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KATE

Spring 2007

Vol. II Issue II

Pro-Child



Pro-Choice

Pro choice is...



Abstinence is the leading cause of immaculate conceptions



ABORTION  **infant genocide**
© 2004 ChristiesShirts.net

AGAINST ABORTION? THEN DON'T HAVE ONE

True Christians are **PRO-LIFE!**

Someone you know may need a choice.


PARENTING BY CHOICE

Sex Education Prevents Abortion

The Abortionists
whacking babies since 1973



JUST SAY NO TO SEX WITH PRO-LIFERS

PRO CHOICE 

Aids... Drugs... Abortion...
Don't liberals just kill you

If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament!

ABORTION IS MURDER.

WAR IS NOT PRO-LIFE

Pro-Child
Pro-Family
Pro-Choice

**PRISONS ARE FILLED WITH UNWANTED CHILDREN
KEEP ROE V WADE**

I'M PRO-CHOICE AND I VOTE

EVERY CHILD A WALKED CHILD

HOW TO HELP A FRIEND

- ✓ Believe your friend. Don't judge or question the victim's choices.
- ✓ Expect a range of emotions, including lack of emotion and shock.
- ✓ Be patient. Allow your friend to move through the recovery process at his/her own pace.
- ✓ Encourage him/her to call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673), but realize that only your friend can make the decision to get help.
- ✓ Be a friend, not a bystander. Get involved if you see someone at risk. You might save a friend from becoming a victim of sexual assault.

To reach local services directly, call:

614-267-7020

Or call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673).

GET CARDED

In America, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men
have been sexually assaulted.

National Sexual Assault Hotline
800.656.HOPE (4673)
Free. Confidential. 24/7.

rainn.org

RAINN
RAPE,
ABUSE &
INCEST
NATIONAL
NETWORK

HOW TO REDUCE YOUR RISK OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

- ✓ When you go to a party, go with a group of friends. Arrive together, check in with each other and leave together. Don't be isolated with someone you don't know or trust.
- ✓ Trust your instincts. If a situation feels unsafe or uncomfortable, it probably isn't the best place to be.
- ✓ Don't feel obligated to do anything you don't want to. "I don't want to" is always a good enough reason not to do something.
- ✓ Practice safe drinking. Don't leave your beverage unattended, pay attention to your drink while it is being prepared and don't accept drinks from someone you don't know well.
- ✓ Make sure your cell phone is with you and charged. Know what parts of campus are well lit and where people hang out. Use a campus shuttle at night and carry cab money when you go out. Avoid shortcuts.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

- ✓ Know that the assault is not your fault and that you don't have to go through this alone.
- ✓ Find a safe environment away from your attacker. Ask a trusted friend to stay with you.
- ✓ Report the assault to the police. A counselor can help you through the process.
- ✓ Preserve evidence of the attack. Do not bathe or wash what you were wearing. If you put your clothes in a bag, be sure it is paper.
- ✓ Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673). The hotline provides support 24/7 from your local rape crisis center.
- ✓ Seek medical attention. You may not be injured, but it's still important to test for STD's and pregnancy. Ask the hospital to conduct a rape exam and let them know if you think that you have been drugged.

Welcome to Kate!

KATE is Otterbein's first ever 'Zine, but even more so, it is Otterbein's first feminist 'Zine.

We have chosen to name this groundbreaking publication in honor Kate Hanby, Otterbein's first female graduate in 1858. We also recognize Otterbein's importance in the role of "firsts:"

Otterbein was the first college to admit women to all levels of study; first in hiring women faculty; and one of the firsts to admit students of color.

Throughout every issue we will continue to honor Otterbein, Kate and other great women who have accomplished "firsts".



Mission statement:

Kate is a pro-choice, pro-woman feminist publication that embraces all feminist voices female and male. Kate embraces feminism as a woman-centered point of view that seeks to create a world in which all women can freely make choices about their lives. Kate is dedicated to promoting dialogue on feminism within the Otterbein community, encouraging activism, and advancing education. It is our hope to create an informative and entertaining read.

So much for being a progressive Nation:

* Since 1995, 15 countries have passed laws making abortion legal... only 5- including the United States have taken steps to make abortion illegal or more difficult for women to obtain

Want to get involved with Kate? Email us at kate@otterbein.edu or FACEBOOK us! Check out our group's wall and photos to see what's coming next!

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Letter from the Editor

I knew from the beginning that the topic of abortion would make for a passionate discussion. I also knew that the subject matter would be fraught with resistance. It is a controversial subject, and many people shy away from the discussion altogether. But closing one's eyes and ears to something so important is detrimental to women's rights, so I felt I should do what I could to bring the issue of abortion out into the open, right here on our campus, so that we could get the facts, educate, enter into dialogue, and make progress toward opening up our rights as women to have full authority over our bodies.

Unfortunately, the discussion is much more urgent than many of you may understand. Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the federal abortion ban signed by President Bush in 2003. This law does not contain an exception for the health of the woman.

Nancy Northup, President of the Center for Reproductive Rights posted this comment on the organization's website:

This Court believes that Members of Congress – not doctors – are in the best position to make medical decisions for their patients. This is a terrifying development, one with implications far beyond the abortion debate. Every American who cares about women's health, and doctors' ability to treat their patients appropriately, should be alarmed by this ruling.

And in a call to action, this response was sent out by the AAUW:

With reproductive rights being systematically dismantled by the federal courts and several state legislatures, now is the time to protect these rights with national legislation. Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) have reintroduced the Freedom of Choice Act (H. R. 1964/S. 1173). FOCA would secure freedom of choice by establishing a federal law to guarantee reproductive rights for future generations of American women. The bill asserts that legal barriers to the full range of comprehensive reproductive health services can endanger the health and lives of women, and women should have meaningful access to reproductive health services that prevent unintended pregnancies. FOCA would be retroactive: any federal, state, or local law that conflicts with FOCA would be rendered null and void, including the federal abortion ban.

When discussing the Supreme Court Decision, a professor said to me, "I am sorry to have to tell you that today you woke up with fewer rights." Think about that.

Now, join the discussion and take action.

Jennifer Roberts, co-editor.

Letter from the Editor:
When Kate came on the scene last year, I jumped at the chance to be a staff member. I saw this student run publication as a much needed alternative for the Otterbein community, a new venue in which to raise one's voice. In the past, Kate has served as a space for students and faculty alike, to showcase their artwork, poetic genius, and political points of view. Each issue of the zine has offered valuable resources on topics like women's health and green living, therefore not only serving Otterbein as a forum of opinion but also as a well of useful information.

The pages of this special edition of Kate have been devoted to a conversation that's being had all over the world. We're talking about abortion. In the fall issue of Kate we invited you to join our discussion and the pages that follow are your responses. There's pro-choice and pro-life, confusion and questions, as well as statistics and facts. In just the few pages presented here, we've opened the door to varying points of view from varying points of the spectrum. It's a good start, but it's no where close to coming to a conclusion. That's where you, the reader comes in.

More than anything I see Kate as an opportunity to raise awareness, and in order to do that we needed to get your attention. Abortion is a hot button issue that has been surrounded by controversy even before the gavel fell on Roe vs. Wade. If this issue of Kate and the topic at hand gets you fired up, good. Now that we've got you thinking about it, start talking about it.

Amber Robertson, co-editor

Joint Statement from the Editors:

We at Kate are Pro-Choice. We understand that abortion is not "killing babies," babies are not "sucked out with vacuums," nor is there any medical procedure called "partial-birth abortion." These phrases and terms are politically loaded and politically motivated. They have been used expertly by ultra-conservatives to confuse the general public to what the actual facts are concerning abortion and women's rights. Unfortunately, the language used by those with political agendas have been successful, so much so that the language is now also being used by pro-choice advocates. Some pro-choicers use the language in order to debunk the myths, but by doing so, only continue to make the language mainstream and confusing. Since Kate has opened our pages for free discussion, we have chosen not to edit our reader's opinions or submissions. Some of the submissions use language that we at Kate would not use. Some of the submissions express viewpoints that we at Kate do not share. Thusly, we have tried to keep a fair balance within our pages and have provided facts, statistics, and counter-points. However, if you feel your opinion has not been represented or if you would like to respond about this issue, please email us at Kate@otterbein.edu or join in our discussion on our Facebook group. Let's keep the conversation going.

I suppose the first time I really considered the issue of abortion relating to me in any real way, I was sitting in my car behind a van with an "I Vote Pro-Life" bumper-sticker on it. I thought to myself that everyone had the right to an opinion . . . that is, until I passed that particular van. And the man driving it looked at me. For some unknown reason, at the time, it thoroughly enraged me. What right did he have to express his opinion on a woman's issue and who really cared what he thought because it didn't affect him?

It was then that I realized that I cared. I cared for no more of a reason than to find out why this was such an issue for most people. Why did this particular issue drive people to protests, putting stickers on their cars, and, in some cases, killing others whose opinions differed? What was it about abortion, as opposed to hundreds of other just as topical issues, that polarized people?

People have opinions about abortion and those opinions are generally very strong one way or the other. For some reason, no one is really half-way about their feelings on this topic even though they might be moderate or disinterested in all other social and political arenas. Mention abortion, however, and be ready for a fight.

For most people, it seems to come down to the idea about life itself. Many people have a problem getting past the idea that abortion kills a living being because it stops the biological functions of another organism. In all honesty, we as humans stop the biological function of a great many things on a daily basis — some of them being other humans and it really doesn't seem to phase most people more than a cursory head-shake and a sigh. It is hard to believe that a species that would generate ideas such as the death penalty, genocide, caste systems of poverty and sexism could possibly be so up in arms about one more way of stopping the biological functions of another living being. We do it all the time.

Neither side of the debate would argue that abortion stops the biological function of another, albeit parasitic, being. We've already discussed that we, as humans, generally don't feel too bad about ending the lives of most creatures, including our fellow human being if the reason is good enough. In answer to this, people will say "But it's a baby!" So is veal. And lamb. And, technically, so is roe. Yet, we don't feel overly bad about killing these babies. "But that baby is innocent!" they will cry passionately. So, the veal calf that is killed only because its meat is so succulent is not innocent? "Humans are more important than animals!" is the answer to the veal question. Therefore, because we are a speciesist society that makes it okay to kill the young of any other species yet the young of our own are somehow sacred?

Take an innocent, helpless child and put them in the hands of someone who really doesn't care much what happens to them and the outcome is never good. Even when people try to do the "right thing," they sometimes end up in over their heads. Even if they aren't outright abusive, there is always a sense of resentment, no matter how small, that echoes through their relationship with that child.

