

Advocating for Women and Children
Women Who Died From Abortions
Our Feminist History

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THE AMERICAN FEMINISTSM

Feminists for Life of America[®]



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2000



Feminists for Life proudly continues 200 years of pro-life feminism.

THE AMERICAN FEMINIST

Feminists for Life of America



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mission

Feminists for Life is dedicated to securing through nonviolent means basic human rights for all people, especially women and children, from conception until the natural end of life.

PRO-WOMAN

vision

PRO-LIFE

- We believe society should recognize the inherent value and dignity of every woman and girl.
 - We oppose all forms of violence, including abortion, infanticide, child abuse, domestic violence, capital punishment, and euthanasia, as they are inconsistent with the core feminist principles of justice, nonviolence and nondiscrimination.
 - We advocate the prevention of physical and emotional violence against, and sexual exploitation of, all human beings, especially women and children.
- We also believe that there is no justification for the destruction of human life at the end stages of life.
 - We advocate the creation of a supportive environment within our society to enable families to care for their children and other dependents.
 - We advocate the creation of a supportive environment within our society for the care of the elderly.
- We believe that parents have the obligation to be responsible for their children before and after birth.
 - We believe in enhancing women's and girls' life decision making skills and their perceived worth by society.
- We support the economic empowerment of disenfranchised groups, especially women.
 - We believe in the peaceful, nonviolent expression and advocacy of the above principles.
- **We believe the above principles are universally true.**



Live the Legacy

RECENTLY I WAS ASKED by a student if abortion was necessary for women to achieve equality in the workplace. Absolutely not. Consider for a moment all the landmark reforms that our feminist foremothers, who opposed abortion, achieved in their struggle for equality in the last half of the 19th century.

In a peaceful revolution led by Susan B. Anthony and

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, women won the right to keep their own earnings, sign contracts, sit on a jury, testify on their own behalf, to secure a divorce if a husband drank the family's income away or physically abused his wife (the courts did not recognize marital rape) and share custody of their children. When these two feminist foremothers were born, no women were admitted to college. By the time they died, colleges and universities opened their doors to women, and they started down the path to equal opportunities in the workplace.

Even less well known, anti-abortion laws enacted in the latter half of the 19th century were a result of the advocacy efforts by feminists who worked in an uneasy alliance with the male dominated medical profession and the mainstream media. The early feminists understood that, much like today, women resorted to abortion because they were abandoned or coerced by boyfriends, husbands or parents and lacked the financial resources to have a child on their own. So they sought legal protection from abortion.

Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton passed the torch to two more generations before women's suffrage—their most cherished goal—was realized. By the time the struggle ended, women had suffered greatly for what too many today take for granted—or sadly, don't exercise at all.

In 1913, Alice Paul, author of the original Equal Rights Amendment, organized a magnificent pageant to parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Women dressed all in white were led by New York attorney Inez Milholand Boissevain, who was dressed like Joan of Arc on a white horse. At the end of the parade women were pulled off their horses, grabbed by jeering men as police stood by smirking. By the time the cavalry had been brought in to restore order, 100 people were hospitalized—but not one man had been arrested.

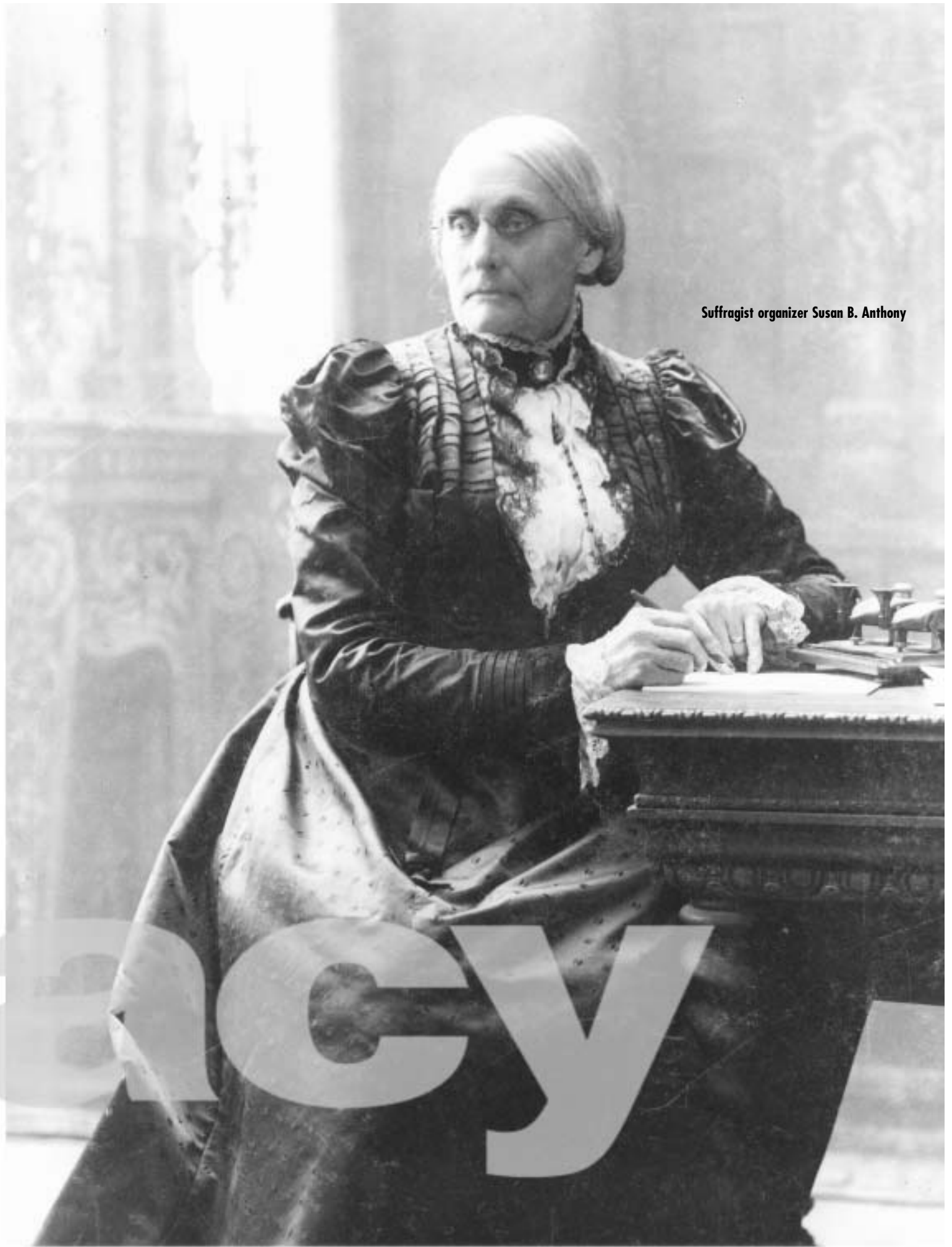
Later, a perpetual delegation of dignified, silent, peaceful protesters was organized by Paul to hold vigil outside the White House—just a few blocks from FFL's current office. Angry men tore their banners down. Alice Paul was knocked to the ground by a sailor and dragged down the street. Another man tore a woman's blouse off in order to remove her purple and yellow suffrage sash as the police looked on. Later the women were arrested and forced to remove all their clothing—one by one—in front of a company of men, and incarcerated for days, weeks, or months at time. They were fed infested food and rotting horsemeat. Their mail was cut off and they were made to perform hard labor. They were terrorized by the guards, some tossed like dolls headfirst into their prison cells and rendered unconscious. One political prisoner was left handcuffed above the cell door all night long.

Women became more resolved than ever to win the vote—and men in ever increasing numbers began to support the fight for women's suffrage.

By the time the 19th amendment was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920, Inez Milholand Boissevain had died of exhaustion from traveling the country with her message of "votes for women." She is known as a martyr for women's suffrage. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were long deceased, but their legacy lives on today in each of us who cherishes the right of women to vote, and peacefully defends the right of children to be born.

