

The Sex Trade

Collegians Fight for Children

NEW FEATURE: Voices of Women Who Mourn

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THE AMERICAN FEMINISTSM

Feminists for Life of America



Human Commodities for Sale

One hundred and thirty-two years after slavery and indentured servitude were outlawed, people are still for sale around the world, and in the U.S.

THE AMERICAN FEMINIST

Feminists for Life of America



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THE AMERICAN FEMINIST The Quarterly Magazine of Feminists for Life of America **Editor** Erin M. Sullivan **Associate Editors** Maureen O'Connor, Molly Pannell, Valerie Schmaltz **Copy Editors** Donna R. Foster, Karen MacKavanagh **Art Director** Lisa Toscani **Design/Layout** Elizabeth Lambertson **Research Assistants** Elizabeth Brown, Elizabeth Reinjtes **Feminists for Life of America**, 733 15th Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 737-3352; www.feministsforlife.org. **President** Serrin M. Foster **Chair** Andrea Milanowski **Vice Chair** Peter Wolfgang **Public Policy Chair** Therese Madden **Treasurer** Carol D. Rieg **Secretary** Juda Buchanan.

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THE PRICE OF BODY PARTS

For decades researchers have studied fetal tissue to help develop medical treatments for diseases like polio, diabetes and Alzheimer's. But what has this research cost women, and is it worth the price?

“Fresh Fetal Tissue. Harvested and shipped to your specifications...where and when you need it!” boasts a brochure for Opening Lines, a fetal-tissue wholesaler. The brochure outlines every step of the business, from obtaining the body parts from abortion clinics to selling them to research institutions. Only once does it refer to the woman whose decision makes the business possible: “Turn your patient’s decision into something wonderful,” the brochure for Opening Lines soothes.

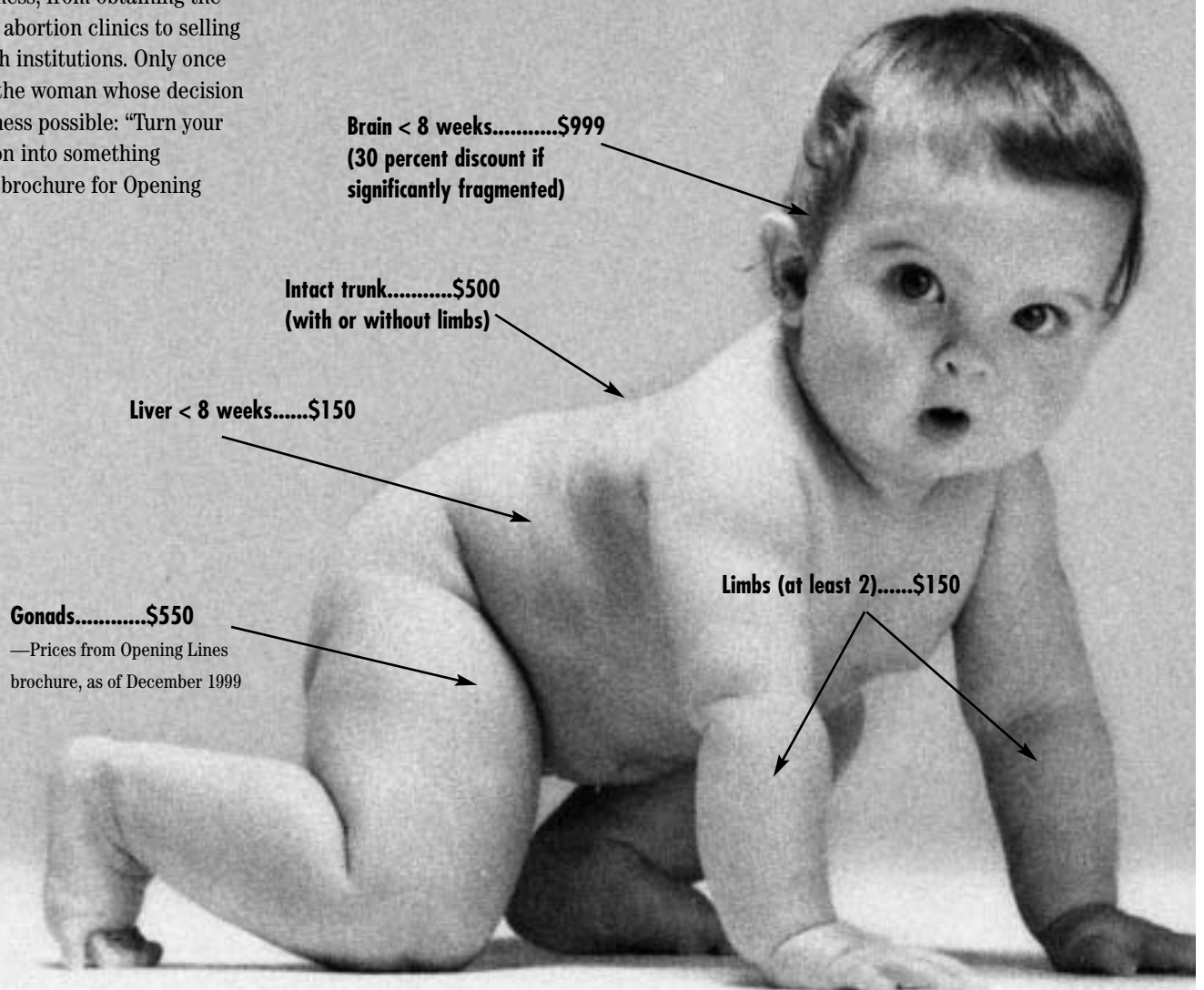
A “noble” decision

The brochure tells women that their abortions will result in “something wonderful.” What better way to influence a woman’s decision, thereby increasing profits for those in the body-parts trafficking industry, than by telling her that an abortion will be good for society, that aborting her baby will help others to live?

It is true that fetal-tissue research has contributed in the war against disease. In its early years, it helped in the development of the polio and rubella

vaccines. More recently, it has been credited for positive results in the treatment of Parkinson’s disease, diabetes and Alzheimer’s. But the greater these successes, the greater the pressure on women—making some feel noble for choosing abortion or guilty for choosing to carry the baby to term.

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**Brain < 8 weeks.....\$999
(30 percent discount if significantly fragmented)**

**Intact trunk.....\$500
(with or without limbs)**

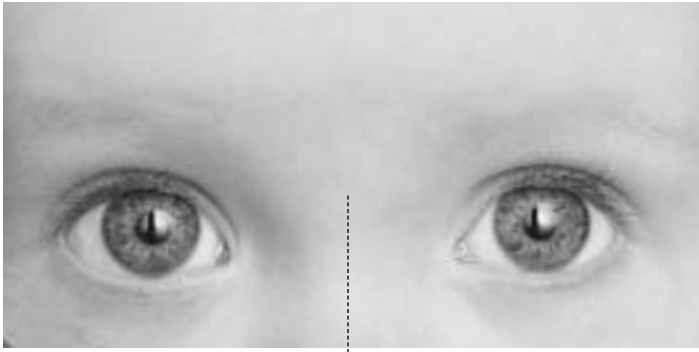
Liver < 8 weeks.....\$150

Gonads.....\$550

—Prices from Opening Lines brochure, as of December 1999

Limbs (at least 2).....\$150

TO SOME, A FETUS IS WORTH MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE.



Donor Criteria: 2-4 Eyes
Procedure: 1) Whole Intact
2) Place specimen

This is not the first time these fears have been raised. In 1988, concern that fetal-tissue research and transplant-donation opportunities would influence a woman's decision to have an abortion led Congress to place a ban on federally funded fetal-tissue research.

After President Clinton lifted the ban in 1993, Congress passed a law that required women donating fetal tissue to sign a waiver stating that their decision to have an abortion preceded the decision to donate the baby's remains to scientific research.

With women signing these waivers, they should be protected from any type of exploitation, supporters claimed. But there is mounting evidence that putting a price on body parts has led to abuse, especially of the most vulnerable parties involved—pregnant women and their unborn children.