I remember seeing bumper-stickers stating "It's a child, not a choice." (Yes, I spend a remarkably large amount of time reading other people's cars in traffic. It beats anything on morning radio outside of NPR.) Yet, I think children should be a choice. Granted, many don't start out that way, but the commitment needed to raise

a child should be a choice, not a punishment or something to be inflicted on a woman because she did something not so smart. Everyone has done something that they would redo later if they could. A child, however, can't be a "redo." You just can't have a child then decide, "Hmmm. I don't think I want to be a mom anymore." It's too late. There's nothing that can be done about it. It amazes me how sanctified life is when it's in the womb, but once that child is born, it is a dig on society as the child and mother are often forced to live on government assistance. According to this line of reasoning, every child has the right to BIRTH, not a right to life.

If only people could see what happens to children who aren't really wanted. Unfortunately, I have seen the results in the guises of abuse, neglect, violence, drugs, and a litany of other social ills. If one really thinks about it though, it makes perfect sense. If I thought that I was being punished by being forced to have a child that I didn't really want then why would I even consider taking care of it? I have little to no faith in "maternal instinct" kicking in and making instant mothers out of every woman who is able to birth a child. Much of child-rearing, I have found, comes more from a fierce loyalty to the child to withstand the screaming and tantrums and biting and whining than any sort of instinct. Many wild mothers in the animal kingdom eat their offspring. So much for instinct.

I have had cases in the past where people have asked me how I would feel if my mom chose abortion instead of having me. Um. It would be a non-issue. I wouldn't feel anything because I wouldn't be here. And I wouldn't be upset about that because I wouldn't have anything to compare it to, never having existed in the first place. When met with that sort of logic, I usually just get an exasperated sigh and am told I don't "get it." Not only is this a non-sense argument, but it also plays upon one's feeling of being the most important person in the world. Everyone is important in their own way and the world would be lacking even if one person wasn't in it. I don't buy that for the same reason I hate the movie "It's a Wonderful Life." Yes, one person can make an incredible difference in the world, but if that person never existed, then the possibilities of the changes they could have made would never be explored as it becomes, again, a non-issue. These sorts of emotional appeals are made frequently when debating the abortion issue, which further complicates the arguments and lessens one's ability to really see the core issue at hand.

I think in many cases, abortion is such a hot-button issue that people think they are required to have an opinion on it. Otherwise, you run the risk of being pelted with rhetoric from both sides until either you decide to run away and live on an island alone or make a choice. But is the issue really about life or is it about something else? And whose life is it about?

I have spoken to people on both sides of this issue and have come to think that it has less to do with life and more to do with the ability to make a decision. For some people, there is no decision - it is a life and that life is sacred. For others, whether or not to become a parent has to be a cognitive, considered decision which is independent of biology. Many people seem to fall in the middle somewhere, possessing an opinion, but existing more on the spectrum than at either extreme.

It is the ability to make a decision about one's life that I think angered me so when I saw a man driving a van and declaring to be "pro-life". It's nice that he has an opinion, but it is rare that men are terribly affected by abortion. It is the woman

who has to endure the procedure and the after-effects. It is the woman who bears the stigma of having done "that." It is the woman who has to, if she decides against having an abortion, care for the child, as most men don't stick around too long after the baby arrives to help with care and expenses. One only has to watch daytime TV and count the number of paternity test shows that are done, or read the newspaper reports about the vast numbers of "deadbeat parents" to prove that point. Women bear the brunt of this issue, therefore, though men are entitled to an opinion, I don't know that their opinions could ever be as informed or as elemental as that of women.

After years of talking about this issue and trying to see both sides while holding an opinion of my own, I have come to this conclusion: If you are against abortion, then don't have one. Sounds too easy, right? Really, it's not. In all ways, it comes down to just that. Everyone has to do what is right by her/himself and is accountable for no one else but her/himself in the greater scheme of things. Therefore, what is right will differ from case to case, person to person. No one person or group can make a decision that is so personal and so reliant upon each individual situation for everyone and have it be completely fair and just. It has to be a personal decision made by those parties who are directly involved with the final decision coming to the woman and her doctor. I am all for men having a say in what happens to the fruits of their labor, so to speak, but they shouldn't have the final say, nor should their opinion be considered for one iota of a second as important as that of the woman, who will ultimately be held accountable for the potential child's future life.

As it stands, abortion is a choice. If you don't agree with it, then don't have one. In the same way that if you don't agree with getting a tattoo, then don't get one. One of the great things about living under our Constitution is that we do have the right to choose how we live our lives and are able to express our opinions. But, we also have to remember that our rights end where other people's rights begin. When a small group of people try to tell the majority what is right for them is right for everyone, the very fabric of our system comes under fire. It is at that time that our freedom to choose what is right for us and our family is threatened by the specter of oligarchy or, even worse, dictatorship.

People will always disagree on hot-button issues and I don't see the abortion debate ever coming to a place where people will even agree to disagree. But, we must understand and protect our right to disagree, to have an opinion and to express that opinion freely. We all don't have to agree, but we do all have to live together at some point. Therefore, we must realize that the issue here is more than the stoppage of another creature's biological functions. The issue is really that of having the ability to choose what is right for each individual person, and be protected equally under the laws of our land. And it is this right that we can't afford to lose.

By whose
authority?

As a biblical scholar, I'm very confused about the use of the Bible to promote a pro-life stance when one can easily find references to God ordering that babies, in fact, be killed (cf., Numbers 31:17---"Now therefore kill every male among the little ones" and Hosea 13:16---"their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up"). The following discussion includes two hints for looking to the Bible for wisdom on any topic:

When all is said and done,
it would be difficult to claim
that the Bible is on the whole
pro-life....

1. Beware of absolute interpretations. Biblical interpretation is based on translations of translations of translations . . . , many different languages, various contexts, and various theological perspectives. Some translations are warm and fuzzy, or as I say, stained-glass windows cover the text and thus we lose the graphic dynamic of the story context. It may surprise some to know that we have no original copies of any given biblical writing---and as far as I know, God wasn't speaking English in biblical times. For every single page in the New Testament, there are at least 500 manuscript differences; some are inconsequential, some are contradictory, and most we don't understand. By weaving biblical texts together, appropriately and inappropriately, one can argue on many sides of any one issue, especially the hot social topics of our time, e.g., abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia, and the status and role of women in the church. In terms of the issue on abortion, three of the classic Hebrew texts are 1) Genesis 2:7---"YHWH Elohim formed the groundling, soil of the ground [and] blew into its nostrils the blast of life and the groundling became a living soul"---i.e., life begins at birth; 2) Jeremiah 1:5---"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you"; and 3) Psalm 139---"You (God) knit me together in my mother's womb"---are these latter two biblical proofs that life begins at conception or are they symbolic language? Beware the interpreter. (And I think we can rule out the commandment that "Thou shalt not kill"---we do it all the time, and in the name of YHWH, God, Allah.) When all is said and done, it would be difficult to claim that the Bible is, on the whole, pro-life---i.e., it depends on whose life is being considered!

2. By whose authority? Jews, Christians, and Muslims often appeal to scriptural authority to support all kinds of injustices that include slavery, war and terrorism, the abuse of women and children, infanticide, and poverty. Scriptures also talk about the need for justice, kindness, and loving one's enemies. If, for those of us in the Christian tradition, our authority is Jesus, then we have a problem because we do not have any of his extant writings or even know that he actually wrote anything down. If Jesus didn't write anything down, then maybe our authority comes from those who were in his company during his earthly life---but guess what---they didn't write anything down either! That means that our authority is, at best, the New Testament writers; but since they didn't know Jesus in person, that authority is more than a generation removed from the actual person. For many of us, our authority is the Church which interprets the biblical texts for us---and now we're back to #1. (There is also the option of choosing Mel Gibson as our biblical authority. :) In terms of

the issue at hand, we simply do not have any references to abortion by Jesus. We do, I repeat, have the saying from Jesus to love our enemies!

In the end, what makes sense to each of us is in the context of our own individual culture that includes a set of beliefs and sensitivities, whether religious or not. I personally would like to see a culture of life that includes the sanctity of those who are already born and in every part of the world.

NB: There are a slew of websites claiming that the Bible condemns abortion. For a different point of view, I recommend these sites: http://www.religiousconsultation.org/News_Tracker/where_does_God_stand_on_abortion (Dan Maguire); <http://ffrf.org/nontracts/abortion.php>; <http://www.elroy.net/ehr/abortion.html> (Brian Elroy McKinley)

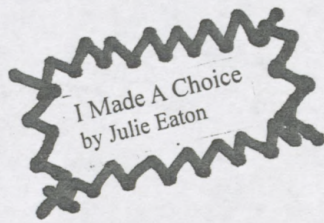
→ WOMEN WHO OBTAIN ABORTIONS REPRESENT EVERY RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

* 13% → DESCRIBE THEMSELVES AS BORN-AGAIN OR EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

* 27% → SAY THEY ARE CATHOLIC (IN THE U.S.)

My Take On Abortion Is Simple
By Jennifer Knox

Government control over a woman's body? No. Any imposition over another's reproductive organs is a violation of their right to humanity. Thusly, to force a woman to give birth against her will is nothing short of torture and is equanimous, if not worse than, rape. To those who disagree, please, practice what you preach--go out and adopt those lives you are supposedly saving.



I made a choice. A good choice for me, I might add. Not everyone would be in agreement with my choice but I wouldn't be where I am today if I had made a different choice.

What choice did I make, you ask? I chose to have an abortion at the age of 20. I made an error in judgment and was faced with being a mom sooner than expected. I had a boyfriend at the time and we were rather serious but when the thought of becoming parents jumped forward, we both decided this was not for us. We discussed options and decided that abortion was the best choice. As I reflect on this choice now, making this decision was hard but necessary. The two of us couldn't make the relationship work and so we went our separate ways. Now I know some of you out there are saying we had other options and I strongly agree we had options but they were not the ones for us.

You are probably asking, how I could decide this action over following forward with the pregnancy? The answer is simple. I was not ready to be a mom at the age of 20. I was in my third year of college with hopes and aspirations of attending grad school in a year. I had plans for my future and kids did not factor in until around the age of 30. My choice may seem selfish and rightly so. Being selfish, in this world, is viewed negatively but if we never concentrate on ourselves, we will not accomplish our dreams.

Do I regret my decision? Do I lament over my choice? Hardly. Thoughts surface ever now and again but I don't dwell on them and I certainly don't regret my choice. I'm a firm believer that if you concentrate too hard on regret, you will miss out on the present. Living in the moment is about enjoying life, where as living in the past makes one second guess choices and leaves you void of motivation to venture out and try new concepts.