Live the legacy. ○

Above: FFL President Serrin Foster (left) and FFL attorney Jane Sullivan Roberts during a 1995 visit to Susan B. Anthony's home in Rochester, N.Y.



Suffragist organizer Susan B. Anthony

ACTIVISM 2000

AS WE PREPARE FOR THE THIRD MILLENNIUM pro-life feminists face a daunting task. Whether the issue is the sexual exploitation of women around the world, a major study daring to link crime reduction to aborting poor and minority children, or the hiring of Peter Singer, an intellectual apologist for infanticide, at Princeton University, cultural attitudes that harm women and children appear to be advancing on many fronts. But appearances can be deceiving. Pro-life feminists can help assure that the next millennium will be a springtime of hope through the development of sound public policy and promotion of change that benefits women and children in the workplace, at schools and at home.

Feminists for Life has five areas of public policy emphasis. We need experts from across the country in these areas to step

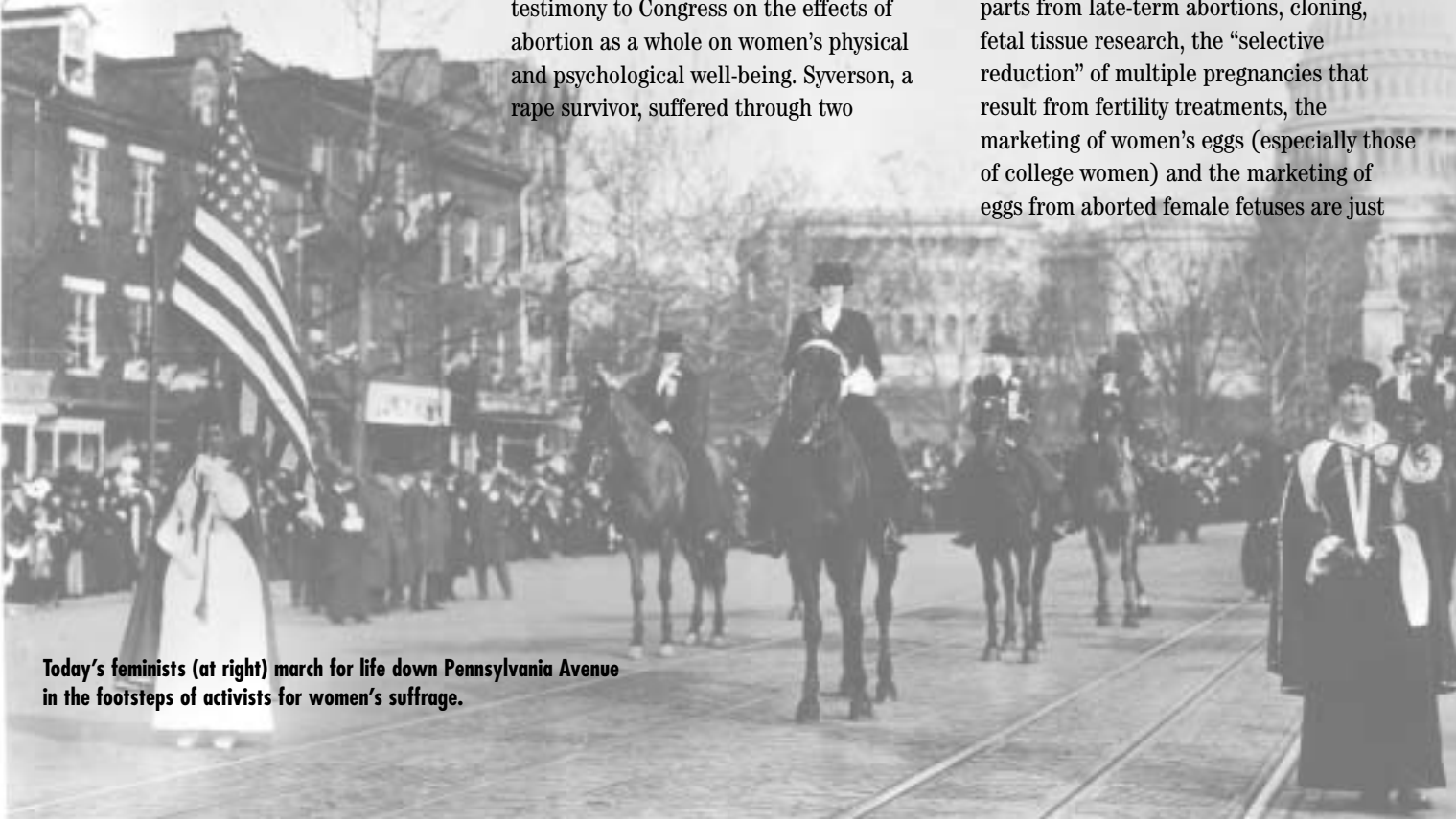
forward and help us develop policy and recommend implementation through legislation, research and education. Pro-life feminists in the Washington, D.C., area can help FFL lobby the federal government. Members can also turn the tide on the state level through activism in these five areas. (See "Advocating for Women and Children," page 12.)

1. Consistent life ethic: FFL advocates a consistent life ethic that seeks out nonviolent, women-centered solutions to the problems society faces. We work to protect human life whether it is threatened by abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia or capital punishment. In these areas, FFL plays a critical role on Capitol Hill. Throughout the debate over partial-birth abortion, FFL has focused attention on the devastating physical and psychological effects of partial-birth abortion on women's health. FFL member Marion Syverson contributed written testimony to Congress on the effects of abortion as a whole on women's physical and psychological well-being. Syverson, a rape survivor, suffered through two

abortions as a teenager. In her testimony, Syverson said, "The scientific studies available as well as our own experiences demonstrate that the more difficult a woman's circumstance (abuse, rape, incest), the less support or information she receives, the more serious her trauma for years following the abortion. Abortion is not the answer to any question or any circumstance."

Parental involvement laws to protect our daughters are gaining great momentum at the state level. Efforts to ban physician-assisted suicide will protect women and men from coercion. As the number of state death-row executions increases, the voice of FFL members is even more vital to refocus attention on finding nonviolent solutions.

New technologies also bring new questions. How will bioethics affect the lives of women? How can we protect unborn children from being sold? Human embryo research, the harvesting and resale of body parts from late-term abortions, cloning, fetal tissue research, the "selective reduction" of multiple pregnancies that result from fertility treatments, the marketing of women's eggs (especially those of college women) and the marketing of eggs from aborted female fetuses are just



Today's feminists (at right) march for life down Pennsylvania Avenue in the footsteps of activists for women's suffrage.

some of the issues we must face. Such scientific “advances” are galloping far ahead of any public policy development related to them. These bioethical issues are of particular concern to women as science increasingly abuses their reproductive capacities.

2. Violence against women:

FFL's focus on violence against women includes rape, incest and the battering of women, whether physical or emotional. The cultural violence that women experience, such as female genital mutilation, also falls within this category. In working with other women's organizations to combat violence, FFL again plays a unique role. As part of the National Task Force to End Violence Against Women, during policy formation of the Violence Against Women Act of 1999 (VAWA II), FFL brought attention to the needs of women who have conceived through rape or incest. By addressing this often-ignored population, the VAWA Task Force, including the National Organization for Women, decided that research was necessary to assess all the needs of pregnant women and children conceived through rape. If passed, VAWA II would appropriate \$500,000 to explore, among other things, what state and tribal services are offered to support these women and their children. It recommends improvements in the state health care, judicial and social service systems to assist women who conceive as a result of sexual assault and their children.

