



**THE AMERICAN FEMINIST<sup>SM</sup>**  
Feminists for Life of America<sup>®</sup>



*Victory*  
*over*  
**Violence**

# 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** Elise Ehrhard **Associate Editors** Joan Carey, Maureen O'Connor **Research Assistant** Katie Halloran **Art Director** Lisa Toscani **Design/Layout** Elizabeth Lambertson **Executive Director** Serrin M. Foster **Deputy Director** Kerri-Ann Kiniorski. **Feminists for Life of America** 733 15th Street, NW, Suite 1100; Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 737-3352; www.serve.com/fem4life **President** Rosemary Oelrich Bottcher **Executive Vice President** Jane Sullivan Roberts **Public Policy Vice President** Jeanne Pryor **Chapter Development Vice President** Peter Wolfgang **Communications Vice President** Kelly Jefferson **Resource Development Vice President** Andrea Milanowski **Treasurer** Mary Lew Kehm **Secretary** Mary Beth Frampton.

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# CHOOSING LIFE



## JOURNEYS OF HOPE BORN FROM TRAGEDY

Lee Ezell was raped by a man at work more than 30 years ago. She was just 18, and had never had intercourse. Several weeks later, she was shocked and frightened to learn that she was pregnant. Desperate, she initially considered having an abortion, even though it was illegal. A close friend advised her to go to Mexico, where the procedure was performed. The friend even offered to accompany her, but Ezell could not end the life of her unborn child.

Lacking support at home, her choices were few. After carrying her baby to term, she placed her newborn daughter in an adoptive family. Today,

Lee and her birth daughter, Julie Makimaa, are happily reunited (see "You Are My Daughter: An Interview With Julie Makimaa," page 6). Together Makimaa and Ezell tell their story and offer emotional support to other women who are faced with similar circumstances.

Their story sounds remarkable, but it is echoed by others throughout the United States. The Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that there are 310,000 rapes or attempted rapes each year. The Alan Guttmacher Institute estimates that approximately 1 percent of the 1.4 million children aborted annually —

14,000 children — are conceived in rape. Since many rapes go unreported and many women who have abortions do not admit to being raped, it is impossible to verify these statistics. Hence, this issue most likely affects a greater percentage of the population than is currently recognized. Yet the issue of pregnancy resulting from rape has received little attention from policy-makers, mainstream media and other cultural institutions. This incongruity is no doubt due, in part, to the lack of data and the controversial nature of the subject.

*continued on next page*

## Resources for Women Who Are Dealing With Pregnancies Due to Sexual Assault

We offer these addresses for women who need help dealing with a pregnancy caused by an assault and for children conceived in rape and their relatives who need emotional support. In addition, pregnancy care centers offer a host of material assistance and professional resources. Look under "Abortion Alternatives" in your Yellow Pages.

### Fortress International

P.O. Box 1373  
South Bend, IN 46624

A support group for women who are pregnant through assault and children conceived in assault.

### Life After Assault League

1336 West Lindbergh Street  
Appleton, WI 54914  
(920) 739-4489

Evangelical Christian ministry for women who are pregnant through assault and children conceived in assault.

### Reading Materials:

Zibolsky, Kay. *Healing Hidden Hurts*. Wilson, N.C.: Starbooks, 1989 (available through Heritage House at 1-800-858-3040).

Ezell, Lee. *The Missing Piece*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Vine Press, 1988.

Most people find it hard to understand why a woman would choose to carry a child conceived in rape. They assume that the pregnancy would serve as a traumatic reminder of the attack. However, Kay Zibolsky, founder and president of Life After Assault League, a support group for women impregnated through assault and children conceived in assault, says, "Somehow people believe these children are not worth saving, but [the manner of] conception doesn't determine worth."

Even some advocates who call themselves pro-life seem to vacillate on the legitimacy of abortion in cases of rape and incest. Politicians who are otherwise anti-abortion often justify the mother's decision to terminate her pregnancy in such instances, and some pro-life activists visibly flinch when confronted on what to do in instances of rape and incest. When asked why she thought pro-life advocates are silent on this issue, Zibolsky speculated that their reasons might be pragmatic; perhaps they fear losing funding, support and the public relations battles. Ezell offered another explanation, recalling her friend's reaction those many years ago: "She wanted to be noble." Ezell thinks that same mindset causes many people to rationalize the use of abortion when rape or incest brings about an unexpected pregnancy. They want to be the ones to provide wise counsel and "sound judgment." They want to "rescue" a woman in need.

In actuality, however, abortion often compounds rather than solves a woman's problems—especially a woman who has suffered sexual assault or abuse. Zibolsky compares abortion to a second rape, another violation of her body and soul. Moreover, the shame a woman usually feels after an assault only intensifies after the abortion experience, so that she is then faced with two crises rather than one. "[A]bortion does not 'unrape' a woman or remove the violence that has been perpetrated against her," wrote Patricia Casey, M.D. in *Swimming Against the Tide: Feminist Dissent on the Issue of Abortion*. In the aftermath of these traumatic events, the woman finds herself unequipped to cope with either experience.

Informed consent and Right to Know laws are vital for women who have been traumatized by rape or abuse because they need time to begin the healing process. This first step is only possible when the woman is fully informed of the risks and consequences of abortion. Giving a woman a moment to weigh her options is crucial to this process. Ezell believes that initially a woman who has been violated is reeling from painful emotions and memories. The permanence of abortion, however, demands that a woman be given the tools to educate herself.

Teresa's story drives this point home. After being raped by an acquaintance, Teresa became pregnant. She went to an abortion clinic. In the January 1998 edition of *Cosmopolitan*, she relates her experience:

"[A]fter hearing my story, all the nurse said was, 'Well, you can't keep it, then.' I left the clinic knowing more about the cost of anesthesia than about the child that was growing inside me ... I was pro-choice, but I was outraged that this stranger was telling me what to do and not offering a choice."

After canceling three appointments with the clinic, Teresa decided to continue her pregnancy and raise her child.

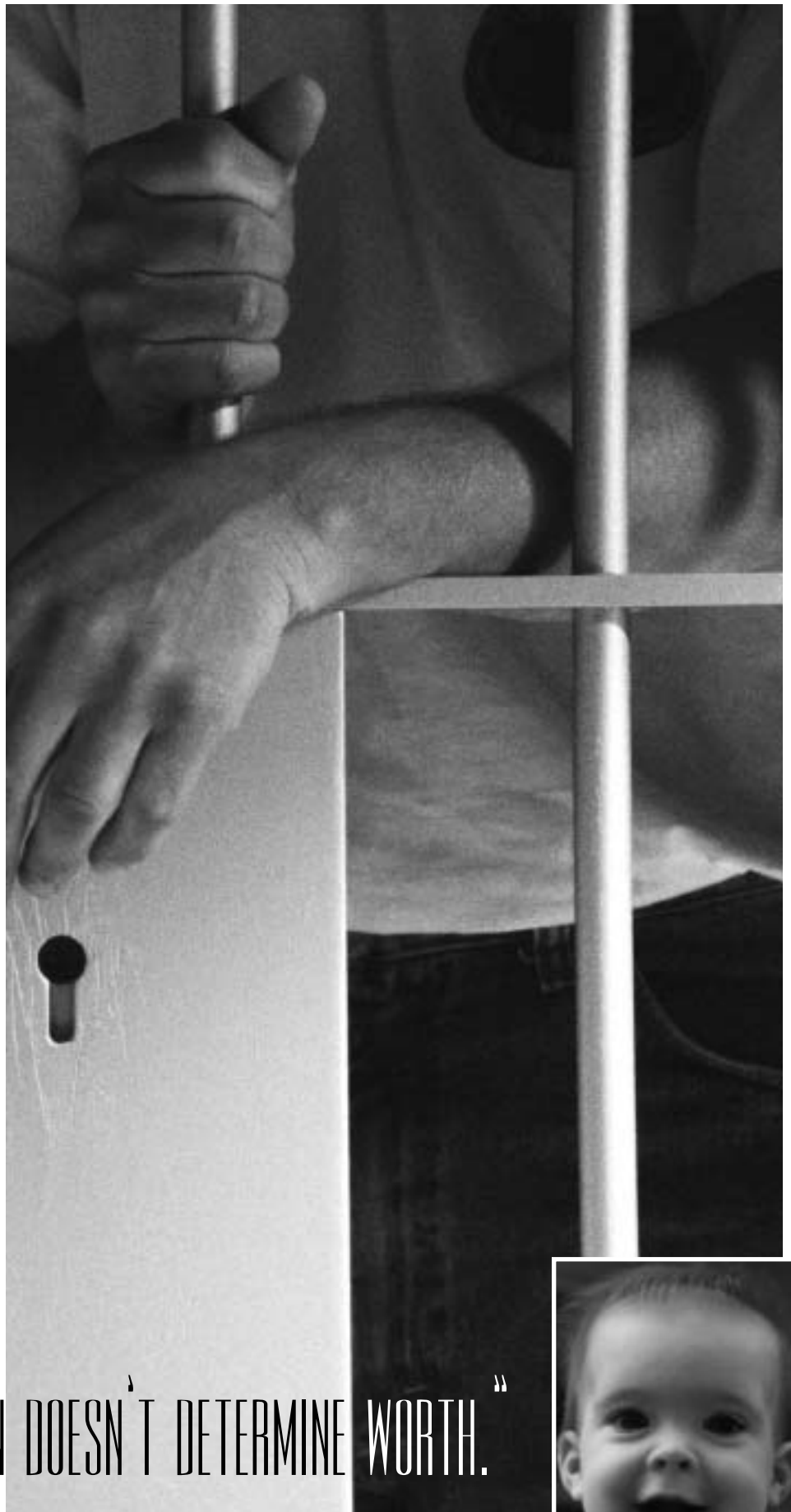
As important as informed consent is, Zibolsky and others who have been involved in counseling rape survivors agree that understanding and openness are needed more than anything. Sifting through rage, panic, denial, and shock is never easy. Many women are plagued with fears about their unborn infant and ask themselves, "Will she look like the rapist? Will I hate my own child?" Moreover, like women in all crisis pregnancies, they wonder how they will survive. Their families are not always supportive of their decision not to abort, and in many cases they lack the most basic necessities. In other cases, they, like Teresa, are harmed by employer discrimination (Teresa was fired when her foreman discovered she was pregnant).

