



# THE AMERICAN FEMINIST<sup>SM</sup>

Feminists for Life of America<sup>®</sup>

## Two Faces of the

# INTERNET



As women have become the primary users of the Internet, accessing the benefits is as important as avoiding danger.

# THE AMERICAN FEMINIST

Feminists for Life of America



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# Voices

OF WOMEN WHO MOURN

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

IN 1976, I WAS 16 AND PREGNANT. I thought I was going to keep my baby at first. However, my boyfriend's mother, his sisters, and my mother encouraged me to have an abortion. I remember my mother telling me "it's only tissue; not a baby yet." She also found a book written by a local minister in support of abortion. I thought this meant it was OK with God. I had the abortion.

Years later, I came across a book showing what a 12-week-old fetus looked like. I was horrified! This was not "just tissue;" I was looking at a baby. It was then I realized the truth of what I had done.

I have since had 2 beautiful children. Twenty-two years after my abortion (in the month I would have delivered my child), the terrible guilt and shame came back to me. I am still trying to deal with this.

I know that I would not have had an abortion if I had been informed about the fetus—what it looked like—and the emotional distress it could cause me. I don't want anyone else to go through what I have been through. It won't hurt to give information. However, not having enough information can be devastating.

—*Mary (an alias)*

—*Reprinted with permission from Rachel's Vineyard*

### **For more information about Rachel's Vineyard, please contact:**

Rachel's Vineyard  
P.O. Box 195  
Bridgeport, PA 19405  
1-877-HOPE-4-ME

For information about other post-abortion organizations, please see page 11.

# WE REMEMBER



## Carolina Gutierrez 1975 – 1996

ON DEC. 19, 1995, Carolina Gutierrez, a 20-year-old mother of two, walked into an abortion clinic in Florida for a "safe and legal" abortion. On Feb. 5, 1996, she died in a local hospital of a massive infection caused by the abortion. Carolina sought the abortion without her husband's knowledge, believing that they would not be able to support a third child on their limited income.

The Maber Medical Center, which performed the abortion, handed the Spanish-speaking Carolina a consent form in English, which she couldn't read and never signed. During the abortion, the abortionist repeatedly punctured her uterus and lungs. She was sent home with the "emergency" number for the clinic. Experiencing extreme pain the same day, she called the number and was answered by a recording. For the following two days, the clinic staff hung up on her, refusing to return her desperate phone calls. On Dec. 21, she was rushed to a local hospital suffering from septic shock from a massive infection.

Carolina clung to life for 46 days before the infection killed her. The owners of the abortion clinic went into hiding, taking all of their medical records with them.

Her husband, José Linarte, said, "They have taken away the love of my life." If he had known she was planning to abort their child, he said, he would have convinced her that they would be able to support another.

We join him and her two motherless children in mourning Carolina's tragic death.

*Source: National Right to Life News, Human Life International, Arlington Catholic Herald*





Life

# FINDING ONE ANOTHER: THE INTERNET'S GE

**I**S THE INTERNET A MALEVOLENT ABYSS, addicting its users to cyberporn, mesmerizing them in endless bouts of weird video-gaming, sucking their money away in e-shopping sprees and online gambling, and placing their kids in peril from countless anonymous perverts?

Well, yes, of course—but now let's look at the bright side: if the Forces of Darkness are all over the Web, so are the Forces of Good. And one thing's the same for both sides: It's now a lot easier for us to find each other. Those who consider human life a commodity rather than an absolute good have long had the mainstream media at their beck and call. Now, thanks to a zillion electronic grass roots, we're on our way to a more level playing field.

Of all the charges leveled at this transforming phenomenon in our lives, the one I can't buy is "isolation." You want isolation? Try being a pro-life feminist in New York City before the Internet. OK, thanks to the Web, you may be temporarily more isolated from the folks in the next room who are hoping you'll log off soon and drive them to soccer practice. However, the big picture is one of an almost miraculous interconnectedness. With a few clicks of the mouse, you can find more like-minded sisters than you might naturally encounter in the course of a lifetime. (You might also discover that the gal in the next cubicle shares your convictions but just hasn't "come out" yet because she, too, still feels as if she must be a space alien.) The dreaded "anonymity" of cyberspace breeds its own kind of exploratory courage, as "lurking" leads to learning and, perhaps eventually, activism. As Roy Orbison sang passionately, "You're not alone anymore."

If the Internet has one super power to redeem all the sleaze, this incredible ability to sweep oceans of humanity for kindred spirits must surely be it. Contact is empowerment. The results can be life-saving (say, for the mother of a child with a rare illness and a mediocre local doctor who has never heard of it). They can be sanity-saving (for an overwhelmed young woman in the grip of clinical depression who finally gets help after a few dozen chat-board messages bombard her with tough love and support).

And they can nourish convictions that threatened to wither in a demographic or cultural wilderness.

For those committed to pro-woman, pro-life views, this can be a particular gift. Advocates of unrestricted legalized abortion have succeeded in stigmatizing their opponents as brutally as Joe McCarthy ever did. Joycelyn Elders once sniped at our "love affair with the fetus"; in many milieus, especially those where "opinion leaders" do their thing, this is now the Love That Dare Not Speak Its Name. Pro-life positions are not so much distorted as simply ignored, except for extensive coverage of the rare violent outbursts of criminal fanatics. A recent ad campaign by Planned Parenthood, plastered over New York City subway cars, portrayed those opposed to abortion as sour-faced aging white men. Riding the subway each day are plenty of women of all ages and colors who believe deeply that our right to life starts before birth, but we're not wearing bumper stickers on our foreheads. Propaganda, done right, sows the seeds of doubt: So maybe I am nuts to care as I do, to believe as I do. Can everyone else really be wrong?

