



Heartbeat

The beat of Students for Life at SLU

Volume 1, Issue 8, May 2008



Upcoming Events

SFL Iggy's Night Fundraiser

April 29th, 6-10pm

Turn in your receipt and
15% of your bill will go to
support SFL!

Students for Life Meetings

The last regular meeting
for this year is past.
Meeting time and place
for 08-09 is yet to be
determined.



SFL Advisor Offers Reflection

Students for Life at Saint Louis University continues to grow by leaps and bounds. In my three years of service as staff advisor, I have witnessed membership expand from less than a dozen students to well over 45 active members. One clear sign of the group's growth is its expansion of student leadership opportunities, as we have added a new executive board position and several committee chairs for next year. Moreover, our updated website (<http://pages.slu.edu/org/sfl>) and this wonderful newsletter have exponentially increased our network of friends beyond the gates of SLU.

This year, SFL has also enhanced its outreach to the St. Louis community. In addition to the March for Life, our regular visits to Our Lady's Inn, and distributing information about cloning to our city neighbors at the polls, SFL has collaborated with several University departments to publish "It's Positive. Now What?" This guide is the first of its kind at SLU, and it has already led dozens of anxious students to life-affirming resources for women and men concerned about an unplanned pregnancy. Please be sure to support our partners in care, THRIVE St. Louis and the Pregnancy Resource Center.

Already having a profound impact on campus is SFL's newest undertaking, the Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance scholarship. Our first goal is to raise \$25,000 for the initial endowment. With support from SLU's Knights of Columbus and "Run for Their Lives," our annual run/walk, we are over 25 percent of the way toward our goal before formally kicking off the fundraising campaign. I look for great things to come from this endeavor, including a greater awareness of and care for pregnant and parenting students at SLU.

Students for Life at Saint Louis University has become a reputable training ground for future leaders of the pro-life movement. Our members have begun to engage in right-to-life issues, especially abortion, with a greater clarity, sense of purpose, and sensitivity. Through your prayers, participation, and financial support, I ask you to help bring to fruition the great work that the members of SFL have begun.

Steve Fowler, SFL Staff Advisor

Education

Community

Support

PREGNANT & PARENTING STUDENT ASSISTANCE
AN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP BY STUDENTS FOR LIFE
AT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Campaign begins Fall '08!
Contact: sflscholarship@gmail.com

Run for Their Lives Re-Cap

By Caitlin Boyce



This year's 2nd annual "Run for Their Lives" on April 12, 2008, was a huge success despite the bitter cold and wind. Over 150 runners and walkers came out to support the endowment of the Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance scholarship. This year's event featured a kid's scavenger hunt, local high school attendance competition, tables with information from area

pregnancy resource centers, and free Rockstar energy drinks, bananas, and orange juice for all. The event raised \$2,700, bringing the Scholarship fund total to just over \$6,000. Our appreciation goes out to all the participants and especially all the volunteers who made this event a reality!

OB/GYN Guest Speaker: The Reality Behind Birth Control

By Tim Wright

Dr. Michael Dixon, a practicing OB/GYN in St. Louis and proud member of Birthright, visited the Students for Life meeting on April 1st to give a presentation regarding the various forms of birth control. He broke down the various methods into four categories: natural family planning, contraceptives (which prevent fertilization), chemical/hormonal (e.g. "the pill"), and termination methods (induced abortion and the drug RU486).

Of the four categories, Dr. Dixon spent the most time discussing the pros and cons of chemical contraceptives, which use artificial estrogen and progesterone to disrupt the natural ovulation cycle. As common as birth control pills have become—even for women who use them to help regulate their menstrual cycles rather than prevent pregnancy—the exact specifics on how they work are far more unfamiliar. Even pills that stop ovulation 95% of the time will on occasion allow an egg to be released and possibly fertilized. If fertilized, the embryo will be expelled because it is unable to implant in the uterine lining due to the hormones in the pills.

As a pro-life practitioner, Dr. Dixon stressed the difference between preventing a pregnancy and terminating one, and that this difference is real even in the first few stages of pregnancy. The thread of life is a delicate one, especially in these early stages, and both women and men should be mindful of the totality of consequences that may result when promised any quick fix, including birth control.