"SOMEHOW PEOPLE BELIEVE THESE CHILDREN ARE NOT WORTH SAVING, BUT [

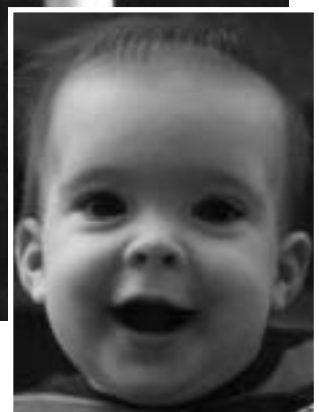
Even welfare programs under new reform regulations have inadvertently placed a heavy burden on some of these mothers. In many states the paternity of the child must be established before she or he is allowed to receive benefits. In Virginia, for example, one woman's eldest daughter was denied benefits because her mother had been raped and did not know the identity of her assailant. These instances indicate a social climate that penalizes individuals for choosing life over abortion.

The stories of women who have come through this experience are ultimately victorious. Like Julie Makimaa, many children conceived in rape have thanked their mothers for their decision to give birth in the face of pressure to abort. Today, many of these women are involved in counseling and reaching out to others who are going through the same ordeal. They have successful careers and marriages. They are strong intellectually, emotionally and spiritually, and their lives are rich and full. Reflecting on their past, they know that their well-being today is inextricably linked to their decision to carry their children to term. In recalling the process of her own recovery, Zibolsky shared, "A baby is the only good thing that comes out of rape." ○

*Juli Schwartz is a free-lance writer who teaches English in China.*



THE MANNER OF ] CONCEPTION DOESN'T DETERMINE WORTH. "





# “You are my Daughter”

## An Interview With Julie Makimaa by Janet Podell

**When people on different sides of the abortion issue engage one another in debate, sooner or later the argument touches upon the question of what to do when pregnancy is the result of rape.**

Many thoughtful people who are generally opposed to abortion feel that requiring women who have experienced violence to carry their babies to term would prolong their suffering.

In a recent interview, FFL talked with Julie Makimaa, who has first-hand experience with this subject: Her own life began as the result of rape. She spoke about her conception and the consequences of her mother's decision not to abort her.

Makimaa grew up in Southern California with a loving family that adopted her out of a foster home when she was eight months old. She is now married with two children, ages 14 and 12, and lives in Indiana. With the support of her husband and parents, Makimaa undertook a search for the woman who had placed her in an adoptive family. On her 21st birthday, she was reunited with her birth mother, Lee Ezell, and learned for the first time the circumstances of her conception.

Ezell was the daughter of an alcoholic father who was so abusive that her mother had to flee with their children to another state. She was 18-years-old and holding down a job when she was raped by a man who worked for the same company. “When the assault happened,” Makimaa said, “she felt that this was her lot in life, that violence was something that followed her.” A friend offered to take Ezell to Mexico for an illegal abortion (see “Choosing Life: Journeys of Hope Born From Tragedy,” page 3). Though she considered it, the

prospect was too daunting. Instead, after her mother told her to leave home, she moved to Southern California, where she was taken in by a couple she met at a church. She decided to place her baby for adoption. After the birth of her daughter — whom Lee was not allowed to see or hold — she went on to college and eventually married a widower with two daughters.

Makimaa says, “I asked her, ‘Why would you want to even see me, then? How could you want to even be a part of my life?’ And she said, ‘You know, you don’t remind me of the assault at all. You remind me of the good thing that happened out of that tragedy that I went through. And you are my daughter, and I want to have a relationship with you.’ And this was the message: It was a terrible thing that happened to her, but I and my children are here today because she sacrificed those months of her life to give us a lifetime.”

The news that her birth father had raped her birth mother was, of course,



a shock to Makimaa. "I had a lot of questions to ask myself about who I was and what did the assault mean to me. I had to ask myself if I somehow had an evil gene from my father. I had to really look at my own life and say, 'What does this mean to me? And does this change the person that I am?'"

"I know that my conception and the circumstances surrounding it are not what's important to me. I would never wish an assault like that on anyone but I realize that that has no bearing on the person that I am, and the value of my life. The people who love me still love me the same, it doesn't matter to them. But it has given me a greater appreciation for things. I don't take my life for granted."

Although Makimaa had long been active in the pro-life movement — she currently works for Life Athletes, an organization that arranges for pro-life professional and Olympic athletes to speak to students — she says that the news of her own history caused her to examine her ideas about cases of rape. "Most people do not think, 'Well, I could have been aborted,' but I do think how easily my life could have been ended and the lives of my children. Sometimes when my mother and I are together we just sort of look at each other and know that our story could have been so different, and what a tragedy that would have been. I wasn't planned, but I was loved."

"I think most people believe that a woman pregnant in this situation will never love her child and cannot bear to carry the child to term and that somehow the abortion will help them, that it will be

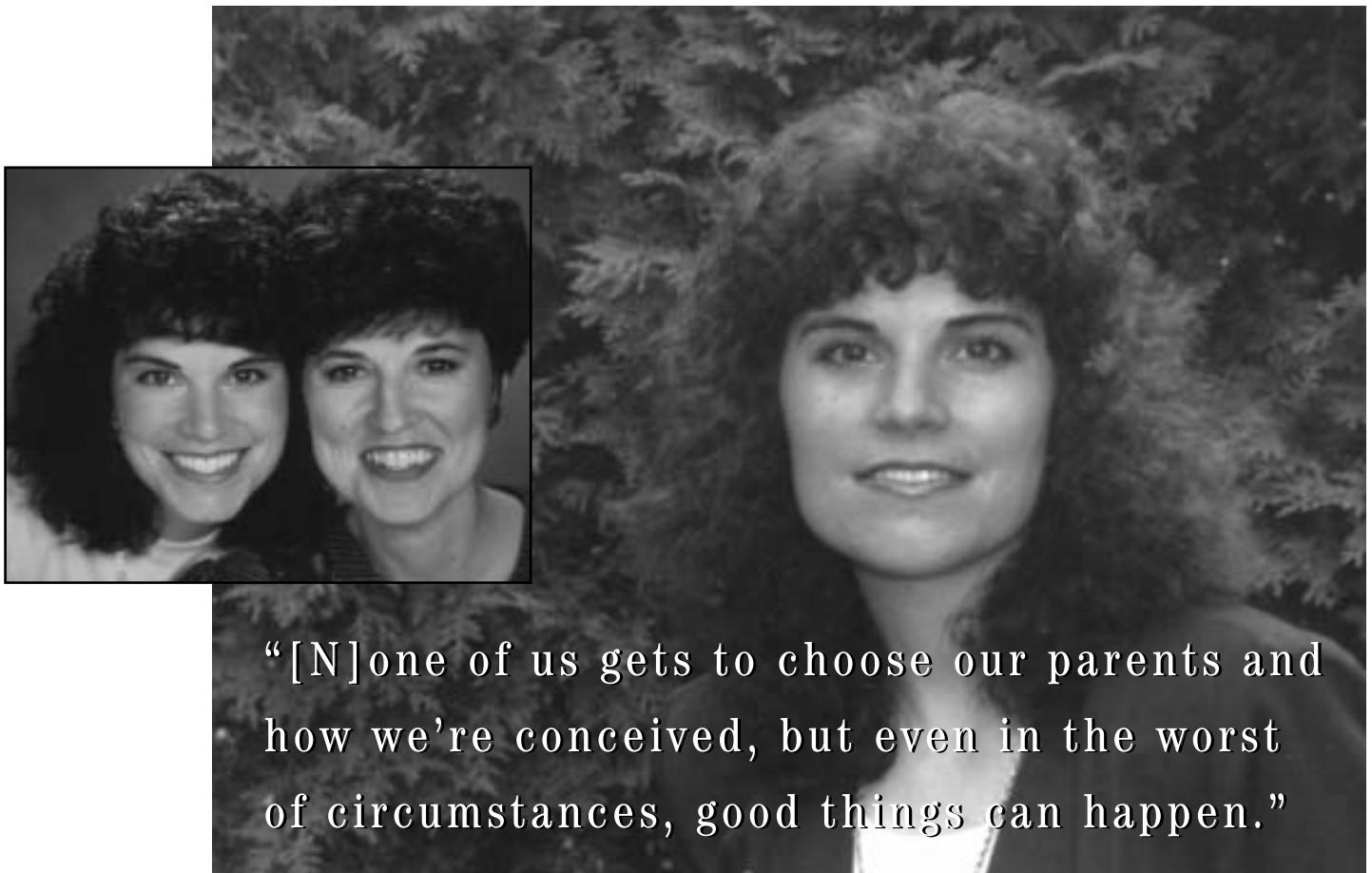
beneficial for them to abort the child. But I believe that from what we know about post-abortion aftermath, women who suffer depression and guilt and anger over the rape only have those feelings compounded by guilt and depression and self-directed anger after an abortion.