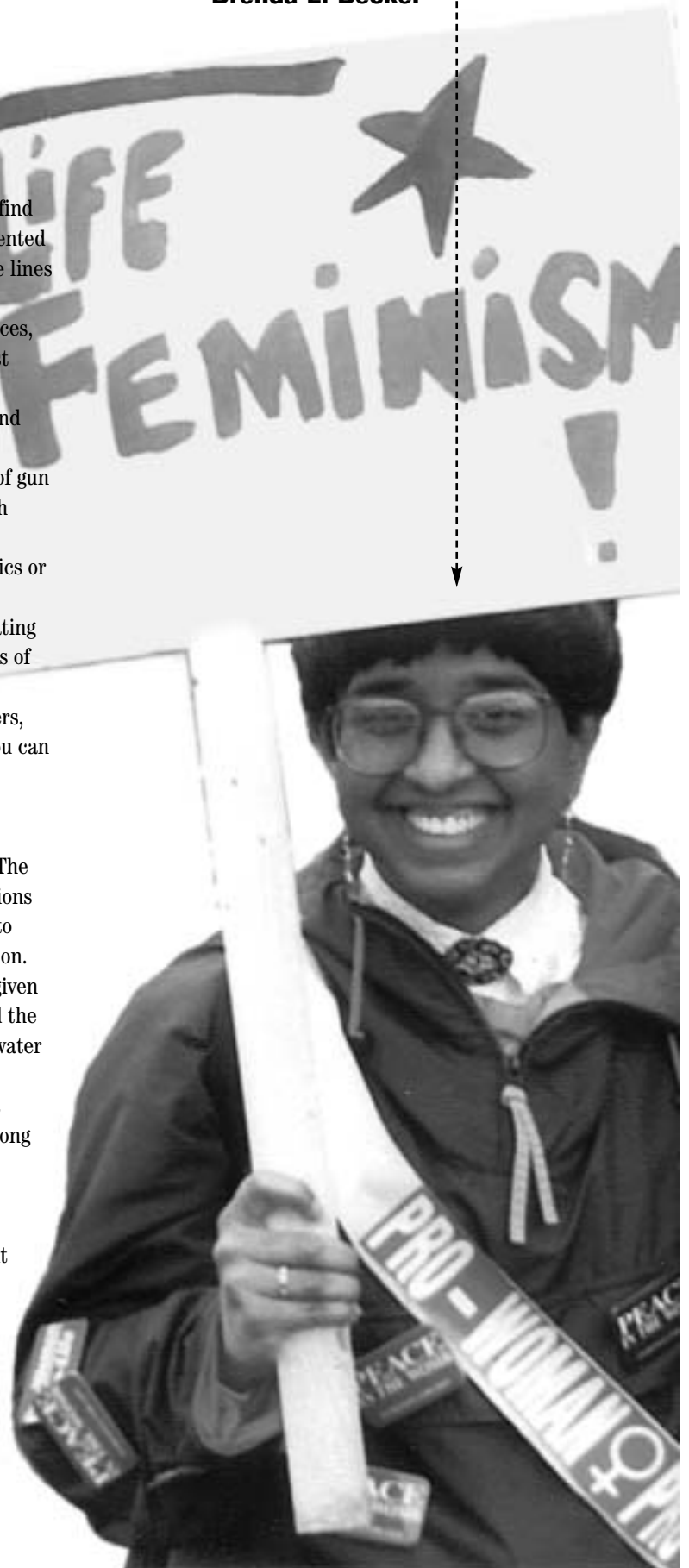
For all the vaunted ability of the Internet to help real nut cases find one another, for mere fun or lethal mischief, it is also an unprecedented tool for individuals of conscience. Those of us marooned behind the lines in ideological “enemy territory” can learn, perform reality-testing, communicate with individuals from all walks of life, identify resources, refine and deepen our understanding of our own beliefs, and—most important—discover that we’re not alone.

We can also crack open parts of our minds that our upbringing and circumstances would have left permanently closed. Thanks to the Internet, I have conversed with reasonable, articulate proponents of gun ownership, creationism, and home-schooling. I still don’t agree with them, but I have been disabused of my snotty city-girl-journalist prejudice that they’re surely all rednecks, wild-eyed religious fanatics or worse. Thanks to the ‘Net, my beliefs on the death penalty are in a painful period of evolution. As a Catholic who takes pride in separating her religious and political beliefs, I wince to admit that the writings of John Paul II on a “seamless garment” of respect for life have been instrumental in undermining my flip insistence that convicted killers, unlike unborn humans, deserve extermination. In a world where you can meet with your “enemies” and chat alone at three in the morning, damning stereotypes are harder to maintain.

I have even (rarely) had online encounters that deepened my understanding of, and respect for, advocates of legalized abortion. The chilly medium of cyberspace can be an excellent place for interactions that would, in person, be too hot to handle. The emotion attached to these issues is overwhelming. It can suffocate reason and compassion. The faceless, lightning-fast epistolary medium of the Internet has given us a new and unique forum in which to revive the art of debate and the passion of personal witness without becoming pariahs around the water cooler.

Feminists for Life exemplifies what I’m talking about. Through a pinball-like series of Internet events, we found one another. I had long wondered: Am I the only woman on the planet who believes that respect for unborn life can co-exist with advocacy for “women’s issues”—indeed, must co-exist with it? After an online magazine site published a recent rant of mine on how culturally isolated I felt on Oscar night, with Hollywood congratulating itself on having the “courage” to make “The Cider House Rules,” an amazing thing happened. Smart, funny, feminist women sent me messages through space: E.T., phone home. Join us, to work for justice for all women and all our children. You’re not alone anymore. ○

*Brenda L. Becker is a free-lance medical writer living with her husband and five-year-old daughter in Brooklyn, N.Y. Her current favorite Web site is [www.visembryo.com](http://www.visembryo.com).*





# telecomm

The word “telecommuting” often conjures up images of employees sitting at home in pajamas with their feet up, watching TV and making the occasional phone call. Most people these days, however, know at least one person who works from home to some extent, and telecommuting has become an increasingly viable and attractive option for mothers who want to continue their careers.

“I’m the happiest human being in the world because I’m able to be with my daughter,” enthuses Vicky Cristiano, who manages a group of producers and editors for a Washington, D.C.-area cable television entertainment company.

Cristiano was considering quitting her job to be a full-time parent until she was given the opportunity to take advantage of a clause in her company’s human resources handbook that allowed employees to work out individual flex-time and telecommuting arrangements with their managers.

More than two years later, she has proven to three different managers that her arrangement is beneficial to all. She serves on a task force to help create an official telework policy for the company, and is increasing her work time at home from two days per week to three. “It’s an amazing gift,” she says.

**O**NE REASON WOMEN CITE for resorting to abortion is as career women and as mothers. But new technology is changing that. **Telecommuting, for example, allows employees to work from home, giving** parents to balance work and family.

# uting talk

## Strength in numbers

Nearly 20 million Americans telecommute at least one day a month, according to Jane Anderson of the Midwest Institute for Telecommuting Information. This statistic doesn't even count people who own and operate businesses in their homes, and mobile workers, such as salespeople, who are "on the road" as a major part of their jobs. Anderson, who assists companies in implementing telework arrangements and policies, expects that number to increase by at least 20% per year over the next 10 years. The American Telecommuting Association says that, next to casual days, telecommuting is the "fastest-growing shift in traditional working patterns."

A broad definition of telecommuting includes any method of working outside a conventional office. Some examples would be employees who work for companies with remote call centers, attorneys who stay home on the occasional morning to read a complex contract, independent consultants, and parents who work at home two days a week.

## Kids and careers

For many parents, the option of telecommuting allows continued full- or part-time work, with the added benefit

of more time with their children at home. Mary Winslow (a pseudonym), a 41-year-old corporate attorney who works at home, is the mother of a 3-year-old daughter and a 1-year-old son. She told *The American Feminist* that she loves motherhood and especially appreciates the opportunity to get to know her children and watch them "unfold" daily.

Jodi Graham Wood agrees, and also cites the advantages of not having to put her child in day care, resulting in lower costs and "probably less illness." Wood works part-time for Indiana University, programming computer tutorials for music-theory students. She began telecommuting full-time when she moved away from the area, and continued half-time after she had her baby.

Another benefit is that telecommuting "takes away that dreaded gap in your resume," according to Catherine Snow, an advertising copywriter whose kids are 11, 9 and 5. "Options like work at home and free-lance work are good in that they allow a woman with young children to keep up her job skills," she said.

Not only are these women enjoying the benefits of telecommuting—they are also among the first pioneers into this new phenomenon, working hard to

*cont. on pg.8*

## How to

TELECOMMUTING IS NOT FOR EVERYONE. Some careers are just not compatible with working from home, such as jobs in factories or the service industry. But to those who are considering approaching their managers regarding a teleworking arrangement, Anderson suggests having a business plan in place. She says it is important to think about the logistics in advance, such as accessibility, child care, communication, liability issues, technology (computer, second phone line), security for confidential documents, and specific deliverables to quantify performance.

She also advises companies to adopt standards for deciding which employees should be allowed to attempt telecommuting arrangements.

Just as we are amazed that women actually had to fight for the right to vote, Cristiano believes that when her daughter is grown, telecommuting will be so common that she will be amazed that women had to fight for it.