Profit-driven priorities

The practice of trafficking in fetal body parts was publicized last year when “Kelly” (a pseudonym), a former medical technician for a fetal-tissue wholesaler, shared her experiences there with the *American Enterprise* magazine (published by the think tank, the American Enterprise Institute). Although federal law prohibits the selling of body parts, Kelly said companies like hers were able to operate legally by using words like “donate” and “site fee” to describe their lucrative activities.

Abortion clinics “donate” the bodies of recently aborted fetuses to wholesalers, but charge them a site fee, or rent, for the space needed to extract the desired parts from the available fetuses. The wholesalers

in turn “donate” these body parts to research hospitals and pharmaceutical companies, but charge them for the cost of retrieval.

The business was lucrative: so lucrative that, according to Kelly, the profit potential would sometimes influence medical treatment.

“Before the procedures they would want to see the list of what we wanted to produce. The [abortionist] would get us the most complete, intact specimens that he could. They would be delivered to us completely intact. Sometimes the fetus appeared to be dead, but when we opened up the chest cavity, the heart was still beating.”

She said that the type of abortion performed on a woman was sometimes altered to provide the technicians with intact aborted babies, which they considered ideal specimens for their purposes.

“Yes, that was so we could sell better tissue, so that our company would make more money. At the end of the year, they would give the clinic back more money because we got good specimens,” she told *American Enterprise* magazine.

This raises concerns for people like Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life. “Choosing an abortion procedure based on the potential retail value of an aborted fetus may be putting women's health at risk,” she said.

Crossing the line

Women are not the only potential victims of for-profit fetal body-part trafficking. Kelly's most chilling tale, and the one that led her to come forward about her experience, involves twins. She told the

es, 15-24 weeks, prefers 18-24 wks fetal cadaver.

ct Eyes -Sterile

en/s from each donor and place in sterile tube with L-15.

magazine that “a set of twins at 24 weeks gestation was brought to us in a pan. They were both alive. The doctor came back and said, ‘Got you some good specimens—twins.’ I looked at him and said, ‘There’s something wrong here. They are moving. I can’t do this. This is not in my contract.’ I told him I would not be part of taking their lives. So he took a bottle of sterile water and poured it in the pan until the fluid came up over their mouths and noses, letting them drown.”

Kelly said it happened more than once. “It happened again and again. At 16 weeks, all the way up to sometimes even 30 weeks, we had live births come back to us. Then the doctor would either break the neck or take a pair of tongs and beat the fetus until it was dead.”

All too common

Partial-birth abortion, or intact dilation and extraction (D&X), provides the best specimens for fetal tissue wholesalers and the most profits for the doctors who perform the procedure. It usually involves extraction of a fetus, feet first, through the birth canal, delivering all but the head. The doctor then forces a sharp instrument into the base of the skull and uses suction to remove the brain.

When the debate over whether to ban partial-birth abortion began a few years ago, pro-abortion advocates claimed that these types of abortions were very rare, and that most were due to health risks to the woman or severe fetal abnormalities. In 1996, Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, wrote in a Scripps Howard News Service op ed, “Late-term abortions are only used under the most compelling of

circumstances—to protect a woman’s health or life or because of grave fetal abnormality.”

Renee Chelian, president of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, testified as such before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees in 1997. “Only one percent of all abortions are done after 20 weeks. For those rare but necessary D&X procedures performed after 20 weeks, doctors must be able to use this method because of a serious health threat posed to the patient or because of a severe fetal anomaly,” she testified.

Just two weeks before this testimony, however, the executive director of Chelian’s organization admitted that these claims by pro-abortion advocates were false. Ron Fitzsimmons told *American Medical News* that he “lied through my teeth” when in 1995 he told Ted Koppel, host/anchor of ABC’s “Nightline,” that partial-birth abortions were used rarely and only on women whose lives were in danger or whose fetuses were deformed. “The abortion-rights folks know it, the anti-abortion folks know it, and so, probably does everyone else,” he told the magazine.

He said he knows because he asked the doctors who did them. “I learned right away that this was being done for the most part in cases that did not involve those extreme circumstances,” Fitzsimmons said. *The Washington Post*, *American Medical News*, and *The Record* newspapers also asked several doctors who acknowledged doing thousands of partial-birth abortions a year and who said that a majority were done on healthy fetuses and healthy women.

Helping women

Why would the abortion movement lie about this issue? Why is partial-birth abortion so important? The argument that it is needed in cases where the mother’s life is in danger is inconsistent with medical fact. More than 300 physician specialists, including former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, issued a statement saying that “partial-birth abortion is never medically necessary to protect a mother’s health or her future fertility.”

So why fight so hard for partial-birth abortion? Some abortion advocates fear that banning one abortion procedure will lead to the banning of them all, but there are others who don’t want the procedure to be banned—those who make money off of it. Banning partial-birth abortions would deal a severe blow to the fetal body-part trafficking business.

How can women trust abortion advocates when they tell lies to further their agenda? How can they trust doctors whose advice and health-care decisions may be influenced by profits from fetal body parts? How will they feel when they realize that, to some, their fetuses are worth more dead than alive and women are worth more as donors than as mothers? ○

Colleen Jones is a member of FFL and an editor and writer for a consulting firm.

Stolen for Sex

INEZ ALWAYS GOT DRUNK before the men arrived. It was the only way she could stand the demeaning and frightening work. Under 24-hour threat of force and abuse, this 18-year-old sold her body to more than 30 men a day. At the end of her shift, she filled a bathtub with hot water and soaked, drinking and crying, smoking one cigarette after another. She went to bed drunk because it was the only way she could fall asleep, only to wake and face another day of forced prostitution in the Florida trailers. As a harvester of lemons in a small town near Veracruz, Mexico, Inez was seduced by the promise of money and legitimate work in the United States, only to find herself coerced into captivity and forced into sexual slavery.

"The human damage is complete," says Laura J. Lederer, director of the Protection Project at Harvard University. She says that in the Florida brothel where Inez was held captive, girls reportedly as young as 13 were enslaved, sexually abused, and repeatedly beaten.

"Young women tell me that they cannot do the work without numbing themselves in some way—Inez used alcohol, a young woman from Saipan used cough syrup, many more use stronger drugs that are available from the same men who traffic them."

She says the women and children forced into sexual slavery also suffer from many health problems. They contract AIDS and a half dozen other sexually transmitted diseases, and are forced to have abortions.

"Those who are trapped in prostitution are broken in body and spirit, drug addicted, riddled with sexually transmitted diseases, sick and suicidal," said Lederer. "And if by chance a victim escapes, she most likely never regains her old life, much less a new one."

The girl next door

Lederer says an estimated 2 million women and children were forced or tricked into prostitution in 1999.

"During the last 10 years, the number of women and children that have been trafficked has multiplied so that it is now on par with some estimates of the numbers of Africans who were enslaved in the 16th and 17th centuries. They are taken from their native homelands and moved vast distances to foreign countries. In these new places, they do not know the language. They have no family, friends, or legal visas. Consequently, they are under the complete control of the people who have kidnapped them," Lederer said in an address to the 1999 Conference on Sexual Trafficking.

Maureen Walsh, counsel for the Helsinki Commission (Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe), says about 25,000 people, mostly women and children, are trafficked into the United States for the commercial sex industry each year. "I think people are really shocked when they hear it's happening in the United States," Walsh said.

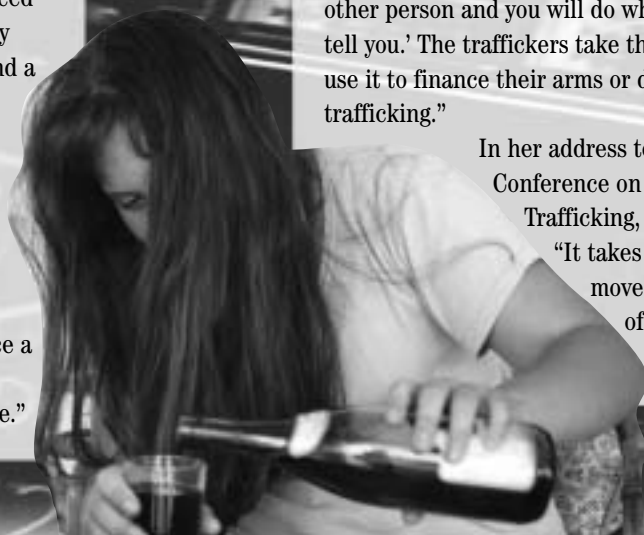
One reason for the high numbers is the high profits—Walsh says an estimated \$7 billion per year is generated by the trafficking of human beings.

