



# The Caleb Report

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## PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S MOST RECENT GAFFE Animated Video Depicts "Elimination" of Christians

"Sleazy Dude" and "Senator." These are two pro-life characters in an animated video released by San Francisco-based Planned Parenthood Golden Gate (PPGG). Titled "A Superhero for CHOICE," the video follows a female "superhero," named "Dionysus," whose sole mission is to protect "choice." (In Greek mythology "Dionysus," also known by the name "Bacchus," is the god of wine and of a religion based on frenzied sexual activity, including orgies, which celebrates the power and fertility of nature.)

Dionysus' first encounter is with "Sleazy Dude," a character closely resembling "Snidely Whiplash" from the "Dudley Do-Right" cartoon. Sleazy tells a group of teenagers that "the only way to prevent pregnancy is to practice abstinence." One teen responds, "But Mister, we learned at school that there are other ways to practice safe sex and protect ourselves." Sleazy responds: "Those are instruments from the devil's toolbox!"



Controversial video's opening scene.



Dionysus looks on in disgust as "Sleazy" gives an abstinence message to teens.

Dionysus interrupts Sleazy and drowns him in a trash can filled with a boiling liquid she calls "Aqua-slide" (likely a reference to the sex lubricant Astroglide). "Now you kids know where to go for all your healthcare needs and reproductive advice, don't you?" she asks. "We sure do, ma'am!" they respond. "Planned Parenthood Golden Gate! Because we have

a choice!" Before departing Dionysus throws a "safe sex kit" to each teen as she yells, "Remember, safe is sexy!"

The superhero's next encounter is with three male pro-life activists (depicted as Frankenstein-like beings, grunting included) who are demonstrating in front of Planned Parenthood. (All females in the video are pro-Planned Parenthood.) "These folks here are known as anti-choice demonstrators," Dionysus says. "Under the First Amendment of our Constitution they are allowed to express their beliefs...Yet they can sometimes become unruly and sometimes they get a little too close. But mostly I just wish they would disappear. Hey, that gives me an idea!"

Dionysus takes out a gun that fires human-size condoms. Each male demonstrator is shown inside a condom, which explodes. "That's more like it," Dionysus says. "Open for business. Now everyone that needs low cost and confidential healthcare may enter freely, without intimidation or violence..." (It should be noted that Dionysus' victims were engaging in neither intimidation nor violence. They were peacefully and legally exercising their First Amendment rights. Dionysus apparently likes to *talk* about the First Amendment but she does not really support it—for those who disagree with her, anyway.)



Dionysus watches protesters at Planned Parenthood. (Notice the condom on her back.)

In Washington, D.C., Dionysus sees a Senator tossing copies of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the First

Amendment, and Civil Rights laws into a boiling pot, which he calls “I Can Do Whatever I Want To Do Stew.” The Senator explains: “You see, I come from a long line of grandiose narcissists where quite simply the laws of these United States do not apply.” He then claims to be above the law. Dionysus throws the Senator into the pot, pulls him out, and he says, “I feel cleansed. I no longer have the stench of misinformed conservatism. I want all women everywhere to have the ability to choose what they do with their bodies.” Dionysus responds, “That’s more like it. And besides, money spent now for the funding of family planning will save billions of dollars in future social expenditures.” A depiction of the scales of justice lists “CHOICE” on one side and “IGNORANCE” on the other.



Dionysus uses a weapon to fire life-sized condoms that encase demonstrators. The condoms explode, killing those inside.

“This video is absolutely outrageous,” said LDI President Douglas R. Scott. “Pro-life demonstrators are depicted as evil and stupid. It sends a message to teenagers that those who disagree are not

to be respected or treated with basic dignity. The video is also riddled with misinformation about birth control, abortion, and sexual activity.” Scott said the video relies on one word, “choice,” to justify every thought and deed. “Planned Parenthood is using this video to spread its deadly message. It is time for Planned Parenthood to put the lives of people ahead of its incessant desire to make money.” He noted that Planned Parenthood would cease to exist if teenagers were to choose a life-affirming way of living.

Spokesmen from pro-life organizations across the United States echoed Scott’s sentiments. Jim Sedlak, executive director of American Life League’s (ALL) STOPP International, is one of the world’s leading experts on Planned Parenthood. “With its latest marketing gimmick... Planned Parenthood is glamorizing violence against people of faith...The hatred and religious bigotry demonstrated by Planned Parenthood in this video are shocking and offensive.”



Jim Sedlak

“In this post-9/11 era of terrorism, Planned Parenthood has recklessly crossed the line by promoting violence against people who do not share the organization’s radical beliefs,” Sedlak said. He called Planned Parenthood’s actions “reprehensible” because some-

one viewing the video might “act on its suggestions and instigate violence against people of faith.” But neither Scott nor Sedlak is enormously surprised by the video. Sedlak said the “appalling animation” is just more evidence of the group’s “complete disrespect for human life.”



Freeze frames show violent decapitation of peaceful demonstrator.

Sedlak insisted that “the names of all persons involved in the development and posting” of the video be made public and those identified be immediately fired. He also demanded that Planned Parenthood issue a public apology to pro-life Christians for “inciting violence against them.”

“I think my friend and colleague Jim Sedlak ‘hit the nail on the head’ when he said the video demonstrates a disregard for human life and religious bigotry and intolerance. And Jim and I would certainly agree that the video is not some sort of newsflash about Planned Parenthood’s philosophy. We knew all of this about the abortion-committing group long before the video was made.”

Scott expressed a different opinion about what PPGG should do. “It seems clear to me that everyone in PPGG’s leadership is directly or indirectly responsible for the video. Something like this did not happen without the knowledge of those in charge. I can think of many reasons why the people at PPGG should be out of a job, but this video would not even make my top ten list.” Scott said Planned Parenthood is not going to fire anybody since everyone at the group supports the video’s message.

Tony Perkins, the respected president of the Family Research Council (FRC), commented on the video to American Family Radio. He was most concerned about the violence committed against peaceful Christian protesters. Perkins reminded PPGG that advocating violence is a “serious offense, even in cartoon form.”