"And for me, when I found out my own circumstances, I finally had to ask myself whether I thought an abortion would have been beneficial for my birth mother. I realized that if she had aborted, our reunion and life together now would have all been lost, and the happiness my mother enjoys with me, she would have missed.

"My mother was a victim of an assault, but she did not choose to victimize me. I was not given the death penalty for the crime of my father. I was given the greatest gift that any of us could give — life."

As a result of her experiences, Makimaa founded Fortress International (see "Sexual Assault Resources," page 4), a support organization for women pregnant through assault and children conceived in assaults. She is now working on a book. The primary lesson she has learned, she says, is that "none of us gets to choose our parents and how we're conceived, but even in the worst of circumstances, good things can happen." ○

*Janet Podell is the editor of *Abortion (1990)*, a reference collection of articles and interviews, and is a frequent contributor to *The American Feminist*.*





**who**

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**violence?**



**D**omestic violence is part of my professional life. As a consultant who helps non-profit organizations raise money, I have worked closely with two domestic violence agencies in the Chicago area — I will call them *Harbor* and *No More Fear*. These very different organizations illustrate basic trends in addressing domestic violence, as well as some of the factors that perpetuate the problem.

*Harbor* exemplifies the trend toward **comprehensive services** for women and children who are fleeing domestic violence, combined with educational programs for the larger community. It provides a crisis hotline, information and referral services, emergency housing, counseling, and support services to help women rebuild their lives. Its educational programs target professionals in the “system” (police officers, medical providers, and court personnel) to help them become part of the solution rather than part of the problem. Another program attempts to rehabilitate batterers as they serve their sentences. The newest educational effort helps children understand the nature of power in relationships and find nonviolent ways to resolve differences. *Harbor* has been recognized for its work, but it is all but invisible in its community. Why? Because *Harbor* helps women who live in Chicago’s exclusive North Shore suburbs where “that sort of thing” is not supposed to happen.

*No More Fear* also provides comprehensive services, but like a growing number of agencies, it addresses the needs of a **specialized population** — in this case, women who are being stalked by their abusers. (Other specialized agencies focus on Latina women, immigrants, East Indian women, and others whose situations present unusual challenges.) *No More Fear* was founded by a woman whose ex-husband stalked her for a full year as she frantically sought protection within the legal system. She learned first-hand that Chicago’s domestic violence court is configured so that a woman who is bringing charges against her abuser must wait in a crowded hallway where he can stroll right up to her (leading to what some attorneys call “sweet-talk settlements” that are not so sweet for women). Among other resources, *No More Fear* provides protection agents to escort women to court and work, transport their children to and from school, help ensure the safety of crucial witnesses, and even provides 24-hour security for women whose lives are at risk. *No More Fear* must navigate a complex political landscape. It provides services that were promised several years ago by city and state officials, but never delivered.

Working with these organizations has brought new meaning to some of my own experiences with violence. I grew up in a middle-class suburb, in a protective family. I am now 32 and reasonably intelligent and self-confident. And yet ...

■ At age 14, I went on a group bus trip to New York City to see the pope. Waiting in a crush of people below the pope’s window, I felt excited and overwhelmed. A moment later I was terrified, as a rough hand reached up my skirt and tore at my underwear. I froze, then screamed, “No!” The man faded into the crowd as people turned to stare at me, annoyed.

■ At age 18, I ended my first serious relationship with a man when he hit me. He then stalked me for six months around my college campus. Looking back I can see that he was deeply insecure and had been trying for months to control, intimidate and isolate me. But back then I could not understand what I was doing to make him so mad.

Over the years, I have had other experiences with violence, discrimination and harassment. But these two instances are particularly vivid, perhaps because I never told anyone about them. One of the insidious features of domestic violence, rape, and other forms of violence against women is the “shame and blame game.” Shame can make women silent about the violence they experience. It can make crimes invisible and difficult to address. It can push us to blame the victims. Worst of all, it can grant batterers and rapists the power they crave.

Feminists for Life opposes all forms of violence — from domestic abuse to the death penalty, abortion and euthanasia. In reclaiming the nonviolent roots of feminism, FFL is also on the cutting-edge. The latest trend in addressing violence, for example, is a multi-issue approach. A closely watched pilot project being conducted in Florida and Iowa is bringing together domestic violence agencies and child protective services workers.

FFL, by understanding that violence against women cannot be separated from violence against children, born and unborn, is paving the way for a holistic approach to addressing the problems both women and children face. ○

*Maureen O'Connor is a Chicago-based resource development consultant who specializes in grant-seeking and writing projects for nonprofit organizations. She is a former board member of FFL.*

# Understanding the Big Picture

## **Domestic violence is one of the most pervasive crimes in the U.S.**

A 1993 study by the Commonwealth Fund found that nearly 4 million American women are physically abused by their husbands or boyfriends each year. While domestic violence most dramatically affects women, everyone is susceptible regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status, disabilities or age.

## **Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury and death for women.**

Domestic violence kills or injures more women between the ages of 15 and 44 than any disease — more than cancer, car accidents, and mugging combined. Between 40 percent and 70 percent of female homicide victims (depending on the region) are killed by partners or ex-partners, and stalking is a precursor to most of these murders. In addition, 30 percent of suicide attempts by women are directly related to domestic violence, and one out of every three pregnant women treated in a hospital emergency room is a victim of domestic violence.

## **Domestic violence affects children and fuels the cycle of violence.**

In a national survey of more than 6,000 American families in 1990, 50 percent of the men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children. This reality, coupled with the fact that children who grow up in abusive homes are five to six times more likely to become abusers themselves, creates a potent cycle of violence. Children growing up with domestic violence also learn how to become victims. Increasingly, girls as young as 12 and 13 are coming forward to describe abusive relationships with their boyfriends.



# EMERGENCY

## **Domestic violence affects the workplace.**

According to a 1994 survey conducted by Roper Starch Worldwide on behalf of Liz Claiborne Inc., 57 percent of corporate leaders believe domestic violence is a major problem in society. One third of those surveyed perceived this problem to have a negative impact on their bottom lines, and 66 percent agreed that a company's financial performance would benefit from addressing the issue of domestic violence among its employees. Four out of 10 were even personally aware of employees and other individuals affected by domestic violence. However, these corporate leaders seemed uncomfortable or reluctant to deal with the issue. Nearly all (96 percent) of those surveyed felt that domestic violence should be addressed primarily by the family; only 12 percent said that corporations should play a major role in addressing the issue.

## **Domestic violence causes homelessness.**

In many instances, when a woman finally and permanently leaves an abusive relationship she has exhausted all possible havens and becomes instantly homeless. Echoing the findings of other researchers, a six-year study concluded in 1996 by the Better Homes Fund and the University of Massachusetts found that 90 percent of homeless mothers have been victims of sexual abuse and/or physical violence — followed closely by low-income mothers on welfare, who have an 82 percent rate of such abuse.

## What You Can Do to Protect Yourself:

The following is a list from the Family Violence Prevention Fund of actions you can take if you are trying to escape a domestic violence situation.

- Talk with a friend or relative you trust about what's going on. They may be a good source of support.
- Contact your local domestic violence program to find out about laws and community resources (i.e., shelters, counseling, legal assistance) before you need them. They can help you plan ways to stay safe.
- Ask your health care provider or a friend to take photographs of your injuries (i.e., bruises, scratches, black eyes). Make sure that they are put in your medical records, or in a safe place with a written description of what happened. This information will make it easier for you if you decide to take legal action in the future, such as getting a restraining order, pressing criminal charges or obtaining child custody.
- Arrange a signal with a neighbor to let her know when you need help (i.e., turning a porch light on during the day, or pulling down a particular window shade).

- Keep money stored in a secret place so you can get it in an emergency, or if you decide to leave. Be sure to include some coins so you can make calls from a public phone. You can also pack a change of clothes (and personal care items, an extra set of glasses, important legal papers, etc.) for yourself and your children. Ask a neighbor or friend to keep this kit, along with an extra set of keys, in case you need to leave quickly.

- Call 911 if you are in danger or need help.

- If you decide to leave, take important papers with you (i.e., birth certificates, passports, health insurance documents, photo ID, driver's license, immunization records, checkbook, medication, food stamps, Social Security card) for both you and your children.

**Help is available if you need it. If you do not need help, then reach out to someone who does. Give generously of your time, talents, and money. Spread the word. Break the silence.**



## Where to Get More Information:

The agencies that help women experiencing domestic violence are highly localized. Often they must keep a low profile to ensure women's safety. To find services in your area:

- Call community information and referral services (operated in Chicago by the United Way and the city's Department of Human Services), or look in the Yellow Pages under "Counseling" or "Social Services."
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline number is 1-800-799-7233. This hotline can connect you with services in your area.

