



CAMPUS REPORT

The Auraria Campus

Denver Colorado

April 2004

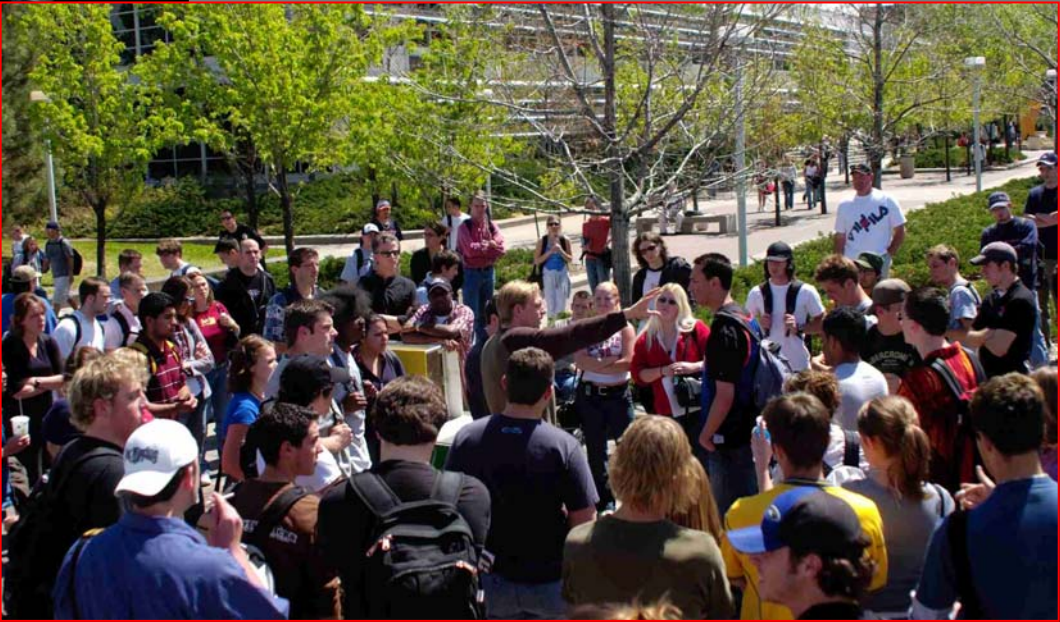


Lights,



Camera...

Action!



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LIGHTS, CAMERA...

With training, prayers, and a myriad of logistical preparations completed, Justice for All set up its large format Exhibit on Monday, April 12th at the largest college campus in Colorado. In the middle of downtown Denver, three separate schools¹ converge to occupy one property where 33,000 students will share their campus with JFA for three days. Like it or not.

Eighty-eight students and several faculty members from the Focus on the Family Institute (FFI) in Colorado Springs join JFA for the first two days. FFI

students attend JFA Exhibits in Colorado twice a year for an outreach where they put their hours of worldview and pro-life apologetic training to work. Not that the hours of training are a drag for these students. Many report that the knowledge and character gained from the JFA outreach experience is one of the highlights of their semester. After attending a JFA Exhibit as an FFI student, this writer was led to write, “[My JFA Exhibit] experience wasn’t a highlight of my week, or even semester, but something I will treasure and remember for the rest of my life.”

On the third and final day, high school juniors and seniors from Faith Christian Academy and seniors from Christian Fellowship School also flesh out the training they received. The total number of students trained for the outreach was over 210!

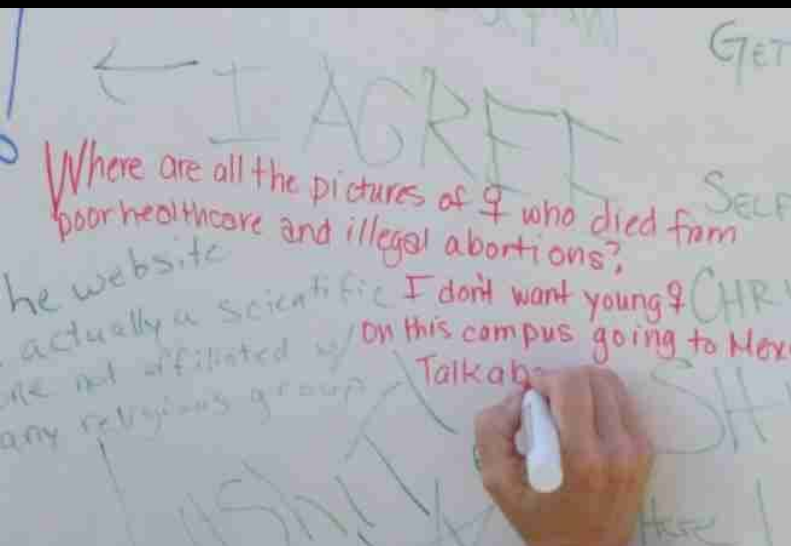


ACTION!

Around the exhibit, students can be seen taking pictures with their cell phone cameras...either to show the Justice For All Exhibit to someone immediately or in the near future... Because you can’t describe it. You can’t explain how looking at those pictures makes your heart ache, regardless of which “side” you’re on.

Seeing this Exhibit illuminates why so many passionate people are debating this issue.