Tony Perkins

While most pro-life leaders expressed concern the video may incite violence, Scott said he believes such a link is weak if one exists at all. “Pro-abortion activists have accused all pro-life people and organizations of ‘inciting’ every act of violence that occurs against

pro-abortion people. They say we are guilty of creating an ‘atmosphere’ that leads to such acts. I believe this is nonsense. People know the difference between right and wrong. Those who choose to do wrong have no one to blame but themselves.”

Scott said Planned Parenthood employees would have “gone ballistic” if an animated video showing the killing of pro-abortion activists had been made by a pro-life organization. “Some pro-life people are now subjecting Planned Parenthood to a taste of its own tactics.” But Scott said PPGG surely did not intend to promote violence and its video is no more likely to lead to such acts than a fiery speech given by a person on either side of this issue.



**Dian J. Harrison** PPGG is one of the largest Planned Parenthood affiliates in the United States. Its operations include nine “health centers,” a staff of nearly 300, and an annual budget of \$18 million. All of this is overseen by Dian J. Harrison, PPGG’s president and chief executive officer. Harrison received an undergraduate degree in sociology from California State University at Los Angeles and a master’s degree in social work planning and administration from Western Michigan University.

Prior to joining Planned Parenthood, Harrison worked in leadership positions at the United Way and the Urban League. She was vice president of university relations at Fisk University. Harrison has served on the boards of groups such as the National Abortion Federation, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the Red Rock Foundation. She has also been a member of the American Public Health Association, the Association of Black Social Workers, and the National Forum of Black Public Administrators.

In 1996 Harrison was named Woman of the Year by the National Women’s Political Caucus and she received the Women of Color Inspiration Award from the National Women’s Political Caucus. She won the 1997 Outstanding Leadership and Service Award from Black Women for Political Action. All three groups support legal abortion.



**Dawn Eden** News about “A Superhero for CHOICE” spread rapidly, particularly on the Internet. It was discussed by many bloggers. (A “blogger” is a person who uses a personal website to provide news articles of interest to the author/blogger. It also may include a journal, commentaries and sug-

gestions from and/or compiled by the blogger.) Chief among such blogs is that written by Dawn Eden (The Dawn Patrol). She urged readers to contact their local media outlets and encourage them to report on the scandalous video.

Eden reminded blog readers that the name Dian J. Harrison will not be unfamiliar to many pro-life activists. Harrison was at the helm when 18-year-old Holly Patterson died after taking RU 486, which had been dispensed by PPGG staff.

According to the *San Francisco Faith*, after Patterson’s death on September 17, 2003, Harrison issued a statement which read: “We extend our deepest sympathies to the family. We wish them strength and support in this tragic time.” But while Harrison may have *wished* the Patterson family “strength and support,” she was not about to help provide it. Holly Patterson’s father, Monty Patterson, said Planned Parenthood did not offer his family any support whatsoever. “They don’t even return my calls,” he told the newspaper shortly after his daughter’s death.



PPGG is selling t-shirts bearing an image with the same kind of animation used in the video.

Eden reported some additional facts about Harrison that had not been widely disseminated. In February 2003, the Calypste Biomedical Corporation announced that PPGG would begin using its human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) test. It also said Harrison had been elected to the company’s board of directors. Considering that PPGG “serves” more than 65,000 customers and conducts nearly 5,100 HIV tests annually, Eden noted that the group’s business “represented a significant account for Calypste.”



Two weeks after Calypste’s announcement, it gave Harrison a non-qualified “right to buy” 200,000 shares of its stock at five cents each. (At this writing the value of the stock has nearly tripled since Harrison’s purchase.) Harrison served on Calypste’s board of directors for only three months. According to Eden, the Planned Parenthood leader resigned after Calypste’s president, Nancy E. Katz, left the company. It is not known if Harrison still owns stock in the company.

“I don’t pretend to be an expert in the stock market,” Eden blogged. “But it seems to me that the head of a nonprofit organization...should not have the appearance of a conflict of interest.” She said the transaction was a “mighty conflict” if Harrison reaped “personal

financial rewards” from her position at PPGG because she could choose which HIV test the group would use. “In other words, who was paying for those HIV tests while Harrison had the opportunity to line her pockets with their maker’s profits? You and me,” Eden wrote, noting that 53 percent of PPGG funding comes from taxpayers. “No wonder Harrison wants to blow up pro-lifers. The chastity dividend would mean bankruptcy to her.”

Eden said that even if we assumed that every taxpayer dollar went directly to “services,” the government funding “frees up donor money for making ha-ha ‘educational’ cartoons about blowing up and decapitating ideological opponents.” (LDI leaders could not possibly read every pro-life blog on the Internet, but we believe it would be difficult to find one more informative and well researched than The Dawn Patrol.)



Steve Wagner

To put all of this into perspective, we turn to Steve Wagner of Stand to Reason. He used the video to remind Christians of their duty. Wagner said we should always “respect the dignity of all human beings, even those who work in the abortion industry—even those who protest the pro-life position or spread falsehood about sex education.” He continued:

We should never use or advocate violence against human beings who disagree with us, even when we disagree about such important issues. If only we could expect the same from Planned Parenthood’s San Francisco affiliate.

As an ambassador for Christ, you are called to treat every human being charitably (Romans 12:16-21 and I Peter 3:13-17). Note how you feel mistreated and maligned here and let’s endeavor to make our case against abortion without getting lost in foolish *ad hominem*s. Making a case against abortion need not degenerate into mud-slinging, even mudslinging about how mean this animated short is. After all, the pro-life case is strong. We can defend it carefully with solid arguments. And we can defend it carefully by living out our value for all human beings, even those who advocate violence against us.

PPGG’s website link to “A Superhero for CHOICE” was made inoperative shortly after criticism began.

### **BILL FRIST: ANATOMY OF A SELLOUT**

Senate Majority Leader William H. Frist, M.D., has abandoned preborn human beings by changing his position on embryonic stem cell experimentation. Frist said he no longer thinks the policy established by President George W. Bush sufficiently enables scien-

tists to pursue the “truly magnificent, truly remarkable properties” of stem cells taken from human embryos.

