

I'm Not an Aborted Woman —

I recently sent a notice to be included in the Daily Bulletin, but it was never published. The notice was directed primarily to Lutherans for Life during the week that they ran items in protest of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision. However, I also want the wider Concordia community to be aware of my concerns. Therefore, I am hoping that despite the daily bulletin censorship, the SWORD will print my letter even though it might be considered "too controversial" for an LCMS college newspaper. (This is a greatly expanded version of what I originally submitted to the Daily Bulletin.)

To Lutherans for Life:

I am not an "aborted woman." In fact, I cannot even imagine what the literal meaning of that term could be. However, I am sure you were referring to me when you used it in your recent Daily Bulletin announcements. I am a woman who had an abortion; I am not an aborted woman.

How shall I respond to your daily notices of grim statistics (often misleading) and graphic descriptions? Such pronouncements (not announcements!) fail to reach me, fail to reach out to me. Shall I excuse your twists of truth and inflammatory language? Abortion may be the sixth leading cause of maternal death, however, childbirth is the first. You quote one statistic, but omit another in order to serve your purposes of intimidation and threat. What about the report that said some women experience "craziness?" What is that supposed to mean? Is it just another attempt to discredit women and their emotional stability? Craziness is not a clinical term, and your use of it is irresponsible.

Shall I put on a "scarlet A" so that my church can find another reason to exclude me from present or potential ministry? I challenge you to give me examples of single, pregnant women or single women with children born out of wedlock, whom the church has embraced and welcomed as professional church workers. Would the church be any more accepting of me if I publicly confessed my abortion? I doubt it.

Shall I punish myself with guilt--do you think that it's good/right that many women who have had abortions report nightmares and obsessions? Maybe you think they deserve to suffer, to be punished--forever? If I don't have nightmares, is there something morally or spiritually wrong with me?

Shall I notice your lack of understanding, sensitivity, and compassion for the women who have made such a decision? Shall I accept your use of threat and fear and guilt and horror rather than expect you to respond as Christians with love and listening and care and grace? How do you demonstrate your "pro-lifeness" with respect to the life of the woman who is considering or who has had an abortion? I do not believe that Christ would ever have authored the notices that ran in the bulletin last January.

Sign me...a forgiven woman.

Only God Knows —

Dear Editor,

Five days a week, twice on Tuesday and Thursday, chapel is offered at Concordia. The students on the campus know there is chapel, but why do they choose to do other things during this time? There are two views to this question, one says it is the people, that they don't care. Another view says it's chapel, that it is not interesting enough. What's your opinion?

On Concordia campus, chapel is not a required class. If a person has something more important, they may do it. A paper may be due, some sleep

needs catching up on, it's time for talking with friends, or perhaps the person does not believe in God. Not believe in God, on this campus? Preposterous! How can you tell if a person believes in God, or if they love Jesus? Only God knows. The intention of this article is not to answer why people don't go to chapel, only to ask you to think about it.

Perhaps if we put a survey out to the students asking what they like and disliked about chapel, then we would know what to change and what to leave. Is this the solution? Who knows, because it hasn't

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Dorm Hours —

It's Tuesday night. You and your guest of the opposite sex are quietly studying your psychology together. Suddenly, you hear the footsteps of your RA coming down the hall. You glance at the clock -- it reads 10:16 p.m. YOU are breaking dorm hours.

You hear the knock of your RA. Silence fills the room as you both look at each other. He knocks again. You remain silent. The RA goes back to his room. You quickly escort your guest out. You're off the hook this time, but what about next time?

The above situation has probably happened to you or someone you know. The question in many Concordia students' minds is, "Why are there dorm hours?" Many ask what the harm is in having guests of the opposite sex in your room during the evening.

The rationale of the college for dorm hours is that they set general guidelines for dorm life. Also, Concordia is a Christian school that feels the need to portray the idea and image of high moral standards. The school philosophy is that dorm hours are set up in a "caring" way to provide a guideline for living.

Concordia is one of the few colleges that still maintains rigid dorm hour policies. There are many good reasons for no dorm hours or, at least, extended dorm hours. First of all, as college students, we should be able to make decisions regarding our social life on our own. A college education is supposed to be able to allow us to think on our own and make decisions. In the real world, things are not structured and decisions are not made for us. Living and interacting with members of the opposite sex is the real world. Unrestricted and free interaction between the sexes does not lead to chaos, it leads to genuine relationships. I believe college students can handle the responsibilities given to them.

The issue of dorm hours is rather complicated. I do believe they should be extended, such as noon to midnight during the weekdays. This would allow more time for studying and socializing. Also, I believe that the school needs to be more receptive to the students' opinions and input on this issue. Whether or not dorm hours change, the school needs to listen to the students and form a policy which is satisfactory to the majority.

Daniel Mattila



Is Advertising Necessary? —

About a month ago, we stayed up late to finish some sewing. We were listening to the radio and we heard six commercials for Concordia College St. Paul between 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. We wonder how much each of these commercials costs. As we were discussing this with some friends, we heard that Concordia has also had some early morning television commercials. We have not seen them ourselves. This advertising concerns us for three reasons.

First, we are concerned about the money aspect. Where does this money come from? Our guess is that it comes from our tuition. If our tuition is going up 9% next year, we would rather see the commercials discontinued. Why does Concordia need to advertise anyway? We haven't heard commercials for many other private colleges.

The second reason these commercials concern us has to do with enrollment. As it is right now, there are not enough classes for the students that we do have. Many students have to get overrides for their classes. If these commercials do what they are supposed to do, attract more students, what will registration be like next year? We shudder at the thought.

Third, how much credibility does a private college lose when it resorts to commercials to recruit students? Is that not what Admissions is for? If we were high school students again, we would not have called for an application after hearing the commercial. They can't even pronounce the name of the college correctly: "CON-cordia College."

We invite the administration to respond to this editorial. This response will appear in the May issue. We also invite the students to voice their opinions and concerns about these advertisements.

Kathy Berry and Jan McCauley