Life is a series of choices which determines the path we will take in this life. With each decision, we continue forward with our journey. I encourage all who read this to remember choice is a freedom we have been given and the choice one person makes is possibly not same choice the next person should make. As I continue on my path today and head toward grad school, I proudly know I made the right decision for me.



Women are using
abortion as a
method of birth
control.

A Timeline of Reproductive Rights

PART ONE

1821: Connecticut passes the first law in the United States barring abortions after "quickening."

1860: Twenty states have laws limiting abortion.

1965: Griswold v. Connecticut Supreme Court decision strikes down a state law that prohibited giving married people information, instruction, or medical advice on contraception.

1967: Colorado is the first state to liberalize its abortion laws.

1970: Alaska, Hawaii, New York, and Washington liberalize abortion laws, making abortion available at the request of a woman and her doctor.

1972: Eisenstadt v. Baird Supreme Court decision establishes the right of unmarried people to use contraceptives.

1973: Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision strikes down state laws that made abortion illegal.

1976: Congress adopts the first Hyde Amendment barring the use of federal Medicaid funds to provide abortions to low-income women.

1977: A revised Hyde Amendment is passed allowing states to deny Medicaid funding except in cases of rape, incest, or "severe and long-lasting" damage to the woman's physical health.

During the Second World War, my grandmother conceived a child. She was not able to carry the child to term because she was hemorrhaging and almost died from the hardships of caring for four other children. She had a choice of having an abortion. She had the abortion

When we look at the history of abortion, we discover that it was a "legal medical procedure from the eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century." Rickie Solinger, *The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977) "In the first decades of nationhood, the legal status of the procedure was governed by British common law that viewed abortion before quickening as a legal act." But, the removal of the fetus without cause was means for criminal action. Women of this era were made aware of the "herbal remedies that helped the cause of abortions." Connecticut was the first state to make abortion illegal in 1821. In the nineteenth century, during urbanization and the industrial era, abortions became more and more "visible." (Pg.4) Throughout recent history, abortion and a woman's choice about her body, has been used for political propaganda. In Linda Gordon's book, *Woman's Body, Woman's Right*, she tells how limiting the size of a Yankee family was considered race-suicide and sinful. (These were the sentiments of President Theodore Roosevelt.) No matter what place or period of history we consider, women's reproductive rights will always be controversial.

Limiting the family size was not my grandmother's intention when she was forced to make a decision. She was protecting herself and the children she already had. After the war, living in two small rooms with four children, on the second floor of an Austrian farmhouse, no running water, pregnant and a husband only home on the weekends, life was difficult. How could she possibly continue to carry buckets of water, take care of her children and be told she needed bed rest if she was bleeding? And yet, even during those difficult times her family and friends asked how could she do what she did. How could she not? The guilt those questions caused her to feel, haunted her the rest of her life. Even in her later years, she had nightmares about it. Was it not her right to be a good mother to the children she already had?

In her book, Linda Gordon examines societies that practiced some form of abortion. Greek Societies wanted to control their population and stabilize the population. "Aristotle and Plato recommended it for eugenic reasons." (Pg.35) Roman societies considered abortion the killing of infants. Their "imperialist policies" (Pg. 4) dictated the growth of population. They wanted to expand their population and have many children. Infanticide was not considered a crime in either society. (Pg.34) due to economic hardships, many abortions were also performed in Tahiti, Formosa, India, and North Africa. These abortions were not necessarily due to male supremacists. (Pg.34) As we move on to 1742, the post revolutionary war era, we have another abortion story about two young lovers whose families feel the couple should not be together due to their differences in social class. In the narrative by Cornelia Hughes Dayton, from *Taking the Trade*, we read about a Connecticut eighteenth-century couple. Sarah, the young girl of a yeoman family, becomes involved with a prominent, self-proclaimed "practitioner." Named John Hallowell. Sarah eventually becomes pregnant and John wants to marry her. But,

FACT:

Women who
have abortions...

being of a lower social class, she is forced to have an abortion against her will, becomes ill and dies. In my grandmother's case, she made the choice herself, but was never able to feel as though she had the right to make that choice.

Just as most women's lives in the early eighteenth century were controlled by men, so was the issue of abortion. By the 1950's, nothing had changed. Rickie Solinger, points out in the excerpt, Abortion: In the 1950's, when abortion was an illegal procedure, "as many as one million criminal abortions were performed each year." So, what does all this background information have to do with abortion? According to Linda Gordon: It would be "natural to control reproduction...But, once men discovered their role in conception, they assumed control." And that is why, we as women, need to understand that abortion is a right that belongs to us. In 1973, "the land mark U.S. Supreme Court decision of Roe v Wade granted U.S. women the constitutional right to safe, medical abortions..." International Encyclopedia of Women. (Pg. 1833.)

According to Rickie Solinger, abortion is a "purposeful termination of a pregnancy." The issue of abortion is a woman's choice; it is a decision that belongs to every woman. It is not a political issue. Why should we as women live with the pain about the rights that we own?

Come from all
racial, ethnic, socio-
economic and
religious backgrounds.

Abortion: An International Issue
by Julie Eaton

*According to the Feminist Majority
Foundation's National Clinic Violence*

*Survey, 18.4% of clinics across the
country are targets of severe violence,
including arson, bombings, chemical attacks,
and invasion.*

When you hear the word abortion, immediately you think about Roe vs. Wade and the struggles that we as American women have faced in order to have rights over our bodies. But have you ever thought outside of the continental United States and wondered what the millions of other women in this world are dealing with concerning abortion and reproductive rights? I know I didn't until I started researching international affairs surrounding this topic and look what I found.

Portugal has recently approved a bill to allow abortions to be performed up to the tenth week of a pregnancy for all women, not just the ones whose health might be in danger or who have been raped. Though this bill has a long way to go before becoming law, the approval from Portugal's parliament gives women of this country hope in gaining control over their bodies.

In the last few months, Nicaragua's government approved a ban on abortions of any kind. The revised law gives no opening for even women whose lives are in danger if they carry their pregnancy to full term. Before this recent installment of this abortion law, women were granted abortions if they received three doctor certifications and had the consent of their partner or relative. This revision of law is definitely a setback for women of this Central American country.

In the African countries, 53 in all, there are only three countries, Tunisia, Cape Verde and South Africa that allow abortions without restrictions. The rest of the countries hold very strict practices for women seeking abortion and have harsh penalties for all who are involved in illegal abortions. When the average number of children an African woman has is six, it is no wonder that African nations are seen as developing and have many issues with poverty and starvation. On average, it is estimated that only 10 percent of African women have access to birth control and with the heavy restrictions set on abortions, many women chose to have them illegally, leaving them scarred, mutilated, or possibly even dead.

Many other countries have the same stories as the ones above. Many are trying to redefine their abortion laws, while others are trying to establish new ones and even more are reverting back to complete control of a woman's body. In any case, there is one bit of information that I found more important than any other fact I found among my research and this would be the information surrounding the Global Gag Rule.

Within just a few days of being sworn into office in 2001, President George W. Bush reinstated a ban on funds given to international family planning groups who offer abortion and/or abortion counseling services to countries across the world. These funds ran through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the leading agency for global family planning. Since 1969, UNFPA has developed programs to help prevent the transmission of sexual diseases, help families space out pregnancies, and take solid stands against violence toward women. Dispensing information to 230 million women who would otherwise not be educated on safe and necessary contraceptives, UNFPA relies on funding in order to prevent maternal deaths, infant deaths and unwanted pregnancies. Organizations such as International Planned Parenthood Federation felt the backlash from losing the funds President Clinton had relinquished to them in 1993. Countries such as Ghana, who received much of their funding from Planned Parenthood, ceased programming for all

individuals, including contraceptives and advice on HIV and AIDS. Ethiopia's Family Guidance Association made immediate decisions to halt all outreach programs after losing more than 30 percent of its external funds, and 16 developing countries stopped receiving their supply of birth control products due to the loss of aid from the U.S.

As reported by www.cnn.com in a story posted as "Bush reinstates ban on international family planning funds," the reason Bush gave for stopping the funding to UNFPA and millions of women in the world is based firmly in his belief that "taxpayer funds should not be used to pay for abortions or advocate or actively promote abortion either here or abroad." What I say to Bush and his reason is you have got to be kidding. There is more to the funding than just making abortions available to women of this world. In fact, I think he is missing the point. If men and women are educated properly in birth control and preventative measures for pregnancy, then the issue of abortion will lessen and the health of women will improve. Also, if the funding were to be resumed, many countries that have HIV and AIDS epidemics would be provided the means necessary to prevent pregnancies and maintain healthier lives. With this information, why would President Bush not want to help establish a healthier basis for human life?

Though I can not answer this question for the President, I am certain that I have a new outlook on numerous things. In a time when we are reminded it is important to help countries be liberated and we need to send troops to protect the safety of our country, I wonder why it is that we are not as concerned with the lives of approximately 68,000 women who lose their lives to unsafe abortions every year. It would take far less money, time and energy to save these women's lives than to be in a war for six years.

Resources

CNN – www.cnn.com

International Planned Parenthood Federation – www.ippf.org

National Abortion Federation: International Issues – www.prochoice.org

13% of abortion patients
describe themselves as
born-again or Evangelical
Christians

27% of abortion patients
say they are Catholic

About 6 million women in the U.S. become pregnant every year, 1/2 are unintended.

Governing the Body
by Amber Robertson

The U.S. government had no
legal stipulations on abortion
until The middle of the 19th century.

On January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court ruled in the case Roe v. Wade that any law against abortion was in violation of a person's constitutional right to privacy. The ruling overturned all state and federal laws that restricted abortion beyond the opinion that any abortion is permissible up until the time when the fetus could potentially live outside the womb without medical aid (usually between 24 and 28 weeks). Abortion became legal nationwide, and women were given the right to choose.

Recently the state of Ohio has been debating whether or not we should consider ourselves to be an "abortion friendly" state. Three pieces of legislation that threatened to overturn Roe v. Wade were brought to the State House for consideration. House Bill 228 would ban all abortions in the state of Ohio and criminalize anyone who crossed state lines to obtain an abortion; House Bill 469 would give pharmacists the authorization to deny prescriptions for birth control and emergency contraception; and House Bill 239 would prohibit the use of public funding, including Medicare, to subsidize an abortion for someone in need of financial support.

On January 4, 2007, just days before the end of his term, Ohio Governor Bob Taft signed into law HB 239, which not only restricted public funding, but also officially stated Ohio's preference for childbirth over abortion. Both House Bills 228 and 469 failed, and it has gone on record that current Ohio Governor Ted Strickland "would not have supported" the passing of HB 239. With this new law in motion it would now seem that only women who can afford to have an abortion retain the right to choose.