"It has become another commodity for some of the groups that traffic in drugs and arms, and is either second or third in terms of the amount of money that's made," Walsh said in January. "The traffickers con women into moving abroad for the purpose of getting a job in a legitimate industry, seize their passports and then tell them, 'You now belong to this other person and you will do whatever they tell you.' The traffickers take that money and use it to finance their arms or drug trafficking."

In her address to the 1999 Conference on Sexual

Trafficking, Lederer said,

"It takes organization to move large numbers of people such long distances.



First there are the recruiters who identify and obtain the young women and children, either by trickery, kidnapping, or by buying them from parents, relatives, or friends. Then there are the smugglers who bring them across the borders. Over the border, there are the receivers who take women from smugglers and bring them to brothels. Then there are the brothel managers and brothel owners. Finally, there are the criminals at the top, skimming money for protection and overseeing the whole business.”

Reversing the tide

Although sex trafficking is a global human rights issue, all the laws that address it are national. “Most countries seem to realize that prostitution is not like other forms of work, and their laws reflect that,” Lederer said. “The problem is that most of these laws are inadequate, outdated, and poorly, if at all, enforced.”

The purpose of the Protection Project is to produce a comprehensive legal database of national and international legislation protecting women and children from commercial sexual exploitation. This database will summarize the corruptive practices of prostitution, pornography, and adoption for illicit purposes, as well as provide the public with a worldwide legal picture, country by country, of this horrific business.

“As a world leader, the U.S. needs to address this horrible crime—here in our own country, and abroad,” Lederer said.

In response, U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., chairman of the International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee, introduced the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 1999 (H.R. 3244). The Act combats sex trafficking by setting up programs, in the United States and abroad, to ensure just and effective



punishment of traffickers and to protect their victims.

A broad spectrum of groups is also working to raise awareness of sex trafficking. Among these is the Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking (IAST), a diverse partnership of faith-based, human rights, and women’s and children’s organizations.

Lisa Thompson, policy representative for the National Association of Evangelicals and co-founding member of IAST, said, “IAST considers sexual trafficking an intolerable evil because it so completely strips its victims of their human dignity. To look the other way when confronted with such an ineffable horror is unthinkable. Our compassion for survivors and belief in the inestimable worth of all individuals compels us to do all we can to bring sexual trafficking to an end.”

Lederer agrees. “We are the ones who can help the young women and children who have been trafficked, draw attention to their plight, create prevention programs and rehabilitation centers,” Lederer said. “Together, we can stop the traffickers for good.”

“Feminists for Life is proud to be a co-sponsor of the Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking,” said FFL President Serrin M. Foster. “Sadly, some Americans have fed the sexual trafficking industry and are therefore responsible in part for imprisoning women and children overseas and at home. It is important that Americans begin to understand the devastating impact this industry has on prostitutes. Children have lost their childhood forever. Women have been forced to leave their families behind and many have suffered the trauma of coerced abortions. When a woman or child is forced into this industry it’s not sex—it’s rape.” ○

Karen Gordon is a writer and FFL member living in Eugene, Ore. She has three children and one granddaughter.



Growing up in Grand Rapids, Mich., in an alcoholic family, Lucille watched her mother being beaten countless times and was beaten herself if she intervened. She was subjected to incest at the hands of her father, uncles and others. At 16 she was pregnant and spending time at a boyfriend's house to escape the abuse at home. There she met a "friend" who told her she could make a lot of money on South Division Street, a place known for prostitution. The woman took her to a bar on South Division. Lucille, eight months pregnant, was sure no one would want her, but, sure enough, someone did. She was scared, but she did what the man wanted and he gave her \$200. "I never made money so easy," she recalls. "I was hooked."

P E D D L I N G

PICTURE ACTRESS JULIA ROBERTS trying on designer clothes in a Rodeo Drive boutique to the beat of Roy Orbison's "Pretty Woman." Being a prostitute doesn't look half-bad, does it? What's so wrong with prostitution, anyway? Many believe that what a woman does with her own body is her choice. If she wants to sell it, so what? It's a "victimless" and private affair between consenting adults, right? Popular novelist John Irving, in an interview at the end of his book, *Widow for a Year*, says, "I don't disapprove of prostitutes or the men who go to them. It strikes me as a relatively honest sexual transaction ... The shame commonly attached to it is a mystery to me."

Those who have been or have worked with prostitutes, however, have a different perspective. Edwina Gateley, founder of Chicago's Genesis House, a residential program for recovering prostitutes, has watched the effects of prostitution for years. "Prostitution is the most extreme example of abuse and oppression of women," she says. "Women who sell their bodies do so because they are driven to believe that's all they are worth. They think maybe if they sell themselves, they can buy a bit of love in return."

How little girls grow up to be prostitutes

In some countries, like Thailand and Russia, women are routinely kidnapped and forced into sexual slavery. But what about voluntary prostitution? Is it really just an occupational choice? Barbara Vaughn, program director of Rose Haven Ministries in Grand Rapids, Mich., doesn't think so. Rose Haven, patterned after Genesis House, offers help to women who want to leave prostitution. Vaughn says that 80 to 90

percent of all prostitutes have been victims of childhood sexual and/or physical abuse. "For many women, prostitution is not really a choice as much as it is an inevitability," Vaughn says.

Counselors who work with prostitutes describe a pattern in the lives of their clients. The pattern begins with childhood molestation, incest and abuse. Many of these battered and confused girls take to the streets to get away from the abuse, only to find more exploitation and betrayal. "With little or no self-esteem, they're easy prey for men who introduce them to drugs and then use them, sexually, and as sources of income," Vaughn says. "Once addicted, resorting to prostitution to support the habit is inevitable."

Numbing the pain

Whether the drugs and alcohol come before the prostitution or after, they become an integral part of the "cycle of prostitution"—prostitution pays for the drugs that help the woman get through the degradation and pain of a life of prostitution. According to Vaughn, virtually all of Rose Haven's clients have drug and/or alcohol addictions.

Hoping to break the cycle, organizations like Rose Haven Ministries and Genesis House network with local substance-abuse organizations to get their clients into recovery programs.

Unspeakable pain

There is something else besides abuse and drug addiction that prostitutes find on the streets—motherhood. Programs like Rose Haven report that about 80 percent of the women they serve have children of their

continued on next page



Two street prostitutes in Tijuana, Mexico pass the time waiting for clients by crocheting.

"I was basically doing what men forced me to do all my life, but now I was getting paid for it."

—*Lucille, former prostitute*

F L E S H

80 percent of street workers studied have been physically assaulted. Some were raped between 8 to 10 times a year or more. Seven percent seek help. Only 4 percent report the rape to police.

—“Sexual Assault of Prostitutes,”
Mimi Silbert, San Francisco: Delancy Street
Foundation, 1981

own, almost always in foster care or living with relatives, and about half of their clients have mothers who were prostitutes.

Interestingly enough, it's this part of their lives that appears to pain prostitutes the most. Of the dozens of prostitutes I have interviewed, not one would talk about their children. Most openly discussed their childhood abuse, rapes, battering and addictions, but the one thing they would not touch upon with me was their motherhood. Counselors say that, once in recovery, however, women make getting their children back a top priority.

The “happy hooker” lie

When I met Lucille (a pseudonym), a former prostitute and Rose Haven Ministries client, she was in Kent County jail in Michigan. Forty years old and noticeably pregnant, she has dark scars on her face that look as if they were made with a knife. Looking back on how it all started, Lucille told me: “I was basically doing what men forced me to do all my life, but now I was getting paid for it. At first I liked it because I felt like I was in control.”

Many prostitutes describe their initial attraction to prostitution in terms of control, something they never had in an abusive home. But this feeling of control quickly vanishes as they experience the reality of life on the street. “The fact is, many prostitutes work the streets under threats of violence to themselves or to their children by their pimps,” Vaughn says. “Every day one

of these women spends on the streets, she is in imminent danger of assault, abuse, disease, drug overdose and death.”