The Tennessee Republican said he now supports legislation passed by the House of Representatives that would abolish all restrictions imposed by the President on federal funding of such experimentation. The bill would allow experiments on embryonic stem cells donated by couples who have completed in vitro fertilization. Frist hopes to schedule a Senate vote in September, though he acknowledged disagreement among his colleagues on how to proceed with a debate that could involve up to eight bills on the same subject.



Bill Frist

While embryonic stem cell experimentation is still “at a very early stage, the limitations put in place in 2001 will, over time, slow our ability to bring potential new treatments for certain diseases,” Frist said on the Senate floor as other members of the Senate scurried to the chamber to personally witness the speech. Embryonic stem cells can “renew and replicate themselves infinitely,” which makes them “uniquely necessary for potentially treating diseases,” Frist said.

Frist told the *Washington Post* he changed his position after learning that the two dozen stem cell lines available under the Bush policy have weakened as they replicate many times over. Frist said he knew there were only 22 cell lines available for currently available for experimentation using taxpayer dollars but he “wasn’t aware the stability of the lines was as marginal as they say.” (Interesting, news about the “instability” of the cell lines had been made public many months before Frist’s “I’ve seen the light” announcement.)

“I am pro-life,” Frist declared. “I believe human life begins at conception. It is at this moment that the organism is complete—yes, immature—but complete. An embryo is nascent human life. It’s genetically distinct. And it’s biologically human...And accordingly, the human embryo has moral significance and moral worth. It deserves to be treated with the utmost dignity and respect.” He said this opinion is “not just a matter of faith; it’s a matter of science.” Yet Frist also said he believes embryonic stem cell experimentation “should be encouraged and supported.”

“Senator Frist has made it clear that believing human life begins at conception is not enough to be counted as ‘pro-life,’ said LDI President Douglas R. Scott. “It is how our actions bear out those beliefs that matters.” Scott compared Frist’s comments to pro-abortion peo-

ple who call themselves Christian. "One can claim to be a follower of the teachings of Jesus Christ, but if his actions are inconsistent with the stated word, 'Faith without works' is indeed 'dead.'"

Leaders on both sides of the issue said Frist's announcement will probably win over some undecided lawmakers, which may prompt the President to reconsider his position or make further compromises. Senator Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, who has been among the most active supporters of stem cell experimentation, said a promise by President Bush to veto the legislation is no longer a certainty. "I personally think this ought to convince the president this research should go forward," he told the *Washington Post*. As the President reviews the issue "he will, like many others, say, 'What's wrong with helping the living?'" Hatch predicted. Does Hatch not recognize the scientific fact that the human embryos in question are alive, too?



Orrin G. Hatch

Hatch is advocating the killing of some human beings to *potentially* help other human beings. The bottom line is that Hatch views preborn children as "lesser" human beings. Does God see them as lesser? Does He love them less? Does He consider them to be nothing more than property? Did He give them to us for experimentation?



Sam Brownback

Senator Sam Brownback, R-Kan., expressed "disappointment" with Frist's new position and said lawmakers were ignoring the fundamental question of "whether a young, human embryo is a life or a piece of property." Brownback, who is expected to run for President in 2008, is promoting several alternative bills that would invest in research that does not require destruction of a human embryo.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said President Bush stands by his threat to veto the bill endorsed by Frist. "The president's made his position clear. There is a principle involved here from the president's standpoint when it comes to issues of life" he said.

"Senator Frist caved in to pressure from scientists, patient groups and other special interests," Scott said. "But most of all, Frist caved in to poll numbers. He is not running for reelection because he plans to run for President in 2008 and he is good at reading polls."

An August 2005 poll conducted for The Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life found strong support for stem cell experimentation. By nearly two-to-one (57%

to 30%), the public believes it is more important to conduct stem cell experimentation that "may result in new medical cures" than to "not destroy the potential life of embryos." Support for stem cell experimentation has been growing among major religious groups with the notable exception of Evangelicals. Thirty-two percent of Evangelicals support experimentation compared to 70 percent of those who identified themselves as "mainline" Protestant. A staggering 61 percent of people who *claimed* to be "Catholic" support such experimentation.

"The poll is bogus," Scott said. "It is misleading to give people a choice between curing diseases and protecting 'potential' life. This is not 'potential' life; it is undeniably a human life." Scott said the survey infers that stem cell experimentation will, without a doubt, lead to cures. He also pointed out there is a difference between supporting experimentation with taxpayer dollars and funding it with private monies. Nevertheless, all polls have indicated that a majority of Americans support such experimentation.

Former first lady Nancy Reagan, some colleagues and Tennessee voters active in the "patient advocacy movement" hailed Frist for what some called a "courageous" and "principled" stand. (Is not a "courageous" and "principled" stand one that is taken despite it being unpopular? If so, Frist's stand is neither.) At the same time, pro-life activists accused him of betraying the cause and selling out preborn children.

Many religious and pro-life leaders criticized Frist's decision. Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer, president of Human Life International (HLI), said that as a medical doctor Frist "should know better than to say irresponsible things like he believes that embryos are 'nascent human life' but that it is also okay to kill those little human beings." Euteneuer alleged that, "Shifty politicians wanting to bear the pro-life mantle and reap a harvest of pro-life votes are playing politics with sacred realities, and the ones who suffer are always the tiny human beings who don't have lawyers to plead their case." He said the "worst aspect" is that Frist "has definitively gutted the term 'pro-life' of any meaning." Euteneuer explained:



Thomas J. Euteneuer

If he [Frist] admits that the embryo is human life, and clearly he does, but at the same time says that there are circumstances under which we may legally kill her for our purposes, then how is he pro-life? That is how abortion and euthanasia advocates talk! They said the same about unborn babies thirty years ago; they said it about Terri Schiavo last March; and they are now say-

ing it about human embryos. Let's just hope that our lives don't fall under some special interest legislation that comes before opportunistic senators who want to run for president. Then we might find out that we too are considered human—but expendable. More pro-life traitors like Senator Frist we do not need.

Life is precious from the moment of conception, and unless we are willing as a people to defend it from ideology, special interests, federal funding and politicians, then we are not pro-life and we should not dare to hide under that moral mantle.



