



Birthright — no abortions

by Adella Wacker

The girl is pregnant, and her parents are pressuring her to go outstate for an abortion. Or a boyfriend wants somebody to talk his girl out of getting an abortion. Or the girl just thinks she's pregnant, is panicking and doesn't know what to do.

Anyone involved with a problem pregnancy can go to Birthright for a concerned listener, a foster home—for anything but an abortion.

Beth Morgan, Birthright volunteer chairman, said its philosophy is that Birthright can't counsel against abortion without offering alternatives to help girls during and after pregnancy.

The bond between the 44 Birthright volunteers is believing every human fetus has a right to live.

Most volunteers are married women with children. Many are Catholic, although Birthright isn't a Catholic group.

"We're considered sort of Establishment on the question," one volunteer admitted.

Birthright in Lincoln will be one year old Wednesday. It was started by Mary Alice Pratt, president, and three others, she said, in reaction to liberalized New York abortion laws and publicity about the stream of girls to New York.

The Birthright idea is international. It started in Canada and now has more than 60 groups in the United States now, Pratt said.

In Lincoln, all Birthright services can be provided free to women. Expenses are picked up through donations.

A person needing help can call the Birthright phone number. An answering service will relay the call to the volunteer on duty.

Pratt said there is someone to take calls 24 hours a day.

Pratt said most of the girls who call haven't had pregnancy tests yet.

If the girl feels she can't go to the family doctor, a volunteer will go with her to one of seven doctors who cooperate with Birthright.

When the girl comes out of the doctors office and her face says she's pregnant, the volunteers can help her make plans.

They stress continued medical care and offer legal, social and psychiatric counseling, a place to stay and hospitalization.

One girl was under tremendous pressure, said Pratt, because her parents wanted her to have an abortion. Birthright sought legal aid to protect the girl's rights.

However, Pratt said, "We realize we're not social workers." Any serious counseling is done by a professional, she said.

Repair work begins on East Campus

As a result of the September meeting with UNL Housing Operations Coordinator, Dick Strait, repairs are beginning on East Campus dormitories.

The Housing Office accepted a \$200 bid to replace broken windows in the dormitories. The heating system also is being rebuilt and individual thermostats installed in the rooms, according to Strait.

Strait said at the meeting that because of money limitations there may be little immediate action on other problems, but promised requests would be considered in next year's budget.

Complaints included urinals in women's restrooms, cracking plaster, broken windows, chairs that didn't fit desks, insufficient heating, and no bathtubs in women's restrooms.

A student committee will begin meeting with Strait soon to iron out other grievances. The committee will be made up of representatives from East Campus dormitories.

At the September meeting Strait blamed the lack of attention to the East Campus dormitories on a communication gap and suggested the student committee.

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grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, Zumberge said. The grant will go to the University of Nebraska Press to encourage publication of more scholarly works, he explained.

The Chancellor also announced that the library has begun to standardize its book classification system. The library currently uses both the Dewey and Library of Congress systems. Zumberge said the two will be merged in about 18 months.

While giving a report from the University convocations committee, Craig MacPhee, assistant professor of economics and

committee chairman, said the administration had abridged the First Amendment by not dismissing classes for the keynote speech of last year's World in Revolution Conference.

One all-university convocation usually is held each year. Traditionally, classes have been dismissed for the event. Heidi Clark, women's rights activist, gave the address last year.

MacPhee said the board also is guilty of infringing on free speech. He said the November, 1971, student fee freeze imposed by the board caused Conference problems, especially in getting speakers' contracts signed and financing publicity.

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