- Contact national groups, such as the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence at (303) 839-1852 or the National Network to End Domestic Violence at (202) 347-9520, to ask about services in your area. Most states have networks of domestic violence agencies.

- If you have access to the Internet, check out the Family Violence Prevention Fund's Web site ([www.fvpf.org](http://www.fvpf.org)), which includes lists of affiliated organizations across the country and a resource directory searchable by state.

## Ann Harding

**W**hen I was growing up my dad always told me, “If a man ever hits you, even once, walk out the door and don’t look back. Don’t try to explain him and don’t give him a second chance.” I always took that lesson to heart and knew that if a man ever laid a hand on me I would have nothing more to do with him.

But there was a type of abuse no one ever warned me about and I was not prepared for. That form of abuse is *emotional* abuse. It can be just as destructive and dangerous as physical violence. College-age women are especially vulnerable to emotional abuse because they are at a transitional stage in their lives and are still forming their identities.

**Laura, who became trapped in an emotionally abusive relationship at 17, reflects, “When I recall that period I think, ‘How could I not see what was happening?’ Then I think, ‘I was just 17. How could I know the warning signs?’”**

ego. When I think back on the attacks, they sound ludicrous. Yet at the time, I believed every word.

His target points were highly personal. For example, I experience two to three days of “down moments” every month during my menstrual cycle. My friends and family know about this hormonal effect and are understanding. My boyfriend used it as a weapon. He told me that I was “irrational” and needed “serious psychiatric help.” He said, “No other man would ever put up with a woman as moody as you are.”

At the time, I could not explain to myself why I was putting up with these repeated verbal attacks. Looking back, I now understand that I was in a cycle of praise and punishment. As soon as I cried or told him to stop, he would switch into a “honeymoon” mode — telling me how much he “loved” and “needed” me. I would then blame myself for the verbal onslaught — “He really does seem to care. Maybe I *am* as unstable as he says.” This guilt is a universal part of the emotional rollercoaster ride of abuse.

# No Visible Bru

## The Hidden Danger of Emotion

The emotionally abusive relationship began the summer before my senior year of college, immediately after my father suffered a heart attack and almost died. My world suddenly felt very insecure.

While I was still at home visiting my father in the hospital, a friend called and left a message on my family’s answering machine declaring that she had found “the perfect man” for me. (My friend’s father had been a domestic abuser so her perceptions of “the perfect man” were distorted.) But when I got back to Washington, D.C., where I attended school, I went on a blind date with her and this man.

He was British and was going to be in the United States for only a month. Although he was not very bright, he seemed nice and I agreed to see him again. To my surprise, he began showering me with adoration. He called multiple times a day and offered me flowers and candy. He would tell me how “beautiful” and “brilliant” I was. I had never experienced this degree of flattery and it was intoxicating. His attention was also a nice escape from the anxiety I was feeling over my father’s health.

As a result of his super-attentiveness, I ignored warning signs that emerged early on in the relationship. Within a few weeks, he mixed adoration with degradation. While he was telling me how “brilliant” I was, he was also chipping away at fragile points in my

**Michelle, who was physically abused while a freshman in college says, “One day it’s bliss. The next it’s not. That’s why you stay with him. During the awful moments you blame yourself. You think, ‘I’m just too difficult to get along with.’”**

One month after we met, my boyfriend had to go back to Britain to finish his education. He planned to return to the U.S. in December. His physical absence was my saving grace. Without him near me at every turn, I had a few moments to think. I hoped that our relationship would calm down while he was away.

I was wrong. His obsessiveness only worsened. It is amazing how much damage a person can wreak from a continent away. We talked almost every night. During many of these conversations, he berated my family. My family is not perfect, but we are close and tight-knit. I could not understand why he was so intent on convincing me that they were bad people. “Why should I have to defend them to him?” I thought. I later learned that his concern with my family is typical of emotional and physical abusers. An abuser wants to isolate his target from her support networks — her friends and family. I was close to my family and they did not like him. Therefore, they were the enemy.

**Sarah's boyfriend "guilted" her into eating dinner with him one night when she wanted to go to dinner with friends. "He called me in my dorm room and told me I couldn't trust them, that there was something wrong with them. I had to justify my desire to eat with my friends." Before she broke it off, she almost lost close friends who felt powerless against his abusive and controlling nature.**

Our relationship spiraled even further as he tried to tighten his control. He was in the habit of asking questions about my male friends or colleagues. When we first began dating, I thought the questions were harmless. In reality, he was distorting my answers in his head: "So what did you do after work?" "I went out for coffee with a friend." "Which friend?" "Sean." "Who's Sean?" "A friend in my department."

One morning, at 5 a.m., my boyfriend called hysterical over the fact that I was going out to dinner with friends in the evening. It was the final straw. I had to get away from him. Now I was afraid of his reaction. He told me he had become suicidal after his last girlfriend broke up with him. I was afraid he would react the same way again.

I was wrong. After the break-up, he tried to harm *me*. He became a stalker. He called my boss and demanded that he bring me to the phone. He called one of my professors, sent me strange e-mails, left bizarre messages on my answering machine, and left a subtly threatening note on my doorstep. After a few months of this behavior, I went to the District of Columbia courthouse to obtain a restraining order. I discovered that restraining orders cost \$160 in the District. It would be one or two more weeks before I had the money. For some reason, the stalking stopped before I got the order.

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He kept these names in his head. He began to attack my "flirtatiousness." I was "untrustworthy." If I was not in my room when he called at night he wanted to know where I was. His periodic "20 questions" became unbearable. I became physically ill from our conversations. I could not focus on my school work and started having difficulty getting out of bed in the morning. When I told him this, he said it was a result of my "psychological instability" and further proof that I needed therapy. In truth, my body was reacting naturally to the stress and exhaustion of the relationship I was in.

**Marie, at 22, suffered an anxiety attack in her apartment after a verbal tirade from her much older boyfriend. She was rushed to the hospital. "When I told him he was abusive he said he'd never hit a woman in his life. I said, 'Not with your hands.'"**

Although my "relationship" with this man was brief, it was a learning experience that I will never forget. I, like most people, had difficulty understanding the emotional reasons that women stay in physically abusive relationships. Now the adage, "They beat you down before they beat you up," makes sense to me.

An abusive man does not hit a woman on the first date. He isolates her and manipulates her emotions before the violence begins. Emotional abuse often precedes physical abuse, and emotional abuse alone affects a woman's (or a man's) physical state.

Young women and men rarely know the signs of a potentially dangerous partner. My dad was right when he said, "If a man hits you, even once, walk out the door and don't look back." I now add this advice: "The minute a man belittles you, walk out the door and don't look back." ○

*Ann Harding is a pseudonym. The names of the women mentioned in the article are also pseudonyms.*

Jamie Hanson Smith

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT: ROUND II



**National women's organizations from across the country came together last summer to draft the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) II. Like VAWA I, its successor works to eliminate the causes of violence against women in our society while offering support and resources to women in need. But VAWA II goes further, and builds on the problems addressed in the first Violence Against Women's Act.**

At the first planning meeting of the national Violence Against Women Task Force, which drafted the VAWA II legislation, FFL Executive Director Serrin Foster called for legislation to protect women who become pregnant as a result of rape and children conceived in rape from court-ordered visitation to the rapist. Currently, in most states, a man convicted of rape or incest who fathers a child through the crime has parental rights over the child. Courts can mandate that the mother who was raped has to bring the child for visitation to the rapist in prison. As in the O.J. Simpson case, the court assumes that the man convicted of a violent sexual act against a woman or girl might be a perfectly good father.

"Knowing that there is even the slightest chance of being forced to face your rapist on a regular basis has contributed to aborting children con-

ceived in rape," said Foster. "FFL's goal is to systematically eliminate the long list of reasons that women have abortions. At the same time, we want protection for women and children from further abuse by sexual predators through forced visitation. Paternal rights should be terminated by the courts, but those criminals who have the financial means should be forced to provide child support."

Lack of financial support is one of the most commonly reported reasons for abortion. As a result of bringing the needs of an often-ignored population to the forefront, the VAWA Task Force decided that research was necessary to assess all the needs of pregnant women and children conceived in rape. If passed, VAWA II will authorize \$500,000 in 1999 to study many aspects of this issue, such as:

■ The incidence and prevalence of pregnancy resulting from sexual assault.

■ The ages of victims and their relationship to the rapist.

■ The degree to which state adoption, child custody, visitation, child support, parental termination and child welfare criminal justice laws and policies serve the women and girls who become pregnant as a result of sexual assault.

■ The availability of public or private legal resources, medical and mental health services, counseling, financial assistance and the extent to which barriers exist against finding help.

■ Recommendations for improvements in the state health care, judicial and social service systems to address the needs of women and girls who become pregnant and children born as a result of sexual assault.

VAWA II attempts to prevent violence against women through research, training and education grants. Areas of emphasis include grants to combat violence against women through rape prevention. The legislation encourages policy development for arresting batterers and insurance protection for victims of abuse.