Rob Schenck

The National Clergy Council (NCC), which had historically supported Senator Frist, denounced his decision. NCC President Rev. Rob Schenck spoke on behalf of the organization's executive committee, which includes leaders of Catholic, Evangelical, Orthodox and Protestant traditions. "Senator Frist's position not only contradicts itself, it flies in the face of biblical and historical Christian moral teaching. It's the same as saying that we should use condemned criminals for medical experimentation because they're going to die anyway. It is morally incoherent. Senator Frist can no longer count on our support, nor the support of the wider Evangelical or Catholic communities."

The Christian Defense Coalition (CDC) said Senator Frist should not expect future support and endorsement from the pro-life community if he votes for federal funding of embryonic stem cell experimentation. "If Senator Frist moves forward and votes to expand funding for embryonic stem cell research he is betraying his core belief that life begins at conception," said Rev. Patrick J. Mahoney, CDC's director. "For it is impossible to affirm the dignity of life, and then turn around and vote for funding that will destroy that innocent life."



Patrick J. Mahoney

"Senator Frist cannot have it both ways," Mahoney said. "He cannot be pro-life and pro-embryonic stem cell funding. Nor can he turn around and expect widespread endorsement from the pro-life community" in the future. Mahoney said it was "disappointing" to see Frist "embrace funding" for experimentation that "not only destroys innocent life but has not proven nearly as successful as adult stem cell research."

"It certainly gives one pause in trusting his commitment to the sanctity of life," said Lanier Swann, government relations director of Concerned Women for America (CWA). "It is mystery to us how the senator could claim that he believes life begins at conception

and then immediately contradict that statement by adding, 'I also believe embryonic stem cell research should be encouraged and supported.'"

"For years we have focused on educating both Congress and the public on the great strides that have been made for human cures using adult stem cell research," Swann said. "We continue to support the President in his principled stand for human life and for the magnificent work of the medical community through their progress with adult stem cells." (LDI would not call the President's position "principled" since he is the one who opened "Pandora's box.")



William A. Donohue

William A. Donohue, president of the Catholic League, said Frist's "change of heart has nothing to do with any scientific breakthrough: there is no new evidence suggesting that the human embryo does not constitute human life, nor is there any evidence that embryonic stem cell research can be performed without killing embryos. What's changed is that Dr. Duplicity [Frist] wants to be president."

Dr. James C. Dobson, chairman of Focus on the Family, said Frist's decision is especially distressing because the lawmaker "calls himself a defender of the sanctity of human life—even though the research he now advocates results, without exception, in the destruction of human life." Dobson said Frist's stated reason for the change of heart "continues the common misconception that embryonic stem cells hold the greatest potential for human healing and therapy." Dobson's written statement continued:



James C. Dobson

In reality, recently published studies demonstrate that some adult stem cells can form most, if not all, body tissues, just like embryonic cells may be able to do. Furthermore, there will never be a sufficient number of new stem-cell lines to satisfy the sometimes unquenchable thirst for federal money to fund pet projects of researchers. A morally sound line must be drawn at the beginning of this journey into stem-cell research: that no human life is sacrificed for possible or proven scientific gain—period.

The media have already begun speculating that Sen. Frist's announcement today is designed to improve his chances of winning the White House in 2008 should he choose to run. If that is the case, he has gravely miscalculated. To push for the expansion of this suspect and unethical science will be rightly seen by America's values voters as the worst kind of betrayal—choosing politics over principle.

We urge Sen. Frist to reconsider his position in light of the values he has espoused during his career in public service.

Colleen Parro, director of the National Republican Coalition for Life, issued a blistering statement charging that Frist has never really been pro-life:

Unfortunately, many people live in some sort of dream world in which they think if a politician says he's pro-life it must be true. Never mind that Senator Frist justifies abortion for babies conceived through rape or incest. After all, he says he's pro-life. Never mind that he has repeatedly and publicly stated his support for embryonic stem cell research. After all, he says he's pro-life. When he announced his support [embryonic stem cell experimentation], he followed by shamelessly claiming, once again, that he is pro-life. Perhaps he thinks that, regardless of what he does, if he says he's pro-life often enough people will overlook his egregious disregard for innocent human beings at their earliest stage of development.

Cardinal William H. Keeler, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Pro-life Activities, said despite Frist's "disclaimers to the contrary," his position is not pro-life. "My own central concern is that neither sound ethics nor good government can rest on the principle that 'the end justifies the means.' I commend President Bush for his laudable pledge to veto such legislation," the Cardinal said.



Judie Brown

Judie Brown, president of the American Life League (ALL), said Frist's decision "is beyond repugnant...What has happened to this man, who once showed promise of becoming a strong pro-life voice for the American people?" she asked. "Sadly, Senator Frist now joins the ranks of numbers of politicians who have sacrificed the truth to satisfy other, less noble, goals."

Brown said that Frist's statements about embryonic stem cell experimentation are "a perfect example of the hypocrisy that has slowly infected many in the political arena, even among Republican Party officeholders claiming to be pro-life. The fact is," she said, "whether an innocent human being is a few hours old or nine months old, an act that intentionally kills him is always intrinsically evil and evil can never be justified—no matter the perceived 'good' end."

"The majority leader has given cover to the entire Senate; he's given cover to the entire House of Representatives," said rabidly pro-abortion Senator Arlen Specter, R-Penn. And while Frist gave cover to mem-

bers of Congress, the National Right to Life Committee Inc. (NRLC) gave cover to Frist. NRLC's statement said the group is "very disappointed" that Frist "has expressed support for a bill that would mandate federal funding of research that requires the killing of human embryos...It is worth noting, however, that Senator Frist also stated that the creation of human embryos by cloning should be banned, and we call on the Senate to pass such a ban promptly, in order to prevent human embryo farms from springing up in the United States."

