

Quote of the Week: Revealing truth about history of unwed mothers

"A serious writer is not to be confounded with a solemn writer. A serious writer may be a hawk or a buzzard or even a popinjay, but a solemn writer is always a bloody owl."

-Ernest Hemmingway

KRISSY COLE
Communications Major

"You're all here because you knew this was gonna be about sex, right?" Ann Fessler's opening statement of her presentation, *The Girls Who Went Away*, provided the audience with quite a few laughs Thursday, Nov. 4 in the Reed Auditorium.

Taking a look back into the 1940s, 50s and 60s, Fessler discussed the research she's done and that in her book about the girls who vanished. During this time period, many young girls were sent away, often by their families, disappearing from high school and college classrooms, all because they were pregnant and unmarried.

Between 1945 and 1973, about a million and a half young women were forced to surrender their children. 60 percent of people during the 60s engaged in premarital sex due to a lack of education.

"Everybody had sex, but everybody lied about it," says Fessler. Many of these girls then became pregnant, and the social conditions of this time would not accept any teenage moms.

Fessler showed a preview of her "non-traditional docu-

mentary" that is based on her book. She interviewed 100 women who surrendered their children. The video showed multiple scenes of the struggles these women faced and voiced a lot of their stories.

It was typical during this time period for the dating scene to include driving around in cars with boys and parking. The women admitted to not knowing very much about sex education, and when they were faced with an unplanned pregnancy, the boys generally did not want to be bothered with it, fathers were furious, and mothers were beyond disapproving. One girl even said that her mom used the classic line, "What am I going to tell the neighbors?"

These women were looked down upon and many of them said that they felt like they should be dead. They were told it was selfish of them to want to keep the baby because it would shame their family, so they were sent to charitable homes to stay until the child was born.

One woman was told by the judge who gave her the papers she needed to sign in order to give up her baby that she was very courageous. The

whole time she was thinking that it was simply defeat.

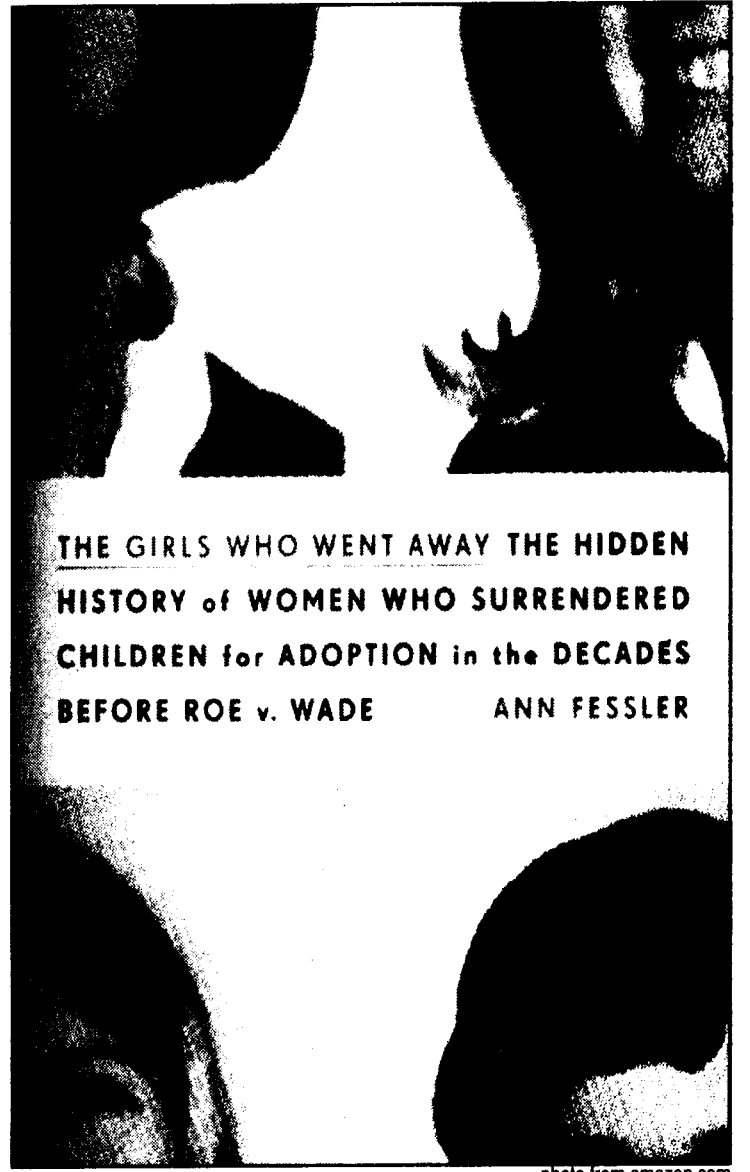
None of these women wanted to give up their babies for adoption, but all of them had no other choice and many were coerced into it. They were told to "shut up, get over it, and don't tell anyone."

The reasoning behind Fessler's interest in these women's stories is because her mother was one of them. While she was working in Baltimore at a photography gallery, she came upon a woman who looked vaguely familiar, but couldn't place where she'd seen her before.

"She was in my dream the night before we met," Fessler said.

Although many of these women were forced to send their children to adoption agencies, there was a decline in this forceful fate after 1971 due to availability of birth control methods, families willing to help, *Roe v. Wade* and *Eisenstadt v. Baird* Supreme Court cases, and other government acts.