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## Don't forget Dad

**FATHERS CAN ALSO TAKE ADVANTAGE** of telecommuting to better accommodate family life, which more and more fathers want to do, according to a poll released by the Raddiffe Public Policy Center in May 2000. The poll indicates that having a work schedule that allows for time with family is the most important goal for men aged 20-29, and 71% of these men would give up some pay for more time with their families.

Also, in a 1999 *Men's Health* magazine survey, published by the National Partnership for Women and Families, 73% of men and 90% of Generation X dads agreed with the following statement: "Once you have a child, your own needs come second." In 1987, only 63% of men agreed.

And in response to the survey's question about what men equate with status, 86% said being a great husband and father, while 81% said opting for family rather than a prestigious career.

Contrary to popular belief, both men and women are placing more importance on family, and new technology is arriving at just the right time to help both parents accommodate those priorities.



make a flexible work schedule and family-friendly work environment more commonplace for future parents.

### The new pioneers

Many telecommuting mothers interviewed are anxious to prove that they deserve the trust being placed in them, so they end up working harder on the days they are home.

Cristiano checks her voicemail every 15 minutes and her e-mail constantly. She says she is extra-responsive so that nobody can ever say something wasn't done because she was at home.

Winslow agrees, saying she takes every call, and doesn't go to bed without checking her e-mail. She often works late into the night and early morning to overcompensate and overcome the perception that she is not doing as much.

She says she wants to be "a model for something they [employers and co-workers] can't quite envision yet."

Cindy Osborne, who has raised six children (with a seventh on the way) while running a graphic-design business out of her home, welcomes her role as a pioneering feminist. "I'm raising and enjoying my kids, [and] I'm making a statement that mothering and career *do* mix," she said. "You don't have to be right down the hall from your boss to get your work done."

Fortunately, the efforts of Osborne and the others appear to be working—there is evidence that telecommuting not only benefits the worker, but the employer as well. Anderson cites studies that show increases in productivity of between 3% and 20%, and also believes having telecommuting employees enhances the skills of managers, as they are required to plan and communicate more.

### Reality check

But can women really devote 100% of their efforts to their careers and their families? Many telecommuting moms agree that sacrifices have to be made. Wood concedes that she "could be doing much better financially in a different position," and Cristiano admits she has "ceilinged herself." She has turned down two promotions, and "watch[ed] other people pass by."

Child care is also an issue. While some can work at home and watch their kids simultaneously, others enjoy the flexibility telecommuting allows, but still need to find child care. "When I work, I pretty much need a sitter, at least for my 5-year-old," Snow said. "He is *very* active, never stops talking, and gets into everything. I can work while he's in school, half days. After school it gets rough. I actually prefer to have him go to a sitter's home if I have a tight deadline."



This setup also leaves little time for housework, which is a sore spot for some telecommuting moms who find it difficult to escape the laundry, dirty dishes, and clutter of toys. According to Winslow, “the level of defeat you feel in terms of the housework is enormous.”

Osborne does not apologize for her priorities. “Excuse the mess — you can sit in a clean studio or have your project on time,” she tells her clients. She believes in being “in your face” about her child-related slowdowns.

### **It's all worth it**

While conceding the challenges, every one of those interviewed said the difficulties were all worth being able to spend more time as moms.

“I can catch up on my career when my daughter is in school,” Cristiano said.

“I love [motherhood] more than life itself ... and feel privileged to be able to have children,” Winslow raved.

Osborne said that although she could be making more money and avoiding the “paperwork headaches” of a home business, “my child-care bill would be out of this world. I'd have to have an entire wardrobe of ‘work’ clothes... [buy more] gasoline... and someone else [would be] getting the bulk of my kids’ time.”

“Frankly, the sacrifices I'd have to make to work elsewhere aren't acceptable to me,” she concluded.

Osborne also recognizes that she and the others are helping society place more importance on the role of parenthood. “I feel that children and their needs must be fully accepted and accommodated in our society in order for women to be fully accepted.” She quotes FFL founder Pat Goltz, who says, “Any policy which says, ‘You're welcome in the boardroom but leave your baby in the trash outside’ is a misogynist policy.” ○

*Laura Ciampa, an FFL member, is a legal assistant for a communications company. She worked in a pregnancy resource center during her time in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.*

## One Woman's Story

TEN YEARS AGO I was put on bedrest with my first babies (twins), so I started looking for work I could do from home. I landed a contract as a technical documentation editor, working from a tiny bedroom while my twins napped or played on the floor next to me. It was an exciting time to work at home; very few people did it or even knew it was possible!

It didn't take long before I was shifting from an editor to a writer, and within a few years my husband left his job to join me in my technical documentation business, writing mostly computer textbooks for the academic market for publishing companies from Massachusetts to California.

Five children later, my husband and I have found that our home-office lifestyle nurtures our children in a way that would have been impossible in a traditional offsite business structure. Today's communications technology gives us instant contact with our colleagues. Meetings take place via conference calls; daily communication is via e-mail and the telephone; documents are shared over the Internet. Our “virtual office” is every bit as available to our colleagues as an office down the corporate hall — and maybe even more so, since we take calls 'round the clock. The companies we've worked with have been very supportive of our desire to be at home with our kids. They know how highly we value the ability to work at home, and they know we'll do our utmost to do a good job.

## **We don't have just one “Take Your Child To Work Day”— we have it every day!**

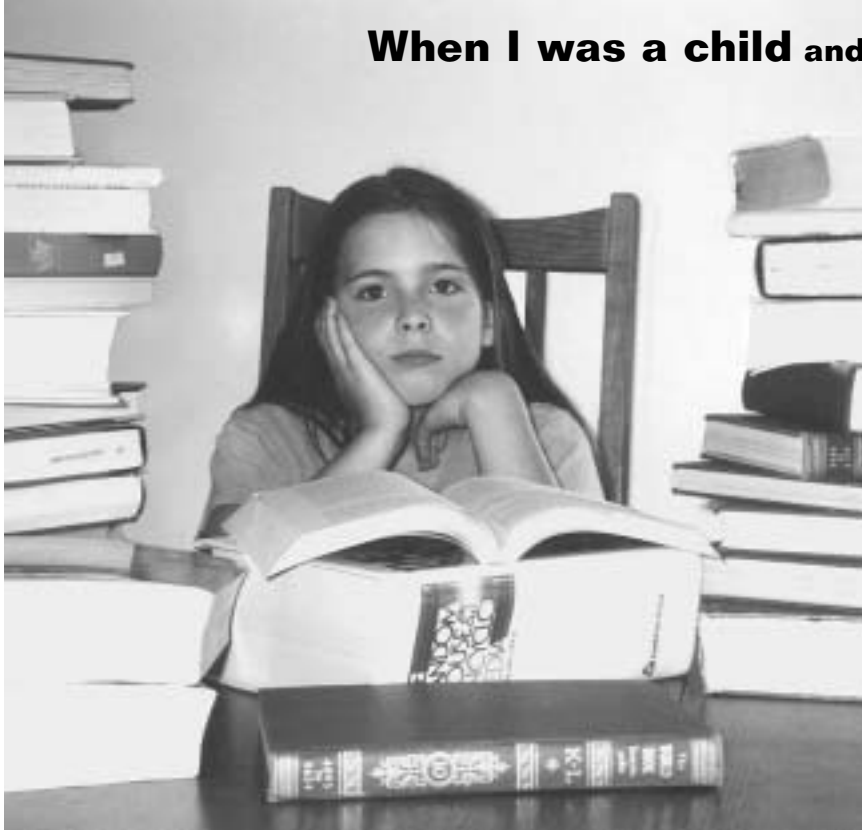
My husband and I work to a very different rhythm from that of most people in traditional offices. We've learned to be intensely productive when the children are asleep (early morning, nap time, evening and nighttime — sometimes very late nighttime!!). When they were all little, we sometimes relied on babysitters (aunt and uncles, grandparents, friends, neighborhood teenagers ...) to get us through the rough times (or we just lost a lot of sleep). Now it's easier. The older children (the twins are 9) have learned how to care for the younger ones, just as families did in the days when women and men worked side by side on family farms. The children know the value of work — they see it every day!