Scott called NRLC's statement "wimpy at best." He continued: "I am 'very disappointed' if a son or daughter gets a 'C' on a report card. I am absolutely *incensed* when a politician abandons preborn human beings and places them on the altar of sacrifice to a false god that is full of empty promises! It is unfortunate that NRLC's rulers cannot see the gravity of Frist's decision. It is disappointing that the group's statement directs attention away from Frist's betrayal of preborn children and toward his stand on cloning—a very popular position that is even supported by most pro-abortion activists. Frist's betrayal may have a devastating impact on efforts to protect preborn human beings from the assault being waged against them on many fronts and by many self-serving people and groups."

"Bill Frist is actually being honest about what he believes and who he is," Jay Lefkowitz told *the Washington Post*. "But he is missing the key difference between 2001 and 2005. If the president's position made sense four years ago, which Senator Frist said it did, it makes even more sense today because literally billions of dollars are now available for research. At this point, the opposition to the president's policy is just political; it's really an issue about the allocation of federal health and science dollars." Lefkowitz was one of the drafters of the Bush policy on federal funding of stem cell experimentation.

## THE PRAYER PROJECT

Please join us in daily prayer for the men and women who are active in the Pro-Abortion Movement and those who have not been strong in their claimed pro-life convictions: *July*—the "mother of masturbation" **Betty Dodson**; *August*—Dr. **Drew Pinsky**, host of "Strictly Sex With Dr. Drew" on the Discovery Health Network; *September*—Senator **William H. Frist**, M.D., R-Tenn.; and *October*—Planned Parenthood Golden Gate President and Chief Executive Officer **Dian J. Harrison**.

## IN YOUR OWN WORDS

LDI often provides space for its supporters (and detractors) to have their say about various issues. If you have a comment on any issue relating to LDI or life issues, do not be shy! Send it to us!

Thank you! God bless you. I extol your work all over the place. I'm always quoting you about "willing to be inconvenienced."

– Bob & Pam Gunderson

I am a Grand Knight of a [Knights of Columbus] Council here in Florida and we support the Pro-Life Billboards. I found your website in a periodical I receive from LIFE-CAN. It is great.

– Geoff

I noted with interest that the slogan of Life Decisions International is "Challenging the Culture of Death". I agree that a culture of death is wrong. So I would like to know if your organization fights these death culture practices:

- 1) maintaining a standing army that uses the military for anything other than peacekeeping or self-defense operations
- 2) opposing the death penalty
- 3) condemning those who use violence, such as the murder of abortion doctors, as zealots who don't understand your pro-life culture

Please respond so that I can decide if I can support your organization.

– Arlin Briley

LDI does not take a position on military issues or the death penalty. Nor do we take a position on for or against disease, animal rights, prostitution, or a myriad of other issues. Moreover, we know of no group that is involved in virtually every issue. Even though the vast majority of LDI Partners would probably agree on such subjects and they could be considered "life issues" (using a very loose definition), virtually every effective group narrows its focus.

If Planned Parenthood does not take a formal stand against animal testing for cosmetics does this mean the group supports it? If Planned Parenthood does not take a public position against the death penalty, the use of the military for other than peacekeeping operations, and measles vaccinations in Africa, does this inherently mean the group takes the opposite positions? Of course not. (Note: This is a common ploy used by pro-abortion and other people who seek to discredit our position on abortion by pointing out supposed inconsistencies.)

A woman who claimed to be the parent of children who attend Warren County (Virginia) Public Schools was

upset that LDI criticized the inclusion in the high school yearbook of a nonscientific survey that included questions about sexual conduct and drug use:

As a parent, I feel you are overstepping your boundaries [sic]. If the parents, children, and school system does not have a problem with our yearbooks, why should you? I am proud of their creativity and honesty when it comes to a local survey. But what you fell [sic] to mention is the survey was not only about sex.

– Victoria Olson

It was a Warren County High School teacher and parent who first alerted us to the controversy. The teacher had expressed his objections to the survey, in detail, with yearbook staff but they were ignored. In any case, as American citizens and an organization that represents people from across the country, LDI has the right to speak out about what is happening in a taxpayer-funded institution. And calling attention to the innocuous parts of the survey does not excuse those questions that have the potential of damaging the lives of young people.

### UPDATE: CORPORATE FUNDING PROJECT

Merck & Company has a new leader: Mr. Richard T. Clark, President & CEO, Merck & Company Inc., 1 Merck Dr., Box 100, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889-0100; Phone: (908) 423-1000; Website: merck.com.

Boycott target Bank of America has agreed to acquire credit card giant MBNA. The latter company will be added to *The Boycott List* as part of Bank of America when the transition is completed, which we expect will occur before the end of 2005.



There has been some confusion on the part of a couple of people regarding LDI's decision to drop The Kroger Company from *The Boycott List*. Many LDI supporters received the following letter from Kroger:

The Kroger Co. Foundation does not make grants to Planned Parenthood. Our Company did not respond to the letter from Life Decisions International because we do not, as a matter of corporate policy, participate in surveys conducted by private organizations.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us, and allowing us this opportunity to respond.

Upon reading Kroger's statement and blindly accepting it without reservation, one LDI supporter took us to task for what he saw as an injustice against Kroger:

In response to your May 2005 Boycott List I mailed a letter to The Kroger Company as I am a regular customer of theirs. I received a reply. A copy is enclosed.

In choosing not to shop any longer at The Kroger Company and to write a letter to them, I was under the impression they were in fact a supporter of Planned Parenthood. It was only after receiving their reply and then rereading your cover letter did I realize they were placed on the list for not responding to your inquiry. Fault me, if you wish, for just skimming your letter and going directly to the Boycott List. But it should have been made clearer on the list that it has not yet been determined what the status of The Kroger Company is.

I wholeheartedly support a boycott of companies supporting Planned Parenthood. However, I do not support a boycott of companies simply because they do not respond to your letters! By all means, enlist the help of the users of the Boycott List to obtain correct information from these companies. But it is not right to lump those who, for whatever reason they choose, do not respond to your letters with those that do provide financial support. For me this calls into question the accuracy of the information on the list. It would be better, in my opinion, to list those not responding under a separate heading. I feel this places a black mark over the otherwise good work you are doing and I hope it can be corrected.

— Don Lipps



We were stunned to receive this letter as there is nothing more important to us than our integrity. Our long-employed, successful and fair standards for determining which corporations become boycott targets should speak for themselves. But this is apparently not the case.