The presentation was sponsored by the Women's Studies Minor, Theta Phi Alpha, Alpha Sigma Tau, and SAF.



THE GIRLS WHO WENT AWAY THE HIDDEN HISTORY of WOMEN WHO SURRENDERED CHILDREN for ADOPTION in the DECADES BEFORE ROE v. WADE ANN FESSLER

The Girls Who Went Away is a collection of stories about the struggles of women's sex and life through out history.

School to offer first annual creative writing festival & internship

MATTHEW DEFUSCO
Creative writing major

Meeting "Earth's Eye," a festival of writing in the natural world, will take place next year.

On Aug. 5, 2011, part of the festival will be held on campus where students will have the opportunity to hear the noted nature writer Scott Russell Saunders.

Saunders will also be aiding in the workshops that will be available for students who wish to have their writing looked at in a critical manner.

Along with Saunders, the festival will host another honored guest who was a former editor for *Sierra Magazine*-- an online magazine that is concerned with the natural world and its protection.

The festival spawned from a discussion between Professor Kim Todd and Professor George Looney about the use of Presque Isle State Park.

The two believe that Presque Isle is a resource for students to take classes and learn about the natural world and practice writing about the environment in a creative way.

"Much of the class would be field work, where the students could both observe the plants and animals and practice writing about them," said Todd.

Presque Isle was chosen because not only is it a National Natural Landmark but it also serves as a favorite spot for migrating birds.

In addition to observing the natural world at Presque

Isle, Looney suggested that it would be useful to observe the environmental surroundings on Behrend's campus.

Along with the speakers and workshops, the students also have an opportunity to serve as interns for the festival.

The internship would require the students to publicize the event, develop an outreach plan, and recruit participants.

In return for their work they will receive free admission to the festival.

The festival is open to the public and welcomes anyone who is interested in the natural world and would like an opportunity to write and have their work critiqued by experts in the field.

Communication club setting new standards for the year

BROOKE BARTOLOMEO
Communications major

The Communication Club is undergoing some serious changes. With new leadership, big plans are in the future for the previously stationary club. "Prior to this year, Comm. Club hasn't done much in terms of events," says Jamie Light, President of the Communication Club.

"They've discussed future plans, but never went through with many of them."

As of this semester, Communication Club has a new board of leaders and a new set of goals.

"Danielle McFadden, Christian Davis, Ashley Rodrigo, and I are seeking more involvement from the student body," said Light.

"There are so many things

that we want to do, such as speaker series, workshops, field trips, community service, and even public relations projects around campus. In order to do these things, though, we need members."

Joining is as simple as attending the next meeting. "Wed. Nov. 17 will be our next meeting and is also our first event," said Light.

"We're having Communication alumni from the last five years speak to members about their career paths and any advice they may have to offer."

The club is not limited to communications majors. It is open to students of any major.

"Naturally, most members will probably have a Communication major or minor," said Light.

"I think, though, that any-

one could benefit from joining this club. Communication is so crucial to succeeding in the workforce. It's hard to overestimate the importance of these skills."

"Students will be able to use these activities on their resumes," said Light. "That's invaluable. Employers will be able to see the hands-on experience that students gained from the projects and events we're planning. Plus, the skills they'll gain from experience will make them so much more qualified to enter the workforce."

However, Communication Club is still being development.

"This semester is a growing period," said Light. "We're open to any suggestions and hope for the club to be in full-force this spring."

Professor lands new job

ANDREW TARR
Political Science Major

At twenty-three, Dr. Chris Cook moved to California where he earned his M.A. in Political Science from California State University, Los Angeles and his Ph.D in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

"My research was initially focused on American foreign policy and humanitarian intervention," said Cook. "Much of research has focused on Africa, so my first published article in 2007 was on American policy in the African nation of Sierra Leone during the 1990s."

Cook admits that his research interests have shifted over time, from American foreign policy to how American media covers African conflicts. "Partially, this is due to the feedback and participation of Behrend students in my 'Government and Politics in Africa' class," he stated.

Cook said, "I only recently was awarded this position. The founder actually read my Sierra Leone article and was impressed."

From their website, APCN states, "APCN is a non-exclusive association of scholars, professionals, and activists dedicated to constructive change and peace-building in the African World. Examples of APCN activities include producing public educational events, sponsoring research, facilitating knowledge sharing and dissemination, skills training, and mentorship of aspiring and practicing peace builders."

"I am actually going to have three articles published this year" said Cook.

"The Power of International Institutions: An Examination of U.S. Policy towards East Timor and Kosovo in 1999." *Journal of Politics and Law* 3.2 (2010), "East Timor and the Power of International Commitments in the American Decision Making

Process." *Asian Pacific: Perspectives* 9.2 (2010): 43-54, and "American Policymaking in the Democratic Republic of the Congo 1996-1999: the Anti-Kabila Bias and the Crushing Neutrality of the Lusaka Accords." *African and Asian Studies* 9.4 (2010).

"I am building a comprehensive database of films that involve or feature Africa," said Cook. "A future project is to look at Hollywood's representations of Africa and whether it reinforces negative stereotypes of the continent."

"So research wise I think things are looking up," said Cook "But as I mentioned I do thank the students at Behrend for some of my inspiration."

Cook has had three articles published and has a new editor position for the *African Peace and Conflict Network*. While doing all of this, he continues to teach courses at Behrend.