Breaking the cycle

The Institute for Labor and Mental Health lists the number of women in U.S. jails at 762,200 in 1997, most of them for nonviolent drug or prostitution charges. This is an increase of almost 400 percent since 1980, which is double the rate of increase for men. Yet there are only a handful of organizations across the country that deal directly with prostitution. “As a society, we throw prostitutes in jail and then send them back out on the street without any help,” Vaughn says. “Of course they go back to it. It's often the only job they've ever held!”

Organizations like Genesis House and Rose Haven offer women services like counseling and case management, substance-abuse rehabilitation, job training, spiritual guidance, and, for a limited number of women, transitional housing. Most of these organizations rely on donations and grants to fund their programs. “Fundraising is always a problem because there is not much sympathy out there for prostitutes,” Vaughn says. “If more people realized the degradation and pain these women suffer, perhaps there would be more sympathy.” ○

Catherine M. Snow is a writer and mother of three boys living in Grand Rapids, Mich. She is an FFL member and served on Rose Haven Ministry's board of directors for four years.



LEGALIZING OR LEGITIMIZING?

Many argue that legalizing prostitution would remove the criminal element. It would allow regulations such as health safeguards, drug testing and taxation. Interestingly, many former prostitutes, and counselors who work with them, are against legalization. Both cite prosecution as a catalyst to recovery. They say time spent in jail allows the woman to be away from her pimp, drugs and the street long enough to have the strength to leave them for good.

Kathleen Mitchell, former prostitute and director of DIGNITY, a recovery program for prostitutes in Phoenix, told the National Catholic Reporter about her view of legalizing prostitution.

"Legalizing is not the way to go. That's a form of slavery," the NCR quotes her as saying.

"In Nevada they have to have health cards. They go to the doctor once a week. They're not allowed to have a car, not allowed to drive in city limits. They're paraded down the street, walk together to the doctor's office, everybody looking at them. It's another way of keeping them down. Legalizing them is isolating them again. We don't need to be telling them they're different—they've been told for too long. We need to say, 'What can we do to help?' "





Laura Ciampa

COLLEGIANS FIGHT CHILD SLAVERY

Child labor has long been a problem, but victims have a new hope—their peers.

CHILD LABOR—the phrase often evokes Dickensian pictures of children working in mines and sweatshops during the Industrial Revolution. But child labor didn't end there. Millions of the world's 2 billion children are working long hours under abusive bosses, in hazardous working conditions, for pennies an hour—either as slaves or because they are desperately poor. But whether they know it or not, there is hope: new friends whose activism has brought their plight back to the public eye—their peers, the youth of America.

Last spring, college and university officials saw the biggest wave of student activism since the anti-apartheid movement in the early 1980s. Schools like Duke University, the University of Michigan and the University of Arizona saw sit-ins, rallies, “occupations” of university offices—all to protest the fact that their college T-shirts, hats and other apparel were made in sweatshops.

Andrew Milmore, a 20-year-old junior at Georgetown University, was president of the Georgetown Solidarity Committee when it “occupied” the university president's office in protest in February, 1999.

“I think the fact that we wear the clothes right on our skin forces a lot of people to think hard about labor ethics,” he told *The American Feminist* one year later.

New student activism

Founded in 1998, United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) is an international student movement of more than 100 college groups, including the Georgetown Solidarity Committee, throughout the United States and Canada.

Its protests have been nonviolent, its goals relatively modest. The students want companies that license college names to:

- Stop using overseas sweatshops.

- Fully disclose the exact locations of their factories and how the workers there are treated.

- Allow an independent and credible monitoring system.

- Give sweatshop employees a living wage and the right to organize.

“They are terrific students,” said University of Michigan President Lee Bollinger in an article posted on the USAS web site. Bollinger's office was occupied by 30 protesters and surrounded by 200 more during last year's protests. “They were interested in a serious problem, they were knowledgeable about the problem, and they really wanted to do something about it.”

What they're up against

Millions of children are either kidnapped or lured away from their families and imprisoned in sweatshops, or they are forced to work in sweatshops to pay off their family's debt, according to the U.S. Department of Labor report, “By the Sweat and Toil of Children, Volume II.”

“Beatings, unsafe drinking water, sexual harassment and assault, restricted bathroom access, unsafe chemicals and machinery and arbitrary firings are all rampant,” Milmore said of sweatshops.

He said he became committed to the movement after hearing about the reality of sweatshops first-hand on April 19, 1998.

“We hosted two workers from a factory in the Dominican Republic that manufactured those white college baseball caps for most colleges, including Georgetown,” Milmore said. “They were my age.”

“They told us how, every morning, all the workers had to line up and scream over and over, ‘I am not a human being. I am an animal!’ They were starving even after working more than 80 hours a week. Both had been fired for speaking up in favor of a union. The firings were illegal by Dominican

HOW CAN WE HELP?

- Report any known or suspected exploitation to the Justice Department's National Worker Exploitation Task Force, 1-888-428-7581.
- Read your clothing tags and ask questions about them on company customer service lines.
- Shop at second-hand stores for some of your clothing, especially the basics (sweatpants, hats, gloves, T-shirts, etc.).
- Subscribe to an e-mail alert service about the anti-sweatshop campaign, where you can get direct, specific information about what's happening in factories (www.summersault.com/~agj/clr/ is a good place to start).

Despite protests by the early American feminists, child labor did not end in the 19th century. At right, Burmese girls haul bricks at a construction site in Rangoon in 1996. Below, children labored as miners and textile workers in earlier times. Young people protested conditions then as well as now.

and international law, but I realized that the political laws were meaningless when the workers have no power.”

It’s not just an overseas phenomenon. A study by Rutgers University labor economist Douglas L. Kruse estimates that 13,100 children worked in garment factories with repeated labor violations in the United States last year. Pending lawsuits claim that slave and indentured labor is also widespread in Saipan, an American territory in the Pacific Ocean, where young women from China are brought to work in sweatshops after being promised good American jobs.

Creating feminists

Well over 90 percent of sweatshop workers in most countries are young women, according to Milmore. “It’s impossible to separate workers’ rights from women’s rights in the textile industry,” he said.

He specifically noted discrimination against pregnant women.

Since one of the labor laws that most countries enforce protects pregnant women, he says, it is common for factory owners to force pregnancy tests and birth control onto the workers in order to avoid paying maternity benefits.

“An end to forced birth control, forced pregnancy tests, and forced abortions have been major demands of the Georgetown Solidarity Committee and the USAS for more than a year,” he said.

Milmore says that during the sit-in at Georgetown last year, a student spoke to the crowd about the connection she felt with women exactly her age being exploited in these factories.

“More than one student has confided to me that they never called themselves a feminist before they got involved with the GSC,” Milmore said.

What they’ve accomplished

Part of a generation described as TV-watching, video game-playing and valueless, among other things, these students protesting child labor and sweatshops have already succeeded in pressuring companies to change.

Since last spring’s student protests across the country, well over a dozen schools have won and received full disclosure from Nike, Jansport, Champion and others.

“The ramifications for factory monitoring and worker empowerment are incredible,” Milmore said. “Sunlight, as they say, is the best disinfectant.”

Milmore says the next goal is to set up an effective and credible monitoring system that will help even out the power relations between sweatshop workers and owners. And after that?

“The college market is only a tiny fraction of the total apparel market,” Milmore said, “and there are broader issues of worker empowerment to tackle.” They’re not done yet. ○

Laura Ciampa, an FFL member, is a legal assistant for a communications company.





Selling A

"BABIES ARE LOUD, messy and expensive—unless you want one," says one Planned Parenthood advertisement. "How do you expect to pay for a baby when you can't even take care of yourself?" one abortion clinic counselor asked a college student.

Advocates of abortion choice hoped that *Roe v. Wade* would offer women more choices, but pro-life advocates are voicing concern that these marketing tactics and leading questions promote only one choice—the choice that makes a profit.