3. Sexual exploitation of women and girls: Sexual trafficking, sexual harassment and pornography, including child pornography, fall within this category. Sexual trafficking is an issue that is gaining attention in Congress as the number of women and children sold into sexual slavery around the world reaches estimates as high as 2 million a year. The recent National Conference on Sexual

Trafficking of Women and Children noted a direct correlation between forced prostitution and forced abortion—sexual traffickers are unable to market a woman or girl's body if she becomes pregnant.

4. Support of children and the family: FFL continues to lobby for improvements in child care, child support, family leave, and adoption policies. We oppose provisions of welfare reform that are harmful to families and have contributed to a rise in the number of abortions. Instead, FFL advocates a holistic approach to solve these problems.

In 1995, while national leaders and legislators were pushing for federal child exclusion provisions in welfare reform that would have deprived poor children of basic necessities, FFL instead focused attention on teen pregnancy prevention by advocating life-planning courses and a mentoring system for youths at risk. We supported strengthened child support enforcement and paternity establishment as a means of reducing welfare dependency. Pro-life feminists scored a major victory with the inclusion of sweeping new national child support initiatives in welfare reform that require both state and national agencies to cooperate in enforcing non-custodial parental responsibility.

For those not helped by the first two measures, FFL opposed mandatory child exclusion provisions in welfare reform. These mandatory child exclusion policies were rejected at the national level, but remain an issue for FFL activists at the state level where, sadly, FFL's concerns over their negative impact were proven right. The number of abortions among mothers on welfare in New Jersey, the first state to test the so-called “family cap,” increased by an additional 313 children in its first year of

implementation, while abortions and pregnancies declined in the general population.

5. Economic equality: FFL's efforts in support of children and the family go hand in hand with our advocacy of economic equality—regardless of gender or other factors, including pregnancy, that contribute to discrimination. FFL focuses on school and workplace initiatives and reforms that enable women to stay in school for their benefit and the benefit of their children. Pregnancy should not prevent a woman from continuing her education or pursuing her career goals.



FFL is now forming committees made up of pro-life feminist experts and activists to concentrate on each of these areas. We need the input and expertise of our individual members as we blaze forward in our five areas of public policy emphasis.

To implement programs that support FFL policies, we also need individuals with skill-based expertise such as medical professionals, attorneys, researchers, writers, editors, and experts in marketing, new technologies and public relations.

If you have professional expertise and/or personal experience in any of these areas, please complete and return the form on page 19 or contact Feminists for Life's national office to see what you can do to help. ○

Women and Men Making a Difference

A UNIQUE PRO-LIFE FEMINIST MESSAGE sets the foundation for a diverse movement filled with creative and independent-minded people. FFL's message comes to life through individual activists who put their talents to work in a variety of grassroots and advocacy areas—from campus student activism to program and policy implementation.

FFL talked with some of our many members who are putting their talents to work for women and children. Many have families and children of their own. Most have demanding career or school commitments. Each chooses to dedicate time and resources to advance pro-life feminist ideals and improve the lives of others.

The nature and extent of their activism ranges from basic letter writing to chairing FFL's Board of Directors. Each activist plays an integral part in the fabric of pro-life feminism.

Like the majority of FFL activists *The American Feminist* interviewed, Beth Fitini began her formal activism in college. She continued her grassroots work after graduating. Her volunteerism has run the gamut from passing out flyers to public speaking. However, Fitini reserves most of her activist energy for letter writing. "Anytime I see anything in the news or media, I respond to it," she said.

Fitini makes it a point to write positive letters thanking authors for a progressive article or insightful piece, as well as letters criticizing pieces she feels inaccurately address an issue (see page 25).

She has seen her letters have an impact. "Even when it's not published, I get a response. And there was even a case where I saw a content change in a follow-up article that addressed points I had mentioned in my earlier letter."

Fitini believes "writing letters to legislators has the most impact." But she says, "I try and selectively pick my issues when writing to legislators. I keep it to a minimum. If I were writing on every issue that concerns me, I think legislators would start to ignore my letters."

Fitini understands how people can find it difficult to stay motivated. "The progress is really slow so you have

to remember that you're part of a bigger picture. You have to make a conscious balance in your life."

Peter Wolfgang agrees. As vice-chair of FFL's Board of Directors, he says, "It helps knowing that I'm part of a larger community—a culture of life. Our nation's history has been a continual struggle to increase the circle of the commonly protected. We're part of a noble tradition."

Before his appointment as vice-chair, Wolfgang served as FFL's vice president for chapter development, working with FFL state leaders. As vice-chair, he has engaged in policy and resource development. He calls fund raising "the best part of the job. You connect with people who believe in the organization. There's a sense of community. People say, 'I'm so happy you're here. You're the only group I can relate to.'"

Wolfgang believes his activist work "puts me in touch with others. It strengthens my own faith that this cause has good and talented people."

Wolfgang admits that he was slow in getting involved in the pro-life feminist movement. "It took me a while to get a backbone about it. I didn't become active until I met [FFL President] Serrin Foster," he says.

Coleen MacKay discovered Feminists for Life through a website that discussed "non-traditional viewpoints," she says. "FFL's brochure 'Abortion Does Not Liberate Women' was on the website." Since then she has been actively involved in FFL, currently serving as administrative coordinator. With a master's degree in library and information sciences, she has put her computer and organizational skills to work on FFL's website development and database maintenance.

As a stay-at-home mom, she juggles a busy schedule. "I fit my FFL work into nap times and late at night." Like Wolfgang, she receives positive feedback from FFL members. "People are grateful. They write back through the web."

MacKay says that even when she does not receive direct feedback she sees the impact of FFL's work. She remembers when her sister, who is "personally opposed" to abortion, called her up and said, "I just saw the most incredible woman speaking on TV. Her name is Serrin Foster." I said, "That's my boss! That's why I'm doing this."



I'm using my strengths to give others the time to use theirs.”

Maureen Kramlich, an activist and law student at the University of Notre Dame, feels that it is important to see activism “as a job; i.e., you have a set of talents which you can use in a certain way. People don't realize they have a gift for it.”

Active since high school, Kramlich helped bring FFL speakers to campus and recently helped organize a Pregnancy Resources Forum at the University of Notre Dame. She has also performed legal work as an intern with Americans United for Life and regularly visits death-row inmates.

She admits that she has “seen a lot of people burn out. These are highly emotional issues. You need to give yourself a certain distance.”

Student activists are crucial to FFL's mission. As the next generation of activists, they have energy and determination and are able to influence not only their peers but college and university administrations as well.

Preeya Noronha is former president of Georgetown Right to Life. Now a student at Columbia University School of Law, she co-organized the first-ever Pregnancy Resources Forum while a student at Georgetown University. “We were able to bring attention to a problem that went unnoticed,” she says.

Since that first forum, Georgetown University has hired a full-time Pregnancy Services director who also devotes time to domestic violence issues. The university has opened a day care center that grants scholarships to eligible students to help allay child-care costs. In addition, Georgetown has made housing available to pregnant and parenting students. “We planted the seeds,” says Noronha.

She remains involved at Columbia as president of a small but active pro-life law group that hosts lectures and discussions on campus. “The interest is more academic,” she says. “Essentially we're saying there are pro-life people on campus and some of them will be attorneys.”

Andrea Milanowski, chair of FFL's Board of Directors, believes college campuses are where FFL activism has the most impact. “I noticed in college, as co-chair of University of Michigan Students for Life, that FFL's was the most productive approach and resonated best with students.”

Active in FFL ever since, Milanowski now helps guide its programs and policies. Like Wolfgang, she finds resource development to be one of the most exciting aspects of her activism. “When people give their resources they become more attached to the work FFL does. Resource development enables us to really get to college campuses, which is where we need to be.”

She is also motivated by other pro-life feminists. “We are truly a unique group.”

Former college activist Kathryn Getek agrees. “You meet the most amazing people in the movement,” she says. Like Milanowski, she found FFL's materials and philosophy to be the most thought-provoking approach to pro-life feminism while an activist at Princeton University. “I almost always cited Feminists for Life. FFL embodied the principles that can get people talking about the issue. It provides some common ground.”

