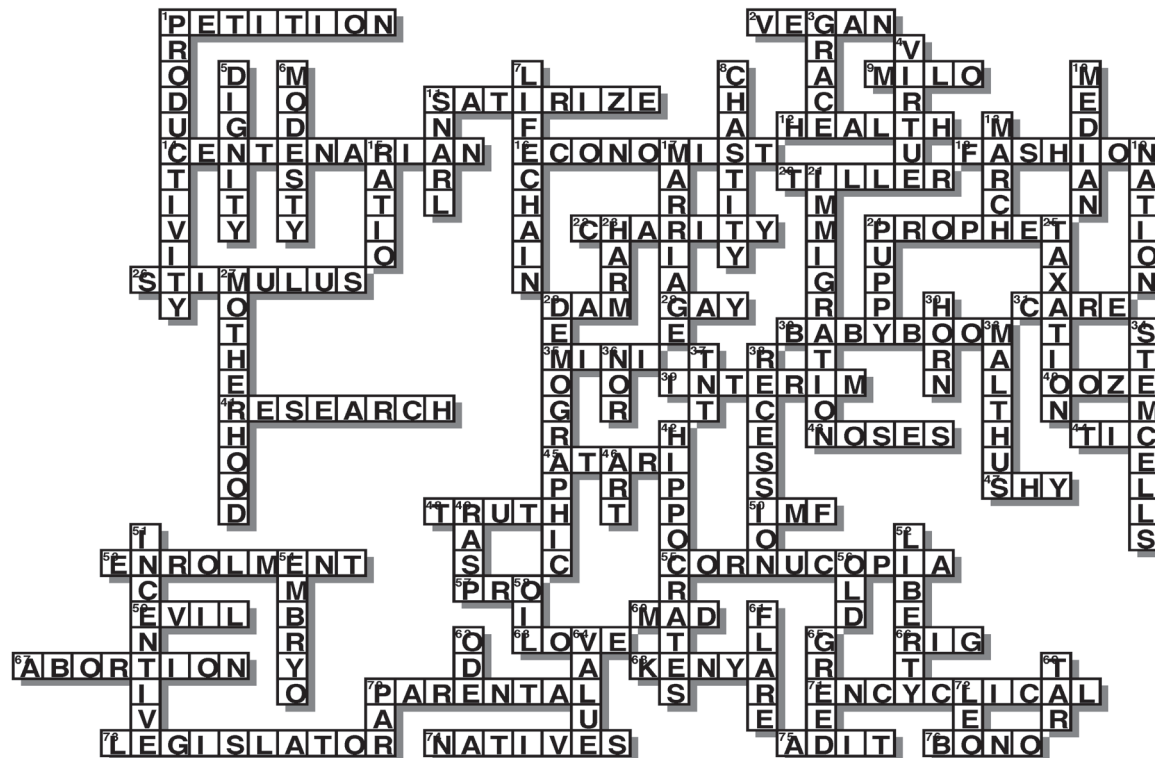
Down:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 - the rate at which goods are produced, especially output | man and woman as husband and wife | 42 - developed first oath of medical ethics |
| 3 - state of sanctification, an unmerited gift | 19 - country | 46 - skill |
| 4 - excellent quality | 21 - movement of people from one nation to another | 49 - rough filler |
| 5 - innate worth of a human being | 23 - hurt done | 51 - motivator |
| 6 - proper respect for human body, restrained dress | 24 - very young dog | 52 - freedom |
| 7 - annual prayerful witnessing for life | 25 - government means of obtaining money | 54 - young one, state of the unborn baby |
| 8 - purity | 27 - state of being a female parent | 56 - ____ Testament |
| 10 - a middle value of an ordered set of values | 28 - pertaining to study of population in a specific area | 58 - olive ____ |
| 11 - rude angry noise | 30 - musical instrument | 61 - flamboyant style |
| 13 - ____ for Life, happens in May in Ottawa | 33 - population theorist | 62 - a lyric poem |
| 15 - proportional relationship of one thing to another | 34 - human building blocks, with potential | 64 - worth |
| 17 - the legal union of a | 36 - it was neither ____ | 65 - a terrible vice |
| | 37 - dynamite | 69 - ____ sands of Alberta |
| | 38 - two fiscal quarters of economic slowdown | 70 - Tiger usually achieves it |
| | | 72 - Latin for king of the jungle |

