

PHIL 308  
ELEMENTARY  
ETHICS



DR. JEFF JOHNSON  
LECTURE THIRTEEN

# CRUZAN V. DIRECTOR, MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- ❖ The accident
- ❖ Parent's request
- ❖ Hospital's refusal
- ❖ Trial court's decision
- ❖ Missouri Supreme Court  
Decision
- ❖ U.S. Supreme Court decision
- ❖ New trial court decision
- ❖ 12/26/90 Nancy dies

# THREE MORTAL ISSUES, AGAIN

- ❖ Autonomy
  - ❖ Conscious and competent
  - ❖ Unconscious
  - ❖ Precedent autonomy
- ❖ Sanctity
- ❖ Sacred value of life
- ❖ Best interests
  - ❖ Experiential
  - ❖ Critical

# EXPERIENTIAL INTERESTS

- ◆ Dworkin's
- ◆ Jeff's
- ◆ Yours

# CRITICAL INTERESTS

- ◆ Dworkin's
  - ◆ His children
  - ◆ His work
  - ◆ Understanding science
  - ◆ Not continuing to live in a comatose or demented state
- ◆ Experiential interests not frivolous
- ◆ Critical interests can work against critical interests

# CRITICAL INTERESTS AND EUTHANASIA

## ◆ Conscious

- ◆ Experiential — pain

- ◆ Dignity

- ◆ Being a burden

## ◆ Unconscious

- ◆ Why choose death?

- ◆ Dignity

- ◆ Personality

# DWORKIN'S STORY SO FAR

- ◆ Choosing euthanasia is legally and morally permitted
- ◆ Respects sanctity of life
- ◆ Honors personal autonomy
- ◆ Consistent with best interests
  - ◆ Experiential
  - ◆ Critical