Our letters sent to Kroger (via certified mail and fax) had *nothing* to do with “surveys.” We made it clear that Planned Parenthood had identified Kroger as a supporter and the company risked becoming a boycott target. We were not *asking* if Kroger supported Planned Parenthood; we already *knew* it did so and had documents to prove it.

The key word in Kroger’s letter was that the Company *Foundation* did not make grants to Planned Parenthood. LDI had never said the Foundation was responsible. We had contacted Kroger asking for an explanation as to why its name appeared as a *donor* on at least three reports published by Planned Parenthood. Kroger chose not to respond.

The Kroger Company became a boycott target because it was a confirmed supporter of Planned Parenthood; not because the company failed to respond to

our many calls and letters. When letters from unhappy customers began to arrive at Kroger headquarters, corporate officials decided to try dealing with the controversy by responding to individual pro-lifers. Consider an e-mail sent to Kroger by one LDI supporter:

Thank you for responding to my email. Believe me I was greatly disturbed to see Kroger on the Life Decisions International list too. I don’t want to stop shopping at Kroger, however, I will not return until this is cleared up and Kroger is taken off the list.

This kind of message, which was sent by many LDI supporters, made it clear to Kroger that they had to deal with LDI and responding to individuals would be ineffective. And LDI would certainly ask some hard questions and go past corporate rhetoric, which more than a decade of experience allows us to do. So, The Kroger Company was “persuaded” to take this matter seriously. After a lengthy discussion with corporate officials, we announced that The Kroger Company is no longer a boycott target.

Lipps said the accuracy of *The Boycott List* has been called “into question.” He also said this incident is a “black mark over the otherwise good work” LDI is doing. For the record, we did our job extremely well in this case, just as we have done in the hundreds of cases before it. We know what we are doing and what is effective. We are proud of and *fully* stand behind our work.

The worst part of Lipps’ letter was a notation that he had sent a copy to Kroger, which could have been seriously undermined our work had LDI not already decided to drop the company from *The Boycott List*. Consider these words from “The Economic Boycott”:

Another key problem that can greatly hinder the success of a boycott is second-guessing by participants. Boycott leaders must be trusted to decide when the economic action should cease and what demands the offending corporation must meet before this can occur. If every individual decides what constitutes sufficient grounds to end the action, the corporation may ignore boycott leaders. Unity is essential. If boycott leaders are ignored, corporations can effectively disregard the economic action itself. This is only possible if the corporation is able to undermine boycott leaders and divide the loyalty of those who should naturally support the effort...[making] the boycott laughable to corporate *and* pro-abortion leaders...

The only other disturbing message LDI received was from Bob Babecka who alleged that Kroger should never have been a boycott target. After we provided an explanation Babecka seemed satisfied—until he received a call from LDI:

I received the attached email [from LDI] in response to my inquiries about Kroger. It suggests that Kroger was involved in wrongdoing and that the boycott was effective in changing its practices.

Today, I received a telephone call at work. The caller left the following message on my phone mail (verbatim). "Hi Robert, this is Life Decisions International returning your call, and Kroger has been taken off the boycott list due to the fact that they were only matching their employees' donations and the employees were the ones determining who the donation was going to. Thank you for your call and God bless you."...

This messenger [sic] suggests a different scenario. It suggests that Kroger is continuing its practice of matching employee donations and that this practice is acceptable. It also suggests that the boycott in this instance did not accomplish its goal of preventing a corporation from donating to Planned Parenthood. I just reread your email in light of the phone message and I realized the email never said anything was changing.

I am very troubled by these communications. At my recommendation, my pastor asked that everyone in our church boycott Kroger (besides the emails I sent to friends to do the same). Yesterday, I sent a follow-up note, declaring victory (based on the email you sent me). I also encouraged my pastor to do the same next Sunday.

We all make mistakes. It is usually best to own up to them and to accept responsibility for them. I would like to speak to someone about this matter. I need to understand what really happened in order to set things straight on my end.

Why do I care? If Kroger is innocent of wrongdoing and only guilty of failing to respond, that needs to be clear. Their reputation matters. If LDI was wrong, I was wrong too, and have the similar burden of embarrassment as LDI. Despite personal embarrassment, I need to correct what damage I may have done to their reputation.

The message Babecka received was from an LDI volunteer. "I explained the situation with Kroger to the volunteer and asked her to pass it along to Mr. Babecka," said LDI President Douglas R. Scott. "She seemed to understand, but it is clear from the message she left Mr. Babecka this was not the case." An e-mail was sent to Babecka correcting the message and he was told that Scott would personally call him after he returned from an out of the country business trip. (The *very* apologetic volunteer now understands the situation with Kroger.)

Despite suffering from food poisoning at the time, which he contracted on the trip, Scott called Babecka from his hotel bed. It sounded as though the phone

was answered but then disconnected. Babecka later wrote to say he and his wife had answered the phone at the same time and, thinking the other had the call, both hung up. But at the time Scott just thought the problem was with the phone line. Another e-mail message was sent to Babecka explaining that Scott was bedridden and would call upon his return to the United States. The message was apparently insufficient as Babecka sent another message to LDI:

I intend this to be my final note to you regarding whether Kroger was actually [sic] donating to Planned Parenthood or merely passing on customer rebates to customer-selected charities. I am leaving for vacation...and intend to send a note to those I've contacted. That note follows.

I do not wish to malign LDI, but I have to face the fact that I have no evidence whatsoever that Kroger did anything wrong. I have told others that Kroger did donate to Planned Parenthood, which many people (including myself) would consider wrong, sinful, evil. If this was not true, I have to do what is in my power to correct any damage I may have done to Kroger's reputation. I will also recommend to my pastor that he make a similar statement to our church, as an announcement or a bulletin insert.

If there there [sic] is an error in my message that you feel is worth correcting please contact me tomorrow by 5 PM. After that I will send out this note. I don't want to be pushy, but my pastor has held off on announcing the end of the boycott because he wants to be able to clear Kroger's name if they were not in the wrong and declare victory if they were and have relented.