This particular restriction on the availability abortion, one has to wonder who will be affected and what the repercussions will be. Statistics show that of those women who have had abortions, the majority is comprised of teenagers, unmarried women, and women of a low economic class. So in terms of those who are getting abortions and their ability to afford them, we are looking at women who have no income, a single income, or a very poor income. And although the medical expenses associated with abortion have substantially come down in recent years, many women are still dependant on subsidized funds. With the state denying such aid, it can be assumed that those women seeking an abortion, but unable to independently afford one, will then go without.

What does this mean? Perhaps that many unwanted pregnancies will go un-aborted and the population of unwanted children will unsettlingly begin to rise. What then does this change hold for the future? What will life be like for the unwanted child, the poor child? A look into America's past might suggest to some, an unpleasant correlation; that between abortion and crime. In Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner's study, Freakonomics, they shed light on an issue that has long passed under the radar. In the early 1990's the crime rate in America surprisingly and speedily began to fall. The explanations for the responsible variables revolved mostly around a stronger economy and innovative police strategies and other such promising factors. But little attention was paid to the fact that in the years following Roe v. Wade, the rate of abortion to live births

*PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS APPEARS TO BE GREATEST BEFORE, RATHER THAN AFTER, AN ABORTION

increasingly narrowed, to the point where it leveled in 1980, with the ratio of one to 2.25. Because of legalized abortion, fewer unwanted children were being born into poverty and single-parent homes. These two circumstances are considered to be included as two of the greatest predictors of a child's criminal future. If those pregnancies, in the first years following Roe v. Wade, had gone un-aborted, the children in question would have been in their teens and twenties by the year 1990; and it is that age group that makes up the majority of criminals in the US. Levitt and Dubner sum up their theory by stating, "Legalized abortion led to less unwantedness; unwantedness leads to high crime; legalized abortion, therefore, led to less crime."

Ohio, by denying state funding, has limited the availability of abortion as an option for women. And with no options, women have no choices. Not only will this limitation affect mother and child, but as we have discovered from the past, the result s could span the nation, span the years. This law affects us all. Thankfully, however, there are organizations out there, doing their best to help women whose options have been taken away. The National Network of Abortion Funds (www.nnaf.org) provides financial and technical support to abortion funds across the US, enabling women all over the country to get the help they need. A women's economical standing is irrelevant, rich or poor, she should have a choice.

MANY WOMEN COME TO REGRET THEIR ABORTIONS LATER

*RESEARCH INDICATES THAT RELIEF IS THE MOST COMMON EMOTIONAL RESPONSE FOLLOWING ABORTION.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 20 million women around the world have unsafe abortions every year and nearly 70,000 die as a result.

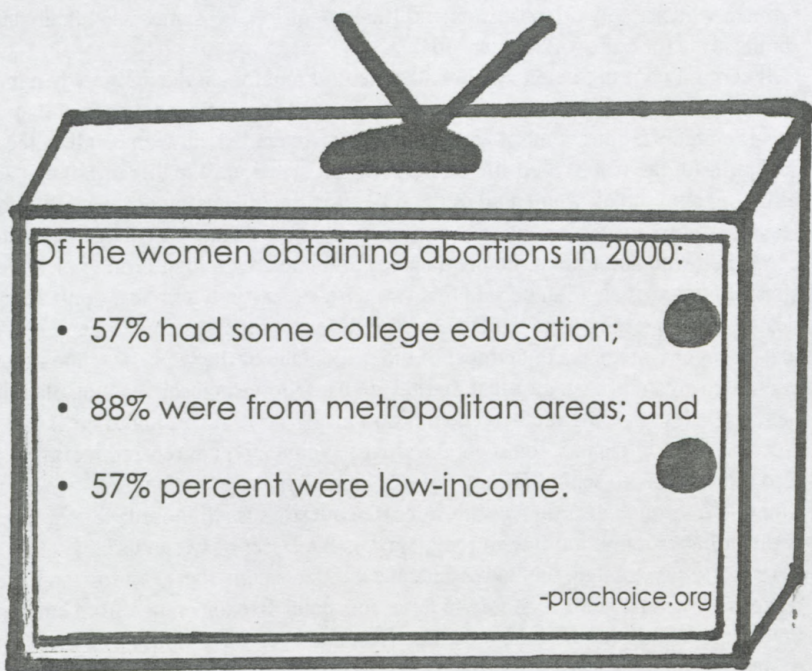
Abortion is quite possibly one of the most difficult current affairs to choose a side on; or at least, it is for me. In the world we live in today, it seems as though we all must be fully committed to one side or another of each governmental issue presented to us, and there is an overwhelming social pressure (for our age range especially) to be on the correct side of each issue, at the risk of otherwise being known as a "flip-flopper," or worse, a republican. Particularly for those of us brave enough to apply the term "feminist," to our choices and beliefs, choosing to support anything other than the pro-life mantra seems contradicting to all we are supposed to believe in and be fighting for. It's all very confusing, and I can't help but wonder if somewhere along the way we've lost sight of what kind of repercussions exist for the women who actually do make such a difficult decision, no matter what their stance on the issue (or our own) happens to be.

It certainly doesn't help to formulate a neutral opinion on the matter when most literature on the subject is heavily biased in favor of one argument or the other. Many pro-life organizations commit heavily to the argument that all women all of the time feel guilt for the rest of their life after having an abortion. Whether or not this actually does apply to all women all of the time, it is true that many do feel guilty for at least a brief period of time after the act is done, and a disturbingly large percentage of women who abort first time pregnancies often deal with long-term clinical depression. However, it also can be said that women who carry to term and don't abort despite reason telling them to also can face the same repercussions. Keeping in mind that younger women make up most of the percentage of the women we are talking about, recent studies suggest that marital status, followed closely by age, play the heaviest roles in young mothers' depression levels. And, according to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, young and unprepared mothers are also more at risk to school failure, poverty, and physical or mental illness. So through examining both sides, the question is still posed: which, given the choice of abortion or a full term pregnancy, is the lesser of two evils?

Interestingly enough, on the website abortionfacts.com, there is a top ten list of reasons why most women choose to have abortions. Reasons range from concerns involving parents, boyfriends, rape, finances, and even body issues. However, none of the "top ten" go beyond the superficial, which isn't surprising. After all, if someone asked me right now to list the reasons why I would have an abortion, the first answers that would come to mind would also be superficial—"I'm broke," "I want to go to grad school," or even slightly more altruistic, "I'd rather not be the reason my father had a quadruple bypass." Granted, these things are all important, but while we've been told that having an abortion can cause serious emotional issues, so also can the decision not to have one. We hear the stories told by women who have given their children up for adoption, centering around remembering birthdays, seeing a child roughly the same age as their own, or wondering if the family who adopted their child is good and safe. And while one can argue that the knowledge of giving your child to people who can love them and take better care of them than you could in some ways be comforting, realize also that it can be hurtful. I couldn't take care of my baby. I had to give my baby up because I couldn't help

them. Try to smile while repeating that phrase over and over for eighteen years.

I guess the moral of this story is that there really is no perfect choice. There will always be discrepancy between the two sides of the issue, producing equally strong arguments as to why abortion, adoption, or raising the child yourself is best. It is safe to say, however, that no decision is better than another; each produces both emotional as well as psychological downfalls, and there are obviously good points to each, as well. In the end, only the individual in question can know what the best possible decision is for them. And I think that in such a bitter turmoil as our nation faces over this issue, that is exactly where we should leave it.



NEED HELP?

Resources for Abortion
Questions, Concerns and Issues

International Planned Parenthood Federation
www.ippf.org

Planned Parenthood Federation of America
www.plannedparenthood.org

Feminist Women's Health Center
www.fwhc.org

National Right to Life Committee
www.nrlc.org

American Life League
www.all.org

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
www.rcrc.org

Feminist for Life of America
www.feministforlife.org

The National Abortion Federation
www.prochoice.org

Human Life International
www.hli.org

Catholics for a Free Choice
www.cath4choice.org

Pro-Life Action League
www.prolifeaction.org

NARAL Pro Choice America
www.prochoiceamerica.org

Elliot Institute
www.afterabortion.org

And your Physician.

RESOURCES

Abortion: Why Women Should Decide for Themselves

By Janice Windborne

Condoms break, I can tell you that. Diaphragms also get little holes in them when you least expect it. Some people have bad reactions to birth control pills and others are allergic to spermicides. The patch, like the pill, is a dose of hormones, but if you are taking certain other medications, it doesn't work, and if you weigh more than 198 pounds, it is also likely to fail. Of course, you might not know any of these things, or you might think you are being careful, but suddenly you have skipped a period. And then another.

Some people would argue that the only sure way to prevent pregnancy is to avoid sex. Well, sure, but for those of us with bodies, hormones, an interest in human closeness, or even a taste for sexual adventure, avoiding sex isn't always the alternative we want to take.

The same people who argue that the only way to avoid pregnancy is to avoid sex are the people who say we should "take responsibility" for our actions—sex can bring pregnancy and pregnancy brings babies and if you want to play, you've gotta pay.

Think about that logically. Child as consequence. Not child as the result of a loving union between two people. Not child as the most precious thing that two people could create. Not child in whom we invest all of our resources, dreams and hopes. Child as consequence. Wouldn't we all like to be that child of unplanned consequences? What a happy future resentment can craft!

My friend was walking home from class one afternoon. She cut through a park and found herself face-to-face with a rapist. Two months later, just as she was beginning to get over the trauma of being humiliated and raped, she realized she was pregnant. Abortion was illegal then, so she went to one of those back-alley butchers who make their living off the bad luck of women. My friend has never been able to have children. Some would say God is punishing her, but the truth is, she was punished first by the rapist who never was caught, and then by the sanctimonious busybodies who kept medically safe abortion unavailable to women until 1973. Yes, I am old enough to remember those times, and I can tell you they were not fun. Not fun for the pregnant girls who disappeared from high school into anonymous marriage. Not fun for the pregnant girls sent away to homes for unwed mothers. Not pleasant for the victims of rape, incest and bad judgment. Not fun for those of us who saw what happened to girls and how boys never seemed to pay for anything. They told us it was our fault for tempting the boys. Why would anyone want to go back to those bad old days?

The argument is that no matter how a child is conceived, it is precious. Who, exactly, is making that argument? People who support the death penalty. People who would rather put offenders in jail for long sentences than invest in their early education and mental health. People who have no qualms about bombing whole neighborhoods in foreign countries—the "collateral damage" of innocent civilians just an unfortunate consequence they are quite willing to overlook. People who think Terry Schiavo was better off plugged in like a toaster than peacefully dead. The same people who claim to believe that heaven is preferable to earth, maybe for everyone but the Terry Schiavos of the world.