FACT:
Number of abortions performed in 2003 worldwide: **41.6 million**
~Guttmacher Institute

"Those who die in any holocaust die because of an idea: the belief that certain people are different and not fully human and therefore it is all right to kill them."
~Michael Werner



Coerced abortions disputed, then criminalized in Idaho legislatures

By Teresa Val

For almost two months, Idaho legislatures grappled over a bill that would forbid people from forcing women to undergo abortions. On April 14, 2008, Governor C.L. Otter signed the bill into law, making Idaho the first state to criminalize coercing abortions, as reported in www.lifesitenews.com.

Because of coercion's prevalence and emotional, psychological, and spiritual harm in unplanned pregnancies, House Bill (HB) 654 was created "to empower all Idaho mothers to choose life for their pre-born children by preventing coercion in its most common forms."

Specifically, HB 654 criminalizes any physical harm or threats that may be implemented during coercion. For example, after learning of their teenage daughter's pregnancy, parents could receive criminal charges if they threaten her with only two options: get an abortion or leave home, according to a Boise *KBCI* news report.

Representative Bob Nonini, the bill's sponsor, admitted that he was only familiar of two coercion cases in Idaho; however, he further noted that even one case of coercion would be one too many (*KBCI*).

"We currently have laws that protect a woman's right to choose abortion but virtually nothing that protects a woman from being forced into having an abortion..." Generation Life founder Brandi Swindell said, as quoted in www.lifesitenews.com, "Where's the choice in a forced abortion? The abortion lobby sees House Bill 464 [precursor to HB 654] as a threat to their pro-choice belief system. The majority of Idahoans, including me, see this bill not as pro-life or pro-choice, but as pro-woman."

Idaho Planned Parenthood representatives reacted with disappointment towards the bill's passing, calling for more domestic abuse programs and increased contraceptive distribution, according to www.lifesitenews.com.

For full text of House Bill 654, visit www3.state.id.us/oasis/H0654.html.

SFL Members Accompany Special Olympians

By Kathleen Neuner

It might have been cold and rainy, but the athletes at the Special Olympics were ready to compete! On Saturday, April 19th, a group of Students for Life members woke up bright and early and drove to Rockwood Summit High School to be buddies at the Special Olympics. We met our athletes, who ranged in age and ability, but all of whom welcomed us with open arms. The athletes spent the day competing in the



"We deserve, demand, have a right to--can create--something better than the abortion industry's 'cure' for our unique condition of impregnability, whether that abortionist be in the back alley or the plush front office."

~Juli Loesch

Did You Know...?

Over 118 people attended at least one weekly SFL meeting this year, and several members had perfect or near-perfect attendance!



"If we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people to not kill each other?"

~Mother Theresa

Like What You See?
Support SFL at SLU!
Send check donations to:

Students for Life
Busch Student Center,
MSC # 11
20 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103

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

"A Voice for the Voiceless"



long jump, track events, softball throw, and relaxing in Olympic village with carnival games and tons of prizes! As buddies, we made sure our athletes made it to their events on time, ate lunch with them, and cheered them on. Part of the Students for Life mission is to, "respect the dignity of all human life." On Saturday, we spent time with an amazing group of people who often do not receive the dignity they deserve. The children and adults with disabilities who competed in the Special Olympics are a great example of enthusiasm and determination. The athletes wished their competitors good luck before the race, shared hugs at the finish line, and did not care if their medal was gold, bronze, or if they finished in last place: they just wanted to have fun! I think all the Students for Life members who came would agree that it was an amazing experience, and I look forward to participating again next year!

A Note from the Editor:

Thank you for taking the time to read "Heartbeat" and learn about the endeavors of *Students for Life at Saint Louis University* this year! Last year at this time, this newsletter was just a goal written down on a piece of loose-leaf paper, and I am so happy that it has become a reality. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to "Heartbeat" over the past year, including those who wrote articles, donated pictures, helped with editing, found quotes and facts, uploaded issues onto the SFL website, tolerated many e-mails, offered suggestions, and gave encouragement. It has been wonderful working with all of you to create this newsletter.



The original purpose of "Heartbeat" was to provide a regular update on SFL's activities to everyone affiliated with our group, and I think this newsletter has done that and more. It has helped me to become even more passionately pro-life, and I hope it has reinforced your commitment to the pro-life movement as well.

Sarah Schumacher

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.

Our Mission:

Students for Life is a fellowship committed to upholding the fundamental right to life on the campus of Saint Louis University. We follow the guidance of Catholic thought regarding the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. The Jesuit Mission of Saint Louis University calls us to discern prayerful, intellectual and active means of building a culture of life that rejects the institution of abortion.

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.

Contact Information

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