While at Princeton, Getek served as President of Princeton for Life and the Ivy League Coalition for Life, representing 25 universities in the Northeast. During her senior year of college she also helped found Princeton Students Against Infanticide, which actively opposes the appointment of infanticide advocate Peter Singer as head of Princeton University's Center for Human Values. The group's work has helped bring attention both on campus and nationally to Singer's eugenicist views.

Getek believes working with an organization is a vital resource. “In college, it helped that it was a commitment to an organization.” Nonetheless, she says, “the battle has to be fought individual to individual.”

Whatever contribution these activists make, their sacrifices on behalf of women and children provide vital components in the larger community of pro-life feminism—a community of women and men working together to protect the dignity of the disenfranchised. ○



SUPPORTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE

ABOUT A YEAR AGO while I was working at a small luxury hotel in Washington, D.C., two hotel staff members became unexpectedly pregnant. The first, a front desk agent, was a happily married 25-year-old woman with a 7-month-old boy. Having just had a child she was not planning to conceive a second so soon. The other woman was 21 years old and single. She had only recently been hired as a hotel operator when her pregnancy began to show.

Their department managers and the human resources office greeted their pregnancies with congratulations and made clear to both that their children were welcome.

But the hotel staff members began to talk. A hotel engineer chatted away to me about the front desk agent: "What, are she and her husband rabbits? They just had a baby. Didn't they use birth control?"

A female staff member asked the hotel operator if her pregnancy was planned. Another staffer, who headed a separate department within the hotel, asked the operator if she were married. When the operator replied that she was not, the woman gave her a disapproving look. The operator then told her that she and her boyfriend had been dating three years "so that she would know it wasn't just some one-night stand."

As I listened to the whispers and judgments, most often by other female staff, I became troubled. But I did not want to get involved. I tried to go about my business and ignore it.

Yet when I saw how the comments were affecting the two pregnant staffers, I became angry. They tried to avoid staffers who asked imposing questions and worried about how "pregnant" they looked.

When I told the operator that I wanted to speak to the human resources department about the strange attitude problem among the staff, her face lit up. Both she and the front desk agent had felt reluctant to express their frustrations to management themselves.

The human resources director, a mother of four, was angry but not surprised. "I'll show the staff a diagram if they can't figure out how women have babies!" she said. Within a day, the whispers and judgments stopped and the whisperers began to look embarrassed. The two mothers hugged me and were almost giddy with gratitude.

The incident was another case where my own beliefs and principles were unexpectedly put to the test. I knew about the coercion to abort and the harassment of pregnant women that exist in the workplace,

but I never saw it right in front of my own eyes. This was a particularly subtle case, in which management and policies were supportive, but the "whisper campaign" and workplace culture took their toll. Suddenly, I had to "walk my talk." It is a position that I do not like to be placed in, but one that every pro-life feminist knows. The issues that Feminists for Life takes on are so pertinent to everyday life that members cannot grapple with them only in theory. Pro-life feminists are not battling conflicts in a faraway land. We are struggling with social ills that affect our nearest friends, families, neighbors and co-workers.

FFL member Ann Brennan recalls a time when she was at lunch with a friend. The day before, at a gathering, her friend had seen a family whose baby had cerebral palsy. The friend went on and on at the table about how awful the child's life must be: "How could they have a child like that? He's not going to have a normal life." Ann would rather have changed the subject, but she could not let his comments pass.

"I asked—'Was the baby smiling? Was his mommy cuddling him? Were his siblings laughing with him?'" He admitted that they were. "I asked, 'So why do you have such a problem?'"

In challenging the attitudes of others, pro-life feminists must also

THE WORKPLACE AND BEYOND

be prepared to challenge their own—a fact that hit me head on while I was interviewing a student for a prior piece in *The American Feminist*. The student had married while an undergraduate in college. She and her husband decided to have a child while she was still a student. I asked her why she chose to have a child at that time and realized that the tone of my voice sounded critical of her decision. My own voice betrayed an attitude I did not even know was there—an attitude in sharp contrast to most pro-life feminists who welcome each woman's life-affirming decision with support and congratulations.

When pro-life feminists “walk their talk” we do so both in action and attitude—offering support to those in need and always looking at the ways in which obstacles can be overcome. We must reach out to the friend trapped in a violent relationship, the co-worker struggling to juggle both work and family, the “unwanted” or marginalized who are too often viewed with pity rather than respect.

By doing so, we put our beliefs to practical use. Each of us knows that being a pro-life feminist brings with it immense responsibilities and, ultimately, great rewards. ○



Harriet Blatch (right) inherited the leadership of the national suffrage movement from her mother, Elizabeth Cady Stanton (center). Stanton raised seven children during her tenure as president.

At top: Contemporary feminist writer Colette Moran writes of “the joy of day-to-day, morning-to-night interaction” with her children. Moran, an FFL member and activist, is pictured above with four of her six daughters.



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Advocating for Women and Children in Your State

Jennifer Cole

IN THE MID- TO LATE-19TH CENTURY, as the suffragist movement gained momentum in the United States, suffragists like Susan B. Anthony took their case for a woman's right to vote to individual states. It was at the state level where suffragists achieved their major legislative victories. Wyoming was the first state to give women the right to vote. Other Western states soon followed and suffragists' demands could no longer simply be ignored.

In the early 20th Century, while suffragists continued to make gains at the state level, new leaders like Alice Paul took their case directly to the White House, becoming the first citizens ever to protest directly in front of the president's own home. Although protests in front of the White House are commonplace today, they were radical and scandalous for that time.

Both national and state activism were necessary to turn the tide on women's suffrage. Sadly, many women today do not cherish the very right that Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul and other suffragists went to jail for. Although the woman's vote is a critical bloc today (note the media attention devoted to the "soccer mom"), many women, especially younger women, remain unengaged in legislative affairs.

Today, the opportunity to make a difference still exists, but often we feel overwhelmed and insignificant—especially when it comes to shaping public policy that promotes and protects the most vulnerable. How often have you thought about writing your legislator but hesitated because you did not think it would make a difference?

Much attention is given to pro-life efforts and feminist issues in Washington, and rightly so: The actions of the U.S. Congress affect us all. However, state legislation is becoming increasingly important in areas such as abortion, domestic violence and child support. We have seen successes with parental involvement laws, informed consent laws, late trimester restrictions, anti-stalking legislation, and child support enforcement. The importance of state legislation is also more critical because the federal government has granted increasing power, especially financial power, to state legislatures through structures such as block grants—funds that were once administered federally but are now allocated through individual states.

You can help states advance the protection of women and children by letting state legislators know what you think. Just one letter may not make a difference. But, just one more might. And as an FFL member, your woman-centered approach offers a unique perspective, addressing the root causes of the problems women and children face.

Each letter you write or phone call you make to your legislator represents not only your point of view, but those of others who agree with you and did not take the time to write or call. This can have a significant impact on how your legislator will vote, especially if he or she is undecided. Your letter may signify not only one voter, but a voting bloc.

If you still think that one person cannot make much of a difference in affecting public policy, consider this: One man, Henry Burn, cast the critical vote in the Tennessee legislature that ratified the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. The statesman had walked into the Tennessee legislature that day prepared to vote against women's suffrage, but changed his mind after reading a pro-suffrage letter sent by his most important constituent—his mother.

You can make the difference. ○

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men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their
se are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...

Declaration of Sentiments, Seneca Falls Convention, 1848

There is no formula for the "perfect" letter or phone conversation with a legislator's office. But the following tips may help you refine your message for maximum results:

KNOW YOUR LEGISLATOR

First, if you do not know in which district you live or who represents you, call your county Registrar's Office or your county Board of Elections. Often, you can locate these numbers in the front section of the local White Pages or dial Information at 411. You may also check with the reference desk at your local library or call the switchboard at your state capital for assistance. The switchboard operator can also provide you with your state government's website address. Most state government websites will list the phone numbers and addresses of their legislature's members. Many websites also list members' voting records on recent legislation.

