



Heartbeat

The beat of Students for Life at SLU

Volume 1, Issue 3, November 2007



Upcoming Events

"Pack the Buses"

November 13th, 7pm in the BSC, room 254

Come to get excited about the March for Life! A free trip will be given away!

March for Life

January 19 - 23, 2008

-Registration-

opens on Nov. 6th and closes on Dec 7th. Visit <http://pages.slu.edu/org/sfl/mflreg.html> to register.

Meetings

Every Tuesday at 7:00pm, in the John Cook School of Business, room 330



ACTIVELY PRO-LIFE

How SLU students' work at Our Lady's Inn during Respect Life Week made an impact

By Megan Corneilson

As I pulled weeds along the edge of a parking lot on a Saturday morning, I was sure that no passersby would see me and think, "She's doing pro-life work!" During Students for Life's day of service at Our Lady's Inn on October 6th, I learned that love for mothers and their children can be displayed in many ways. Our Lady's Inn provides a home and support system for pregnant women who have nowhere else to turn. SLU

students spent an afternoon volunteering at the Inn in various ways—watching children, sorting donated goods, and helping with upkeep of the property.

The tasks we were given seemed small compared with the daily struggles of the women living there. They are welcomed into the home to prepare for and take care of their children, while attending parenting and budgeting classes and performing daily chores. Although I do not know the names or backgrounds of the women I saw in the halls, I couldn't help but admire them for being strong enough to choose life for their children despite the challenges they face.

In my experience with pro-life activities, I have mostly focused on spreading the pro-life message and working to end abortion. The opportunity to help those women who *have* chosen life gave me a new perspective. I realized that advocating for pro-life legislation and encouraging women to keep



their unborn babies is a very important calling, but the next step is supporting new mothers who have kept their children in the face of great adversity. I gladly helped clean up the Our Lady's Inn parking lot because I knew that it is a safe haven for mothers in crisis and the children whose lives we work to protect.



Pro-Life Cinema: Students for Life See Life-Affirming Film

By Tom Chlebeck

"A nation that kills its own children, is a nation without hope."

-Pope John Paul II

FACT:

Fifty-two percent of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25

- *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*
2002

On October 24th, Students for Life were able to attend the film *Bella* by the generosity of Bethany Christian Services. If you were there, one word: Wehrenberg! If not, you should definitely see this film.

Bella is the story of a poor single woman who becomes pregnant and one man who drops everything to help her. It won the People's Choice Award at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival, and one can quickly see why: the characters and situations are very realistic, and the feelings deeply genuine. Moreover, it features strong performances by the entire cast, many of whom will likely grace the screen again. The plot's scattered timeline is confusing at first, but in the end it is to good effect. The moral is powerful yet subtle, righteous yet nonjudgmental. Addressing the most tragic issue of our time with compassion, *Bella* is a moving and relevant film.

It is not a perfect film, of course. Perhaps the greatest weakness of *Bella* is its brevity. The ending is far too sudden, partly because some questions remain unanswered but more importantly because this film embodies things that could never get enough screen time: friendship, family, and real love.

Bella illustrates all kinds of love, but the kind it rightly exalts above the rest is not that of camaraderie, companionship, or even romance. It is the love that transcends all of these: that self-giving love a mother and father have for their child – biological or adopted, born or unborn. Although this is not a film exclusively for the faithful, one seldom finds a better reflection of God's love shared between His children.

Most importantly, the film *Bella* has the potential to change people's hearts. Please go see it and support life!



Kansas District Attorney hits Planned Parenthood with criminal charges

By Teresa Val



In another attempt to curb the Kansas abortion industry, Johnson County District Attorney Phill Kline filed 107 criminal charges against Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri on Oct. 17, 2007.

Of the 107 criminal complaints, 23 are cited as felony charges and 84 as misdemeanors. Kline's accuses the Overland Park clinic of providing false information, failure to maintain adequate records, failure to determine viability, and the performance of illegal late-term abortions, according to www.all.org.

www.coloradorighttolife.org

"Abortion ignores the cause and treats the symptom: instead of suggesting a way out of the isolation mothers face, it offers a way out of motherhood."

-Nancy Randolph Pearcy

Did you know...

That there are about two million couples waiting to adopt a child? Furthermore, each of these couples would want two or three, if available. Many will take hard-to-place children with special needs.