People are entitled to think, feel or believe anything they want about the beginnings of human life and its value thereafter. What I don't understand is why young women would want to let people they don't know make decisions for them. Who would you trust to tell you what to major in? Who would you trust to tell you where to settle when you graduate? Whether to go to grad school? Which job to take? Who to date and love? Those are all decisions that we should make for ourselves. Why in the world would we trust perfect strangers and self-appointed authority figures to tell us when and whether to have children?

Consider who wants to take authority for your decisions away from you. The churches: no matter which church you choose, there is at least one corrupt, crazy or creepy character in charge. The politicians: the same ones who are cutting funds for children's health and education? The ones who are under indictment? The ones whose personal lives would embarrass a porn star? Anti-abortion groups who may mean well but know nothing about your life and can't imagine any reality but their own?

Sure, there are good preachers, priests and politicians. There are good people with sincere beliefs who oppose abortion rights. There are even good arguments about the beginning of life. The point is this: not every pregnancy is wanted and not every child is precious. Look around any schoolyard and you'll see who is precious and who clearly is not. Who is the product of love and who is the product of unfortunate circumstances.

No one is asking any woman to have an abortion she doesn't want. But whether women want to take the responsibility or not, the simple fact is that no one is better qualified to make the decision about whether to have an abortion than the pregnant woman herself. There is no one with more right to decide whether a woman should have a child than the woman herself. Women who support making abortion illegal are assuming that everyone except the woman herself has the right to make decisions about her life. Despite the bumper sticker slogans and the phony posters of bloody babies, if you give up the right over your own body, you are giving up the most fundamental of human rights. If you don't support your own rights, how can you support the rights of your child?

* In the mid-to-late 1800's States began passing laws to make abortion illegal. The motivations varied from State to State. One reason included fears that the population would be dominated by the children of newly arriving immigrants whose birth rates were higher than those of "native" Anglo-Saxon women.

KATE'S WALL POSTS

facebook



For the longest time, I was afraid to form an opinion on the subject. Raised in a Catholic family and sent to Catholic schools I was told all through my formative years that abortion was murder, and I accepted it blindly. When I began thinking for myself, I started to wonder if there might be more to the story. There certainly is...

The problem with our society is that we feel we have to support abortion in every form, or not at all, which is taking the situation completely out of order.



The first and most immediate problem to be dealt with is sexual irresponsibility. With the many potential consequences of sex (AIDS, STIs, pregnancy, not to mention emotional aftermath), our society needs to reassign greater importance to the topic. This in itself would greatly reduce the amount of situations in which abortion becomes an issue. Having multiple abortions in one lifetime shows a lack of maturity that I do not endorse. But some situations cannot be foreseen, and we cannot instill rigid guidelines before knowing all the information.

As for myself, I personally believe abortion is wrong for me. But I don't believe that choosing for myself allows me the right to choose for others.



First, I would like to say that I totally agree that sexual irresponsibility and the use of abortion as a primary form of birth control are issues so often left out of abortion discussions, but are very very large issues. While it may (or may not be) a woman's right to choose, choosing to risk major health and emotional issues tied to abortion are not healthy choices any more than suicide attempts are.

I really think that we as a people need to start looking at this whole issue objectively, as a medical problem rather than a moral/ethical issue.

Fall '07

2007-08 Women's Studies Experimental and Special Topics Courses

ENGL 355-01 Thinking Queer: An Introduction to Queer Theory

This class will immerse itself in a groundbreaking theoretical canon, diving into the ideas that have propelled it: the "charmed circle of sex," the "epistemology of the closet," "hetero- and homo-normativity," "identity politics," "the queer and the genderqueer," and so on. The texts will be rigorous, the ideas will be provocative, and the conversation promises to shake the rafters. For fuller description and list of possible readings, contact SAshworth@otterbein.edu.

Winter '08

ENGL 180-01 Lost: Sexuality in Early America

In early America, sex was not an identity. Sex was an appetite, a behavior, a temptation, an obligation, and a pleasure. But it wasn't a category of being. Catch-phrases like "sexual orientation," "heterosexuality," "homosexuality," and "sexual identity" would not have made any sense to this historical interval. More specifically, romantic friendships, two-spirit Indians, and colonial cross-dressers elude 21st century conceptions of self and relationship. This course will recover a forgotten consciousness, a premodern understanding of sexuality and connection.

PSC 352 Gender, Beauty, and Violence

How has patriarchy used the ideology of "BEAUTY" to force women to suffer violence and death throughout history?

- Some Chinese women wanted to be beautiful so they broke their feet and folded their toes under their heels, walking on stubs smaller than four inches long.
- Warie Dirie of Somalia wanted to be beautiful so she engaged in genital mutilation, cutting away her labia and clitoris and sewing her vagina so that only a small opening remained.
- Carolina Ardohain wanted to be a beautiful model. She dieted and exercised excessively and died of Anorexia in 2006.

Spring '08

LSC 291-01/#1 Gender and Biology

This course will examine gender roles in human and non-human animals from an evolutionary perspective. We will discover what it means to be male, female or intersexed in a wide variety of organisms, and we will explore the adaptive significance of various mating systems (e.g., monogamy, polygamy, homosexuality, etc.). Additionally, we will examine the influence of gender on the scientific process and discuss how it influences the acquisition of knowledge both historically and today. The course will consist of a combination of lecture, discussion and hand-on laboratory activities.

This course may be used as a substitute of INST 350.

Women Have Options/Ohio is a group that supports the right of all women to make responsible reproductive decisions. We provide information about contraception and help for women faced with crisis pregnancies. Our address is P.O. Box 5, Granville, Ohio. The website is www.womenhaveoptions.org. Join us in our fight for women's lives and women's futures.

22

Every story in life follows a sequence. You have the situation, the exposition or explanation of the situation and finally the action. The action gets attention because it is the most entertaining. Life is filled with wanting action and trying to occupy our empty spaces with it. We do not want to waste our time with petty details. However, a majority of our lives are spent reflecting on a past action or an upcoming one. The following story is not action packed, not filled with a juicy twist or sudden shock, so don't be waiting or hoping for one. The story is about a reflection that shines light on the real emotions of one's life.

* * *

He wasn't pretty unless she was in love with him. She couldn't love him because she knew no face. She saw nothing, so she thought she would not feel anything. Dehumanizing is her only chance for forgetting. Rationalizing is her only chance for a good night's rest. What could have been is all it was. His unique fingerprint never touched a single thing on this earth. His only experience with touch is what he felt through her. He would never know life's joys and sorrows. He would never know the joy of riding a bike for the first time without training wheels. Never know the sorrow of being left at prom by the girl of his dreams. If she thinks about it, she believes she is protecting him from ever suffering in this horrible world. Yet it is only because of immense amounts of love that he would suffer. He would only suffer at that prom because he was blessed to feel profound love for his date. So what in fact is she preventing, suffering or love? She will suffer, because she did love for him.

She gave him life; dangling it like a mobile stimulating his hopes and dreams, yet as soon as she breathed life into him, she sucked it back out. She sucked him back out, through a powerful vacuum. Treating life like dirty footprints, simply cleaning things up like it never happened. Never thinking that dirt can stain, with a remembrance of what's been done.

Anna jolts to a perfect posture as the fifth period bell rings. Somewhere during the fall of the Berlin wall she must have dozed off. It wasn't only because of Mrs. Pritchett's lullaby of a tone. It is her tone, mixed with the lazy summer sun, which caused hypnosis to fall upon the stuffy room of thirty bored students. Anna licks her red polished fingers, rubbing them hard under her eyes at the falsely named "waterproof mascara." Waterproof it most certainly is, she thought, to all things but crying, sneezing, and yawning. As long as she didn't move her face, it was a miracle product.

The tan colored hallways fill with the noisy buzz of high-schoolers. Each knee-socked girl looking more like the other. Enough crimped hair and glossed lips to blind one, with their shiny surface creating reflections from the bright lights overhead. Anna blots her lips together and puckers them up for display. One small action that causes her face to lose its natural ways, making her face appear stiff and unkind.

She finds her way to study hall, taking a seat in the back, equivalent to her social status. The further up the younger and less popular you were. There is the four-eyed freshman reporting for duty, like every day and every year, in the first row. It's a different person than the year preceding, but not any different in actions. He or

she would get there before the bell would ring, and immediately unfold the latest challenging assignment. And if those were all done? Well, they would probably be reading ahead in *The Scarlet Letter* or one of Shakespeare's soliloquies, thinking of enough alternative plots and subplots to suck all real meaning out of the author's emotions.

"Hi Anna," says the red-haired freshmen. Anna flips her black curls from the right to the left shoulder. Knowing that all the kid wants is a little attention, or maybe a small corner on the pedestal of popularity, was not enough to stimulate an answer. Listen, her conscience confesses, more than you want to be me, I want to be you. Anna slides into the metal chair of the cafeteria and immediately grows cold from its unused surface. The bell rings, chatter hushes and the clock begins to tick. Immediate depression fills the room with thoughts of how to fill the void of the next thirty minutes. Students contemplate all options, from making paper airplanes that never fly, to writing out their first name with their crushes' last awkwardly placed on the end. Anything is better than the torture of homework. If none of these seemed optimal, ones mind would begin to wander.

He was pretty because she was in love with him. Actually, everyone thought he was pretty. His swollen muscular shoulders never allowed his arms to rest by his side, making it seem like he was always shrugging at what was being said. It wasn't so much the feeling she had for him, but the way she felt with him. His hands, strong and calloused, brought realism to her life, convinced her that she could live a life all her own. She found this through him, and she liked it. Anna thought the only way to keep this was to give him a feeling of pleasure. One small moment of pleasure was all it took to drown her in this ocean of guilt. The constant empty feeling in her stomach always left her nauseous. Something, someone used to be there, but not anymore. She doesn't know the person that was in her or the person she now has become.

Three rooms over Chris is sharpening his pencil, salvaging the remains of its worn down length. He looks out the window at the hot June afternoon, yearning for the freedom to walk out of his Spanish class. He feels like a caged bird, waiting for the bell to ring, his cage to be opened to freedom. He looks at the clock, twenty more minutes of torture, he thinks to himself. He lays his sweaty head on the cool wooden desk, closes his eyes to rewind his memory, replaying that night. He can remember exactly how she looked and thinking back he smiles, God she was pretty.

* * *

She walks out the front door on legs of golden shimmer and sleek silk. The moonlight forms small circles of light in her eyes, mixing with colors that remind him of morning grass. Her teardrop face is outlined by rich black curls that lay softly down her tan shoulders. Her body moves in rhythm to a song he has never heard. She hops into the truck and playfully hits the bill of his Red's cap, causing it to shift more crooked than he originally intended.