The marketing machine

Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood of America, is mobilizing voters for the upcoming elections. Feldt speaks eloquently about liberty, freedom and values. She invites abortion opponents to "help make every child a wanted child" and warns of "neglected and abused children who grow up to be angry adults and criminals or abusive parents." She is also the head of the leading provider of abortions in the country.

The multimillion-dollar abortion industry is sophisticated in its marketing to women. The Alan Guttmacher Institute studies the demographics of pregnancy and abortion (age, religion, marital status) and provides Planned Parenthood of America with the reasons that drive women to abortion—a lack of emotional support and financial resources. The well-funded industry uses these statistics to reach out to more than 1 million women each year who are unexpectedly pregnant—but have they used the information to more effectively meet these women's needs, or to better market abortion?

Targeting college campuses

"Planned Parenthood Welcomes Loyola Students Back to School," said a banner at a Planned Parenthood clinic located directly across the street from Loyola University in Chicago last Fall. Courses at abortion industry conferences teach owner/operators how to sell abortion to high-risk groups—college women, young working women and the poor. Like any other business, they study their market and place their business in the geographic area that will help to bring in the most clients. Flourishing in environments with few if any resources to support pregnancy and motherhood, abortion clinics frequently set up shop on the outskirts of college campuses and poor communities.

College women represent one-fifth of the market for abortion providers, and those who sell abortion know it and capitalize on it. College newspapers and phone books display abortion clinic ads,

abortion

many of which read, "Abortions up to 24 weeks." Their staffs invite student health clinic staff and other on-campus counselors to open houses. The \$6 million Pro-Choice Education Project campaign funded by a coalition led by Planned Parenthood targets students and young working women, as do provocative ads in *Glamour* and other women's magazines. (See *The American Feminist*, Fall 1999, "Multi-Million Dollar Ad Campaign"). The National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League has just unveiled a new, well-funded ad campaign to sell "choice."

When Feminists for Life of America began meeting the needs of college women who choose not to have an abortion, needs such as housing, child care and maternity coverage, alarms went off at Planned Parenthood. Its internal newsletter, the *Insider*, called FFL's College Outreach Program "the newest and most challenging concept in anti-choice student organizing" and predicts that "FFL could have a profound impact on college campuses as well as Planned Parenthood's public education and advocacy efforts." It does not explain why it is threatened by a program that gives women more choices.

Don't ask, don't tell

The subtle pressure promoting abortion does not end once women enter an abortion clinic. Post-abortion counselors in the pro-life movement and millions of women who have experienced abortion say that information about other choices, resources and support are rarely discussed by staff at pro-abortion clinics. They say that the abortion procedure and associated risks are all too often glossed over—if discussed at all, and efforts by pro-life women's advocates to let women receive all available information through informed-consent laws have often received patronizing responses.

Former Planned Parenthood President Pamela Maraldo said she did not want women to know about a possible link between abortion and breast cancer because it might frighten them. "Even if it's solid, good science, to begin to warn women and upset women on the basis of one study is clearly irresponsible...one study is not adequate evidence to change a policy or to upset a frightened woman." Not one, but more than two dozen studies, have indicated such a link.

Other women report being coerced by boyfriends to have abortions, but no one at the clinic told them (or even asked) about how to establish paternity and child support. One woman reported to FFL that she went into Planned Parenthood for a free pregnancy test. When the test confirmed that she was pregnant, she asked about her choices. Instead of discussing her options, the counselor scheduled her for an abortion. She never returned.

Abortion survivors tell FFL that most women simply call the clinic and schedule an abortion—no information is asked for or offered because many in the industry assume women are fully informed or have no other choice.

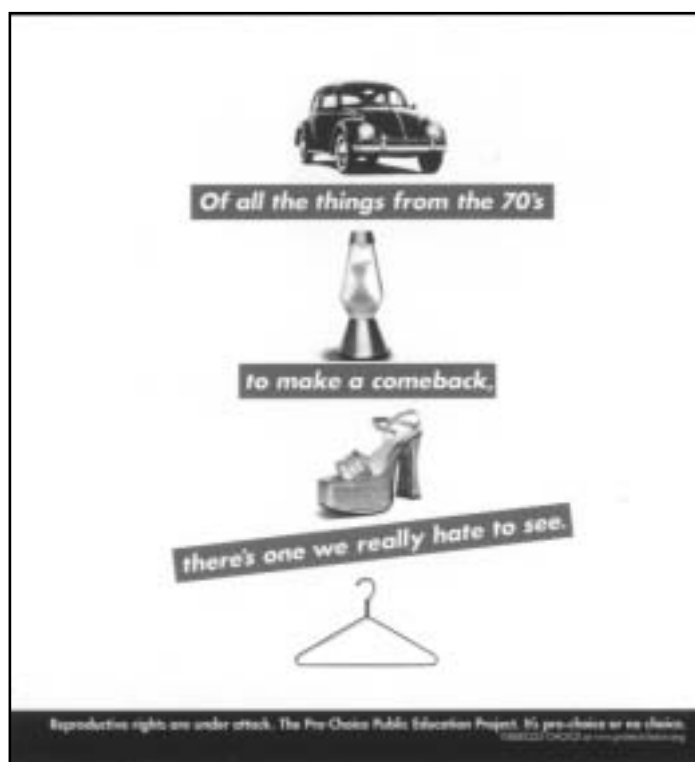
Not only is information withheld or not discussed, clinic patients often receive a sales pitch for abortion rather than an

open discussion about options, according to women who have suffered the trauma of abortion.

The pitch

Many volunteers at abortion clinics are there because they truly believe they are helping women, but others appear to have a different agenda. Stories about sales tactics are not uncommon. Carol Everett, a former for-profit abortion clinic owner, wrote about

continued on next page



One of Planned Parenthood's ads from its Pro-Choice Education Project. The ads were designed to appeal to the target audience: college students and young working women.

her own marketing techniques in her book, *The Scarlet Lady* (1991).

“Finding and training telemarketers who would call themselves ‘counselors’ while ‘selling’ abortions was always difficult,” she wrote. “I had to remind them constantly, ‘We are helping women,’ but those who didn’t buy my pitch left quickly.”

Numerous patients of abortion clinics have told FFL about counselors who asked questions playing on women’s vulnerabilities:

■ “The clinic counselor asked me if my boyfriend could afford to support me and my baby, and how I thought my parents would react.”

■ “She asked me how I could afford prenatal care and maternity coverage since it wasn’t in my student health insurance. ‘Day care is thousands of dollars a year. There are bottles and formula, diapers and clothes, cribs, strollers and car seats to buy’.”

■ “How do you expect to pay for a baby when you can’t even take care of yourself?” the counselor asked. “Her expression said, ‘You naive fool’.”

Pro-life pregnancy resource centers across the country that accept no fees for service do not have the advertising budgets to compete with the abortion industry and promote their own message that abortion does not have to be women’s only choice—and money is not their only obstacle.

Selling life for free

First Resort is a San Francisco Bay area pregnancy care center that offers women free resources to make possible choices other than abortion—parenthood within marriage, single parenthood, including single fatherhood and grandparenthood, and various adoption options. Founder Shari Plunkett approached HMO Kaiser Permanente with a plan to help women who were unsure about abortion. After thoroughly reviewing the program—even editing brochures—Kaiser agreed to refer clients who were uncomfortable with abortion to First Resort. Apparently these new choices stepped on a few toes.

The National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League’s California affiliate, CARAL, succeeded in pressuring Kaiser to terminate the program, and women lost valuable resources to help them make an informed choice.

Alan Guttmacher Institute has provided us with a long list of reasons why women want abortions, but how have these issues been addressed? The well-funded abortion industry appears to be addressing women’s needs by promoting abortion, and less wealthy pro-life centers are struggling to counter this message with one of support and alternatives. FFL wants everyone to focus on what women need and deserve. If people on both sides of the debate concentrated on what women really wanted, the number of abortions would decrease—a goal that most people share. ○

Glass Houses

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, has reignited an intense campaign attacking all pregnancy resource centers as “fake clinics.” She points to some centers that have apparently engaged in unethical pressure tactics—using graphic photos of dismembered fetuses, giving deceptive answers when asked if they perform abortions, even physically restraining women or blocking their exit.