We don't have just one “Take Your Child To Work Day” — we have it every day!

Society benefits so greatly when employers try to accommodate people who are committed to their children. My husband and I have tried hard to bring other women into our work through referrals, subcontracting and training, so these women can build their own businesses while staying at home with their children. If every successful business were committed to making work available to parents who want to spend more time with their children, women would no longer face the choice between their work and their children.

— Joan Carey  
FFL member, Wisconsin

# Web-Wise Women: A Wealt



**When I was a child and wanted to research a subject,**

this is what I had to do: ride my bike to the library and hunt for my subject on one of thousands of little cards crammed into countless miniature drawers inside a huge oak chest. I'd make a list of the books that seemed promising, write down their Dewey Decimal numbers, and search the shelves to see if those books had been checked out already. If I were lucky enough to find any of the books listed, I would go home with four books—the per customer limit—often filled with outdated information.

Enter the Internet. Exploding into our lives within the past few years, the Internet provides us with an overwhelming amount of information on every imaginable subject (and many we never thought to imagine!). It is estimated that there are over 1 billion Web sites currently available to anyone on the Internet, with thousands more being added every day.

The advantage is obvious: information can be easily obtained, privately and cheaply, almost as soon as it's released. Unfortunately, the advantages of Internet communication easily

morph into its most serious disadvantages: the sheer volume of information can cause research to be almost as tedious as the old-fashioned Dewey Decimal system, and there is no filtering mechanism by which erroneous information can be excluded or expunged from the Net—anyone can add a few drops to the ocean of information without having to survive the scrutiny of an editor.

The Internet is not democratic; it is anarchistic, allowing the sublime, the venal and the utterly vile equal access to the minds of all mouse clickers, including children. So to help you sort through this maze of information, FFL has done some research for you. Here are some of our favorite sites.

*Because of FFL's unique pro-woman, pro-life perspective, coupled with FFL's commitment to a consistent life ethic, FFL works with organizations on an issue-by-issue basis. As such, views and issues that are outside the scope of our mission were not a primary consideration when choosing these Web sites. All the views expressed in these sites are not necessarily accepted or endorsed by the FFL Board of Directors or its membership at large.*

**...the advantages of Internet communication easily morph into its most serious disadvantages: the sheer volume of information can cause research to be almost as tedious as the old-fashioned Dewey Decimal system...**

# h of Resources

**We've picked out some good sites from the bad and the ugly.**

## **Women**

■ [www.sheknows.com](http://www.sheknows.com)—one thing FFL realized was that some of the most valuable sites for research purposes are often those that include many links to other sites. Sheknows.com provides a search engine through nearly 2500 sites for and by women, covering topics such as finance, health, family and community.

■ [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org)—the Web site for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Includes a list of all state affiliates and links to other resources for battered women.

■ [www.financeservices.about.com](http://www.financeservices.about.com)—information on negotiating a mortgage, selecting a credit card, recognizing financial scams, planning a budget—things every woman needs to know.

■ [www.phenomenalwomen.com](http://www.phenomenalwomen.com)—Phenomenal Women of the Web.

## **Adoption**

■ [www.adoption.com](http://www.adoption.com)—guides prospective adoptive and birth parents to agencies and other sites that can assist them and provide them with advice and encouragement. Includes chats for birthmothers, profiles of parents hoping to adopt, a getting-started guide on international adoption, information on relevant legislation, etc.

■ [www.adoptablekids.com](http://www.adoptablekids.com)—catalog of older kids needing homes. Includes pictures, brief background, and ethnic origins. Also includes temperament, disabilities and how to accommodate them.

■ [www.birthmother.com](http://www.birthmother.com)—very pro-birth focus on the difficulties facing mothers who decide to place their children for adoption. Excellent chat groups.

## **Pregnancy and Parenting**

■ [www.pregnancycenters.org](http://www.pregnancycenters.org)—lists thousands of crisis pregnancy centers nationwide. Also provides links on the risks of abortion, fetal development, and help after abortion.

■ [www.cpcworld.org](http://www.cpcworld.org)—allows one to locate a nearby pregnancy center by means of a zip code search. Includes interactive search engine for topics including pregnancy, adoption, abortion, birth, post-abortion help, etc.

■ [www.ePregnancy.com](http://www.ePregnancy.com)—*everything* related to pregnancy and childbirth, including a section on fetal development. You can even hear a baby's heartbeat.

■ [www.birthpartners.com](http://www.birthpartners.com)—natural childbirth options, including a zip code search for providers, support groups for childbirth and breastfeeding, chat group.

■ [www.everythingforparents.com](http://www.everythingforparents.com)—this site contains links for pregnancy, schooling, child development and shopping for excellent educational materials. Also links to baby names, pregnancy calendar, etc. Lots of fun for expectant moms.

■ [www.parentswithoutpartners.org](http://www.parentswithoutpartners.org)—dedicated to single parents and their children. Offers single parents advice, encouragement, suggestions and an extensive list of useful links. Includes info for single dads as well as moms.

## **Fertility**

■ [www.onna.org](http://www.onna.org)—support, advice, encouragement, resources for people facing the anguish of infertility.

## **Post-abortion Healing**

■ [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)—provides weekend retreats for women and men who have struggled with the pain of abortion.

■ [www.projectrachel.org](http://www.projectrachel.org)—a Catholic support network of clerics, mental health professionals and community members dedicated to helping all women suffering from abortion.

■ [www.afterabortion.com](http://www.afterabortion.com)—provides message boards and e-mail lists for pro-life and pro-choice women suffering from the aftermath of abortion.

## **Teenage Girls**

■ [www.girlsinc.org](http://www.girlsinc.org)—this site exhorts girls to be “strong, smart and bold.” It sponsors programs to prevent teen pregnancy, discourage smoking and educate girls about finances.

## **Advocacy**

■ [www.grassroots.com](http://www.grassroots.com)—a non-partisan, political action destination that enables users to take action for their cause through online tools.

## **Pro-life Feminism**

■ [www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org)—learn about our rich pro-woman, pro-life history and philosophy. Find past issues of *The American Feminist*. View FFL's new ads and current programs. Join, contribute and more. ○

# Cyberdam



**F**OR YEARS, Deirdre Des Jardins' ex-boyfriend has threatened her through e-mail and online bulletin boards. She told the Silicon Valley's *MetroActive* last November that among his hundreds of messages, he describes revenge fantasies, torturing animals and his gun collection.

# nger

“There’s this belief that if the person hasn’t been physically present, there isn’t a credible threat. Like you’re not in danger until somebody shows up and bangs your door down,” Des Jardins says. “But by the time it reaches that threshold, it’s usually too late. Meanwhile he’s totally invading my life. I don’t feel safe.”

The Internet can be a dangerous place for women, as stalkers, harassers and potentially violent people can operate in virtual anonymity, from almost anywhere. But the biggest danger to women may be fear. Stories like this have been known to frighten women away from the Internet, but women have much to gain from cyberspace. Just like in the real world, it’s usually just a matter of knowing how to protect oneself. As with traditional means of communication, such as letters and phones, there is the potential for developing harmful relationships via e-mail or chat rooms. Information from Aliza Sherman’s book, *Cybergirl*, indicates that about 26% of women surveyed said they had experienced some sort of harassment online. Officials at the University of California at Los Angeles say they have also seen a marked increase in cyberstalking cases on campus.