It wasn't their prom night, or the night of celebration after the state championship. Neither of them had a touch of alcohol on their breath. The only breath that filled his blue Ford was that of young lovers simply anxious to test their moral boundaries.

He ignores her confessing to having second thoughts; the pop of unbuttoning her

shirt drowns it out. He ignores the scared look in her eyes; his eyes are fixed on her lips. He wants her body, she wants his love.

* * *

Anna comes to and looks at the back of the heads of the classmates around her, each lost in thoughts of everyday joys, humors or excitements. All that fills her head are thoughts of regret. She prays once again that her mascara will hold strong as she feels the tears begin to form. She takes out her mirror to make sure everything is as it should be. Her pretty reflection stares back.

He might have been pretty, might have been smart and witty, things she'll never know.

The bell rings on cue and the students file out. Anna wipes her eyes of all evidence of hurting, but as for her emptiness? That will always be.

A Timeline of Reproductive Rights PART TWO

1991: Rust v. Sullivan upholds the constitutionality of the 1988 "gag rule" which prohibits doctors and counselors at clinics which receive federal funding from providing their patients with information about and referrals for abortion.

1994: Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act is passed by Congress with a large majority in response to the murder of Dr. David Gunn. The FACE Act forbids the use of "force, threat of force or physical obstruction" to prevent someone from providing or receiving reproductive health services. The law also provides for both criminal and civil penalties for those who break the law.

1992: Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey reaffirms the "core" holdings of Roe that women have a right to abortion before fetal viability, but allows states to restrict abortion access so long as these restrictions do not impose an "undue burden" on women seeking abortions.



Ohio Governor To Pull Funding for Abstinence-Only Sex Education by Kelly Givens

Ohio Democratic Governor Ted Strickland has created chaos with his recent proposal to remove funding for abstinence-only sex education in schools. In his new \$53 billion dollar budget, Strickland has proposed a two-year "phase out" of the program, cutting \$500,000 per year that the state needs to secure the \$1.6 million in federal grant money for abstinence teaching and materials. Strickland proposed eliminating the spending claiming: "Quite frankly, I don't believe abstinence-only programs work in the long run. There is some evidence that they may delay the onset of sexual activity, but over the long term there's not data there that shows they prevent, in a statistical sense, sexual activity outside of marriage. Keith Dailey, spokesman for Strickland claims, "Strickland isn't opposed to teaching abstinence and might have left the money for it in place had the budget no been so tight." So, what is the Title V Abstinence Education Program?

As part of the welfare-reform act of 1996, Congress authorized \$50 million of federal funds annually for five years to be provided to the states in the form of block grants to promote abstinence until marriage. When combined with required state matching funds of \$3 for every \$4 federal dollars, \$437 million will be available to support the abstinence message during the duration of the program.

The Title V program requires the states to fund education that:

1. has as its exclusive purpose, teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;
2. teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children;
3. teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and other associated health problems;
4. teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity
5. teaches that sexual activity outside the context of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects;
6. teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents and society;
7. teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances; and
8. teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

A 1999 Ohio state law required educators in health classes to teach that the only guaranteed way to prevent pregnancy, HIV, and STD's is abstinence. Problems that arise from abstinence-only education are the boundaries within which the educators must stay. When involved in abstinence only programs, teachers are not allowed to answer questions on contraception, STD prevention or give advice to children concerning what to do when they are sexually active.

According to a 2005 report done by Case Western Reserve, "Ohio's abstinence-

only programs gave false information about contraceptives and abortion and represented religious views as fact reports." The same report also found that abstinence only education did not aid in the reduction of the likelihood of middle-school students having sex. "Kellie Copeland, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio, said her concern is that youths who become sexually active aren't getting accurate information about contraceptives and preventing diseases."

In the current environment, students are not receiving any respect or all the facts on sexual activity. By creating a curriculum centered completely on abstinence-only, we are leaving children uneducated and unprepared for the real world. Earl Pike, director of the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, has the right idea. He claims, "The only approach that is going to work in the long run is a comprehensive approach that stresses abstinence but also includes key information on contraceptives and safer sex."

In reaction to the "phasing out" of abstinence-only education, "a bipartisan group in Congress has already introduced a bill (The Responsible Education About Life Act) that would pay for programs that include instruction about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases, while at the same time emphasizing abstinence before marriage." In this writer's opinion, Governor Strickland is not abandoning our youth as some claim. He is advocating sexual education that is centered on awareness. The abstinence-only programs have had a chance to reach children and given no overwhelming results, a change in policy and new format for sexual health education must be tried if we are to educate and protect our youth.

What If?
by Brittany Craver

"Pro-Life" or "Pro-Choice," destroying an innocent life or infringing upon a woman's right over her body. The issue with reproductive rights and abortion in America lies in the fact that neither side is entirely correct, that both arguments possess flaws, and that either side insists---sometimes violently---in the validity and blind acceptance of their viewpoint. I suggest a radical change in the discussion of women's reproductive rights, and the unborn fetus's right to life. Rather than siding with the better of two evils, why don't we invent a new "pro": Pro-Eliminate the Need.

Bill Clinton once stated that abortion should be "safe, legal, and rare". The last word of his statement depicts the very essence of this proposed radical shift in the discussion of reproductive rights. Eliminating the need for abortions---while simultaneously ensuring the legality of obtaining one if preventative measures failed---would prove far more powerful and effective than simply banishing the practice altogether. What if impoverished, pregnant women were provided shelter, adequate nutrition, education, medical needs, and emotional care for the duration of their pregnancy, and then were ensured that their newborn baby would be placed with a loving and compassionate family? What if schools discarded their traditional abstinence-only sexual education tactics and instead replaced them with knowledgeable curriculums based in contraceptive education, sexually transmitted disease information, and pregnancy options? What if it never came down to an unwanted baby, because organizations were founded and funded by donations for the purpose of researching the factors of increased pregnancy protection? What if both sides of two equally evil arguments silenced their shouts and hushed their threats, while concurrently opening their minds and working together to form an alternative solution, an evolution of sorts, to this predominantly two-dimensional issue?

EDUCATION, RESIDENCE + INCOME

- 57% OF WOMEN IN 2000 WHO OBTAINED ABORTIONS HAD SOME COLLEGE EDUCATION
- 88% OF WOMEN OBTAINING ABORTIONS IN 2000 WERE FROM METROPOLITAN AREAS
- 57% OF WOMEN OBTAINING ABORTIONS IN 2000 WERE LOW-INCOME

2000: *Stenberg v. Carhart* rules that the Nebraska statute banning so-called "partial-birth abortion" is unconstitutional for two independent reasons: the statute lacks the necessary exception for preserving the health of the woman, and the definition of the targeted procedures is so broad as to prohibit abortions in the second trimester, thereby being an "undue burden" on women. This effectively invalidates 29 of 31 similar state-wide bans.

2000: Food and Drug Administration approves mifepristone (RU-486) as an option in abortion care for very early pregnancy.

2003: A federal ban on abortion procedures is passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush. The National Abortion Federation immediately challenges the law in court and is successful in blocking enforcement of the law for its members.

2004: NAF wins lawsuit against federal abortion ban. Justice Department appeals rulings by three trial courts against ban.

2007: U.S. Supreme Court upheld the federal abortion ban signed by President Bush in 2003. This law did not contain an exception for the health of the woman.

the fetus has a health problem • She can't afford a baby

"Wonderfully Made" -an opinion piece
by Sarah Martindell

most common
reasons women
choose abortion

She is not ready to become a parent • She has

I have a friend who claims that even if her life were in danger, she would not abort the child in her womb. She would rather die than have an abortion.

Now I think that's a bit much.

As a Christian feminist,* I look at verses in the Bible that illustrate to me the precious value of life. In Psalm 139, we read that God knows us before we're born. But the writer of that psalm doesn't specify whether that time period is, say, the third trimester...or when the mother first feels that fluttering kick...or even at the instant the sperm meets the egg....

Rats.

And we're back at square one.

I find that when I think about any heavy issue—especially one that involves my religion—I come away with more questions than answers.

Do you have the answers? Let's see.

Would a child be better off, sometimes, sucked through a vacuum and disposed of...rather than raised in an abusive household? Would a child be better off dead than raised in poverty? Which is worse: never seeing the light of day, or living miserably with inept parents in a broken home?

If we take away abortion, won't women be attempting to do it on their own, anyway, often in grotesque homemade ways? Is that a logical argument, though—to make something legal because it's going to happen anyway? Should we make drugs legal 'cause they're inevitably going to be used? Should we make murder legal because it's bound to happen? Are we making murder legal by having legalized abortions?

And what of the "Christians" who retaliate by bombing abortion clinics? What does that really say about their feelings on the value of human life? What about the angry protesters outside the clinics' doors? Is that showing God's unconditional love? And have you seen those nauseating semi-trucks with pictures of bloody aborted fetuses next to dimes (to give you the relative size)?

Is that what Jesus would drive?

What about plenty of couples who would love to adopt a child—either because they're unable to have a baby themselves or because they want to help humanity by caring for a child who has already been brought into the world? Do abortions deny others of the joy of having children? Could that aborted baby have been carried to term and given to another family?

Is abortion merely a nice back-up plan for people who are too lazy, too irresponsible, to use birth control? Or do the majority of abortions occur even when people have been careful...just in that tiny percentile of condom failure?

What does an abortion say about the state of our relationships with others? Are we worried our boyfriend will leave us if we get pregnant, so we hide it by getting an abortion? Does our romantic relationship lack that kind of commitment? Are we worried our parents will disown us if we have a child out of wedlock...so we get an abortion? Do we fear judgment or condemnation from our church? Are we worried that our career will be in jeopardy if we have to take time off for maternity leave or raising the child? Are we concerned about the financial cost of raising a kid from

all the children she wants • She

age 0-18 (plus college)?

What do these concerns reveal about our connections with other people? Are any of our connections real? Why are we consumed with our image...with what others think of us...with money or a career?

What if you learn that your unborn baby will essentially be a vegetable, due to some genetic condition that causes it to halt development? (See the March 2007 issue of Marie Claire for a story on this very subject.) What do you do then? If the birth of said baby is a danger to your own health, do you abort the fetus? (Or should I say, "kill the child"? Is this an area where being politically correct is not in our best interest?) And what if it's not you who's carrying that deformed baby in your womb—what if it's your best friend? Do you have a right to tell her she's not allowed to abort the fetus?

And for that matter, does the government have that right? What role does the government play? To whom does the baby belong? What about the dad? If it's a "woman's choice," where does the father figure into the picture? Is a woman allowed to abort the fetus—something she alone did not create—without the father's consent?