Most state legislatures have an upper house, generally called the Senate, and a lower house, usually referred to as the House of Representatives, House of Delegates or the Assembly. Be careful not to confuse your U.S. senators and U.S. representative with your state legislators, who may have similar titles. U.S. congressmen and women represent you in Washington and these district boundaries are different from the state district boundaries.

Second, you don't have to be an "expert" to express an opinion. Your legislators are looking for well-reasoned, well-supported, sincere opinions from the constituents in their district. As an FFL member, you can stay informed through resources such as *The American Feminist*, FFL's website and lectures at colleges across the country.



WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR

- Keep your letter, fax or e-mail to one page or less.
- Type your letter.
- Stick to one issue; include bill number and title, if known.
- State your position up front, including what you are asking the Member to do (e.g., "I am opposed to funding abortion with state tax dollars. Please vote yes/no on HR ...")
- Support your position with facts; avoid "I believe" and "I feel" statements. (e.g., "Funding abortion with tax dollars is offensive to me and other pro-life citizens in our state." vs. "I feel like funding abortions with tax dollars is wrong.")
- Explain how the legislation will affect you and others; avoid emotional, philosophical arguments.
- Suggest a better approach to the legislation you disagree with.
- Sincerely thank the Member for any past support. If he or she has never voted pro-life, for example, you may wish to express appreciation for work in another area, such as domestic violence.
- Request a written response detailing how they intend to vote or voted on the issue.
- Sign the letter with your full name and address. Your address will identify you as a constituent in their district.

CALL YOUR LEGISLATOR

- Ask to speak to the aide who is responsible for the issue you are interested in, such as abortion. If the aide is unavailable, leave a message for the Member with the receptionist and also leave a message on the aide's voice mail.
- If you live in their district, introduce yourself as their constituent.
- Convey your message in a clear, brief manner; include bill number and title, if known.
- Give your complete name and address to the office.
- Request a written response detailing the Member's position.

Always be polite and respectful. No one responds well to threats or anger. Anytime we speak out on behalf of women, children and the unborn we represent the entire pro-life feminist movement. It is both an incredible opportunity and a responsibility.

Make a difference.

ination

Real Power: Women and Philanthropy

"Philanthropy is the next frontier of the women's movement. The challenge is to see where we can change—or have some influence on—society."

Andrea Kaminski, executive director of the Women's Philanthropy Institute, quoted in the July/August 1998 issue of *Working Woman*.

WHILE THE ROLES OF WOMEN in philanthropy continue to evolve, many of our individual and societal perceptions are lagging a few steps behind. Earlier this year, a survey sponsored by a major philanthropic foundation found that more than two-thirds of American men and women believe that men control more wealth than women. The facts say otherwise.

According to federal data on consumer finances, for example, women control more than half of the privately held wealth in the United States. Marketers have recognized women's buying power and adjusted their product lines and pitches. Women are also using their financial resources for activist purposes. The Ms. Foundation effectively tapped into this phenomenon when, after struggling unsuccessfully to maintain *Ms.* magazine in a less-than-sympathetic publishing market, it recruited a group of affluent women to start Liberty Media for Women, which is now the magazine's owner. At least one major university has created a group of high-powered alumnae to lead their peers in funding programs and improvements targeted primarily to female students.

Such proactive uses of woman-controlled dollars can accelerate institutional and social change for the benefit of women. The early American feminists figured this out more than a century ago when, drawing primarily on inherited wealth, women of vision funded the women's suffrage movement. Today, this kind of philanthropy by women still receives scant attention; and when it is noted, it is presented as a new trend.

Much as women today continue to struggle with stereotypes from the past, the view of women's philanthropy is colored by outdated views. Women's role in philanthropy traditionally was seen as that of influencing men with money. Charitable institutions created ladies' auxiliaries for the wives of wealthy men, to involve them in raising funds through fancy parties—while their husbands sat on boards of directors and dictated how resources would be allocated. Recruiting the wives was seen as a way to get to the men and the money. Many venerable institutions still operate this way. Even the stodgiest, however, are recognizing that times have changed.

Part of the confusion about women's roles in philanthropy stems from the fact that these roles have been largely invisible. Most women who are now of an age to have significant financial resources were socialized to avoid the limelight, to avoid calling

attention to themselves. And so a woman who made a substantial donation would do so anonymously. Or she would elect to volunteer her time instead of making a financial contribution.

Gender roles within families also affect women's roles in philanthropy. Women are often more hesitant than men to commit family resources to causes that are important to them. Executive Kehle Kushing Freeman recounted her eye-opening experience in an essay for the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. She served on the board of directors of a women's center, and her husband was on the board of an arts group. They agreed that each would make a significant year-end gift; she later learned that her husband had pledged five times the amount she had given. She observed that she and other women she knew rarely claimed equal access to the family's shared resources—even though they contributed half or more of the total.

Many women elect to make contributions through so-called "women's funds" which solicit and then re-grant funds to organizations and programs that primarily benefit women and girls. In 1979 there were five women's funds; in 1998 there were 95. They take some of the guesswork out of identifying worthy organizations and monitoring how contributions are used. They can also be necessary advocates on behalf of women and girls within the funding community. As *Time* magazine recently noted in a piece titled "The Power of the Purse", only 5.7 percent of charitable funding is targeted for women and girls even though women ran 51 percent of charitable foundations in 1997, up from 26 percent in 1982.

The Chicago Foundation for Women is one such fund. Since 1986 it has awarded approximately 1,300 grants totaling \$6 million to 400 organizations serving women and girls. But people who give money to CFW may not realize that it exclusively and aggressively funds organizations that support abortion rights. The CFW application form asks specifically about each organization's policies and practices regarding reproductive rights, then screens out those it considers to be "anti-choice." Unfortunately, such screening mechanisms are typical of women's funds.

Women's roles in philanthropy are vital for many reasons. Chief among them is that women and children represent the vast majority of people living in poverty—and their numbers are growing. Increasingly, women are the ones who speak up for the voiceless. And pro-life women speak up for the most voiceless of all. ○

Maureen O'Connor is a Chicago-based resource development consultant who specializes in grant-seeking and grant-writing projects for nonprofit organizations. She is president-elect of the Association of Consultants to Nonprofits and a former FFL board member.



Alice Paul invited wealthy women into the movement to put direct pressure on the existing power structure.

The most substantial support for nonprofit organizations like Feminists for Life comes from people of low to upper-middle incomes. (Very wealthy people tend to give a much lower proportion of their income.) Even women of modest means can make a major difference. Here are some ways to increase the impact of what you have to give:

FOCUS. Use your philanthropic resources to support a few causes that are important to you, instead of sending small gifts to numerous organizations.

MULTIPLY. Use your gift to leverage other support by: giving to meet a matching challenge; issuing your own matching challenge (by yourself or with others); taking advantage of your employer's matching gifts program (many corporations will double or triple contributions made by their employees).

STRETCH. You may be able to contribute more than you think. Spreading out your yearly support through vehicles such as monthly electronic fund transfers from your bank account make it easier to give substantially, according to your means.

BE VISIBLE. Let others know you have given and why. Like you, many people want to feel confident that their contribution will be used well, is appreciated, and makes a difference. If you have found a worthy cause—spread the word!

EMPOWER FFL

IN RECENT YEARS, FFL's College Outreach Program has grown and expanded to become the cutting-edge voice on college campuses, offering a fresh perspective and life-affirming alternatives to young women and men. FFL remains a crucial voice on Capitol Hill and in the news media. Our magazine, *The American Feminist*, continues to expand its distribution and audience into wider markets.