“The problem with computers is that you don’t realize who you’re talking to,” said Tina Oakland, director of UCLA’s Women’s Resource Center.

“People tend to feel more comfortable about giving out the more intimate details of themselves over the computer because they feel anonymous,” she told UCLA’s student newspaper, *The Bruin*. “We encourage students to monitor the content and amount of information they share with strangers.”

It is difficult to prosecute cyberstalking cases. The presence of anonymous re-mailers—Internet services that accept e-mails and then relay them to recipients minus all identifying information—can make it hard even to trace the person committing the crime.

Free-speech laws also make it hard to prosecute alleged cyberstalkers—many factors need to be in place before charges can be brought. For example, in order for the state of California to recognize a case as stalking, the incidents reported to police must meet all of the following criteria: The victim experienced repeated harassment; the stalker made credible threats against the safety of the victim or the victim’s immediate family and friends; and the stalker intended to scare the victim.

A University of Michigan student was suspended by the university after he published an online rape-murder fantasy about a fellow student. The legal charges against him were dismissed because, according to the judge, the defendant did not send the story directly to the student described in the fantasy. Therefore, it did not meet the legal standards for transmission of a threat.

*cont. on pg.14*

## Cyberstalking

SafetyEd International, of San Jose, Calif., defines cyberstalking as involving the following features or combination of features:

- Malice
- Premeditation
- Repetition
- Obsession
- Revenge
- No legitimate purpose
- Personal
- Threatening
- Harassing
- Causing distress

THE PROBLEM WITH  
COMPUTERS IS THAT  
YOU DON'T REALIZE WHO  
YOU'RE TALKING TO.

Further, only a handful of states have laws that specifically legislate against stalking by computer at all, and less than half of the states have stalking laws that can be applied to cyberspace.

Fortunately for Des Jardins and others frustrated by the lack of effective cyberstalking laws, that is beginning to change. Congress is seriously considering a bill that would make cyberstalking a federal offense. But most women do not have to wait for Congress—there are steps they can take to ensure safety in cyberspace.

### Surf smart

*Cybergirl* suggests these safety tips:

- Use gender-neutral initials and abbreviations when registering for an e-mail account and choosing a screen name.

- “Lurk,” or observe, in chat rooms before joining conversations to ensure that you are comfortable with the topics.

- Avoid providing your address, pictures of your home, or too much information about yourself, your spouse or your children on your home page or in chat rooms. Remember that cyberspace is merely an extension of the real world—do not give out more information than you would give to a stranger you meet on the street.

- You can always turn off your computer. There is no need to keep “chatting” if a

subject worries you or makes you uncomfortable. If you receive a harassing e-mail, do not respond. Save the message, record the name of the offender, and file a report with your Internet service provider and the offender’s e-mail service. Most Internet service providers will discontinue the account of anyone who uses it to send threatening or harassing messages. And this kind of documentation is vital if you decide to prosecute a stalker.

Scott Gordon, deputy district attorney for Los Angeles County, Calif., told *The Bruin* that victims should keep a log of each time a stalker attempts to contact them. Rather than deleting an unopened e-mail, he said the victim should turn the information in to police. “Documentation is key. The more you can save the better,” he said.

Finally, you can tell your experience to experts at [www.safetyed.org](http://www.safetyed.org), who say they will advise and help you deal with the situation. The site also offers information on cyberstalking laws, history and how to respond.

Cyberstalking is not the only concern from cyberspace—some see other dangers as well. The Internet has revolutionized the market for pornography, making it easier to access and harder to control, and potentially inuring people to sexual violence and degradation.

### Cyberporn

While some argue that Internet pornography and the availability of computer-based interactive erotica benefit society by creating a virtual outlet for lewd and aggressive behavior, others believe the connection between the virtual world and the real one is dangerously close. In her article, “The Electric Orgasm,” Margaret Wertheim suggests there is a shorter step from violent porn to committing actual acts of violence when the source is virtual reality instead of film or magazines.

In addition, the Internet combines increased availability of hard-core and violent pornography with the lack of an effective way of monitoring children’s access to it. As the debate rages over the ethics of limiting or monitoring Internet access and use in public places such as schools and libraries, the number of people becoming inured to sexual violence and degradation remains a frightening unknown.

### According to recent surveys, women now outnumber men on the Internet.

By being aware of the dangers that exist and the ways to avoid them, participating in debates on Internet censorship and legislation, and making your presence felt online, you can help shape a cyberspace that is safe and useful for women. ○



REMEMBER THAT  
CYBERSPACE IS MERELY AN  
EXTENSION OF THE REAL WORLD.

# STRANGER DANGER: How to Protect Kids

ACCORDING TO FEDERAL STATISTICS, U.S. Customs officials are averaging an arrest every two days for luring a child for sexual purposes through the Internet or sending child pornography online. Yet the Justice Department has warned the public that federal laws are largely ineffective, as they cannot protect children from foreign Web sites, noncommercial sites or from chat rooms or other forms of Internet-based speech.

Here are tips from SafetyEd International on how to protect your kids (found in [www.safetyed.org](http://www.safetyed.org)):

- Position the computer in your main living space and make sure the monitor faces outward into the room so there is no secrecy. Never put a computer in a child's bedroom.
- Discuss with your child exactly what is OK and what is not OK regarding what kind of chat rooms to visit and what kinds of things to talk about. If you don't know how to chat online, have your child teach you.
- Tell your children that they need to tell you if they get any weird or upsetting messages while chatting. Stress to them that it is not their fault and that you will not be angry with them nor will you ban the Internet as a result.
- Set strict time limits for Internet chat use and enforce them—Internet addiction is real.
- Make it clear to your child that people in chat rooms are *always* strangers, no matter how often you chat with them, and no matter how well you think you know them.
- Make sure your children understand that they are never to tell a person online their real name, their school, their phone number or where they live.
- Do not permit your children to be left alone in cyberspace for long periods of time—this is when they are most vulnerable. Make sure that their chat time occurs when *you* are around in the house so that you can check in on them regularly.
- Be sure to stress to your children that they are to behave politely and respectfully at all times while chatting online with strangers.
- Don't panic! No one can harm your child through online chat as long as your child follows your rules.
- Give your child "tips for kids," found at [www.webwisekids.com/rascals.html](http://www.webwisekids.com/rascals.html)

Teen-agers may respond differently from younger children to some of these tips. A study by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, called "Online Victimization," says that many young people are forming friendships through the Internet, some with adults.



Most of these relations appear to be positive and healthy. Therefore, telling teens to not become friends with anyone on the Internet may be somewhat unrealistic. Based on the findings, the study's authors suggest parents simply remind teens that people they meet on the Internet may have ulterior motives and hidden agendas. "The caution to first meet someone from the Internet in a safe, public or supervised place and to alert others (family or friends) about such a meeting, seems something that teens may be more likely to put into practice," the study says.

Internet filtering software is one possible, but controversial, avenue parents can take to monitor their kids' activity in cyberspace. Such programs can deny children access to sites deemed inappropriate or harmful for minors, and can even establish times in which children are prevented from going online. But they can also block access to mainstream Web sites. Read frequently asked questions and positions on both sides of the issue at [www.safetyed.org/help/filtering.html](http://www.safetyed.org/help/filtering.html).