Do you give up?

These are just some questions you can ponder, and if you're wise enough to have the solution, by all means, send it my way. In the meantime I'll just focus on the fact that God loves us all, and that God created us with tender, precise care. I thank God for the gift of life...and for the gift of questioning.

* No, that's not an oxymoron.

The number of
women getting
abortions report they
were using contraception
during the month
they got pregnant

What is a "partial-birth abortion?"

There is no medical procedure called a "partial-birth abortion," nor is it found in any medical literature. It is a political term made up by extreme conservatives to confuse people. The federal ban defines the term "partial-birth abortion" so broadly that it would prohibit a wide range of abortions performed in the second trimester. Also, the ban is not about third-trimester abortions. Forty states and the District of Columbia already ban third-trimester abortions except when the life or health of the woman is at stake. Instead, the broad language of the law would ban some abortions as early as 12 to 15 weeks, and it fails to include a health exception to protect women.

Confuse
made up
Politics
extreme
conservatives
made up
no medical procedure
made up
Politics
Confuse
made up

LOCAL GAL
DOES GOOD!

Spotlight on a Local Feminist
by Kelly Givens

Nicole Braddock Bromley is a local 26 year old, full-time professional speaker. She has dedicated her life to traveling across America speaking to thousands of students, at middle, high school and collegiate levels, about sexual abuse. She is the founder and director of OneVOICE enterprises. She was also a featured author in Chicken Soup for the Recovering Soul: Daily Inspiration. Nicole's personal book, Hush: Moving from Silence to Healing after Childhood Sexual Abuse, will be in stores this June 2007.

We at Kate had a chance to speak with Nicole about life, feminism and how to heal after the devastation of sexual abuse.

Q: Tell me a little bit about past and what has brought you to this point in your life...

A: As a young girl, many people in my school and community viewed me as the "perfect girl" but they didn't know that for almost a decade I was carrying a deep dark secret and afraid to tell--I was a victim of childhood sexual abuse committed by stepfather. At the age of 14, I told my mom. She is my hero; she believed me, took me to safety and reported the abuse. My stepfather denied it and seven days later our world was turned upside down when we found out he had committed suicide. I carried a lot of pain and shame into my teenage years and vowed to never again tell my secret.

Q: What does a feminist look like to you?

A: For me, feminism is about understanding what it means to have a voice, speaking out for myself, and stepping into my role as a female. These things have been very important in finding my own voice, embracing my personal story, taking steps forward on my healing journey and now empowering other women and survivors to understand their own stories. I believe this becomes the most powerful when we come to deeper understanding of our spiritual journey along the way. My Christian faith has been a big part of my journey and helped me understand and love who I am and what I am called to do.

Q: How did you first find your VOICE?

A: A year after breaking the silence to my mom about the abuse, I had kept my vow and had not told any of my friends my secret, not even my best friend. But that summer, at a church camp, I told my story in front of the whole camp. When I returned home, I received letters and letters from other kids telling me their story of sexual abuse for the first time. I thought I was alone. They all thought they were alone, too. It was then that I realized if no one spoke up about sexual abuse, then no one would be able to heal from it; and it was then that I knew I was to be a voice for the voiceless.

In college, I studied psychology and in my junior year, after working through much of my personal healing journey, I began volunteering at a rape crisis center and domestic violence shelter. I felt I had reached a place free of the pain and shame associated with my abuse and I wanted to help others. I wanted to make a difference. Soon I realized that hearing real life stories was what helped people open

99% OF RAPE OFFENDERS ARE MALE

9% OF RAPE VICTIMS ARE MALE

91% OF RAPE VICTIMS ARE FEMALE

up the most. So that is where I began. I was speaking in high schools and churches and community vigils and then in colleges and am now asked to share my story and message all over the country. It is amazing.

MY Story

Youth of today

Q: You use many personal experiences when you speak, why?

A: I realize that the youth of today do not want preached to; they respond to real life stories and transparent people. Students seem to come out of the woodwork when I step off the stage. I think that is because they desire honesty and hope and, when they see and hear that, it helps free them to be real and open up in response.

Q: What is OneVOICE enterprises?

A: VOICE is an acronym for Victory Over Impossible Circumstances.

OneVOICE is an organization committed to:

- Educating and raising awareness of Sexual Violence
- Creating a national platform for Sexual Abuse Prevention
- Pointing students toward healthy lifestyle and relationship choices
- Carrying a message of hope and healing
- Breaking the ice for dialogue and discussion on sensitive topics
- Offering support and resources to individuals, schools, universities, churches, and other organizations

VOICE

Q: Where do you want to be 10 years from now?

A: I hope to have reached young people in as many colleges, schools, churches and communities as possible with my message. I hope to have traveled to foreign countries to speak out and empower women and children and bring healing change to their lives and communities. I hope to have partnered with my mother, Rev. Cynthia Stiverson, in opening a healing retreat center for emotionally and spiritually wounded people desiring healing, freedom and restoration. I hope to have a second or third book published. And I hope to be a mother!

SPEAK OUT!

Q: How does it feel to speak out about abuse?

A: It feels energizing and empowering. I have such a great passion for helping wounded people find healing that I would not feel fulfilled if I were not doing something about it. I love sharing a message that few are willing to speak about and I am not afraid because I know how important it is. It is amazing how many people are ignorant to the issue and how many people think sexual abuse doesn't happen in their community, so it is satisfying to know that darkness is finally being brought to light. I receive tons of amazing emails everyday reporting on the lives and hearts that have been positively transformed by this message; this is what keeps me going.

Hush

Q: What are some of the negative issues that arise from abuse for women? Disorders? Feelings? Relationships? Etc?

A: When the silence is not broken and a sexual abuse victim is holding in her secret, the fear and shame she feels inside may lead her to cope in unhealthy ways that will just perpetuate the bondage she feels. An excerpt taken from Chapter 4 of Hush might help answer this question: "As our abusers once used their power to control us, now we use our power to control our life. Coping mechanisms are a way for us to

SECRET

When the silence is not broken...

turn the tables. As we cope with the pain of our past, we quickly realize that we have the power to disguise ourselves, to damage ourselves, and even to destroy ourselves." Just a few examples of these unhealthy coping mechanisms are: eating disorders, abusive relationships, self-injury, perfectionism, the need for control, people-pleasing, being a "tough girl", or suicide.

Q: What are some ways to reach out to abuse victims?

A: Sexual abuse survivors need to know they are believed; they need to know they are not alone; they need to be told over and over that it wasn't their fault and that they didn't deserve what happened to them, and they need someone who will listen to them and not look at them differently. They need an open ear, they need to share their story in a safe place, they need support, they need encouragement and they need to experience genuine love, care and friendship.

Q: What can we do to help?

A: Do what you can to break down the walls around these sensitive subjects. Help tear down the stereotypes and myths associated with sexual violence. Speak out about abuse. Talk to your family, friends, and coworkers about these issues; create dialogue and discussion so as to not let these things be swept under the carpet and assume no one you know has been affected. Be the one who will not allow others to be mistreated in the relationships around you. Be a big sister or mentor; show a child that you care about them and invest in their life. Start awareness programs and advocate for victims (April is Sexual Abuse Awareness Month and a great time to get people talking and bring in programs to address these issues). Volunteer at social service events and centers. And oftentimes the greatest thing you can ever do to help is to simply be a friend and an open ear to someone who needs it. With 1-in-3 girls and 1-in-6 boys being sexually abused by the age of 18, chances are it has touched the life of someone you know and love. Help them feel safe enough to share their secret with you and support them on their healing journey to a healthy adulthood. Oh yeah, and help me spread my message and get Hush into as many hands as possible!

Q: Tell us a little bit about Hush!

A: Hush is my first book and I am so excited about its release this summer. I believe this book will help set people free from some of the pain and shame they carry from the wounds of the past. It is my attempt to hold a survivor's hand along the path from silence to healing. My personal story is woven in and out of the book, as well as the stories of students I have met in my travels the past five years.

Nicole is a very touching, warm and honest speaker. Her journey blends a sincere understanding of despair with a heartfelt message of recovery. Through finding her own VOICE, Nicole has helped countless others begin their path towards healing. Nicole is an inspiration and a true joy to speak with.

Help Nicole in her fight against sexual abuse by educating yourself on this widespread problem. It is time for all of us to find our own voice to stand up and speak out against sexual abuse.

Keep an eye out for Hush: Moving from Silence to Healing after Childhood

Sexual Abuse, available for pre-sale currently at Amazon and hitting the shelves in June 2007. The book summary states: Childhood sexual abuse is running rampant, yet it's the best-kept secret in our nation today. Its victims grow into adulthood with their little child's heart trapped in the pain and torment of their past. Nicole Braddock Bromley shares her own story and the steps to moving from silence to healing. Hush exposes the harsh realities of childhood abuse, explains the pain it causes, examines the false beliefs it creates, and empowers survivors to begin a personal journey toward healing by breaking the silence. With words of understanding and comfort, Nicole tells the real-life stories of those whose voices would otherwise never be heard. She is straightforward enough to pierce the hearts of those in a survivor's circle of influence, yet careful to tread lightly on what could be tender wounds.

If you would like to contact Nicole or learn more about sexual abuse, feel free to visit her web site at www.onevoiceenterprises.com. It is an excellent resource for both sufferers and friends of sufferers.

STATS

According to Statistics, pornography bears an enormous responsibility for:


1. The spiraling rate of divorce and venereal disease
2. As well as sex crimes against women

-Judith A. Risman
PhD

36

- 1 in 3 girls are victims of sexual abuse before the age of 18.
- 1 in 6 boys are victims of sexual abuse before the age of 18.
- 1 of every 3 sexual assault victims are under the age of 12.
- In most cases, the child knew the sex offender. With girls, 29% were relatives and 60% were acquaintances. With boys, 16% were relatives and 44% were acquaintances.
- One half of victims are molested in their own home or in the home of the offender.
- About 75% of children who are victims of child sexual abuse do not disclose at all during their childhood.
- 90 to 95% of all sexual abuse cases are never reported to the police.
- Fabricated sexual abuse reports constitute 1 to 4% of actual reported cases. Of these, 75% of reports are by adults and 25% are by children.
- 68% of incest survivors are adult victims of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault by a non-relative at some point in their lives.
- Women who reported being victims of childhood sexual assault were three times more likely to become pregnant before age 18.
- 70 to 80% of sexual abuse survivors report excessive use of drugs and alcohol.
- 27% of women suffering from an eating disorder report being sexually assaulted at some point in their lives.

