

A look inside one pregnancy counseling center

The following is an account that appeared in Roosevelt University's student newspaper, the Torch, about what actually goes on at a pregnancy center near the campus, which the Illinois Attorney General is investigating for fraudulent advertising.

by Christopher Poremba (CPS)

I was sent with Linda Muller—a student at Roosevelt University—with permission from the Torch, to the Loop Crisis Pregnancy Center last October.

My mission was to report objectively on how the Loop Crisis Pregnancy Center operates and how it treats its patients.

Linda and I posed as girlfriend and boyfriend. Also, to make everything work, Linda brought the urine sample of a pregnant woman to use as her own.

Before entering the center, we agreed to use assumed names to protect ourselves, Roosevelt University and the Torch.

We walked into the center and were told to be seated. The woman at the counter gave Linda a form to fill out as we waited to be counseled. The form asked simple ques-

tions about Linda's health and background. After about 10 minutes, we were taken into a small room with a television and a video recorder.

The counselor asked us questions about our views on abortion and our religious background. We explained that we were confused about abortion. We told the counselor that we were both raised as Catholics, but we were not secure in our beliefs.

After the brief questioning, the counselor offered to show us "A Matter of Choice," a video about abortion.

The video discussed the negative effects of abortion. A female "investigator" interviewed many women and physicians about abortion, and all questions and answers seemed one-sided against abortion.

The video showed many graphic pictures of fetuses. Some looked well-developed, with all the features of a human being. The video also showed trash cans full of fetal limbs.

Abortion methods were shown and described by alleged physicians.

The video showed one woman in great pain, shaking uncontrollably as a vibrating machine removed a fetus through a clear plastic tube. Blood was traveling

through the tube at a fast rate. The film mentioned that the women was unconscious, yet she screamed at one point during the operation.

The movie told us women who have abortions suffer two or three miscarriages in later attempts to have children. It also said they are more likely to face sterility and an increased chance of having stillborn babies.

The video reported that fetal parts were often left in the uterus after abortion, increasing the risk of infections, bleeding and death. It mentioned that guilt, depression and broken relationships are common in women who have abortions.

After the film, the counselor informed us that Linda was pregnant. After we acted upset for several minutes, the counselor suggested we seriously consider keeping the baby or giving it up for adoption.

The counselor made no mention of abortion as an alternative. Instead, she showed us a photograph of what our child looked like at the stage of pregnancy Linda was in.

We made an appointment for the following week and left. We did not return to the center.

Pro-Choice Take On Pregnancy 'Counseling Clinics'

by Hal Wadsworth (CPS)

A non-medical pregnancy center near the Roosevelt University campus in Illinois is under fire from pro-choice groups who say the facility doesn't tell pregnant women the whole truth.

Similar centers, which opponents worry are little more than anti-abortion propaganda offices, are located near college campuses nationwide.

"There are a lot of these places in college towns," said Elissa McBride, campus coordinator for the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), based in Washington, D.C.

"The only thing they talk about at the centers is why not to have an abortion," asserts Amy Dienes of the Chicago-area Planned Parenthood Association, which was part of a group that in March asked the Illinois attorney general to probe the Loop Crisis Pregnancy Center (LCPC) near Roosevelt for advertising, allegedly fraudulently, that it is a full-service counseling service.

"The advertisements lead you to believe they will walk you through all the alternatives and they will be complete and accurate," Dienes claimed.

The Illinois Pro-Choice Alliance, the umbrella group of 40 women's organizations that filed the complaint, says LCPC and others like it distort medical facts about pregnancy and abortion to

persuade pregnant women to give birth.

It also accuses the centers of endangering the health of pregnant women by discouraging them from seeking professional medical care.

The LCPC's ads, published among other places in the Torch, Roosevelt's student newspaper, do not draw attention to the center's lack of medical certification.

As a result, Torch employees are running a disclaimer above the ads that says "Alternatives to abortion: No Medical Personnel on Staff."