For more information about filters or blocking software, contact your Internet service provider, or try any of these sites:

- [www.kidsonline.org](http://www.kidsonline.org)
- [www.netparents.org](http://www.netparents.org)
- [www.research.att.com/projects/tech4kids](http://www.research.att.com/projects/tech4kids)
- [www.enough.org](http://www.enough.org)
- [www.smartparent.com](http://www.smartparent.com)

# E-ACTIVISM: WHERE WE'RE GOING

**E**MPOWERMENT. We talk of empowerment when it comes to pregnant women having real choices, and we do what we can to provide the tools necessary for that empowerment.

But are we, as activists, empowered? Do we have the tools needed to be effective in the educational and political arena today? You can be sure Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League and the National Organization for Women can afford the right tools and are on the cutting edge of empowering their activists.

Abortion-advocacy groups are allocating much of their vast resources to Internet activism tools to empower, educate and involve abortion activists. They have produced Web sites geared to their target audience's demographics, with features including user-friendly online forms for joining an organization, becoming part of a mailing list, participating in advocacy campaigns or making donations.

These organizations are also incorporating Internet-based strategies into their marketing efforts. For example, Planned Parenthood has undertaken an ad campaign, which includes advertising on Internet-based services such as Juno's free e-mail program. In fact, according to PPFPA President Gloria Feldt, online activism has become an integral part of the abortion-advocacy campaign. "On-line activism is part of Planned Parenthood's overall advocacy strategy which includes work on Capitol Hill, in local communities, and on-line...[W]e consider this an important step in reenergizing pro-choice America and making our voices heard in the political process."

## Why they're worried

Reenergizing indeed. Evidence shows that support for abortion is slipping, especially among young adults. For example, according to a poll of college students conducted in January of 2000 by the University of California at Los Angeles, 50.9%

of incoming freshmen expressed support for abortion rights, compared with 53.5% in 1997 and a high of 64.9% in 1990.

Groups like Planned Parenthood, NARAL and NOW face the reality that they must recruit and develop young abortion advocates or their cause could eventually become extinct. The Internet has provided them with the perfect avenue to do just that. With a 1998 Greenfield Online poll showing 79% of college students surf the Internet frequently, 83% use e-mail routinely, and 60% spend an hour online per day (excluding e-mail), there is no doubt that the Internet is becoming the best method to reach this demographic.

To reach out to them, Planned Parenthood has established a new Web site, [www.teenwire.com](http://www.teenwire.com), in addition to their main site. This site is unabashedly aimed squarely at teens and contains, "Sexuality and relationship info you can trust from [PPFA]." It includes many different sections on "reproductive" health and sexual topics and includes a page where you can enter your area code and find the Planned Parenthood near you.

While courting their future supporters through their various young-adult oriented programs, the pro-abortion groups are also rallying their existing troops with online tools. On Planned Parenthood's site, as well as NARAL's and NOW's, activists can search for their state and federal legislators by zip code, find endless information about their elected officials, including scorecards and voting records, send self-composed or pre-written messages to office-holders, and find information about current pieces of legislation specific to abortion rights. With these sites you can register to vote online, send e-postcards advertising the site to friends, and recommend URLs (Uniform Resource Locators) and articles to anyone with an e-mail address.

In a society where time is scarce and location is everything, the Internet offers a simple solution to those wishing to have their voices



“ Online activism is part of Planned Parenthood’s overall advocacy strategy which includes work on Capitol Hill, in local communities, and online...[W]e consider this an important step in reenergizing pro-choice America and making our voices heard in the political process. ”

—Planned Parenthood President Gloria Feldt

heard. When it comes to using this new powerful educational and lobbying tool, clearly these pro-abortion organizations “get it,” and can afford it.

### The good news

Do we “get it?” We do. With each passing year, Feminists for Life is becoming more and more of a virtual organization. Members and volunteers are no longer restricted by geography. And the Internet has helped FFL’s committees and volunteers move at lightning speed.

Also, the Internet-based strategies that pro-abortion organizations are using are well within our reach. While FFL is not yet able to compete with multimillion-dollar ad and educational campaigns, we have a chance to play on the Internet’s more level playing field. And we’ve already started—FFL now accepts donations online, and we’ve researched what we need to get the tools we want for our Web site. The tools pro-abortion groups are using can be just as effective in spreading our own life-affirming messages and mobilizing our energetic and eager supporters. This is where you come in.

### How you can help

Interactive Web sites that make activists out of mere Web surfers are available for a few thousand dollars a year. All we need are willing

donors to help. Here are some examples of vital tools we want to use to empower our supporters:

- Software that allows users to type in their zip codes and e-mail a pre-written letter directly to their members of Congress—\$2,500 per year.
- Software that lets users send e-postcards to friends on a particular issue, or to advertise FFL’s Web site and views—\$2,100 per year.
- Software that enables users to tell FFL their stories. This gives those we are serving a voice, and helps us give lawmakers, the news media and our supporters an accurate look at what’s really going on in the world—\$6,600 per year.

Thanks to their extensive resources, abortion industry lobbyists have identified and used an ideal tool for mobilizing our mutual constituency. Instead of viewing these organizations as having beaten us to the punch, we can build on the work they have done for us. Harnessing this medium will empower FFL to share its message of true equality and life-affirming goals with the young adults who need it most. ○

*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.*

E-mail your friends FFL’s URL:  
[www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org)



■ Contact FFL if you’d like to help fund more interactive tools for our Web site, such as e-postcards and software to e-mail legislators.

■ Check out political Web sites like [grassroots.com](http://grassroots.com) or [politics.com](http://politics.com), and news-oriented sites like [MSNBC.com](http://MSNBC.com), and tell them to include Feminists for Life in their abortion and women’s pages and stories.

■ Monitor online stories that include references to FFL and let us know if FFL’s URL ([www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org)) is not included in the story (Web sites of groups mentioned in online stories are supposed to be included at the story’s end).



**FFL’s new Web site is introduced by FFL’s public education and outreach campaign chair, Emmy award-winning actor Patricia Heaton. The Web site not only provides tools for online activism, but also introduces Web surfers to FFL’s unique pro-woman, pro-life philosophy. Check out FFL’s new ads at [www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org).**



# BACK TO CYBERSCHOOL

**T**HE INTERNET is giving the declaration “I rolled out of bed and went to class” a whole new meaning.

Courses taken entirely over the Internet are now common and available at almost any college or university. It is even possible to earn an entire degree online. While not ideal for those who crave the campus experience, the opportunity to get an education online is opening doors for people who want a degree but have other time-consuming responsibilities—such as children.

“Not having to find a babysitter so that I can attend classes is the biggest advantage,” said one enthusiastic Colorado Community College student and mother.

#### **Parenting pupils**

Amber Denison, an admissions counselor at the University of Phoenix, says she promotes the online option to working mothers. The University of Phoenix offers

degrees ranging from a bachelor of arts in general studies to a masters in nursing. It has offered online education services since 1989 and currently enrolls 3,300 students who receive their entire college education online—up by 60% from the 1999 enrollment.

Denison says the online education option is ideal for working mothers, not only because of the program’s flexible time schedule—students can “attend” class whenever they choose—but because “it is a wonderful way for mothers to set a good example for their children.”

She said one mother set a study time with her kids when they would all do homework. This kind of dedication is what admissions counselors look for from distance learners, she said.

## **Work, work, work**

The online mode of learning requires a special kind of discipline. It is geared toward adults who are serious about furthering their careers and improving their standards of living.

There is plenty of reading, even more than in traditional, lecture-based classes. At the University of Phoenix, students devote an average of 15 to 20 hours per week to their studies. Baker College in Michigan requires its online students to log on five days per week.