Apparently believing doing so would garner a faster response, Babecka included with his e-mail the text of the message he threatened to disseminate:

#### Kroger's Reputation

I'm sorry to bother you with another note about Kroger, but I feel an obligation to do so because it is possible that Kroger was not guilty of wrongdoing and I unintentionally may have damaged Kroger's reputation in my communication to you.

#### The Rest of the Story

Almost immediately after sending my first note to you encouraging you to join the Life Decisions International (LDI) boycott I received a letter from Kroger stating that the Kroger Foundation (their related charitable grant organization) had not provided grants to Planned Parenthood.

I sent a note to LDI about this and soon after received a note saying that the boycott of Kroger was over. Although there was a statement in the note from LDI that Kroger officials had spoken to LDI, interestingly,

there was no statement that Kroger did anything or agreed to stop doing anything. The only thing Kroger was accused of in the note (besides its name showing up on a list of Planned Parenthood donors) was failure to respond to LDI.

I assumed from the note that Kroger was guilty and sent a note on to all of you declaring victory. Soon after, I received a call from a woman identifying herself as a representative of LDI. She informed me that, “Kroger has been taken off the boycott list due to the fact that they were only matching their employees’ donations and the employees were the ones determining who the donation was going to.” This was a very different story. I sent a note to LDI about this and received a response stating the message I received was in error.

I was satisfied until a friend forwarded a response he received from Kroger which stated, “The company did not make a grant or donation to Planned Parenthood. We do have a program where individual shoppers can make individual decisions about donations to non-profit organizations. The customer decides if they want to participate in the program, if they wish to shop with us and which non-profit will be the beneficiary of their shopping rebate. These are individual decisions, and not donations made by the company. We received word on June 10th that Kroger had been removed from the boycott list.”

If this was the case, then Kroger was pretty innocent. I would have preferred [sic] that they excluded Planned Parenthood from the charities that customers could select, but I would suspect that most corporations would not even have considered limiting the selections.

Since July 7, I have tried to contact LDI to confirm whether this was the limit of Kroger’s support for Planned Parenthood, but have not been able to get a response. Personally, i [sic] believe Kroger is telling [sic] the truth.

I learned an important lesson from all of this, one that I should have known earlier. Before I accuse someone of wrongdoing, I need to see the evidence for myself. If you passed on the word about Kroger having been a supporter of Planned Parenthood to others I request that you also pass on the rest of the story, Kroger’s story.

Babecka also sent text that he would recommend to his pastor for placement in the bulletin at church:

The Kroger Boycott is Over!

A few weeks ago we informed you that Kroger was listed among corporations supporting Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood is the nation’s largest abortion provider—they perform over 200,000 abortions each year. [Note: The 200,000 figure is incorrect.]

A representative from Kroger stated that Kroger’s donations were nothing more than a program run in some stores where customers can select charities to be supported when they make purchases. This means Kroger was not guilty oif [sic] deliberately supporting Planned Parenthood. Life Decisions International, the organization organizing the boycott, has removed them from their boycott list.

Planned Parenthood had published several reports listing Kroger as a corporate supporter. Unless Planned Parenthood notes the nature of the gift in its reports, LDI has only two ways to find out—ask Planned Parenthood or ask the company. Since Planned Parenthood is not willing to give LDI such detailed information, we really have but one route.

We should make it clear that being identified by Planned Parenthood as a supporter is enough to land a corporation on *The Boycott List*, but this can be averted if the corporation offers an acceptable explanation (for example, the donation was a mistake that will not be repeated, it was not a mistake but it will not be done in the future, it was part of a matching gift program, etc.). It is wrong to assert that any kind of donation going to Planned Parenthood can label a company “innocent” as any funds given to the group, including those from matching gifts or a program like that operated by Kroger, is unacceptable. It is just that, at this time, LDI has chosen to concentrate on *direct* corporate donations to Planned Parenthood.

Kroger will surely continue to fund Planned Parenthood through its unique program, but the way it is administered would have kept Kroger off *The Boycott List* if its leaders had only chosen to respond to our many letters and calls. Of course, LDI’s decision about Kroger was a judgment call based on our standards and policies. (The call could have gone the other way.) So characterizing Kroger’s donations to Planned Parenthood as “nothing more than a program run in some stores where customers can select charities to be supported” is not exactly a good defense. If LDI’s standards were different the corporation would be a boycott target unless it agreed to make Planned Parenthood ineligible for such gifts.

LDI has asked Kroger to tell Planned Parenthood to stop listing the company as a corporate supporter—the one thing the group likes even more than money. Any time a corporate name appears on a Planned Parenthood report we have a problem with it—regardless of the circumstances. If Kroger’s corporate name stops appearing on Planned Parenthood reports, a large (but not total) victory has indeed been won.

Interestingly, LDI President Douglas R. Scott received a letter from Kroger dated July 13, 2005:

We appreciate the opportunity to talk with you about Kroger and our policy concerning Planned Parenthood. We note in your recent newsletter you announce that Kroger is no longer a boycott target. Your integrity and follow through is appreciated.

It is nice that someone recognizes LDI's integrity!



Whole Foods Market (WFM) continues its dance around the fact that it funds Planned Parenthood. After LDI exposed the company's statement that the national office does not fund Planned Parenthood as misleading since it allows individual stores to do so, WFM decided to pursue a different, yet still misleading, route. WFM's assistant customer communications coordinator recently sent a deceptive message to a pro-life advocate who had contacted the company:

The mission of Whole Foods Market is to provide the highest quality natural and organic products available and to appeal to customers who are interested in the benefits to be derived from consuming high quality food regardless of their political persuasion, religious beliefs or their position on controversial issues.

Whole Foods Market's donation policy prevents contributions to organizations that are politically charged. Clearly that includes Planned Parenthood as they are surrounded by controversy and ideological division. In the past there were small contributions made by individual stores through community organizations of one sort or another, but there are not contributions from any Whole Foods Market location to Planned Parenthood at this time.

WFM is finally publicly admitting that its individual stores have funded Planned Parenthood, which is certainly a step in the right direction. But the key text in the company's latest statement comes at the very end. "[T]here are not contributions from any Whole Foods Market location to Planned Parenthood at this time."