*If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, you should call your local Child Protective Services (CPS) agency or the agency in the County/State in which the abuse occurred. For help finding the appropriate agency number, or to speak with a crisis counselor, contact:



Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)

This organization operates America's only 24-hour confidential national hotline for survivors of sexual assault.

635-B Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.


Washington DC 20003

Phone: 800/656-HOPE

Phone: 656-4673

Fax: 202/544-3556

<http://www.rainn.org>



Survivors of Incest Anonymous (SIA)


This organization provides information on incest and child sexual abuse as well as referrals to local support groups.

P.O. Box 190


Benson, MD 21018

Phone: 410/893-3322

<http://www.siaawso.org>



*alcohol is the most
common drug found
in raping situations



Childhelp USA® National Child Abuse Hotline

This anonymous hotline is dedicated to the prevention of both sexual and nonsexual child abuse. Staffed 24 hours a day with professional crisis counselors, the hotline provides crisis counseling, referrals, research, and educational curricula. Translators are available.

Phone: 1-800-4-A-CHILD ® (1-800-422-4453)

or 1-800-2-A-CHILD (TDD line).

<http://www.childhelpusa.org>

Victims of Pornography

Victims of Pornography is a project sponsored by Citizens for Community Values designed to help our society see that pornography is not victimless. That it is affecting our families and friends... And recognizing this fact is the key to changing lives.

<http://www.victimsofpornography.org>

National Center of Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

The Nation's Resource Center for Child Protection

1-800-THE-LOST

<http://www.missingkids.com>

Federal Bureau of Investigations: A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety

<http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm>

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)

A comprehensive collection and distribution center for information, statistics, and resources related to sexual violence.

<http://www.nsvrc.org>

XXXCHURCH.COM

A ministry that offers hope and help for those struggling with an addiction to pornography.

<http://www.xxxchurch.com>

Information obtained from:

<www.lfsneb.org/parentsunited2.html>

<www.prevent-abuse-now.com/stats.htm>

<www.wingsfound.org/statsChildhood.html>

<www.state.ky.us/agencies/gov/domviol/myths.htm>

(1992 Rape in America study)

(2000 National Center for Victims of Crime)

83% of rape victims
are under the age of 25.

!! V-DAY !!

On February 17th, V-Day Otterbein College 2007 joined the ranks of successful benefit performances of Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues and became Otterbein's inaugural entrance into the national college campaign to end violence against women. The overwhelming acceptance of V-Day can be seen in its attendance at the one-night-only show. With ticket sales expected to reach only 150, the organizer of the event, Jennifer Roberts, was caught pleasantly off guard when over 230 showed up the night of the performance. "We were grabbing chairs, squeezing people into couches. We even had a few people sitting on in the stairwells and standing in the back." With a nod to those who were turned away from the performance, Jennifer said, "We just didn't expect the turnout. It was a fabulous night and I hope that whoever organizes the event next year can secure a much larger space."

In addition to the turnout, V-Day Otterbein was thrilled with the monies raised from ticket sales to support the local charity, BRAVO. BRAVO's aim is to fight against violence based on gender and sexual orientation. The Women's Studies committee, the major sponsor of this year's event, were pleased to have chosen BRAVO as their beneficiary. Expecting to raise about \$500, everyone was thrilled to see that goal more than double. "It really gives us hope about what can be done next year to spread the word, spark a discussion, and call to action the entire campus," responded Jennifer.

The students, faculty, and staff involved were vital in making V-Day Otterbein College happen. "Sure, we had a great turnout and great support from the audience, but if it weren't for all the participants giving their all to this cause, the audience would've walked away with a completely different attitude." As it was, talk of The Vagina Monologues spread throughout the campus community for weeks afterwards. "Lizzy Courture, our student director, and Summer Miller, head of PR, made commitments that made V-Day quite memorable. I am thrilled to have found two such dedicated women to take the reigns. Their passion really showed through."

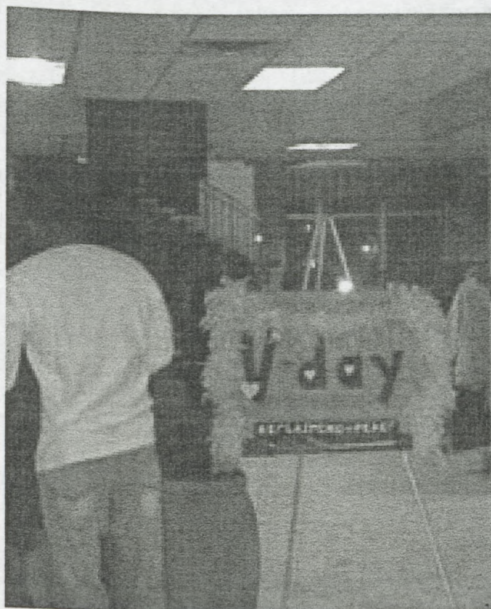
If you are interested in being a part of V-Day Otterbein College 2008, please send an email to kate@otterbein.edu with "V-Day" in the subject line. V-Day is looking for an organizer for next years event.

For more information on BRAVO, please visit www.bravo-ohio.org or, if you have been a victim of violence based on gender or sexual orientation, please call their helpline at:
1-866-86-BRAVO (27286)

For more information about V-Day, please visit www.vday.org

13% of college women
indicate that they have
been forced into sex on a date.

V-DAY Otterbein 2007



The Colonization of Violence

by Colleen Deel

As I fight for freedom from violence in the home, I often forget about those outside my own culture. Although I am trying to put an end to violence inflicted upon women I stop short and ignore the women that need the most help. This is not an intentional disregard on my part, if anything, it is just the opposite. Six months ago I didn't even realize this group of women existed, in fact, I doubt many people do think about this group. The women I am talking about are those that already have a history of degradation and imposition. These women are the colonized.

Many people can say countless good about colonization, but I would rather point out the bad. Colonization does many things; it corrupts (among many other things) culture, language, religion, political systems and family values. More disturbing is that the act of colonization does not only happen in far away lands, to men and women we do not have to think or talk about. There is a rich history of colonization within our own land, our own 50 states. Hawai'i and Alaska are both victims of colonization and became part of the US because of this harsh intrusion from the Western world. Perhaps even closer to our thoughts are the indigenous people of North America. The state of Native Americans today is a prime example of the type of disgrace a Western influence can have on a nation of people.

With the distance and deterioration of a culture comes the weakening of people in that culture. The very root of colonization takes away the culture of those being colonized and therefore the colonized, including the indigenous people of North America, Hawai'i and Alaska, now feel weak. Men after colonization, who previously struck a balance within their own culture that promoted peace and harmony among the genders, feel useless and undeserving for the new Western culture. Along with this, "the gap in generational teaching caused by forced attendance at boarding schools, the rise of alcohol and drug abuse, rampant unemployment, the growing presence of TV and radio, and the migration of family members away from the homeland" all lead toward a skewed world-view and more violence towards women. In order to obtain as much power over what little is left of indigenous culture, men amplify their power over their women. This commonly leads to violent beatings of wives and girls within colonized nations. One Navajo woman once said of her experience in her household,

The guy he got a wire and he whipped my face. And then,
I guess my mom got scared and she called the cops and
we were still fighting. And the cop took my dad's side
and I told the lady, she goes you're not raised here, you're
not raised right. You don't obey your dad.

Even though violence was considered taboo for most indigenous cultures before the invasion of Westerners, one can tell from the quote above it has now spiraled out of control.

Many people are working towards a more widespread awareness of indigenous cultures within the US. Our government is enacting laws for more recognition of the indigenous, people are helping indigenes find work and there are programs providing

food for indigenes that need it all around the country. Sadly, when people come to help the indigenous population, they forget about the women. Because there are so many other problems stemming from colonization, the women in indigenous cultures are forgotten, ignored or put on the back burner. Women are not seen as a valuable resource that needs to be saved within native cultures. Therefore, the resource is being depleted through beatings and killings from their indigenous men. Sadly, as colonization (now through globalization as well) is still a main factor for the indigenes, violence towards women is not getting better.

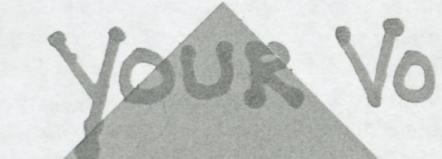
As I said earlier, I am one of the people that ignored the plight of indigenous women. Not because I did not care, but because I did not know. Now, these women and their problems are in the foreground of my thoughts. Hopefully this piece is an enlightenment to all those that read it, or at least an addition of knowledge into the brains of those at Otterbein College. The violence against women has not stopped, and by examining the problems colonization gave to indigenous cultures all around the world, I believe much has to be done to save the women of the future.

* American Indian & Native Alaska
women are 2.5 times more likely
to be raped or sexually assaulted
than women in the U.S. in
general.


* 1 in 3 Native women will
be raped in their lifetime.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

FIND YOUR VOICE!



The third annual Take Back the Night event was held on Otterbein's Campus, April 10th. The event proved to be a success with over 100 students, faculty and staff in attendance. Sheryl Clinger from the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence gave a rousing speech to the attendees and then a march was led around Otterbein's campus with a break to hear three sexual violence testimonies from Otterbein students. Those in attendance ended the night by chanting "Break the silence! Take back the night!" while marching from Towers Hall to the Campus Rock where they proceeded to sign their names to a pledge stating they would help put an end to sexual violence.



* 683,000 WOMEN ARE
RAPED EACH YEAR

BUT....

ONLY 2% OF RAPISTS
ARE CONVICTED OR
IMPRISONED

3rd Annual

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT
Putting an end to
sexual violence



Over 100 students, staff,
and faculty came out
to "Break the Silence!"

ETA

Vol. II Issue II

Spring 2007



Abstinence is the leading cause of immaculate conception



Pro choice is...



AGAINST ABORTION? THEN

True Christians are PRO-LIFE!

Someone you know may need a choice.

Sex Education Prevent

JUST SAY NO TO SEX WITH PRO-LIFERS

ABORTION IS MURDER.

PRO CHOICE

KATE Staffers
Jen Roberts
Amber Robertson
Colleen Deel
Kelly Givens
Bonita Fee
Julie Eaton
Juliana Farrington

Faculty Advisors
Amy Johnson
Sarah Fatherly

ABORTION
genocide
© 2004 ChristianShirts.net
KILLING
CHOICE

The Abortionists
killing babies since 1973

some choices are WRONG!

Drugs... Abortion...

Don't liberals just kill you?

If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament!

Pro-Child
Pro-Family
Pro-Choice

WAR IS NOT PRO-LIFE

PRISONS ARE FILLED WITH UNWANTED CHILDREN
KEEP ROE V WADE

I'M PRO-CHOICE AND I VOTE

EVERY CHILD A WANTED CHILD