-Bachrach et al., "On the Path to Adoption"

Some question what impact Kline's charges will have on abortion law, according to *ABC News*. Kansas' capital, Wichita, is widely known as the "abortion capital of the world," due to Dr. George Tiller's clinic where late-term abortions are performed. While many out-of-state women visit Tiller's clinic, Kline's complaints could make getting an abortion more difficult. For one, clinics would be increasingly targeted by pro-life protesters, thus discouraging doctors from working there.

CEO of the charged Overland Park clinic, Peter Brownlie, argues that Kline's actions are a political attack and that "no health care providers should be threatened with felony convictions simply because elected officials oppose legal abortion," according to the Oct. 19 issue of *The Wichita Eagle*.

Legal researcher at the American Life League, Andrew Flusche, JD, said that Planned Parenthood would try to deflect attention by labeling the situation "a case of politics" (www.all.org).

Flusche denied political motivation in Kline's suit, saying, "The state of Kansas has an obligation to its women and children to protect their safety and well-being...It is time Planned Parenthood is held legally accountable for its actions."

The first hearing is set for Nov. 16. If convicted on all counts, Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri could face more than \$2.5 million in potential fines, according to *The Wichita Eagle*.

For more information on Kline's charges and his pro-life record, visit www.kansas.com.

The Girls Who Went Away:

An Untold Story Now Shared

By Rachel Allen

One of the reasons many women choose abortion in today's society is to avoid the judgment and condemnation unwed mothers inevitably face. Those same attitudes were much more powerful in mid-20th century America, the setting of Ann Fessler's *The Girls Who Went Away: The hidden history of women who surrendered children for adoption in the decades before Roe v. Wade*.



Fessler, an adoptee who had been surrendered by a young, unmarried woman in the fifties, collected the stories of hundreds of women like her natural mother in order to share their experiences of a corrupt adoption system that had been hidden for decades. Condemnation and shame led to unmarried women being sent to group homes where they waited until the end of their pregnancy, immediately surrendered their newborn children to adoption agencies, and returned home with stories of vacations or extended visits to elderly relatives.

Each young woman whose story was recorded in this collection made choices that put her in a situation where she was scorned by her family and community, forced to hide her pregnancy and surrender her child as soon as he was born, often without ever holding him. The overall message of *The Girls Who Went Away* is one of great sadness. Most of these women were left hurt, confused, and broken-hearted because they weren't allowed to choose the

ending of their own stories. Their experiences with adoption failed to illustrate the incredible love and sacrifice these birthmothers showed their unborn children.

Fessler doesn't offer an opinion on the legalization of abortion, an event that occurred decades after the stories she recounts. She hardly mentions it, except when quoting women who said that it simply wasn't an option at the time. Yet, there are incredible parallels between the women in this collection and women in the same circumstances today. Today's women aren't sent to group homes, but rather to the doctor's office or clinic where they are told that there is only one solution for their problem. Countless women today face the same heartbreak as those who were forced to surrender their children against their will. Their pain will continue until all women are given the true freedom to choose what will be best for themselves and their unborn children, freedom that demands society's love and support instead of anger and condemnation. Such freedom will ensure that no more girls are sent away.

Like What You See?
Support SFL at SLU!

Send check donations to:

Students for Life
20 N Grand Blvd, MSC 11
St. Louis, MO 63103-2005

Thank You for supporting
life!

"A Voice for the Voiceless"



Our Mission:

Unwavering in its defense of the unborn, Students for Life at Saint Louis University is dedicated to protecting each and every human life from the moment of conception. With the distinct understanding that college-aged women are one of the most susceptible age demographics to abortion, we seek to educate, to engage, and to inform college men and women on the destructive nature of abortion.

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of Heartbeat. If you have any comments or suggestions, or if there is anything you would like to see in future issues, please do not hesitate to contact us at sfl@slu.edu.

Visit Our Website at <http://pages.slu.edu/org/sfl>

Pregnant? Need Help?

The local Pregnancy Resource Center is within walking distance of SLU, at 4331 Lindell Blvd. Call them at 314-783-3040, or visit their website, www.prcmo.net.

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. COMPASSIONATE.

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If you would no longer like to receive this newsletter, please e-mail sfl@slu.edu.

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