

PRO LIFE NONVIOLENT ACTION 1526 East 35th Ave. Denver Colo. 80205

*Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die.
Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.* Proverbs 31.8-9 (nKJ)

For this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. John 18.37

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matthew 25.40

Michael Alison Chandler
The Washington Post
1150 15th St. NW
Washington D.C. 20071

COPY

Denver, September 11th 2006

Dear Mr. Chandler:

Your story of 9-10-06 about the use of sonograms to turn women away from abortion is well researched, so far as it goes, but there is a major omission in that you say nothing about the role that the *sidewalk counsellors* play. They are the front line of the anti abortion battle.

The *alternatives pregnancy center* is usually not next door to the abortion clinic and not many abortion-bound women wander in there by mistake. But they are regularly taken there by the hundreds of *sidewalk counsellors* who post themselves in front of the abortuaries every morning, often at some risk to themselves from hostile boy friends or trumped up arrests for *disturbing the peace* by talking too loud--we had more than 100 of them in the 12 years I was out there.

Here in Denver there had been *sidewalk counsellors* in front of the Planned Parenthood abortuary at 20th and Vine for many years when I helped organize the 5 day a week effort which began in 1989. And they are still out there every day. No doubt you have them in the DC area also.

The *sonogram* can be the clincher in turning a woman away from abortion, but how do you get her to go in for an *ultrasound* in the first place? That is where the *sidewalk counsellor* comes in. We first try to hand her [or him] information such as the enclosed. *Here's some information . . .* If they will stop and talk to us, we try to get them to go with us to an alternatives pregnancy center for a *free ultrasound*. But the first challenge is to turn them away from that appointment at the abortuary. Once inside they are given tranquilizers and lies and they come out crying but it's too late. The information alone can sometimes persuade them to come out again, if they will look at it, but the abortuary staffer is trained to take it away.

The First Nine Months is the next best thing to a *sonogram*. In fact, it has some important advantages. It costs 30c. It is portable. You can take it to the woman as a first step before you try to take her to wherever this \$ 50,000 machine is to be found. And the elegant Lennart Nilsson fiber optic photographs convey the essential truth: ***it's a baby, not a blob.*** (They were first printed in *Life* magazine some years ago.) It is a kind of **generic sonogram** which at once belies what abortion industry propaganda tells its customers: an *unwanted pregnancy* is just *a blob of fetal tissue* or *two tablespoons of fluid*. And you don't have to wait until people come for an abortion to hand them one. We also hand them out on the sidewalks in front of the high schools. Here in Denver, we use the Spanish version a lot. They are usually much easier to talk to and turn away. It is astonishing how ignorant even highly educated people are on these basic facts of human life. No doubt it is a willful and necessary self-deception for many.

During the 12 years I was out in front of the Planned Parenthood abortuary as a *sidewalk counsellor* on a daily basis, we *rescued* at least two babies every week, on the average. Many more babies would be saved from abortion if people--women and men--received the elementary education in fetal growth and development which ***The First Nine Months*** provides. Of course there are many other graphic leaflets out there but, in my experience, this is about the best. That is why I promote it as much as I can. It really is a matter of life or death. And there are few things in life as rewarding as seeing a child you helped rescue from the trash bin at the abortuary.

Terry Sullivan