Services to women would be expanded through grants to increase education and training of health care providers who conduct sexual assault examinations, child abuse workers, law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, judges and court staff.

Funding would be increased incrementally through the year 2003 for the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and services would be expanded to women in battered women's shelters who need housing assistance. Also, programs would be created to reduce the incidence of stalking. The federal witness protection program would be made available for women and children in need.



Currently...a man convicted of rape

or incest who fathers a child through the crime

has parental rights over the child.

In addition, VAWA II has provisions intended to address problems particular to special populations, such as elderly women, battered immigrant women, women in the military, and to prevent sexual assault by correctional staff. VAWA II also targets children. Grants would be made available to limit the effect of violence on children, including runaways and homeless children, and to create safe places for children.

College-age women are an especially vulnerable group (see "Violence Against Women on Campus," page 17). Hence, VAWA II aims to reduce violent crimes against women on campus by funding programs that would strengthen security and improve investigations of crimes including sexual assault, stalking and domestic violence. Grants may be used for a variety of needs, including training, equipment and victim services.

Another way in which VAWA II varies from its predecessor is its focus on the effects of domestic violence in the workplace. The Bureau of National Affairs reports domestic violence costs employers \$3 billion to \$5 billion annually in reduced productivity and missed work days. Fifty to 55 percent of battered women report missing days of work because of abuse, and 60 percent cite it as a reason for being late. Fifty percent of

women who are raped report losing their jobs in the aftermath of their attacks, and 24 to 30 percent of battered women have lost their jobs in part because of the abuse they received. Abusers employ typical methods of control — not delivering promised transportation and child care, inflicting visible bruises and hiding necessities such as car keys and clothes. As it stands now, only 12 states have employee protection laws that protect employees from being penalized by their employers if they testify in criminal courts during work hours. Existing laws do not give abused women the right to take a leave of work or seek legal assistance without being free of employer punishment. VAWA II includes unemployment benefits if a woman who does not work outside the home leaves an abusive household. Half of all battered women say they stay in their circumstances because they lack financial resources to provide for themselves and their children.

VAWA II is important for its holistic approach to addressing the needs of women and children who are threatened by sexual violence. ○

*Jamie Hanson Smith interned at FFL in the spring.*

**What You Can Do:** Feminists for Life of America is a member of the Violence Against Women Task Force. Please write, call, or visit your senators and representative and ask them to support this vital piece of legislation. VAWA II has bipartisan support, so contact Republicans and Democrats alike.

The legislation in the Senate is titled S. 2110.

Address letters to your senators as:

The Hon. \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

The legislation in the House of Representatives is titled H.R. 3514.

Address letters to your representative as:

The Hon. \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

You may contact your members of Congress by calling the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Or you may consult "www.thomas.gov," Congress's Web site, for office phone and fax numbers as well as e-mail addresses.

VAWA II ... builds on the problems

addressed in the first

Violence Against Women's Act.



# Violence Women on

# Against Campus

One in eight women in the United States suffers a sexual assault or attempted sexual assault during her college years, according to the national organization Safe Campuses Now. This is despite a decrease in campus violence nationwide. In California, for example, the state university system conducted a study in 1995 that found a 29 percent decrease in violent crime systemwide, but an increase in the number of women who reported being raped on campus.

There are manifold reasons for the pervasive problem of violence against women on college campuses, not the least of which is the widespread use of alcohol and other substances among college-age women and men. As Janet Butler, director of the Women's Resource Center at Bucknell University stated in an article in *The Bucknellian*, "A lot of time there's alcohol involved (in the abuse); not that alcohol causes it — it just lowers inhibitions."

Several studies of collegians indicate that illegal drugs and alcohol abuse are involved in about 90 percent of campus crime. Many students also do not know that taking advantage of a woman while she is intoxicated is a crime. Rape is defined by law as "the act of sexual intercourse without consent which occurs by force or by inability to consent." When a woman is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, she is incapable of consent.

The substance causing the most fear on college campuses right now is Rohypnol. Known as the "date-rape drug," it first induces a drunk-like stupor, then complete unconsciousness, in whoever takes it. Worst of all, the person drugged with it remembers nothing of what happened to her. Rohypnol is odorless, colorless and tasteless. In 1996, three gang-rapes occurred at Clemson University after male students spiked female students' drinks with the drug. Four students were later arrested trying to sell more than 300 tablets of Rohypnol.



## Resources for College and University Students

The following advocacy and education groups specifically address crime and violence against women on college campuses.

### Safe Campuses Now

337 South Millledge Ave.

Suite 117

Athens, GA 30605

(706) 354-1115

e-mail:

safecampus@peachnet.campus.mci.net

A national nonprofit organization dedicated to making students more aware and prepared to avoid and deter crime on campus.

### Security on Campus Inc.

215 West Church Road

Suite 200

King of Prussia, PA 19406-3207

(610) 768-9330

e-mail: soc@soconline.org

Web site: www.soconline.org

A national non-profit organization dedicated to assisting campus victims protect their legal rights.

### SpeakOut: The North American Student Coalition Against Sexual Violence

(This organization is student-run, so contact addresses change regularly.)

Nate Barnett

James Madison University

Box 1517

800 South Main St.

Harrisonburg, VA 22807

(540) 568-7258

Recognizes, unites, and enhances the efforts of campus activists throughout North America working to end sexual violence.

In response to the problem of violence against women on campuses nationwide, numerous national groups have sprung up over the past 20 years. Group founders are galvanized by personal experiences. The founder of Safe Campuses Now, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing student safety and campus awareness, formed the group after an intruder entered her room at the University of Georgia while she was asleep and stabbed her in the stomach. She later learned that she was one of five female students who had been attacked within two months within a one-mile radius of one another.

Howard and Connie Clery formed Security on Campus Inc. after their daughter Jeanne was raped, beaten and murdered in her dorm room at Lehigh University in 1986. That incident sparked federal legislation that required federally funded schools to publish campus crime statistics and crime policy statements, and to distribute this information to enrolled students and to prospective students upon request. The Campus Security Act of 1990 covers all schools that receive federal grants and loans, including Pell grants, Perkins loans, and Stafford loans. Therefore, about 99 percent of schools in the country are covered by the act.

Unfortunately, a recent study by the General Accounting Office and the University of Cincinnati found widespread non-compliance with

want to help friends in violent relationships. According to Katie Koestner of Campus Outreach Services, one of the best times to address these issues is during freshman orientation — because a majority of student assaults occur during the first semester of freshman year. Often students are encountering new and dangerous situations, including the use and abuse of power in relationships. Schools further need to identify and implement long-term education programs that promote awareness of rape, acquaintance rape, and other forms of violence.

Currently, women's colleges are taking the lead in instituting proactive policies to combat violence against women. For example, Barnard College's Women's Handbook, which is publicized on the Internet, offers constructive information such as:

*Abusers have the power to lower their partners self-esteem and isolate the partner from other support. They make the partner feel guilty or responsible for their behavior or their moods .... Abusive behavior often comes in cycles. At times the relationship will seem calm. The abuser will apologize for previous behavior and perhaps be extra attentive. At other points in the cycle, tensions and arguments will soar. The abuser will blame his/her partner for ruining his/her life. The abused partner is never to blame for the abuse.*



Several studies of collegians indicate that illegal drugs and alcohol abuse are involved in about 90 percent of campus crime.

the act. In response, a bipartisan amendment to enforce the law, titled "The Accuracy in Campus Crime Reporting Act," has recently been introduced in Congress.

Beyond the requirements of federal legislation, schools have a responsibility to their students to educate and prevent violence against women on campus. Too few schools have comprehensive policies and programs addressing violence against women or advising students who

The handbook also offers local and national hotline numbers and advice on medical treatment and legal remedies.

Distributing women's handbooks is just one step that schools can take to curb an epidemic national problem. College can be a vulnerable period in a young woman's or man's life. No community is immune to violence and college students need all the support they can get to protect themselves from danger. ○

# Herstory

## Worth Repeating

Contemporary feminists bravely challenge a belief that causes so much violence against women — the notion that women are the property of men, expressed for centuries in the common-law doctrine that “man and wife are one, and that one, the husband.” The feminist movement has begun to create authentic choices for breaking the cycle of anti-woman violence. Feminists would be even more free to create and sustain such alternatives for women’s healing if more believed what our foremothers did: that abortion is part of the cycle of violence against women, and not a defense against it.

Let us consider the wisdom of the 19th-century healer Juliet Worth Stillman Severance, a relative of Quaker abolitionist and suffragist Lucretia Mott. While still in her teens, she became a schoolteacher and a well-known orator at women’s rights and anti-slavery conventions. According to Willard and Livermore’s biographical dictionary, *Women of the Century* (1893), she chose to study alternative medicine because it had helped her become “strong and vigorous” after a sickly childhood. She was a greatly successful doctor despite harassment from those who felt women had no place in medicine, and who decried her use of unconventional but more prevention-oriented and patient-centered treatments. She rejected the confining fashions of her time for simple, comfortable dress. She led several national labor organizations and eloquently opposed the death penalty. Anticipating late 20th-century feminists such as Carol Adams, Severance also practiced vegetarianism.

