

Fort Collins, Colorado May 13, 02

Center clear on its role

Peggy Loonan has once again brought an attack against abstinence-only education programs specifically targeting the Alpha Center (letter to the editor, April 28.)

In response to her accusations, I once again invite anyone who has concerns about the material presented to come and look at our curriculum. Teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases are an epidemic problem.

The Alpha Center believes that the best option for young people to escape this epidemic is to choose abstinence.

Peggy states that she believes the AC is deceitful in its presentation of who we are.

We have never tried to hide the fact that we are a Christian, non-profit, life-affirming resource center. We are very clear about who we are and what we do. We immediately complied with the Poudre School District's request that disclosure be given to parents about our agency.

Peggy is wrong in her statement

that the AC depends upon deceit to draw abortion-minded clients to the center. We are located in the telephone book under abortion alternative. When people call, they are told that we do not provide for or refer for abortions.

Women and men come to the AC looking for help and hope. They are encouraged in healthy, life-affirming decisions regarding pregnancy and sexuality.

Peggy has every right to her opinion about abortion and abstinence-until-marriage education programs, but I believe her true agenda is clear.

She does not want any side but hers to be heard.

**Sharon Hindman,
executive director,
Alpha Center for Women**