As FFL grows, we need the support of our members. There are countless creative ways to give to FFL. Do you have extra frequent flyer miles? Does the company you work for have a corporate matching gift program? Would you like to see FFL's presence at your alma mater or favorite college?

The following are a few of the many ways that you can demonstrate your support of women and children:

WAYS TO GIVE

Grow FFL

- Join or renew your membership.
- Give a gift membership.
- E-mail friends the FFL website address for easy membership sign up (See "E-Activism," page 20).
- Give a student membership.
- Give student memberships for a college pro-life group's members.
- Tell a friend or family member about FFL.

In-Kind Gifts

- Donate printing services, computers or office equipment.
- Donate frequent flyer miles.

Money Matters

- Send a quarterly tax-deductible gift.
- Sign up for Electronic Fund Transfer—help create a reliable cash flow for ongoing FFL needs (page 25).
- Buy FFL brochures in bulk to distribute to friends or to pass out at pro-life and women's events.

- Buy *The American Feminist* and give to friends who might want to learn more about the pro-woman/pro-life philosophy.
- Join the growing ranks in the FFL Giving Circles—or challenge yourself and others in your current Giving Circle to make it to the next circle.
- Double your donation through your company's corporate matching gift program.
- Designate FFL through your employer's payroll deduction program. FFL participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #1907) and the Washington, D.C., area United Way Campaign.
- Become a team leader in cyberspace—activating others on-line.
- Make a few phone calls to pro-woman/pro-life members of your community to encourage their support for FFL by way of a membership or donation.
- Consider planned giving or including FFL in your will and as beneficiary in your insurance policies.
- Support our College Outreach Program (COP)

Send a Kit to Campus:

\$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



commit

EMPOWER FFL WITH YOUR TIME

Be a part of this cutting edge nonprofit organization by volunteering for a committee. For more information see the article on page 6.

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)

■ 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)

■ Internal Support (legal; finance; technology)

- Sponsor an FFL ad in a local or college newspaper, especially before a COP event.
- Invite friends and colleagues to an FFL lecture or Pregnancy Resources Forum.
- Host a coffee or reception when an FFL speaker presents a lecture or moderates a Pregnancy Resources Forum in your area.
- Call your local student pro-life group and offer support.

HOW YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS FFL Spreading the Message

- Membership brochures, ads and bumper stickers

Education through Cyberspace

- Enhancing and maintaining FFL's website

College Outreach Program

- Brochures for orientation
- Ads for education
- Pregnancy resource information
- Personalized training of pro-life student leaders
- Pro-life feminist philosophy for libraries and lectures
- Internship program

Support for Legislative Initiatives

- Violence Against Women Act
- Child support enforcement
- Pregnancy resources for women
- Child Custody Protection Act
- Partial-birth abortion ban

The American Feminist

- For those open to learning our unique pro-life feminist philosophy

Volunteers will be called upon as needed.

Thank you!

E-Activism

IMAGINE A WORLD in which information is not filtered through a biased news media. In this world, you can get your message out to thousands of people without worrying that it might come out skewed or as a sound bite taken out of context. Your words come out as your words, not as the “approved syntax” of the editors. Quotation marks and terms like “so-called” are no part of the phrase pro-life feminist.

Now imagine a world in which you can take your message to tens of thousands of people in a split second. You can take that message to them each and every day, into their homes where they can read it at their leisure. Imagine a world where you can do this for less than the cost of a cup of coffee each morning.

This world exists. This world is the Internet. The term Internet encompasses everything from World Wide Web pages, where you can access the websites of countless organizations and individuals throughout the world, to e-mail capabilities in which you can instantly communicate with others on-line.

According to the October 1999 ACNielsen NetWatch, one-fourth of Americans currently use the Internet. This school year more than half of the college students in the United States will be surfing the Internet directly from their wired dorm rooms, and 84 percent will have web access from some campus location, according to a study by Greenfield On-line. Of those college students who are on-line, 71 percent of them spend one to four hours on-line each day.

Here we have a medium that is unfiltered, inexpensive, efficient and used by millions of people every day for extended periods of time. Yet few of us do more on-line than check our e-mail or surf through our favorite catalog.

Our movement has an important message that too few people have the opportunity to hear. Rarely does this message fall on deaf ears when presented to large groups of people, especially college students. Is there immediate acceptance? Not always. Is there actual thought and consideration followed by a re-evaluation of one’s personal views and beliefs? More often than not, yes. I’ve presented the pro-life feminist message—I’ve seen it happen. In fact, when exposed to pro-life feminism in its full form—which is impossible to portray in one presentation—most people find it hard to deny.


Feminists for Life has a powerful, moving and essential message, which is based on history and truth. How can we get every college in America an FFL College Outreach Program Kit for its campus? How can we get our message of hope to every campus in the country? How can we reach each student in need?

The World Wide Web offers FFL a new medium that is quick, cheap and unfiltered. FFL’s website alone receives hundreds of hits a week. It has become a critical means of communication between financially strapped college students and Feminists for Life.

The question then becomes how you, as one individual, can use this medium to spread pro-life feminist ideas of nonviolence and inclusiveness.

The first thing each of us needs to do is overcome our fear of the Internet. Look at it not as a vast wilderness of





information but a tool—a powerful tool that if used properly can completely change the face of the debate on the value of all human life.

There are numerous resources in your area that are available to help you master this technology—from local computer stores to the local community college. On-line tutorials are even available to enhance your understanding of all that the web has to offer. Friends and family members, especially “generation Y” relatives who are growing up on-line, are also great technology educators.

Use the Internet to stay informed. Log on to www.feministsforlife.org (FFL's website) to keep up with the latest information that you can use in your letters to the editor or local advocacy efforts. Other useful websites and “infolists” exist to keep you up to date on a host of pro-life feminist concerns. The National Organization for Women's infolist can be useful for postings about the latest welfare reform and domestic violence policy developments and action alerts. Log on to www.now.org and learn how you can subscribe. For the most comprehensive information on violence against women and what you can do to fight it, look to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network's (RAINN) website at www.rainn.com. Check out www.prolifeinfo.org/wcf for the latest pro-life information. Subscribe to this pro-life infolist by e-mailing infonetrequest@prolife.org. The website for the Children's Defense Fund at www.childrensdefensefund.org is very informative on child care and child welfare. While FFL does not agree with every policy, legislative strategy or

program presented by other organizations, these sites and others out there will help keep you in touch with legislative, educational and outreach efforts on behalf of women and children.

You can create your own e-mail lists—an easy and proactive way to get out your message. Use your lists to share FFL's message of hope and empowerment for women. Send out articles, information on upcoming FFL events or anything you need to get the pro-life feminist message out to the masses. Network and tell others about FFL. Support women and men with similar views and share information across the country and around the world.

Many people choose to host their list through free list services such as ListBot, www.listbot.com. Listbot is a site that allows users to set up a list and then invite up to 2,000 people to join. As the list owner, you cannot put individuals on the list, only invite them. You can advertise in various places (message boards, social activist or political web pages, etc.) and tell people how they can subscribe. For no charge you can have an e-mail list that sends information to hundreds of people, all with a click of the mouse. You can also use your e-mail program's address book to create a list using the “blind carbon copy” (BCC) feature. Search your e-mail program's help index if you need assistance.

You can ask others, especially friends and family, to join on-line. Connect friends with FFL's website for easy membership sign up. You can support FFL's website by making donations on-line now. FFL is registered with the philanthropic website www.igive.com,

which enables you to log on and make donations directly to the organization of your choice. And let FFL keep in touch with you by sending us your e-mail address and letting us know whenever it changes at FFLAinfo@aol.com, a special site where FFL members can send their address information. This e-mail address is solely for the receipt of membership information. Members do not receive a response from this address.