Online students do not have peers around to help motivate them. "You have to be able to work on your own," said Erin Kreuger, who took a course online from Purdue University. Yet people who are self-motivated tend to love it. Marina Ortega, who is finishing up her bachelor of science and management, says, "I've done the majority of my education online and I am going to stick with it. I need the flexibility."

## **Communication**

Attending a class online is a bit different from taking a traditional college course, although communication with other students and faculty is still quite good. One student commented that she felt she was learning more because she was able to get more one-on-one time with her professor through e-mail. Students are required to log on and, in some cases, participate in chat rooms and discussions.

The University of Phoenix encourages students to post their work before they hand it in, giving other students an opportunity to read it and give constructive criticism. Assignments are handed in by e-mail.

## **The credibility factor**

The credibility of an online degree is the same as that of a traditional one. More and more well-known universities are offering online classes and degrees designed to meet the same standards of excellence as their traditional classes and degree programs. Where the credibility of online degrees varies, as does that of degrees

attained the traditional way, is with the quality and reputation of the school and program.

When graduates of online programs create their resumes, they do not write "University of Ohio, Master of Business Administration, online program." They just state the university and the degree.

## **How to**

Getting started can be a bit intimidating for the computer rookie. If these tips do not ease your fears, your school should be able to guide you along.

First, you'll need a computer with Internet access. Check with your college for requirements. For example, the University of Phoenix requires a Pentium 75 or better, with at least 32 megabytes of random access memory (RAM), a one-gigabyte hard drive, CD-ROM drive, SVGA monitor and 28.8 Baud modem or faster.

If these numbers and letters mean little to you, don't worry—these specifications are met by most of today's home computers.

Not familiar with the World Wide Web? Don't let that stop you—learning that is often part of the degree. For example, at Baker College, the first session is a tutorial that helps map out the mechanics of the system. Contact individual schools for more information.

## **The cost of class**

The tuition for an online degree is comparable to that of a traditional degree. It varies from school to school, with community colleges costing least. But many students save money on non-tuition costs such as gas, parking, car depreciation, babysitters and time off from work.

For a woman experiencing pregnancy, whether planned or unexpected, the greatest savings may come from her ability to continue her schooling while accommodating her decision to have her child. ○

*Susan Rankin is a paralegal in San Francisco. She served as president of Students for Life at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.*



**When graduates of  
online programs  
create their resumes,  
they do not write  
"University of Ohio,  
Master of Business  
Administration, online  
program." They just  
state the university  
and the degree.**



## FFL Announces New and Updated Ads for College Students

“COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE CONSTANTLY TOLD to challenge the status quo,” said Serrin M. Foster, president of Feminists for Life. “Twenty-seven years after the *Roe v. Wade* decision, abortion has become the status quo—one out of every five abortions is performed on a college woman. FFL serves as a catalyst for developing resources and progressive solutions for pregnant and parenting students by asking women what they really want—because women deserve better.”

“FFL’s College Outreach Program challenges students to question abortion and asks college and university administrators to provide resources for pregnant and parenting students,” continued Foster.

Foster unveiled a series of eight ads. The ads address basic needs including alternatives to abortion, paternity establishment, child support, post-abortion trauma and the lack of campus resources for pregnant and parenting students.

“These ads put a face on ‘choice,’” said Foster. FFL’s compelling new ads ask students to look at the other side of “choice.” Rebecca Wasser Kiessling—whose story was featured in a 1999 *Glamour* magazine article entitled “My Father Was a Rapist” and who appears in one of the new ads—was conceived in rape. Now a lawyer and a new mother, Rebecca asks students “Did I deserve the death penalty?” Women who conceive through rape are often pressured to abort. Another new ad features a baby’s face and asks, “Is this the face of the enemy?” Abortion advocates pit women against our children. But lack of emotional and financial resources are the real enemies.

These striking ads are an essential part of FFL’s College Outreach Program. Now in its fifth year, FFL’s College Outreach Program addresses the root causes that drive women to abortion and seeks to eliminate them. (See back cover).

“If we truly care about the rights of women, the very least we can do is make carrying pregnancy to term a realistic choice,” said Kathryn Getek, former president of the Ivy League Coalition for Life and a graduate of Princeton University. “On college campuses, for the most at-risk population, FFL approaches the matter in terms that make people listen.”

### **CAMPUS UPDATES** **Kent State University**

In April FFL member Marilyn Kopp together with Kent State University Students for Life coordinated a Pregnancy Resource Forum at Kent State University. FFL President Serrin Foster moderated the panel that included a doctor from the campus health center who currently refers students to the clinic that developed partial birth abortion. However, he and the other panelists were very pleased to help give women alternatives to abortion. Key to the panel was the director of Upward Bound, which helps parenting students attend Kent State. She helped to identify many resources for other students in need. Right to Life of Portage County sponsored counseling kits requested by the various campus departments.

### **Aquinas College**

Foster’s lecture at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Mich., in March drew an unprecedented crowd of more than 100 students and faculty, out of a campus population of 900. The student organizers were ecstatic, saying that “good” events typically drew 25 people. The director of the local Planned Parenthood clinic was in attendance and did not respond when Foster reported Planned Parenthood’s attack on FFL’s College Outreach Program.

“This is just a beginning,” said student pro-life leader Tricia Tyler. “Serrin’s lecture, and the on-campus conversations that followed, showed that Aquinas College is taking steps to support pregnant and parenting students on campus.”

### **Loyola College-Baltimore**

A crowd of students, faculty and administrators attended a Pregnancy Resource Forum at Loyola College in Baltimore in April. A recent graduate came back to tell her story of struggling with pregnancy on campus. The assistant dean of student affairs said that she was grateful to FFL for hosting the forum because they were looking for a way to support pregnant and parenting students on campus without appearing to promote pregnancy outside of marriage. ○



# Herstory

## Worth Repeating

ASSUME THAT YOU HAD A BURNING DESIRE to release a message to the mass of American people in the 1890s—how would you do it? Obviously you would have no Internet, no television, limited radio access, and newspapers printed primarily in English and useful only for the literate.

A young woman named Lois Weber found a different way. Weber, upset by social ills such as abortion, racism and child labor, first tried to promote her causes with more traditional methods. She evangelized on street corners in New York City and Pittsburgh, did missionary work and sang hymns. But she wanted a larger audience, and she used a new career to reach one. After becoming a stage actress and marrying Phillips Smalley, Weber found a dramatic way to get her message across—she began work in films.

In 1913, she told the Woman's City Club of Los Angeles of her transition to working for social change through silent films:

"During two years of Church Army work, I had ample opportunity to regret the limited field any individual...could embrace even by a life of strenuous endeavor. Meeting with many in that field who spoke strange tongues, I came suddenly to realize the blessing of a voiceless language to them."

In the space of 23 years, Lois Weber was involved in the making of 67 films, directing at least 51 of those, acting in 19, and screenwriting for 20. For several years she produced films from her own studio in Hollywood, but she also directed for Universal Pictures and Paramount. She was hailed in 1917 by *Moving Picture Stories* as "the greatest woman director." Yet here we acknowledge her contribution not because of the sheer intensity of her work (at one point, she was writing, directing and starring in one short film a week), nor because of her unique position in the development of motion pictures, but because she utilized the technology at hand to put across her own ideas and philosophies, taking moral stands that were pro-life and

pro-woman. *The Universal Weekly* wrote in November 1913 that "Miss Weber's plays are always thoughtful and thought-compelling, deeply understanding of human nature and soul-searching in their revelation of truth." But at that time, she had scarcely begun her social advocacy.