As *Women of the Century* wryly notes, Severance became “a radical of the radicals” whose tremendous “public work has not kept her from being a model mother and housekeeper.” All three of her children became well-known theatrical or musical performers. Her second husband supported her healing work. Severance wanted marriage and motherhood to be life-affirming choices for women, as shown by her article, “Is the Present Marriage System a Failure?” which appeared in the progressive Chicago newspaper *Universe* on Aug. 28, 1869.

*Marriage should be a soul-union, not a curse ... not a merging of one life into another; but ... two individuals uniting their lives for mutual good and the good of humanity — it may be in*

*reproduction, or it may be in giving birth to higher, nobler ideas, and outworking them in noble deeds and grand achievements .... There is not a child in a hundred that is begotten with the consent of the mother. As the present marriage system makes man the owner of woman — her legal master — she is expected to submit to his gratification .... When the marriage system is what it should be, and woman controls in these matters, instead of man ... Restellism shall cease, because there will be no demand for it.*

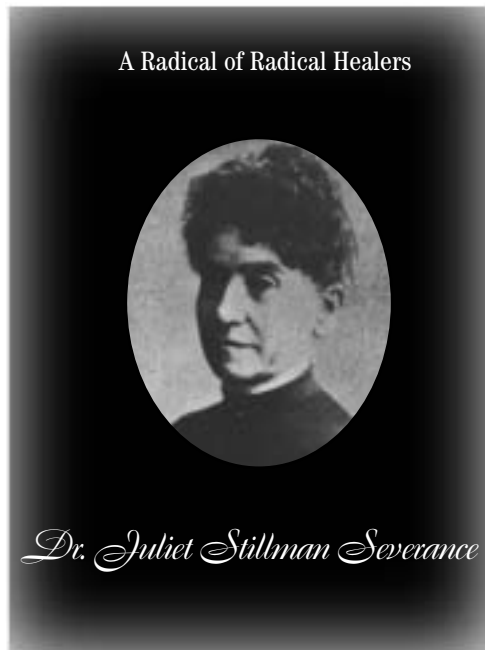
“Restellism” was a term for abortion, derived from the name of a notorious abortionist, Madame Restell. Severance’s article appeared immediately after the *Universe* printed an article titled “Where the Blame Belongs,” whose author, identified as “A Mother,” expanded upon the early feminist case against abortion:

*I’m sick of hearing women berated for foeticide, when, seven cases in ten, the husbands and prospective fathers are more to blame than are the mothers. ... when the hapless mother shrunk from the crime ... he would laugh at her fears, and quiet her conscience by saying there was no life in the fetus until a certain number of months gestation had passed. Women have told me, with streaming eyes, that their husbands have insisted that they should destroy the life of their unborn babes ....*

Similar scenarios play out in the lives of untold pregnant women today, because in many ways our culture still acts as if “man and woman are one, and that one, the man.” We will never fully break the cycle of violence against women if we adopt the parallel belief that “fetus and women are one, and that one, the woman.” Let us recognize with Juliet Stillman Severance and our other feminist foremothers that we cannot be completely healed of violence against women until human beings relinquish all claims of ownership in their intimate bonds — including their bonds with their unborn children. ○

Similar scenarios play out in the lives of untold pregnant women today, because in many ways our culture still acts as if “man and woman are one, and that one, the man.” We will never fully break the cycle of violence against women if we adopt the parallel belief that “fetus and women are one, and that one, the woman.” Let us recognize with Juliet Stillman Severance and our other feminist foremothers that we cannot be completely healed of violence against women until human beings relinquish all claims of ownership in their intimate bonds — including their bonds with their unborn children. ○

Mary Krane Derr is co-editor of the anthology *Pro-Life Feminism: Yesterday and Today*.



**Molly Pannell**  
Public Education and Resource Development Coordinator

# SWARTHMORE AND VILLANOVA HOST PREGNANCY RESOURCES FORUMS

Swarthmore College and Villanova University are only a few miles apart, but their responses to student pregnancy are separated by much more than miles. Students at both schools recently held Pregnancy Resources Forums that revealed striking differences in the way each school responds to the needs and concerns of pregnant students.

Moderated by FFL Executive Director Serrin Foster, a Pregnancy Resources Forum brings together students, administrators, and community members to discuss educational, financial, and housing options for pregnant and parenting students. According to Foster, the goal of the forum is not to debate the issue of abortion, but to “evaluate resources and develop a blueprint to support pregnant and parenting students — and that includes fathers.”

For the first time students representing both sides of the abortion debate came together to find solutions for pregnant and parenting students. “I want to do everything I can to make sure all the options are there,” explained Julie Schwendiman, co-president of Swarthmore Students Advocating Life. The forum at Swarthmore College was a joint effort by the Pro-Choice Task Force and

Swarthmore Students Advocating Life. Aarti Iyer of the Pro-Choice Task Force further said that “our goal was to explore the history of this issue on campus and to find out what policies Swarthmore has and whether these policies would support a woman’s decision.”

Panelists at Swarthmore College’s Pregnancy Resources Forum included administration representatives from psychological services, residential life, dean for student life, and the Worth Health Center. Rachel Schuchardt, a 1994 Swarthmore graduate who became pregnant during her junior year, represented pregnant and parenting students at the college. Joined by her four-year-old daughter, Schuchardt said that as a married student she had additional support from her husband, mother-in-law, and the local Presbyterian church, which paid her heating bill and threw her a baby shower. With this secure support system she was able to maintain her grades and graduate within four years despite receiving sympathy rather than congratulations from her professors when she told them that she was pregnant.

Schuchardt’s story is unique at Swarthmore. With no housing for married or parenting students, the college does not often see visibly pregnant and parenting students on campus. According to the director of residential life, some exceptions can be made to the school’s first year on-campus requirement if on-campus living adversely affects pregnant or parenting students. Yet Associate Dean of Student Life Todd Goundie reported that to his knowledge there were no pregnant or parenting students currently attending Swarthmore.

One problem encountered by the administration and students alike is the absence of college-wide policies regarding pregnant and parenting students. According to Goundie, each case is treated individually. This lack of precedent is often a roadblock to students who find themselves pregnant. Without the example of other students or at least a policy to reference, pregnant students do not know where to go for help. Students who receive positive



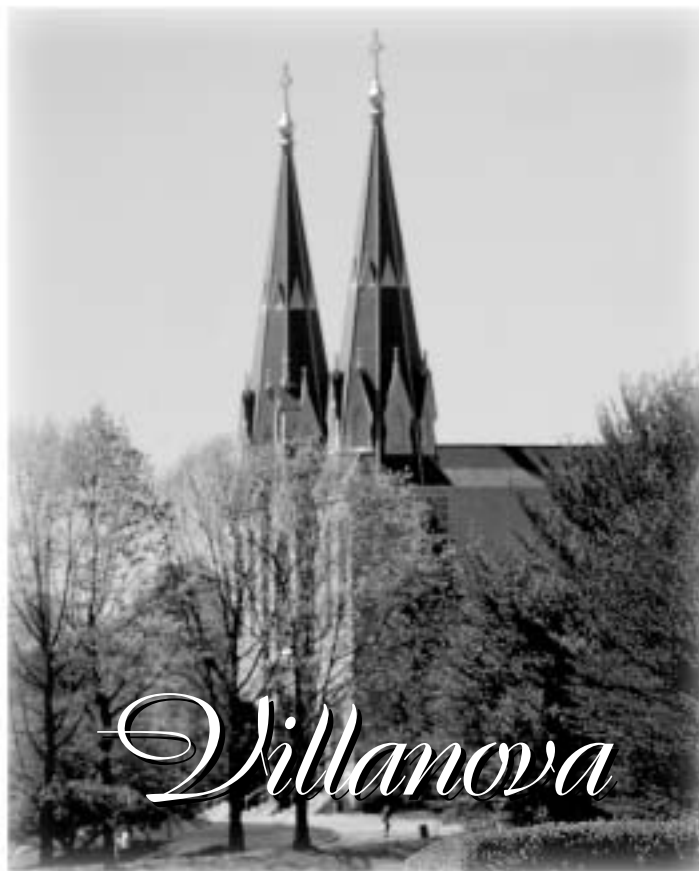
pregnancy tests from the campus health clinic are commonly referred for abortions. The campus clinic's head nurse formerly worked at an abortion clinic near the school.

The main goals that emerged from the forum included a change in current policies that would allow pregnant and parenting students in need to attend college on a part-time basis, a trained counselor in the psychological services department who could lead students through the maze of pregnancy services both on campus and off, and housing and child care options.

At Villanova University, the Pregnancy Resources Forum highlighted some well-established policies for pregnant and parenting students. A headline in Villanova University's campus newspaper declared, "University Sets Precedent in Assisting Pregnant Students" after the Pregnancy Resources Forum. Sponsored by Villanovans for Life, the forum featured panelists from the University's health center, residence life, the counseling center, campus ministry, and Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center, a local center.

One woman told the story of a friend who, after seriously considering abortion, chose instead to keep the child with the help of fellow students. The student gave birth to a baby girl on the 25th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

Key to the panel was Kathy Byrnes, assistant to the dean and central contact for pregnant students on campus. Byrnes outlined the path a pregnant student at Villanova would take. Beginning at the university's health center where confidential pregnancy tests are offered, the student is next guided to the counseling center,



*Both schools demonstrated a sincere interest in supporting pregnant and parenting students.*

where emotional support is available for both her and the father. The counseling center offers joint sessions with the student and her parents during which she can tell her parents of her pregnancy and discuss her options with the counselor and her parents. The campus ministry office offers similar services for students, even accompanying students on doctor's visits.