Center Director Nancy Watson defends the ads.

"Most advertisements don't advertise what they don't do," Watson said.

"We advertise pregnancy testing and counseling. That's what we do," she continued.

"We don't claim to be a health clinic," Watson said. "Every woman is advised to see a doctor."

Pro-choice advocates say the clinics are a growing problem.

Anti-abortion centers have been around for about 10 years, said Patricia Dougherty, head of the Illinois branch of NARAL.

NARAL took action because "the number of centers is really growing," Dougherty said.

The Pro-Choice Alliance lists nine "fake health clinics" in Chicago, 14 in the suburbs and 33 around the state.

Attention Gays and Lesbians

Come join the fun in UNLV's Lesbian and Gay Academic Union. LGAU is a social group offering anonymity, support, and friendship to both students and persons in the community. Meetings and workshops are scheduled on the first and third Mondays of each month at 6 pm in the Moyer Student Union.

For more information call 594-GAYS.

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\$5.00
Admission
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For info
call
455-7340

It's Better Hearing and Speech Month

It's difficult to imagine being unable to hear someone calling your name or a telephone ringing. It's just as difficult to imagine not being able to talk to your friends at work or order a meal in a restaurant. As tough as it is to picture yourself in these situations, it is a fact that about 22.6 million people in the United States suffer from some kind of hearing, speech or language disorder. In fact, communication disorders are this nation's most common handicap.

The full loss of the abilities to hear, to use language and to speak are collectively (and significantly) called communicative disorders. The loss of the ability to communicate—the loss of normal human interaction—is one of the most devastating and isolating handicaps. Yet many people with communicative disorders do not seek help for their problem.

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month, a national campaign sponsored by 21 concerned organizations across the country

to promote the early detection, proper treatment and prevention of hearing and speech impairments.

Millions of people with hearing and speech problems can be helped through medical treatment, surgery, amplification, or hearing and speech rehabilitation. The earlier a problem is diagnosed and treatment begins, the better the chances for improvement. It is never too late to get help.

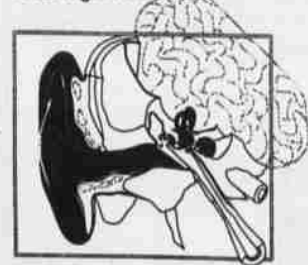
Take time out during Better Hearing and Speech Month to ask yourself: Do I hear as well as I used to? Am I finding it difficult to hear what others are saying? Do others complain that my TV or radio are too loud, and are they at a level which may be damaging to my hearing? A "yes" answer may indicate a problem—don't ignore it.

For more information regarding Better Hearing and Speech Month write to Nevada Hearing Aid Specialists Association, P.O. Box 18000-64, Las Vegas, NV 89114.

Four kinds of hearing loss

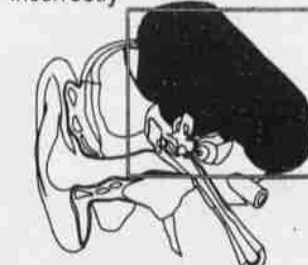
Mixed

Combined conductive and sensorineural hearing loss



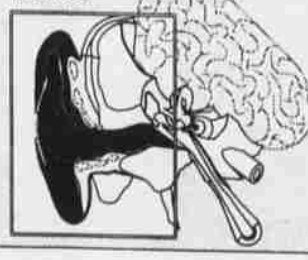
Central

Damage or malformation makes brain receive signals incorrectly



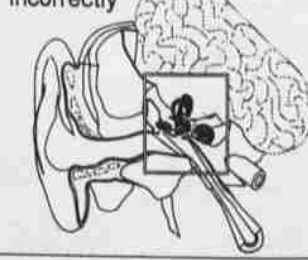
Conductive

Damaged, diseased or malformed outer or middle ear. Sounds are weak, muffled



Sensorineural

Damaged or malformed inner ear. Some sounds distorted or heard incorrectly



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