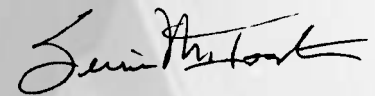
NARAL’s web site uses the example of Robert Pearson of the Pearson Foundation, who produced a manual, “How to Start and Operate Your Own Pro-Life Outreach Crisis Centers.” Unlike most pregnancy resource centers’ staff who say they recognize the desperation in a young woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant and concentrate on holistically meeting her needs, Pearson refers to her as “a killer, who in this case is the girl who wants to kill her baby... .”

Feminists for Life supports Michelman’s effort to expose those anti-abortion centers that resort to lies and lurid pictures.

But FFL also strongly opposes Michelman’s painting of all pregnancy care centers with the same brush—including more than 3,000 reputable centers associated with Birthright International, CareNet, Catholic Charities, Heartbeat International, and local unaffiliated centers such as First Resort. These centers offer resources to help make more choices possible, which seems in keeping with NARAL’s support of choice.

Michelman has stated, “Decisions are only meaningful if they are based on thorough, unbiased information. A woman who must make a decision about her reproductive life based on deception, manipulation or intimidation, has been denied her freedom to choose every bit as much as one whose option has been dictated by law.”

FFL challenges NARAL to expose abortion clinics that try to convince women that they have no choice but abortion.



Serrin M. Foster
President



Herstory

Worth Repeating

WRITER ANGELINA WELD GRIMKE was part of the Harlem Renaissance, the great 1920s flourishing of African-American culture that included Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, and Zora Neale Hurston. The only child of the marriage between Boston residents Sarah Stanley, a white woman, and Archibald Grimke, who was biracial, she was named after her great-aunt Angelina Grimke Weld. Weld and her sister Sarah Grimke were famous white abolitionists and feminist advocates of voluntary motherhood. They accepted their brother's children by a slave woman as family. They took their nephews, including Archibald Grimke, into their own home and paid for their educations.

Angelina Weld Grimke was raised by her father because soon after her birth her mother left the household, possibly to be hospitalized for a mental illness. After graduating from college, Grimke taught high school in Washington, D.C., and published poetry, drama, fiction and nonfiction.

Grimke, a lesbian, never had children of her own, but felt that mothering in all its forms was central to female and indeed human experience. As one poem declares: "Ah, gift of Motherhood! Ah, precious boon to woman, reaping priceless joy/ Through weary pain!" In her work she expressed a particularly African-American sense of communal responsibility for children.

According to Grimke scholar Carolivia Herron, Grimke's work has "the import, if not the discrete form, of the blues—that musical and poetic cultural form which is the repository for African-American anguish over love, lost love, and political disenfranchisement." Grimke especially gave voice to the widely unheard and unheeded maternal blues of African-American women.

For more than a century after Emancipation, white supremacists waged a campaign of domestic terrorism against African-Americans and murdered with impunity thousands who dared to resist. Grimke was passionately concerned with the effects of lynching upon black women's desire and ability to mother. In her 1919 stories, "Blackness" and "Goldie," a pregnant woman's torture and murder culminate in an abortion. Grimke told disbelieving white editors that her story was based on an actual incident in which a mob tied a woman to a tree and set her on fire:

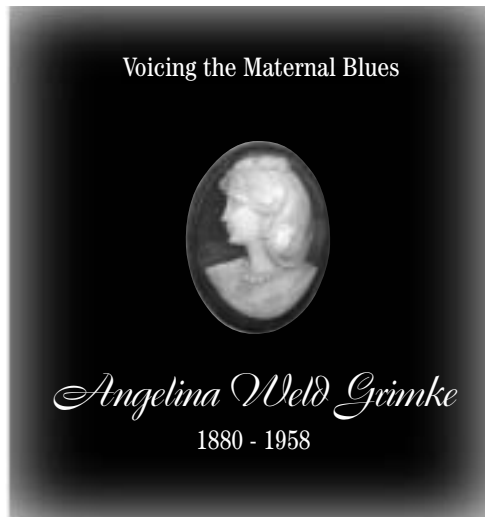
"The mob was determined to teach her a lesson... While the woman shrieked and writhed in agony, a man, who had brought with him a knife used in the butchering of animals, ripped her abdomen wide open. Her unborn child fell to the ground at her feet. It emitted one or two little cries but was soon silenced by brutal boots that crushed the head. Death came at last to the poor woman. The lesson ended."

In "The Closing Door" (short story, 1919) a kind-hearted woman suffers an emotional collapse during and after her long-awaited first pregnancy. After her brother's lynching, she hits her breasts and sobs that she is just another "instrument" to produce children for the blood-sport of white mobs. She cries: "There is a time coming—and soon—when no colored man—no colored woman—no colored child, born or unborn—will be safe—in this country." She takes care of herself and the baby as best she can before the delivery: "She did not die, nor did her child." But she turns into "a gray, pathetic shadow of herself" who cannot bond with the baby after his birth. Although a female friend tenderly cares for the baby, the new mother suffocates him, and soon afterward dies in prison.

Grimke insisted that she was simply trying to awaken the empathy of white women. "If anything can make all women sisters beneath their skin, it is motherhood. If, then the white women of this country could, see, feel, understand just what effect their prejudice and the prejudice of their fathers, brothers, husbands, and sons were having on the souls of the colored mothers everywhere, and upon the mothers that are to be, a great power to effect public opinion would be set free and the battle would be half won."

African-American women today suffer from a disproportionately high abortion rate. For all black women's children who do make it here, the world still holds many indignities and dangers. Recent hate crimes—the dragging death of James Bird, the shooting of Ricky Byrdsong—show that lynching is not a thing of the past. Grimke's depictions of thwarted motherhood as the ultimate product of racism ring true today. People of all races should listen deeply, and act upon what we hear. ○

Mary Krane Derr, a poet and writer, is co-editor of the anthology Pro-Life Feminism: Yesterday and Today.





Making a Difference in College Women's Lives

FEMINISTS FOR LIFE'S COLLEGE OUTREACH PROGRAM is all about choices—the choices women truly want. The College Outreach Program involves a unique range of stakeholders: college students, faculty, administrators, counselors, campus clinic staff and service providers across the ideological spectrum—pro-life activists, pregnancy resource centers, and even abortion providers and advocates who agree that abortion is a tragedy and are willing to work with FFL to address the root causes that contribute to abortion. FFL works with these partners on two levels of action: providing practical resources for pregnant and parenting students, so they can complete their education and challenging the assumptions that create this no-win situation for college women—and men.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

The day after FFL President Serrin M. Foster's lecture at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., on March 7, e-mail began pouring in to the FFL office. Students thanked FFL for bringing a message of pro-life feminism to their campus. One student thanked Foster for her "powerful, logical and well-argued" lecture. Another student wrote, "I was planning to apply to intern with my Congressman at the Capitol. After seeing Serrin Foster's talk, I am much more interested in interning at Feminists for Life!"

During the question-and-answer session, both pro-life and pro-choice students readily agreed to work together to host a Pregnancy Resource Forum to address the needs of pregnant and parenting students on campus.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

In 1972, women at the University of Kansas in Lawrence held a protest to demand that the University provide on-campus childcare. Since then, the university has been a leader in implementing comprehensive programs and resources for pregnant and parenting students. But during a Pregnancy Resource Forum held on March 2, it became apparent that students in need may not be aware of the resources that exist for them.

The director of counseling services at the university applauded FFL for the opportunity to increase communication among service providers on campus—and the change she noticed had an immediate effect.

Tori, a student at the university, announced to the audience that she was pregnant but felt she would have to have an abortion because she was unable to navigate the maze of services while maintaining her academic schedule and preparing to graduate. Tori was immediately surrounded by audience members who formed a support network of students and community members to help her access services and Foster congratulated her on her motherhood.

Tori entered the forum deciding whether to have an abortion, and left the forum deciding on a name for her baby. She promised to send a picture of her baby to Foster as soon as the baby is born.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Foster's lecture on February 8 at Florida State University drew a crowd of more than 100 students—and many indicated that they plan to become active members of the campus pro-life group. Following the lecture, students and faculty stayed to speak with Foster and brainstorm how their group can do more for women and children on campus.