Residence life at Villanova not only provides housing for students, but can also move pregnant students to single rooms for privacy. The residence life office also works with local realtors to help students find off-campus housing. According to Byrnes, many families in the area have opened their homes to pregnant students.

But pregnant students' concerns are not limited to housing. Maintaining one's academic standing is also a major concern. Villanova allows pregnant women to drop to part-time status while maintaining their on-campus living arrangements. A flexible course offering allows classes to be scheduled around child care. Though the university does not have its own child care facility, students may use the child care center at Rosemont College, less than a mile from Villanova.

Students and panelists joined forces to determine the primary needs for pregnant and parenting students at Swarthmore. At the top of this list was the need for one key person on campus who would be aware of all the policies that might affect pregnant and

parenting students. This person could familiarize students with college policies and outside resources. The presence of such a person would prevent students from having to figure out the administrative maze while trying to attend classes and maintain academic work.

Also high on the forum's list of priorities for the college was the need for trained pregnancy counselors in the health center, housing options for pregnant and parenting students, and child care for students, not just faculty and staff.

The Pregnancy Resources Forum revealed a lack of knowledge among students about the services available on campus. According to Foster, Villanova is "a good example of what a school should be like," but students must be made aware of the services Villanova offers. Panelists and students at Villanova discussed plans for increasing campuswide awareness of resources for pregnant and parenting students.

Both schools demonstrated a sincere interest in supporting pregnant and parenting students. Developing policies and communicating resources that support nonviolent choices for students in need is the next step. ○

*Molly Pannell is FFL's new public education and resource development coordinator. She is past president and current board member of American Collegians for Life.*

**Molly Pannell**  
Public Education and  
Resource Development  
Coordinator

# FFL AND ACL SURVEY CAMPUS PREGNANCY RESOURCES



**FFL intern Malika Matthewes attends Howard University in Washington, D.C., while her mother cares for Malika's daughter, Jelani, and son, Thair, in Ohio.**

A year ago, FFL's national office received a phone call from Megan, a senior at Colgate University who was writing a final paper on FFL's College Outreach Program. Her interest stemmed from her own experience at Colgate, where she became unexpectedly pregnant during her junior year. When she went to the school's student health clinic for her pregnancy test results, the nurse told her about a Colgate program that offered student loans of \$500 for abortions. The university offered no such loans for adoption or other pregnancy and parenting assistance for women who wanted to carry their children to term.

Megan felt trapped. She took the loan and went to an abortion clinic a few blocks away with her boyfriend. But something changed as she sat in the clinic listening to the abortion counselor — she realized she couldn't go through with it. So she walked out to the waiting room, yelled "I'm going to have my baby," and went home with her boyfriend. The two married and completed their degrees within four years, thanks to support from their parents. But Megan never forgot her experience with the clinic or the indifference the university showed toward her situation. Instead of stepping up to the challenge of providing students like Megan with the resources they need to raise a child and continue their education, many colleges and universities are simply abandoning their students — offering loans for abortions rather than constructive solutions and assistance for parents and their children.

FFL and American Collegians for Life are teaming up to help provide college students with a full range of life-affirming choices on campus.

Through FFL's College Outreach Program, hundreds of students have received information about abortion alternatives and pregnancy resources. By developing resources such as housing assistance, child care, and maternity coverage in student health insurance policies, FFL members and pro-life college students aim to eliminate the pressures pregnant students face and provide life-affirming alternatives to abortion.

Some schools already have student-parent friendly policies in place. Trinity College, a women's college in Washington, D.C., offers an on-campus child care center for students, faculty and staff. In addition, the college's flexible weekend and evening college courses allow working parents and undergraduate students with children to continue their college education while raising children. The University of Hartford in Connecticut has organized a volunteer babysitting service. Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., has a pilot program under way to create a "virtual classroom" using two-way video that enables students to learn at home. The two-way system will allow students to see the entire classroom. Students will receive all posted information electronically by simply pushing "print" for a copy of notes and visuals.

The policies of these schools show that FFL and ACL are not asking the impossible. With some practical assistance from the college, parents can stay in school and raise children. Constructive help from colleges offers pregnant and parenting students real choices, not last resorts.

**What members and supporters can do:** Sponsor a kit for your alma mater or other school in need.

**What students can do:** To increase the success of FFL's College Outreach Program, FFL and ACL need your help. We want to know what policies regarding pregnant and parenting students — both positive and negative — are in place at your college or university. This vital information will help us continue to reach out to young women and men in need.

Please contact FFL's national office for a free Campus Pregnancy Resources Survey at 733 15th St., NW, Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 737-3352. Thank you.

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Pro-life collegiate groups interested in obtaining a free kit, scheduling an FFL speaker or hosting a Pregnancy Resource Forum should contact FFL's national office.



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## **Congress Passes U.N. Payment Measure With Abortion Lobbying Restrictions**

The U.S. Congress passed a bill that would provide \$819 million in back U.S. dues to the United Nations and forgive \$107 million owed to the U.S. by the international organization. The bill includes language that would bar international groups that receive U.S. aid, including International Planned Parenthood, from lobbying foreign governments to promote or legalize abortion. President Clinton vetoed the bill because of the restriction on abortion lobbying.

## **Abortion Providers Contesting Texas Law**

Six of the largest Texas abortion providers are seeking to overturn a District Court ruling that upholds a state law limiting abortion funding to cases of rape, incest, and endangerment to the mother's life.

The abortion providers are suing the state for reimbursement for elective abortions performed on Medicaid-eligible women. No Medicaid-eligible women are among the plaintiffs.

## **Alaska Senate Says Hospitals Cannot Be Forced to Perform Abortions**

The Alaska Senate passed a state constitutional amendment that says hospitals can "refuse to perform abortions." If two-thirds of the state's House of Representatives vote in favor of the measure, it will go before Alaska's governor.

The amendment was sparked by an Alaska Supreme Court decision that forced a private hospital to perform abortions because the hospital had accepted city-donated lands and state construction funds.

## **Judge Approves Wisconsin Right-to-Know Law**

A federal judge in Wisconsin has cleared the way for that state's informed-consent law to go into effect. The 1996 law requires women to meet with an abortion practitioner at least 24 hours before receiving their abortion, except in medical emergencies and certain cases of rape and incest. The law also requires state officials to provide written materials to abortion facilities, printed in both Spanish and English, which must be offered to women considering an abortion. The infor-

mation includes pictures of fetal development, possible medical complications from both childbirth and abortion, and lists of local social service agencies that provide assistance to pregnant women.

## **Many States Passing Partial-birth Abortion Bans**

Kansas, Oklahoma, and West Virginia have been added to the list of states that have signed partial-birth abortion bans into law. In addition, Maine has introduced a referendum to ban partial-birth abortions. Twenty-four states have already passed legislation outlawing the procedure.

## **Kentucky Passes Right-to-Know Law**

In Kentucky, state lawmakers overrode Gov. Paul Patton's veto of a bill that would require a mother to be given state-produced materials on abortion and wait 24 hours before getting the abortion. The veto was overridden by a vote of 71-24 in the state's House of Representatives and 24-11 in the Senate. It is expected to face a court challenge.

## **Michigan Senate Committee Approves Bills to Ban Human Cloning**

The Michigan State Senate Health Policy and Senior Citizens Committee approved four different bills to ban human cloning in Michigan. Under the bills, a person with a medical license who engaged in human cloning would lose her license for three to five years and be liable for a \$10 million civil penalty. One of the bills already passed the full House in a slightly different form.

## **Volunteer Journalists and Photographers Wanted**

If you would like to be a contributing writer for *The American Feminist*, please send a writing sample to the editor. Ability to meet deadlines essential.

Photographers are also needed. Please send samples of your work. Photos will not be returned and become the property of Feminists for Life of America. Model releases are required to publish work. Copies of release forms are available from the national office.



### **If Anyone Still Doubts the Link Between Abortion and Domestic Violence ...**

A Buffalo, N.Y., man was sentenced to one-and-a-half to two years for hiring a hit man to beat his former girlfriend into a miscarriage after she refused to get an abortion. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges after offering an undercover police officer \$2,000 to attack and kick her in the abdomen. She held her 15-day-old baby in her arms and listened as the judge imposed the sentence.

Source: *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 4/16/98

### **Violence Against Girls**

In Jonesboro, Ark., two boys ages 13 and 11 killed four girls and a female teacher. The girls were part of an all-female music class that was the first to exit the school gym after the boys pulled a fire alarm. The grandfather of Andrew Goldon, one of the assailants, maintained in *Time* magazine, that their targets weren't random. "If that had been true, you would have shot as many boys as you did girls."

One of the girls who was injured in the shooting spree was the former "girlfriend" of Mitchell Johnson. He was reportedly angry that she had jilted him — a similar motive for a student shooting spree that occurred a year earlier at a junior high school in Pearl, Miss.