We have several questions about this choice of words. For example, what is meant by "at this time"? Does this mean a grant has not gone to Planned Parenthood in the past 30 seconds? The past 24 hours? We know it does not mean that no funds have gone to Planned Parenthood over the past few months because LDI has seen WFM added to lists of donors published by Planned Parenthood itself. Moreover, will WFM be sending money to the pro-abortion group 30 seconds from now?

Message to WFM: When you certify that funding of Planned Parenthood will not occur in the future from any part of the company, WFM will be dropped as a boycott target. This will obviously require an end to rhetorical games that are intended to mislead consumers. In the meantime, WFM is—and deserves to be—a boycott target.

### RETURN OF THE "PRO-LIFE CHECK GUY"

The May-June 2005 edition of *The Caleb Report* included the findings of LDI's investigation into Custom Direct LLC, which markets LifeChecks (checks bearing pro-life messages/images). While we were not happy that the company does business with groups like Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union, the attacks made against it had been exaggerated. In addition, due to the nature of the relationship between Custom Direct and the pro-abortion groups, the company did not qualify for addition to *The Boycott List*.



We are *thrilled* to report that the man who sold LifeChecks to Custom Direct when his wife was battling cancer has returned to the business. George V. Johnson, affectionately known as "the pro-life check guy," is in the process of designing checks for his new venture. While his new business is still in development, a limited number of pro-life checks are now available at [promisechecks.com](http://promisechecks.com) (or call 1-800-977-6647 to request information by mail). Additional check styles will be added as they are developed.

Johnson said that while he wished *The Caleb Report* had not included the story about Custom Direct he understood why it was necessary that LDI do so. "It was the most balanced article you could have written and I commend you for it," he told LDI. And we commend Johnson for his integrity and for returning to the check business!

### BIRTH CONTROL KITS FOR SALE

Always be prepared! And Planned Parenthood is standing ready to help every child and adult do just that—for \$150. Birth Control Kits are available for rent and sale! "We invite you to enhance your presentation or class with a Birth Control Kit," reads the text of a Planned Parenthood webpage.



What does one get for \$150? Kits include: a birth control pill pack, cervical cap, a cytobrush and spatula (used to collect cells during a Pap test), dental dams and gloves, Depo-Provera, a

diaphragm in its own carrying care, “emergency contraception” (the “morning after pill”), a female condom, lubricant, a male condom, a penis model, a specimen cup (used to collect urine for sexually transmitted disease testing), a speculum, and spermicidal methods (foam with applicator, film, and inserts).

### PRO-ABORTION CLERGY

Pro-abortion groups are embarking on a campaign to convince people that religion and abortion go hand-in-hand. As the *Oakland Tribune* reported, “Faithful followers from various world religions line up with the abortion rights contingent—perhaps not as vocal or visual as anti-abortion advocates, but there nonetheless, historically and currently. But that spiritual side is starting to show...”



PPFA Chaplain  
Ignacio Castuera

Last year the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) appointed a national chaplain, with a network of 2,000 local clergy working across the United States. “Planned Parenthood is deeply, firmly on the side of religion,” said Karen Pearl, the group’s interim president. Religion, she explained, is centrally and fundamentally about ethics and morality, and those things are central to what Planned Parenthood does. “It is why most Planned Parenthood board affiliates have religious people on them,” she added.

“I think that in the media, (the abortion debate) is religious versus nonreligious,” said Therese Wilson, spokesman for Planned Parenthood Golden Gate (PPGG). “I think maybe we haven’t done a good job telling the public how we do our work.” The patients who walk through Planned Parenthood doors are often religious or spiritual, she said. “That is a component of most people’s lives. From our position it doesn’t have to be so separate.” (Is PPGG’s animated video, “A Superhero for CHOICE,” supposed to serve as evidence of the group’s pro-religion view or does the rhetoric fail to match the deeds?)

Some clergy have supported abortion for many years, the newspaper reported. In the 1960s they directed

women to back-alley abortionists. “A lot of these clergy people saw this as saving lives [of women] because they knew what would happen if they didn’t,” said Cynthia Gorney, University of California, Berkeley journalism professor and author of *Articles of Faith: A Frontline History of the Abortion Wars*.

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) has existed for more than three decades. Its goal is to “educate” people about the “moral necessity” of women having the right to kill their preborn children. “Clergy and religious communities have been involved in the pro-choice movement forever,” said Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, director of RCRC’s clergy programming. Several large “religious” affiliations have embraced abortion, including United Methodists, Presbyterians USA, and the United Church of Christ.

“Planned Parenthood is deadly serious about working to convince people of faith that one can be ‘religious’ and pro-abortion at the same time,” LDI President Douglas R. Scott said. “‘Religious’ and ‘faith’ are not necessarily synonymous with ‘Christian.’ Nevertheless it is shameful that PPFA and its legions would work to mislead anyone into thinking that God could in any way support the premeditated killing of those He created in His image.”

### WE’RE SORRY ABOUT THAT

*The Caleb Report* and *Special Reports* may be read and/or printed from our website ([www.fightpp.org](http://www.fightpp.org)). Any typographical or other error spotted after printing is corrected in the online edition.

### AUTHOR UNKNOWN

This morning when I wakened  
And saw the sun above,  
I softly said, “Good morning, Lord,  
Bless everyone I love.”

Right away I thought of you  
And said a loving prayer,  
That He would bless you specially,  
And keep you free from care.

I thought of all the happiness  
A day could hold in store.  
I wished it all for you because  
No one deserves it more.

I felt so warm and good inside,  
My heart was all aglow.  
I know God heard my prayers for you,  
He hears them all, you know.

*The Caleb Report*, an official periodical of Life Decisions International (LDI), is published six times per year. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of every LDI Partner or members of its Board of Directors/Advisors or staff. Visit us at: [www.fightpp.org](http://www.fightpp.org). This publication may be copied so long as it is done in full. It may be quoted so long as proper citation is provided with the quotation. Write: P.O. Box 75161, Washington, DC 20013-0161. Phone: (540) 631-0380.

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