Student leaders at FSU told Foster they are committed to dedicating the coming school year to developing resources for pregnant and parenting students.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

"The Feminist Case *Against* Abortion" at the University of Florida drew an enthusiastic audience on February 10. On-campus buses carried FFL posters debunking the myth that all feminists are pro-choice, and the pro-life student group at the university received an enormous boost. The group used the lecture as a stepping stone to increase membership in their group and motivate students and administrators alike to examine the root causes that drive women to abortion.

After the lecture a young woman spoke with Foster of her experiences. She had never heard the message of pro-life feminism before Foster's lecture and found it particularly important to her. Her mother had aborted siblings before and after her and the young

woman struggles with survivors' guilt. She hugged and thanked Foster for giving her "permission" to be pro-life and feminist.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Students at Georgetown University—where the first-ever Pregnancy Resource Forum was held—hosted a second Pregnancy Resource Forum to highlight the services the university offers students and to examine student needs as their children grow. Prior to the forum, Foster and FFL Public Education Coordinator Molly Pannell met with staff from the university's Pregnancy Services office to discuss the needs of pregnant and parenting students at Georgetown. Foster shared creative solutions for women and children from other colleges and universities across the country.

The Pregnancy Resource Forum has become an annual event and serves as a way to raise awareness of resources and evaluate what still needs to be done.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Former Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY) invited Serrin Foster to participate in a panel discussion "Abortion: Can We Ever Find Common Ground?" at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Other panelists included Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the country, Bill Baird, director of the Pro-Choice League, and Dr. Bernard Nathanson, co-founder of NARAL and former abortion provider who has since become a pro-life activist. Senator Simpson, a vocal pro-choice Republican who currently serves as director of the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, moderated the forum.

During the panel Foster addressed the challenges pregnant and parenting students face on so many college campuses. One young mother who identified herself as pro-choice said her experiences at Harvard showed that it is not a baby-friendly environment. She said she appreciated Foster's vision of a campus or workplace where pregnant and parenting students were accommodated as readily as athletes or executives. Student pro-life leader Melissa Moschella echoed the young mother's words, saying, "Pregnancy resources on Harvard's campus are practically non-existent, to the effect that pregnant students are presented with effectively one 'choice': abortion." ○



From L. to R.: Bill Baird, Gloria Feldt, Sen. Alan Simpson, Serrin Foster and Dr. Bernard Nathanson at Harvard.

Feminist Message, Feminist Solutions for Today's College Students

FFL President Serrin M. Foster will present "The Feminist Case *Against* Abortion" at the following locations:

- September 2000*. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- September 30, 2000. Right to Life of Michigan Annual Conference, Lansing, Mich.

Foster will moderate a Pregnancy Resource Forum at the following locations:

- September 2000*. University of Pittsburgh.
- September 2000*. Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

* Dates to be announced.

Bring FFL's pro-woman, pro-life message to your campus or right to life group. FFL is now accepting engagements for the Fall 2000 or Spring 2001 semester. Contact FFL at 202-737-3352 or FFLCOP@aol.com for more information about bringing an FFL speaker to your area.

Electronic Fund Transfer Form

Help FFL Help Women and Children! Your monthly electronic donations provide essential support as FFL works to bring about positive change for women and children. Electronic donors receive quarterly President reports, detailing FFL's progress. To begin your monthly contributions, simply fill out the electronic transfer form and send it (along with a voided check) to FFL. It's that easy! Donations will be debited on the first business day of each month and will be put to work immediately by FFL. Your participation helps FFL continue the tradition of the early feminists—pro-woman and pro-life!

I want my bank to transfer monthly donations to Feminists for Life of America. My authorization to charge my account at my bank shall be the same as if I had personally signed a check to FFLA. This authorization shall remain in effect until I notify FFLA, or notify my bank in writing that I wish to end this agreement, and my bank or FFLA has had a reasonable time to act on it. A record of each charge will be included in my regular bank statements and will serve as my receipt.

\$ _____ Amount of monthly pledge (\$5 minimum).

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: day(____) _____ eve.(____) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please enclose a voided check from your account to show the bank's address and your account number.

Send to: Feminists for Life,
733 15th Street, N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005.
Electronic fund transfers will begin immediately upon receipt.

Thank you!



Voices

OF WOMEN WHO MOURN

As the abortion debate rages on in the media, on Capitol Hill and state legislatures across the country, millions of women silently mourn their children lost through abortion. Through this new column, Feminists for Life gives women who experienced the personal tragedy of abortion a voice. We mourn with you, and rededicate ourselves to help women and children in need.

ON APRIL 17, 1999, I KILLED MY BABY. I felt pressured into having the abortion. I went to the clinic with a friend and if he hadn't been there, I would have run in front of a car. I could not stop crying and shaking. I never ever felt such pain in my life. The emotional pain was so overwhelming that I could not feel the physical pain from the procedure. I cried and shook for hours until my friend took me to the hospital emergency room. The doctor gave me sedatives. I still could not stop crying. I was so traumatized that I did not even notice the amount of blood I was losing. After two days I mentioned to my friend that I was still bleeding a lot. He took me back to the emergency room. After some tests, the doctor came in and told me they had to do a D & C.

I broke down in hysterics. If there was a chance that my baby was still alive I was not going to let anyone near me. They must have injected something into my IV because I felt that groggy feeling again. Later that evening, a female gynecologist came to see me and said that she wanted to try a drug that would induce cramping so that the bleeding would stop. She said I would not need a D & C but there was no way my baby was still in my womb. The baby's father came to see me and he was crying. I still wonder why. I spent two days in that hospital for the bleeding. I ended up in the psychiatric ward of another hospital for two weeks. The baby's father only came because the head of the psychiatric department called him. I broke all ties with him.

I'm still in agony. Every day is just a struggle. I cried every single day for eight months. I've been crying for the past two hours. I went into an Internet site that shows pictures of aborted fetuses. My baby was 6 weeks old He had a heart and eyes and a spine. Sometimes I'll be going about my day and I'll have a flashback. I did not go to sleep during the abortion. I remember everything in vivid detail.

I have no one to blame but myself. No one understands. I'm told most women go on with their lives. Maybe I'm crazy. I made the biggest mistake in my life and I can't take it back. Every day I ache to hold my baby. I listened to the baby's father...he said it was a simple procedure... he also said he would be there for me. I am 30 years old. I should have had my baby. I listened to all the reasons why I shouldn't have. And the world looks so different. I walk around in a daze... I don't expect you to read this. It's more for myself I guess. But I have no one who understands what I am going through.

—Reprinted with permission from Rachel's Vineyard



“ I wanted to find a group that had compassionate, intelligent, reasonable people who are fun and life-affirming.”

—Emmy-nominated Actor Patricia Heaton
Honorary Chair

You **know** how special

Feminists for Life is...

We **know**

↑
→ you **know**

because you **tell** us.

Won't you **tell a friend?**



EMPOWER FFL WITH YOUR TIME

Be a part of this cutting edge nonprofit organization by volunteering for a committee.

Use enclosed envelope or mail to: Feminists for Life, 733 15th Street NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005.

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: day(____) _____ eve.(____) _____

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Please describe your skills/experience or attach resume:

■ Public Policy (consistent life ethic; violence against women; economic issues; women, family & children; sexual exploitation of women and children)

■ Resource Development (marketing; membership; fundraising)

■ Communications (media; *The American Feminist*: writing, research, photography, design; College Outreach Program: counselor, advisor on campus; feminist history, women's history; languages fluently spoken, web experience, Internet)

■ Internal Support (legal; finance; technology: database, web development)

Volunteers will be called upon as needed.

Thank you!

THE AMERICAN FEMINIST

WE REMEMBER



Rita McDowell
1959 – 1975

Rita McDowell, a 16-year-old, died from massive infection and kidney failure four days after undergoing an incomplete abortion at the hands of abortion provider, Robert Sherman. According to Rita's mother, Sherman or his staffers said Rita would expel the baby at home the day after the abortion procedure.

When Rita had not yet passed the baby and began to suffer from an abnormally high temperature, her mother called Sherman's office. Sherman refused to speak with her and a receptionist instructed her to bring Rita to the office two days later.

