



The group has been around since 1972, and have gotten some press time here and there in large part thanks to the efforts on college campuses and in Washington from the group's energetic head Serrin Foster (she makes the feminist case against abortion at the likes of Berkeley, Harvard, and Wellesley) and its celebrity boosters Patricia Heaton (Deborah on *Everybody Loves Raymond*) and Margaret Colin (Jeff Goldblum's ex in *Independence Day*). But until now, their message has been largely under the mainstream radar.

When Heaton won her first "Outstanding Lead Actress In A Comedy Series" Emmy in 2000 for *Everybody Loves Raymond*, she thanked her mother for "letting me out because life is really amazing." That's the kind of honest, happy enthusiasm FFL brings to the "pro-life" cause and the abortion debate in America. Just a genuine love for life and desire to get us all protecting it. One of Heaton's FFL sound bites is: "women who experience an unplanned pregnancy also deserve unplanned joy." FFL's attitude is that women — especially frightened, anxious women — deserve to know that. The ad I see most from Feminists for Life reads: "Abortion is a reflection that we have not met the needs of women. Women deserve better than abortion." Every life involved in an abortion, including the baby, the mother and the father, is precious — and Feminists for Life is working toward a more complete conversation about abortion and its inhumanity.

In the summer of 2005 — the "Summer of Justice" some of us Bush supporters are hoping it will turn out to be — Feminists for Life is suddenly everywhere. Whether John Roberts is confirmed (he will be confirmed) or ever rules on an abortion decision (expect it), he would have still made a positive impact on the abortion debate in America simply by his association with his wife.

While abortion-advocacy groups will spend the coming weeks trying to strike fear in the hearts of Americans over the prospect of a plausibly pro-life judge on the Supreme Court, the not-so-sidebar story is that Feminists for Life now has a higher profile — a calm and caring one — one that has real potential to resonate with Americans who have no interest in screaming about abortion. Feminists for Life has the civil, compassionate alternative to dead-end debates. The Roberts family has already made history.

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