

A Bioethics Timeline

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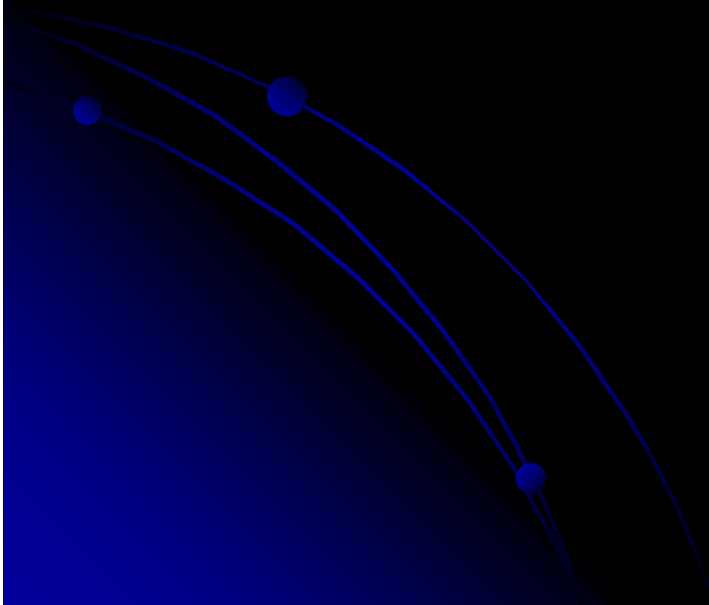
www.cedarville.edu/bioethics

Special thanks to Mrs. Terry Golightly and Dr. Dennis Durst, Kentucky Christian University, for assembling the images used here)

1968



Harvard University
recommends brain
death standards for
organ transplantation.



1971



Judith Jarvis Thomson writes “A Defense of Abortion,” an influential essay which defends abortion even while assuming the personhood of the unborn.



1972



Details of the Depression-era Tuskegee Syphilis Study, one of the greatest ethical breaches of trust between physicians and patients in a U.S. clinical study, are brought to light.



1973



The *Roe vs. Wade*
U.S. Supreme Court
decision allows
unrestricted access
to abortion before
viability.



1976



By a ruling of the New Jersey Supreme Court, Karen Ann Quinlan is taken off life support. Hers is the first major “right to die” case involving persistent vegetative state (PVS). She lived for 9 years after being removed from life support.



1978



Louise Joy Brown,
the first “test tube
baby,” is born.



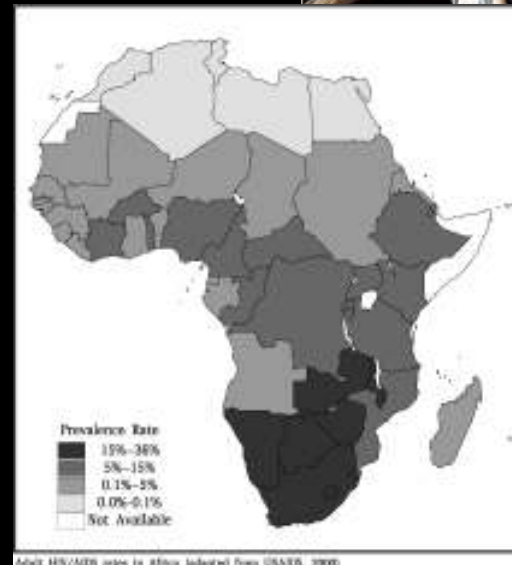
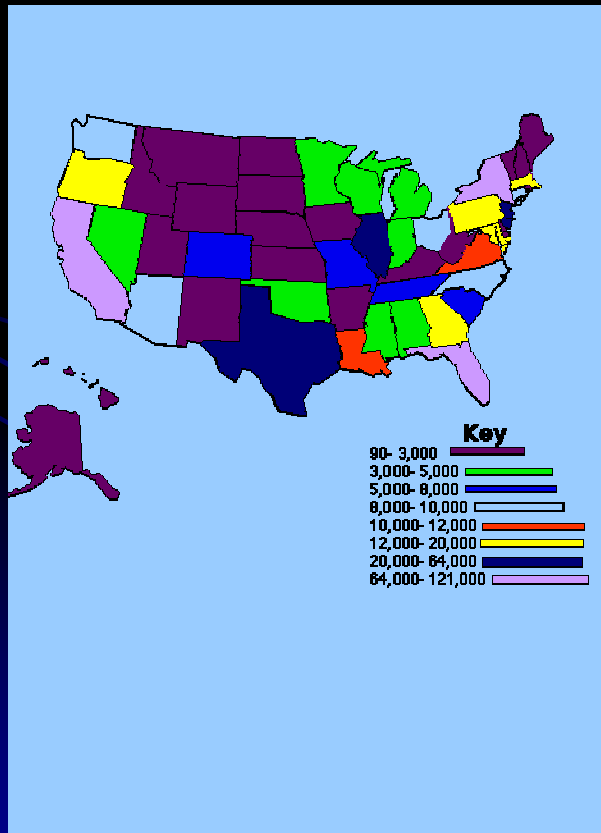
Now grown, she meets her doctor



1981



AIDS is first reported in the U.S.