Rita died that night. She was rushed to a hospital where doctors removed her dead baby and tried unsuccessfully to save her life.

Sherman was tried for murder in 1978. Witnesses and evidence produced during the trial indicated that Sherman deliberately performed incomplete abortions so he could charge women for follow-up visits. Court records also show that Sherman allowed nurse's aides to perform surgery, regularly reused syringes and other disposable items without sterilizing them, failed to take urine samples to determine pregnancy and failed to guard against complications from abortion. Sherman also covered up his role in Rita's death by tampering with her medical records.

According to Aaron Levine, an attorney retained by Rita's family, Sherman "would operate with one hand, and eat a tuna fish sandwich with the other and talk to his stockbroker on the phone."

Sherman served two years in a federal prison, then moved to Boston and started performing abortions again. Massachusetts medical authorities delayed taking action against Sherman's license for more than two years even though they were told about Sherman's role in Rita's death.

National Right to Life News, December 1978

People magazine, July 21, 1982

The New York Times, Oct. 6, 1982





The Censoring of Feminist History

Noting Feminists for Life's protest over the documentary film "Not for Ourselves Alone," syndicated columnist Nat Hentoff recently asked documentary filmmaker Ken Burns why he failed to include early American feminists' consistent opposition to abortion in his documentary, which chronicled the story of the women's suffrage movement in the United States.

Burns replied that "the largest social transformation in American history" should not, in his documentary, have been "burdened by present and past differing views on choice." Though his documentary film discussed women's suffrage, abolition and other issues facing women in America, Burns ignored the many instances when feminists spoke out against abortion and infanticide.

Prior to the completion of the film, Feminists for Life supplied Burns and his staff with ample research documenting the early American feminists' opposition to abortion.

Jewish World Review, March 27, 2000

Eliminating Child Labor in Bangladesh

President Clinton recently announced an assistance package of more than \$14 million to expand upon projects already under way to help keep children in Bangladesh out of factories and enrolled in school. Since 1995, approximately 9,000 children have left jobs in garment factories to attend schools established by a U.S. funded project of the International Labor Organization's

International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor.

The initiative includes funding to help remove 30,000 children from dangerous factories in Bangladesh and place them in schools, improve working conditions for women through skills training and worker rights information, and raise health and safety standards for hazardous work.

*The White House, Office of the Press Secretary
March 20, 2000*

Substance Abuse Higher After Abortion

A new study authored by Drs. David Reardon and Philip Ney shows that women who have an abortion are five times more likely to report subsequent substance abuse compared to women who carry their pregnancies to term. The study was published in a recent issue of the *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*.

"Even if we assume the lowest statistical range for the relative risk, our results would indicate that each year, in the United States alone, there are at least 150,000 new cases of abortion-related substance abuse," Reardon said.

Ney believes these findings are especially disturbing since substance abuse is a leading cause of neonatal death and birth defects in subsequent planned pregnancies. Ney's clinical experience treating women is confirmed by several previously published studies that have documented much higher rates of drug and alcohol abuse among pregnant women who have a history of abortion.

While many abortion proponents dispute a causal link between abortion and substance abuse, Ney insists that his own experience in successfully treating abortion trauma proves that this connection is far more than a statistical fluke.

"I have treated women with a long history of self-destructive behavior who have only made progress in overcoming these tendencies after they had completed counseling for abortion trauma," said Ney. "Many other therapists have had the same experience. Consistently good results only come from the right diagnosis and the right treatment."

The Elliot Institute press release, March 20, 2000

Death Penalty Moratorium in Philadelphia

The Philadelphia City Council has called for a moratorium on executions in Pennsylvania. The council passed a resolution backing a bill introduced in the state legislature that would impose a two-year death penalty moratorium in the state and create a special commission to study the state law governing capital punishment. The state of Illinois recently imposed a state-wide halt to executions.

Philadelphia, the fifth largest city in the U.S. with a population of 1.4 million people, is the largest city to call for a moratorium on the death penalty.

Reuters, February 10, 2000

**Check out FFL's web site:
www.feministsforlife.org**

ORDER FORM

Membership/Subscription

Indicate number of items:

- \$25 Annual Membership (new renewal)
includes "Pro Woman, Pro Life" bumper sticker and *The American Feminist*
- \$25 Gift Membership (may not be anonymous to the recipient)
Name of recipient: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
- \$15 Student Membership (_____ graduation date)
- \$15 Student Gift Membership
(may not be anonymous to the recipient)
Name of recipient _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
- \$35 *The American Feminist* subscription only, non-membership/institutional
- \$30 Annual Membership Outside U.S. (U.S. currency, please)

\$5.00 ea. Back issues of

The American Feminist

Indicate number of issues:

- Activism 2000*
Spring 2000
- Embracing All Life:*
From Conception Until Its Natural End
Winter 1999-2000
- What Will She Face?:* Back on Campus
Fall 1999
- Is Life Always Worth Living?:* Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia
Summer 1999
- Unplanned Pregnancy:* You Have Choices
Spring 1999
- Victory Over Violence:* Rape, Incest and Domestic Violence
Fall 1998
- Work vs. Family:* The Struggle to Balance Career & Family
Summer 1998
- The Bitter Price of Choice:* The Aftermath of Abortion
Spring 1998
- She'll Ask. Don't Tell:* Women's Right To Know
Winter 1997-98



College Outreach Program

Send a Kit to Campus

Indicate number of items:

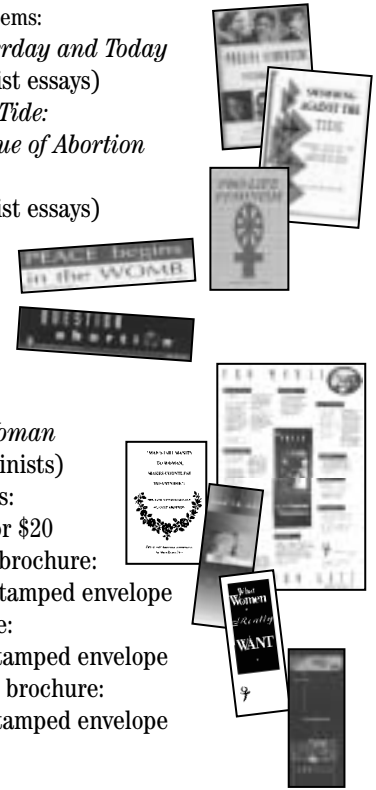
- \$35 Health Clinic Kit \$55 Pro-life Feminist History Kit
- \$35 Pro-life Collegiate Kit \$35 Pro-life Advisor Kit
- \$35 Campus Counselor Kit \$250-500 range for ad placement
- Pregnancy Decision Questionnaire (*Free* with self-addressed stamped envelope)

- Please send kit to where the need is greatest
- A college of my choice: _____

Name of kit recipient _____
 Title _____
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Materials Indicate number of items:

- \$16 *Prolife Feminism Yesterday and Today*
(anthology of pro-life feminist essays)
- \$18 *Swimming Against the Tide: Feminist Dissent on the Issue of Abortion*
- \$15 *Different Voices*
(anthology of pro-life feminist essays)
- \$2 "Peace Begins in the Womb" bumper sticker
- \$2 "Question Abortion" bumper sticker
- \$2 "Voices of Our Feminist Foremothers" poster
- \$5 *Man's Inhumanity to Woman*
(essays by 19th-century feminists)
- "You're Not Alone" brochures:
50 for \$5; 100 for \$10; 250 for \$20
- "What Women *Really* Want" brochure:
Free with a self-addressed stamped envelope
- "You Have Choices" brochure:
Free with a self-addressed stamped envelope
- "College Outreach Program" brochure:
Free with a self-addressed stamped envelope



Donations

- Monthly pledges
- Please send monthly donor envelopes
- Electronic transfer form; see page 19.
- Tax-deductible donation to Feminists for Life
- + 15% shipping and handling for materials
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Thank you!



While trapped in a tree above swirling

floodwaters in Mozambique,

Sophia Pedro gave birth to her daughter Rositha.

Never underestimate the power of a woman.

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