John Wagner, a 21-year-old Marketing student from Metro State observes, “Conversation is a lost art in our society. At least this [Exhibit] gets people talking. We need to take issue with issues [like abortion].” And that’s exactly what hundreds of students are doing on the Auraria campus. And though most of the students who stop to look at the pictures just stand in silence, the mood on campus is anything but quiet. A crowd rallies around one of the Free Speech boards where an angry girl writes, “These pictures are a form of terrorism.” As questions begin to fly about her puzzling statement, she quickly turns and walks away, unwilling to discuss her statement.



¹ University of Colorado-Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver, and the Community College of Denver



Just twenty yards away, one of the FFI professors, Larry Burtoft, debates with a Denver student. Professors like Dr. Burtoft, who mentor the FFI students all semester and who the students admire and seek wisdom through, are now living out their faith in real time and place. The combination of wisdom, grace, and boldness to speak the truth is an example to each FFI student.

Luke Collins, a 23-year-old Business Management major from FFI admits, "At first I was really nervous and I didn't know how to approach people, but I prayed that God would use me, that I would be a vessel." Minutes later Luke sees a young man standing alone, looking at the pictures. Luke approaches

"Tell me this. Can you honestly walk past these pictures and then turn to your girlfriend and ask her what movie she wants to see tonight?"

Larry Burtoft

and asks if he was pro-life or pro-choice, but the student named Scott answers, "It's hard to know what truth is." When Scott eventually tells Luke that his life has no purpose, Luke feels a powerful boldness come over him. He shares with Scott the purpose for life that comes from embracing Christ's death for the forgiveness of sin and the relationship possible with the living Christ. Scott has several questions, but then to Luke's amazement says that he wanted to trust Christ for the forgiveness of his sins right then and there!

Before Yvonne saw the Exhibit, she didn't know if she believed abortion was right, but after looking at the pictures, she decided that abortion was murder. When Luke asks Yvonne what she thinks about Christ, he eventually has the opportunity to share the Gospel with her and answer her questions. Yvonne asks if he would meet her at the exhibit at 1 o'clock the following day to continue their discussion. When she



and Luke meet the next day, Yvonne tells him that after their conversation the day before, she got a Bible and asked the Lord into her heart that very evening!

Luke reflects that the most amazing part of the JFA Exhibit was how open students were to receiving the Truth. "I realized that God wanted to save them and I just happened to be there to help."

Morgan Hooks, FFI student reflection: "[T]he JFA Exhibit was the most eye opening experience I have had. I felt two main emotions...compassion and frustration. The frustration came from those whom I would debate and get nowhere with. The compassion came from the tears I saw fall from hurting hearts. One young man...had just been with his girlfriend 7 months prior to the Exhibit to have an abortion...he admitted that it was a selfish [decision]...tears began to fill his eyes and he couldn't look at the pictures...I was able to pray with him and he gave me his phone number...I look forward to continuing the conversation and helping him."



Above: Scott Creviston, president of the Metro State student club, Justice For All, shares the JFA Exhibit with a fellow student.



Special thanks to Melanie Dodd, a FFI alumni who participated in the FFI training and Auraria Exhibit (pictured left in pink) and wrote the copy for this report. Melanie is currently attending nursing school in Colorado Springs, CO, where she resides with her parents. Click on [Melanie's reflection](#) to read about her first experience with a JFA Exhibit at the University of Colorado-Boulder (Sept 2003).

TAKE TWO

Many students spend up to an hour asking questions and discussing the issues with one another. Others go to considerable work and spend the entire day opposing the JFA Exhibit.

About 50 yards from the Exhibit, a group called Creative Resistance places 20-foot-tall paintings of women surrounded by a chalk-drawn perimeter on the sidewalk. Inside the chalked circle are the words "Safe Zone". Michael Stone, a representative of the group, explains, "We are here to support our women. The safe zone is for them." He pauses after surveying all the discussions taking place in the "safe zone" and adds, "Unfortunately, our safe zone has become a debate zone."



Also supporting the abortion rights view is the *Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, and Transgender* campus group. They pass out fliers and stickers for "March for Women's Lives" (an abortion rights event held a few weeks later in Washington, D.C.) The buzz around their table is a debate as to whether something like human life has intrinsic value. Their scary conclusion: "No."

In stark contrast, Denver area women's support clinics like the Alternatives and the Riverside Crisis Pregnancy Center have reached a different conclusion. Representatives of these help centers are present each day and staff a table (pictured right) across from the Creative Resistance display to offer tangible help to women (and men) in need, as well as to their unborn children. Over 30 students request assistance during the three-day JFA Exhibit. Many of these have signed up to participate in abortion recovery support groups.



Below: FFI students with JFA staff and volunteers



JFA is about, changing thousands of hearts and lives—America's future leaders, one person at a time.

THAT'S A WRAP

One student viewing the Exhibit declares, "As part of mankind it's my responsibility to hold people accountable for their moral choices." Wow! That says it all!

It is easy to get disheartened when talking with students who question the value of themselves or others, unborn or not, but students always come along who seem hungry for Truth. They make long days of standing out in the sun all worth it. And that's what

WANT TO HELP CHANGE HEARTS AND SAVE LIVES? Your online gift will help sponsor a future JFA Exhibit ([click here to securely donate](#)) You can also write us online at jfamail@jfaweb.org or call **800.281.6426** for more information on what you can do to help change hearts and save lives.