Source: *USA Today*, 3/26/98, *Time*, 4/6/98

### **Employers Begin to Accommodate Nursing Moms**

In 1996, Laura Sullivan of Allegan, Mich., asked her employer for two 15-minute breaks a day and a private place to collect breast-milk with an electric pump for her 6-week-old son. The boss told her she could not pump anywhere in the workplace. Eight days later she was fired. In Maryland, a female correctional officer was placed on leave with pay after she tried to pump breast milk for her 10-week-old daughter during her lunch break. In many workplaces, female employees are afraid to ask their bosses for permission to pump and bosses are uncomfortable with the topic.

But now some large corporations are taking steps to accommodate nursing employees. Eastman Kodak, Cigna, Home Depot and Aetna, among others, offer female staff access to pumping rooms and free pumps. Some corporations are even offering free prenatal and lactation classes.

Recent studies, including one conducted by Kaiser Permanente and published in the *American Journal of Managed Care*, have found that breast-feeding saves employers costs. Employees who breast-feed have reduced absenteeism and fewer medical claims for infants.

In Congress, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., has introduced legislation giving women the right to breast-

feed or pump milk in the workplace for up to an hour of unpaid leave per day for one year.

Source: *U.S. News and World Report*, 12/15/97

### **A Big Win for Women in the Workplace**

A pharmaceutical company in Boston agreed to give \$9.85 million to at least 79 women and one man who said he was punished for speaking out in the largest sexual-harassment settlement ever obtained by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The suit against Astra USA, the U.S. subsidiary of Swedish Company Astra AB, claimed that its former president and other executives pressured women employees for sex and replaced older workers with young beauties.

Astra USA has hired a new president to replace Lars Bildman, who was found to have spent company money on expensive prostitutes.

Source: *Wall Street Journal*, 2/5/98

### **Mommy M Keeps Her Baby**

In Brazil, an 11-year-old girl known only as M became pregnant after being raped by a 37-year-old man. Her father, a sharecropper, did not know how he was going to pay for M's prenatal care. He sought a court authorization for her to have an abortion. When word got out about M's situation, money began pouring in from all over Brazil. Members of the Diocese Commission in Defense of Life in Sao Jose Dos Campos have assumed all costs for her food, shelter and medical expenses, including a psychologist.

"I'm happy now," M told a reporter with Knight Ridder News Service. "My father wanted me to have the abortion. I didn't want to have it."

Source: *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 1/26/98

### **ATTENTION FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

If you or a friend or relative is a federal government employee or is in the military, you may make a donation to FFL through the **Combined Federal Campaign**. CFC donors provide essential support for our education projects, including FFL's innovative College Outreach Program and our cutting-edge Right-to-Know campaign. In the past, CFC donations have composed one-fifth of FFL's income. You will find FFL's Education Project under "Women's Charities of America" in your giving guide.



**Peter Wolfgang**  
**Chapter Development Vice President**

TELL A  
 FRIEND  
 ABOUT  
 FFL

Perhaps you know a pro-lifer who understands the great need to support women in our society who are faced with an unexpected pregnancy. Or you may know a person who is involved in the women's movement but who is uncomfortable with its focus on abortion.

Once each year, we ask that you set a personal goal of identifying five new members and that you share the goals and principles of FFL with them. Your co-workers, your neighbors, members of your family, friends from school — all are potential FFL members. Talk to them about your convictions concerning life and women's issues. Lend them a copy of *The American Feminist*. Tell them about FFL's innovative College Outreach Program and Right-to-Know Campaign. Invite them to a chapter meeting.

We believe that there are many people who share FFL's dedication to recognizing the value and dignity of every person.

But first, people need to know that we are here.

Copy and distribute FFL ads and "What Women Really Want" and "You Have Choices" brochures at local libraries, community centers, women's health centers, college campuses, churches, and synagogues. **FFL needs to be everywhere.**

FFL members are the chief educational tools of the organization. During this fifth annual "Tell-A-Friend Campaign," let's educate those around us to a different way of approaching life and women's issues.

And don't forget to renew your membership when the renewal notice appears on the back of *The American Feminist* or when notified from the national office by mail.



**Some say FFL's recently trademarked logo is reminiscent of a woman reaching out to a child, or a child to her mother. We all agree that it is a joyful interpretation of the classic women's symbol. FFL's stunning new logo pin is sure to be admired. Available in sterling silver or sterling silver plated in 24 karat gold, it measures 2 1/4 by 1 3/4 inches, and comes in a navy-blue gift box. It's a perfect gift for the dedicated volunteer, public servant — or treat yourself! Each is available for \$75.00. (See order form on page 27.) Please specify gold or silver. If you can't decide, get both!**

**Electronic Transfer Form**

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. Donations will be debited on the first business day of each month.

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



# LETTERS to the EDITOR

## Georgetown Responding to Pregnant Students' Needs

I am writing to update *The American Feminist* readers on the situation regarding pregnancy services at Georgetown University. Over the past year, Georgetown has made several improvements to help pregnant women, as reported in your story.

I am especially excited by the most recent way Georgetown is supporting pregnant and parenting students. As of the conclusion of the 1997-1998 school year, Georgetown has agreed to provide "on-campus" housing for two female students who have young children. The women and their children will live in a townhouse owned by Georgetown that formerly housed four students at a time.

Housing has always been one of the most difficult issues facing students with children. The university was presented with a need and has responded in a positive and helpful manner. While many improvements are still needed, Georgetown continues to respond to student needs.

*Vanessa Clay*

Pregnancy Center Director,  
Northwest Center, Inc.  
Georgetown '97  
Washington, D.C.

## Changes Within WEBA

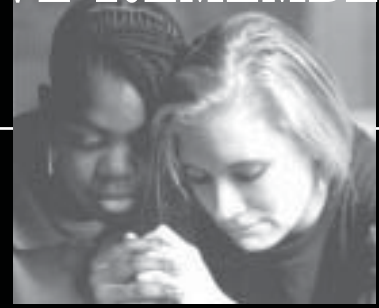
Thank you for the sensitive issue on post-abortion syndrome with articles and resources. The whole magazine was terrific, as always.

I noticed on page 8 you listed Women Exploited by Abortion with the Texas number, which is now defunct. However, I do keep in touch with all the WEBA groups that I can through national directories. Please add a note to this effect:

WEBA - Virginia  
3202 W. Cary St. #200  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Phone: (804) 359-1500  
e-mail: weba1@juno.com  
Small post-abortion support groups throughout the country.

*Candace Banks*  
Richmond, Va.

# WE REMEMBER



## Angela Sanchez

1967 - 1994

Angela Sanchez told two of her four children to sit in the waiting room while she received a medical check-up. But Angela had not come to Alicia Ruiz Hanna's Santa Ana, Calif. medical clinic for a checkup — she had come for an abortion. Hanna posed as a doctor, performing up to 20 abortions without a doctor present.

When Angela was being prepped for the abortion procedure, Hanna injected her with an unknown drug that caused Angela to have seizures. Even though Angela needed additional medical treatment for the seizures, Hanna prevented a receptionist from calling 911. Hours later, Angela's children saw Hanna trying to stuff their mother's body into the trunk of a car. After Angela's death, Hanna was convicted of second-degree murder.

Angela is only one of the many women who have received and continue to receive substandard care in California abortion facilities. Twenty-seven-year-old Sharon Hampton died at a Moreno Valley abortion clinic in 1996 (*The American Feminist*, Spring 1998). A 23-year-old Mexican woman died in 1995 from a late-term abortion in a San Ysidro clinic.

Oftentimes these women are Latina and come from low-income families. In many cases, when women are injured during the abortion procedure, abortion providers are reluctant to transport them to hospitals because they then come under scrutiny by doctors and the medical board.

Source: *Los Angeles Times*, 4/15/98



# ORDER FORM

## Materials

Indicate number of items:

- \$75 FFL Logo Pin
  - sterling silver
  - 24K gold plate over sterling
- \$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
- \$4.95 *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
- \$14.95 *Pro-life Feminism Yesterday and Today* — anthology of pro-life feminist essays
- \$17.50 *Swimming Against the Tide: Feminist Dissent on the Issue of Abortion*



## College Outreach Program

### Send a Kit to Campus

Indicate number of items:

- \$35 Health Clinic Kit
- \$35 Pro-life Collegiate Kit
- \$35 Pro-life Advisor Kit
- \$35 Campus Counselor Kit
- \$55 Pro-life Feminist History Kit
- \$10 Six camera-ready ads
- \$250-500 Range for ad placement
- Pregnancy Decision Questionnaire — *Free* with a self-addressed stamped envelope



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

Name of kit recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

College \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## 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)



## Donations

- Monthly pledges
  - Please send monthly donor envelopes
  - Electronic transfer form; see page 25.
  - Tax-deductible donation to Feminists for Life
- +  15% shipping and handling for materials
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Please print: \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate if new address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ day ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ eve \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Please use enclosed envelope or mail to:  
FFLA, Dept. 0641, Washington DC 20073

*Thank you!*

OF9/98

# QUESTION

a b o r t i o n .



# Did I deserve the death penalty?

**My "crime" was being conceived through rape.  
So the next time you hear people talking about  
"exceptions" to abortion for rape and incest,  
think of me.**

**I AM that exception.**



**Q u e s t i o n  
A b o r t i o n <sup>SM</sup>**

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