Be an expert on call through Internet chat rooms where you can work with other pro-life feminist activists on multiple projects. The Internet can be a great organizing tool, enabling you to activate and coordinate with others from the comfort of your own home.

FFL uses the “virtual office” capabilities of the Internet every day by connecting with writers, volunteers, students and experts across the country through the click of a mouse.

The Internet is an integral part of the lives of many of the people we need to reach, and its influence is growing by leaps and bounds. Internet access is expected to surpass that of cable TV by the next millennium. For years pro-life feminists have needed a medium that we can use to effectively get out our message. Finally there is one that suits us perfectly, and gives grassroots activists an access point and chance to make a difference. It is time for us to harness the power of the Internet and reach millions with FFL's message of hope and empowerment for women ○

Sally Winn is the executive director of Women and Children First, a pro-life Internet organization. She also serves as chairwoman of the National Pro-Life Democrats Committee.

THE AMERICAN FEMINIST: PROVIDING A VOICE FOR FFL ACTIVISTS



WHEN THE 19TH CENTURY SUFFRAGISTS worked to change the hearts and minds of a patriarchal society, they used a newspaper, *The Revolution*, as a major vehicle of reform.

When post-Reconstruction America began harassing African Americans with lynching and Jim Crow laws, African Americans formed small newspapers throughout the country to unite black communities and oppose repression. Even small publications that lasted for only a short time played a vital role and left a lasting historical legacy.

In contemporary times, magazines such as *Ms.* sprang up to represent the growing women's movement. Unfortunately, *Ms.* and other publications of the modern women's movement failed to represent all women and stifled pro-life feminist voices.

The American Feminist fills that gap and provides a forum for voices and ideas that would not otherwise be heard.

Feminists for Life is always seeking individuals who have the skills, energy, and dedication to make a lasting contribution to our publication. Our writers and researchers tackle cutting-edge issues in ways that enhance readers' understanding of women's lives. Experienced photojournalists or simply those with a talent for photography can contribute to the visual power of our publication. Contributors often find unexpected benefits in being activists through *The American Feminist*. Says writer Karen J. Gordon:

"It has been interesting for me since I started writing for you [*The American Feminist*]; I've come out of the closet on the abortion issue ... **I am beginning to more fully live my truth and that is a good thing.**"

As *The American Feminist* grows and expands, it must also expand its distribution. Major bookstore chains such as Borders offer increasing outlets for both small and large publications. *The American Feminist* is already on magazine shelves at Borders bookstores throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Local Borders bookstores have a great deal of autonomy in choosing the magazines they wish to stock. Individual FFL members have an opportunity to introduce *The American Feminist* to the Borders bookstores in their areas.

Libraries—both private and public—also provide ample opportunities for increased distribution. University libraries are an especially important target because college-age women and men are inundated with an abortion-choice feminist perspective on their campuses.

The American Feminist crosses the divide of controversy and provides a unique solution-oriented approach to the abortion debate. As we grow, we need the input and talents of our members to help us reach the majority of American women who are against abortion, but feel abandoned by both conservative and liberal voices. Call FFL's national office at (202) 737-FFLA, or complete and return the form on page 19, or e-mail us at fems4life@aol.com if you are interested in being a writer, researcher, or photographer, or to find out how you can spread FFL's message through the bookstores and libraries in your area. ○





FFL'S COLLEGE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Molly E. Pannell
Public Education Coordinator

University of California-Berkeley

"A lot of students would stare at me and say things like 'look at her, she's pregnant,'" says Soma de Bourbon. A student at the University of California-Berkeley—and proud mother of 4-month-old Kaya—de Bourbon shared her experiences during her pregnancy and as a parenting student with students and administrators at a Pregnancy Resource Forum moderated by FFL President Serrin Foster.

The forum included representatives from the university's women's center, the Student Parent Project, the campus childcare center, and community pregnancy resource centers. Panelists explored resources for pregnant and parenting students, childcare policies, discrimination against pregnant students, and affordable family housing.

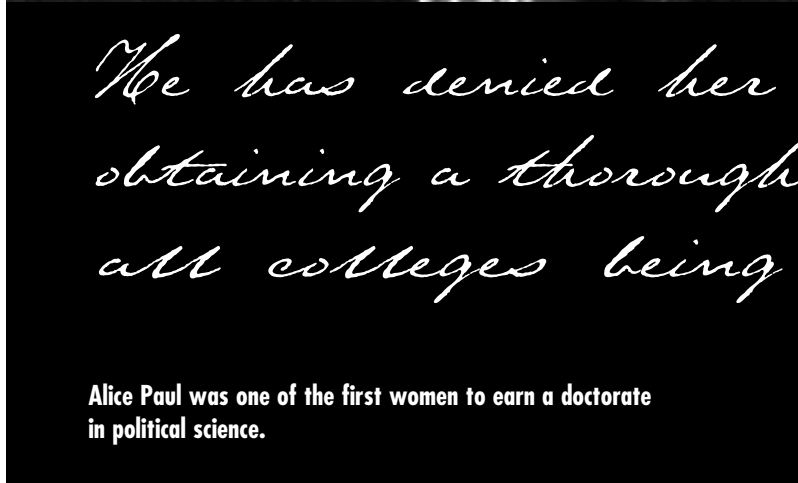
The day after the forum, *The Daily Californian*, the campus newspaper, reported on plans to demolish low cost housing for parenting

students. Students who met and developed strategy at the forum are now organizing to deal with the impending housing crisis for parenting students. High on the students' list are ways to combat the administration's hostility towards increasing numbers of pregnant and parenting students.

During the forum, Foster raised questions about services for women who conceive children through rape. Unfortunately the university offers little services for women who conceive children through sexual assault; the only two students who reported sexual assault to the university health services office and conceived children through sexual assault chose abortion. Graduate student and audience member Jackie—who was conceived in date rape—spoke passionately about her right to life. **"Every day on this campus I have to justify my existence," she said. "But I am not just an opinion—I am a person!"**

continued on page 24

revolution



She has denied her the facilities for obtaining a thorough education— all colleges being closed against her.

Alice Paul was one of the first women to earn a doctorate in political science.

Washington University

The announcement of Foster's lecture, "The Feminist Case *Against* Abortion," sparked protests at Washington University in St. Louis. Abortion advocates posted hundreds of signs and chalked messages against FFL's pro-woman, pro-life philosophy. The abortion advocacy group on campus was so incensed by Foster's visit to campus that they brought in state representative Joan Bray to counter FFL's message through a competing speech titled, "Pro-life Feminism: An Oxymoron." National Organization for Women President Patricia Ireland also spoke in response to Foster's lecture.

The crowd of protesters who gathered outside Foster's lecture wore Pro-choice Education Project ads on their T-shirts (see *The American Feminist*, Fall 1999). Their T-shirts read "Not Having a Choice Really Sucks, Doesn't It?" Foster personally invited the protesters inside the lecture hall to attend the lecture. During the lecture, the protesters— when asked about housing, day care, and health insurance—realized that their campus did not support the choice to have a child. Many abortion choice advocates and pro-life students then agreed to work with FFL to develop resources for pregnant and parenting students on campus.

University of Notre Dame

Following an FFL Pregnancy Resource Forum at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, student leaders delivered copies of FFL's "You Have Choices" brochure to all resident assistants on campus. Student pro-life leaders also developed an information sheet outlining resources for pregnant and parenting students at the University. This information will also be posted on the group's website, where hundreds of students will have instant access to the information. ○

*Declaration of Sentiments
Seneca Falls Convention, 1848*



No Right to Wrong

The Dalai Lama's characterization of abortion as "wrong, but up to the individual to decide" does not sound nearly so suspect if one takes the time to learn about his religion from the inside. Buddhist tradition clearly regards the unborn child as a sentient being who, like all other sentient beings, deserves to be free of violence. The First Precept of Buddhism is to refrain from killing. Additionally, the chance to incarnate as a human being is such a rare and precious opportunity in the cycle of rebirths that it must not be denied to someone already conceived (except in very rare instances, such as threat to the pregnant woman's own life). Especially in Tibetan Buddhism, pregnancy, childbirth and parenting are regarded as sacred. The Dalai Lama himself has said that "mother is first lama [spiritual teacher]."

