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Subject: Re: McCain picks his vp.

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Mon, 01 Sep 2008 21:21:57 GMT

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Nukelt15 wrote on Mon, 01 September 2008 16:45Be careful- there are several different "vegetative states," and some of them allow no possibility of recovery. They're misdiagnosed fairly often, though- which is one good argument against pulling the plug. On the other hand, once it is known for sure that a patient will never recover, keeping an empty body on life support is rather pointless and wasteful of medical resources.

Here's a hypothetical question for you: if a patient were to recover from a PVS after all higher brain functions had ceased for months, perhaps years- would it be the same person who awoke in that body?

Trust me, I'm all for euthanasia. If someone wants to end their life, then by all means, listen to them. I used to be on the Republican side of the Terry Shiavo case, but now I think it was cruel to keep her alive.

You know, even if it's NOT the same person, that doesn't mean someone is incapable of having a happy life. This one lady had a terrible case of amnesia. She had a seizure (I think) and woke up one morning not having any memories. She used to hold a good career job, but lost all of that. Essentially, she had a completely clean slate, though she could drive and talk. For the past 10 years, she's had to start all over. She can now recall memories from the time that she had to start all over again, but nothing before.

She says she's happy. She says she can't miss memories that she doesn't remember ever having. So I say that if the person is capable of starting over, it'd be cruel to not let them.

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