Across:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 - official means of bringing a request to elected officials | 31 - solicitation for another | 59 - negative activity, sinful-ness |
| 2 - devoted to eating non-carnivorous food | 32 - generation born between 1946 and 1964 | 60 - insane |
| 9 - Venus de ____ | 35 - short | 63 - that which Dante says moves all things |
| 11 - make fun of | 39 - The ____, Canada's life and family newspaper | 66 - fix, as in a game's outcome |
| 12 - state of well-being | 40 - seep | 67 - deliberate termination of unborn human life |
| 14 - person who reaches 100 years of age | 41 - activity to delve in, explore | 68 - site of Father Ted Colleton's missionary work |
| 16 - an example is John Kenneth Galbraith | 43 - organs for detecting aromas | 70 - ____ leave |
| 18 - prevailing style of dress | 44 - first part of a silly game | 71 - letter or document written by the Pope to explain a teaching of the Catholic Church |
| 20 - late-term abortionist killed in May, 2009 | 45 - early computer games maker | 73 - one who makes laws |
| 22 - benevolent giving | 47 - reticent | 74 - people who are aboriginal to a place |
| 24 - exclaims truth with courage | 48 - fact, veracity | 75 - entrance to a mine |
| 26 - government spending to kick-start a sluggish economy | 50 - initials of banking institution | 76 - pro ____, when professional service given freely |
| 28 - structure to protect from flooding | 53 - registration in school | |
| 29 - happy, joyful | 55 - legendary horn of plenty | |
| | 57 - in favour of | |

Crossword Solution



Yahoo! Forum for Teachers

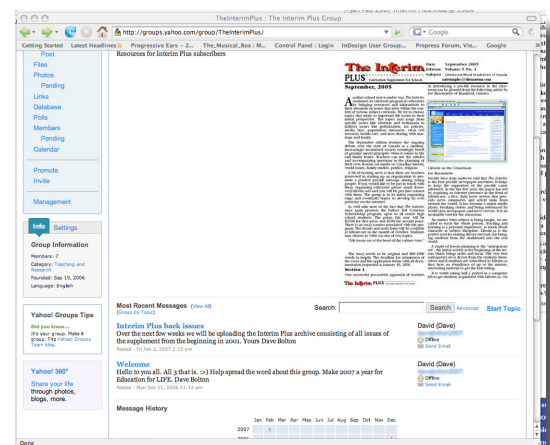
Lastly, we bring to teachers' attention the formation of a Yahoo! group to serve as a forum for pro-life educators to exchange ideas, views, and communicate their thoughts and teaching strategies on key life issues of the day. You are encouraged to join the group and make your own contributions. This is one simple way to expand the culture of life.

The address is:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TheInterimPlus/>

Please tell friends and colleagues about this new link for communicating with like minded educators. There is so much to be done and so few to do it, especially when the few do not realize how numerous they actually are because they are not in contact with one another. Nominate friends and fellow teachers. Send this call out to them.

Also, if you have a resource to share we will gladly post it for others to access.



How to join The Interim Plus via the group page:

1. Locate the group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TheInterimPlus/>).
2. Click on the Join This Group button on front (home) page, as seen above.
3. If you are not signed in, you will be asked to enter your Yahoo! ID. If you do not have a Yahoo! ID, you can register by clicking on the Sign Up link.
4. Set your membership preferences. When you join, you can choose a profile you would like to display to the group, select the email address at which you would like to receive group messages, choose how you receive group messages, and more.