Weber was adamant in her opposition to abortion and eugenics in the five-reel "Where Are My Children?" (1916). She used the six-reel film "The People vs. John Doe" (1916) to question police methods of obtaining confessions and to attack the evils of capital punishment. It was reviewed as "by far the most effective propaganda that has been seen in quite some time" (*New York Dramatic Mirror*, December 1916). "Shoes" (1916) spoke out against child labor. "Hypocrites" (1914) pointed a finger at political corruption and the business world. "The Jew's Christmas" (1913) dealt with racial prejudice, showing it could be conquered by parental love. One of the points of "The Blot" (1921) was the underpayment of teachers and religious leaders.

Weber's career took a downward slide in the early 1920s when audiences sought entertainment over social commentary. But she remained true to her moral principles. When invited to script and direct a film version of a popular stage success, "Topsy and Eva," she quit the film (1927) and the studio rather than compromise her objection to the racist humor in the story.

Her last film, "White Heat" (1934), dealt with racism and miscegenation on a sugar plantation in Hawaii. Critics called it "humorless" and it was rejected by distributors.

Weber continued to work the last five years of her life as a script "doctor" for Universal. Her career was unsurpassed by any female director before or since, thanks to her creative and courageous use of the technology available to her. ○

Utilizing the Technology of the Times



Lois Weber

Film Director

1879-1939

Photo courtesy of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



**The woman in the tree**

I am sitting here with the Summer 2000 issue "snail mail" of *The American Feminist* in front of me and tears pouring down my face. Definitely not good for my keyboard. But every page hits home, hard. As some of you in FFL know, I lived in Uganda for two



years, and the writing on the sexual and labor exploitation of women and children rang true at every moment. But the back page, with the woman and the baby girl she gave birth to in the tree in Mozambique, which I saw documented on the BBC, just broke my heart. I so admire your work and your witness and just wish I didn't have to do slave wage work to put my kids through college so I could do more for you.

Bonnie Shullenberger  
Ossining, N.Y.  
via e-mail

You outdo yourselves every issue. This issue on sex trade was so thorough and done so well. Thank you. I will pass it along to others. I am sure the writers, et. al., had a tough time writing and editing such horrible events.

The back cover: The photo of the woman who gave birth in a tree has to be *the* photo of the year. Talk about being flexible in a tough situation!

Patricia Cornell  
Santa Rosa, Calif.  
via e-mail

**Angered to action**

Along with other pro-life feminists, I was very dismayed at the recent Supreme Court decision to overthrow numerous state bans on late term abortions, particularly the gruesome procedure known as partial-birth abortion. Rather than simply grouse at the abysmal state of our culture and the legal system, I decided to take a positive step of making a contribution to the best pro-life organization I know of. Continue your work of education and advocacy for women and their children, born and unborn. Through such efforts perhaps the day will come when this sad state of affairs will be rectified.

Clayton Croy  
Columbus, Ohio

## Feminist Message, Feminist Solutions for Today's College Students

**FFL President Serrin M. Foster** will present "The Feminist Case *Against* Abortion" at the Right to Life of Michigan Annual Conference in Lansing, Mich., on Sept. 30, 2000 and at the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., Respect Life Conference in Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 28, 2000.

**FFL Board Member Marion Syversen** will present "Abortion: One Woman's Story" at the Right to Life of Maine Annual Conference in Portland, Me., on Oct. 21, 2000.

**FFL Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator Molly Pannell** will present "Feminists for Life: Woman-Centered Solutions" at the Rhode Island Right to Life Annual Conference in Providence, R.I., on Oct. 28, 2000.

**FUTURE PRESENTATIONS**

**FFL President Serrin M. Foster** will present "The Feminist Case *Against* Abortion" at Georgetown University and Bradley University. **Foster** will moderate Pregnancy Resource Forums at the University of Pittsburgh and Washington University. Local members will be notified of the dates and times.

### Electronic Fund Transfer Form

*Help FFL Help Women and Children! To begin your monthly contributions, simply fill out the electronic transfer form and send it (along with a voided check) to FFL. Donations will be debited on the first business day of each month and will be put to work immediately by FFL.*

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, DC 20005.  
Electronic fund transfers will begin immediately upon receipt.  
*Thank you!*

# ORDER FORM

## Membership/Subscription

Indicate number of items:

- \$25 Annual Membership (  new  renewal )  
includes "Pro Woman, Pro Life" bumper sticker and *The American Feminist*
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- \$35 *The American Feminist* subscription only, non-membership/institutional
- \$30 Annual Membership Outside U.S. (U.S. currency, please)



\$5.00 ea. Back issues of

## The American Feminist

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- What Will She Face?:* Back on Campus  
Fall 1999
- Is Life Always Worth Living?:* Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia  
Summer 1999
- Unplanned Pregnancy:* You Have Choices  
Spring 1999
- Victory Over Violence:* Rape, Incest and Domestic Violence  
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## College Outreach Program: Send a Kit to Campus

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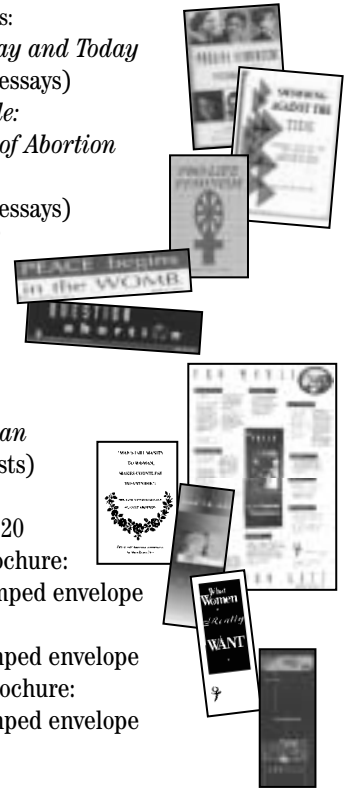
- \$35 Health Clinic Kit       \$55 Pro-life Feminist History Kit
- \$35 Pro-life Collegiate Kit       \$35 Pro-life Advisor Kit
- \$35 Campus Counselor Kit       \$250-500 range for ad placement

- Please send kit to where the need is greatest
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**Materials** Indicate number of items:

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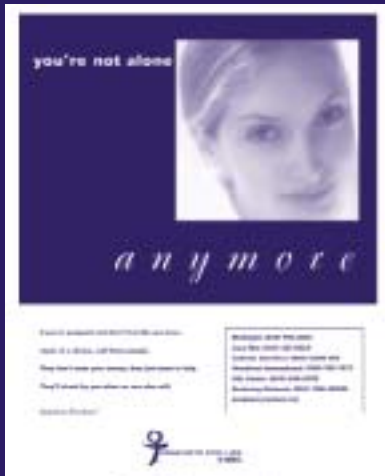
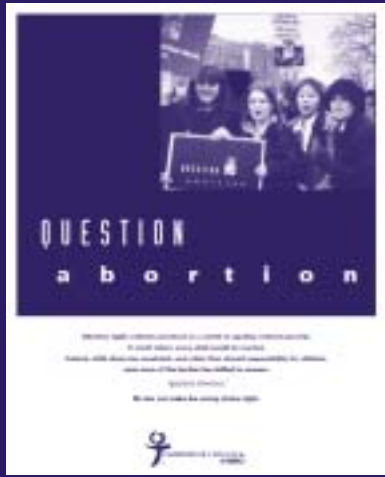
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*Thank you!*



**Planned Parenthood's ad campaign: \$6 million**

**NARAL's ad campaign: \$16 million**

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