In stating that "it is up to the individual," the Dalai Lama is perhaps simply articulating a primary insight of Buddhist ethics: while some actions are clearly wrong and destructive, individuals do have the ability to commit them. Buddhism places great importance on individual responsibility for ethical decisions. This is very different from saying that individuals have a right to commit such clearly harmful actions such as abortion. Rather, individual moral responsibility means that it is ultimately up to each of us to seek to make the most mindful and compassionate decision possible in every situation, and to stand with and behind other sentient beings in their own struggles to accomplish this goal. We must also bear responsibility for purifying ourselves and all others involved of the negative karma that invariably results from ethically inappropriate actions, which are best not committed in the first place. Now none of this fits into a convenient sound byte for American political consumption—but what does?!

The Dalai Lama puts his own life, welfare and reputation on the line every day for the sake of others, including the unborn and their mothers. He has taken flak among "PC" Westerners for his views on abortion and his stand against the forced abortion of Tibetan women has certainly not made him any more popular with the Chinese occupation. Instead of calling him into question, *The American Feminist* would do better to see in him an exemplar of the very compassion it urges in people of all faiths and none.

A concerned Buddhist reader

continued on page 26

COMMUNICATING YOUR MESSAGE:

Write an Effective Letter to a Publication

ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE means of communicating the pro-life feminist message is through letters to the editor. By sending a letter to the editor of your local paper, you reach out to other pro-life feminists who may have thought they were alone. Here are some tips on writing a letter to the editor.

- First, find out who the letters editor is at the newspaper. Most newspapers list the editorial staff on the editorial pages. Or you can call the paper to find out.
- Include the letters editor's name, title and address in your letter.
- Most newspapers have limited space so be sure to keep your letter short and concise. A two-to-four paragraph letter is best.
- Be sure to sign your name and include your address and phone number so the newspaper can contact you if it chooses to publish your letter.
- Do not be disheartened if your letter is not published. Even if it does not reach a wider audience, the editorial staff of the newspaper is made aware of your opinion and the opinion of other readers.

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!

Choice on Campus?

Thank you for the wonderful work you do! I especially appreciated the last issue of *The American Feminist*, devoted to the topic of women on campus. As a graduate student I often feel “closeted” in my pro-life stance (especially—ironically enough—because my field of interest involves feminist theory!).

Moreover, since I have had a child I have seen firsthand the lack of support for parents from the university. Suffice it to say, at least at my school there is very little: a \$200/semester childcare credit for students who are currently taking classes (first, most graduate students with children, like me, are well beyond this stage and therefore unable to utilize this fund, and second, babysitting costs in my city are about \$10/hr, so this amounts to 40 hours a year free, about one week of full-time babysitting); there is no available childcare on campus, despite the university’s having a Child Study Center of its own. The few graduate students I know who have children are all male—and several have stopped their studies in order to find “serious” work because academic teaching assistantships pay so little, about \$11,000 a year). Having a child is not even seen as an option for women graduate students. When my son was born, I received not-so-veiled criticism from the director of graduate studies in my department, questioning whether I was serious about obtaining the Ph.D. and going on for an academic career (the implication being that a Ph.D. might be wasted on someone who is going to stay home “just” to be a mother). These comments, incidentally, were from a female professor who also said to another female student in my program, “You’re not going to have children, are you?” So much for choice!

So thank you for affirming my “choices,” just when I begin to think I must be the only pro-life woman in academia!

Anonymous

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:

- February 8, 2000. University of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.
- February 10, 2000. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- March 7, 2000. Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.
- March 21, 2000. Grand Traverse Area College, Traverse City, Michigan.
- March 22, 2000. Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- March 28, 2000. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- April 18, 2000. College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

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

- March 2, 2000. University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.
- April 4, 2000. Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.
- April 27, 2000. Loyola College, Baltimore, Maryland

WE REMEMBER



Diane Boyd
1962 – 1981

Diane Boyd, a 19-year-old woman with mental retardation, died on Oct. 23, 1981, after undergoing an abortion at Reproductive Health Services in St. Louis. Diane’s death at the hands of Dr. Robert Crist was the tragic conclusion of a life filled with abuse. Diane was so profoundly retarded that she had been committed to a state mental institution where, according to her mother, she was beaten and raped. As a result of the rape, Diane became pregnant.

Diane’s mother signed the consent form for her daughter to undergo an abortion at Reproductive Health Services. Crist and Reproductive Health Services staffers did not check Diane’s medical records to find out she was medicated with an anti-psychotic drug. Crist administered a dosage of sedatives and pain-killers that, in combination with Diane’s medication, proved a lethal combination. The St. Louis medical examiner determined that Diane died because of her reaction to the drugs given to her by Crist.

Diane Boyd’s death was not the first Crist had been charged with. In 1991, he was linked to the abortion-related death of a 17-year-old girl and in 1997, he was charged with another abortion-related death. Crist, who has performed more than 100,000 abortions, has been sued at least eight times and in November 1999 was investigated in the near-death of a woman who sought an abortion.

St. Louis City Circuit Court Case 812-110777
St. Louis Post-Dispatch, November 6, 1999

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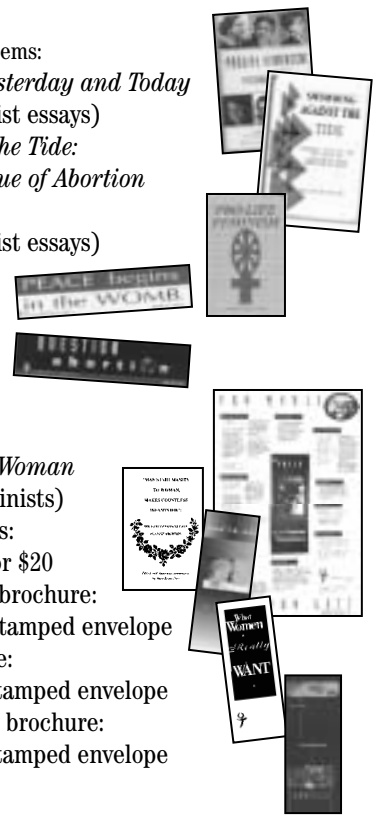
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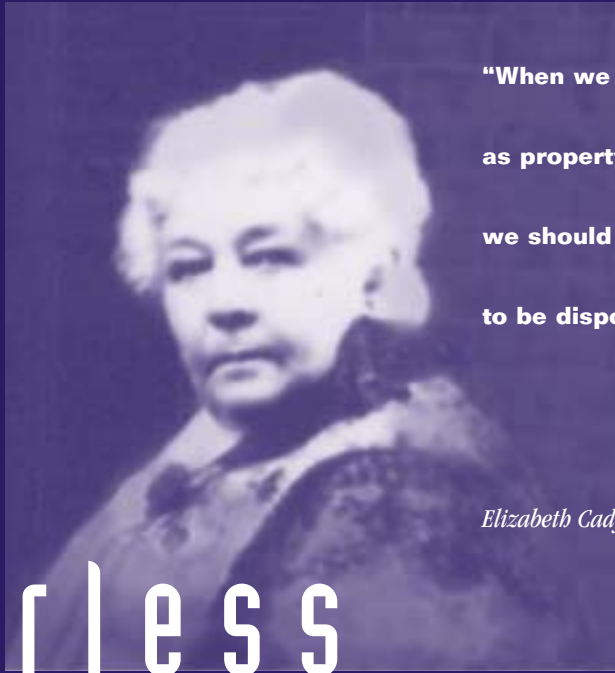
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**Question
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