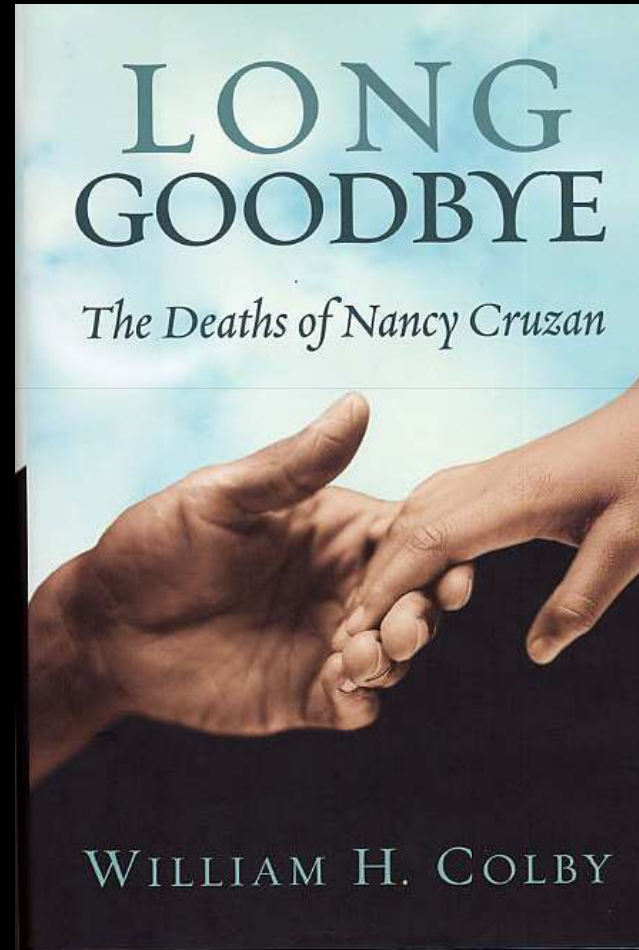


Adult HIV/AIDS rates in Africa. Adapted from UNAIDS, 2000.

1990



Nancy Cruzan, who is in a PVS, dies after a contentious “right to die” case before the U.S. Supreme Court



1992



The *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* U.S. Supreme Court decision overturns the viability portion of *Roe v. Wade*, extending the right to abortion to any time of the pregnancy.



1996



Dolly the sheep, the first cloned mammal, is born.



1997



Oregon voters
approve the
Death with
Dignity Act.



1999



Dr. Jack Kevorkian is convicted for the voluntary euthanasia of a patient with Lou Gehrig's disease after assisting in the suicide of almost 100 others.



2001



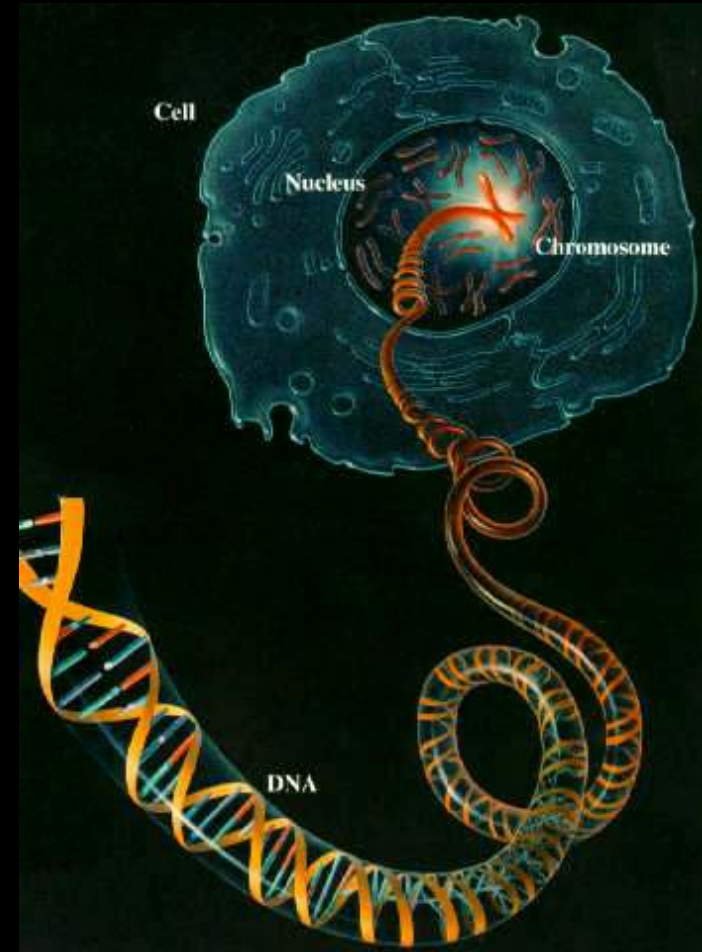
President Bush permits limited government funding of embryonic stem cell research, using only embryos that had already been destroyed.



2003



The Human Genome Project is completed, marking the first complete draft of the sequence of human DNA.



2003



The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, a federal ban of intact dilation and extraction as an abortion procedure, is passed.



2005



Terri Schiavo dies after her feeding tube is removed by ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court. In this “right to die” case, the diagnosis of PVS was hotly contested.



2007



The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.



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