



# Special Reports

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## LOST IN MYSPACE

### Planned Parenthood Uses Popular Website To Reach Youth

by Douglas R. Scott, Jr.

Anyone familiar with the Internet can tell you about MySpace. Now the most popular website of its kind, MySpace is a place where people “gather” for social networking—and much more.

MySpace allows members to upload photographs, music, and videos, write a personal profile, and list “friends” (the vast majority of whom the member has never communicated with, much less actually met) who also have a page on MySpace. In addition, an internal system allows members to contact each other.

One popular MySpace feature is an internal search engine that allows members to find others based on various criteria. For example, a member may search for another MySpace user by typing in a name, school, job type, age range, city, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, and so forth.



**MySpace is one of the most popular websites, especially among young people.**

Owned by Fox Interactive Media, a subsidiary of News Corporation, it is difficult to estimate the number of active members on MySpace because the company claims that 230,000 new accounts are opened every day. It is clear, however, that the number exceeds 110 million worldwide. The typical MySpace member is

between 14 and 30 years old and spends an average of two hours per day on the website.

#### Not All Is Well

Naturally, there are people, groups and corporations that have taken advantage of the popularity of MySpace to promote a product, philosophy and/or lifestyle. MySpace hosts a long list of “cyber-groups” that members may “join,” ostensibly so they may find others with common interests. Most of these groups are quite innocuous (“Club Volleyball,” “Knitting,” and so forth), but many are not.

There are more than 500 homosexual groups (“Support Gay Marriages!,” “Gay Teens,” “Gay Bondage Boys, Kinks and Fetishes,” etc.). There are 100 “Wicca” groups (“Wiccans of the World,” “The Pagan Gathering,” “The Sinister Urge” [Wiccans, Pagans, and Vampires], “Pagan Witchcraft,” “Spells, Remedies, with Wicca!,” etc.). More than 500 groups focus specifically on sex (“Sex is a Sport,” “Sex with No Strings,” “Give Me Sex,” “Sex Fantasies,” etc.). And there are nearly 2,000 groups dedicated to legalizing marijuana or other illegal substances (“United Stoners of America,” “Pot Smokers United,” “Legalizee Druggs [sic],” etc.).



Not surprisingly, there are more than 2,000 anti-religion groups, the vast majority of which are specifically opposed to Christianity. The MySpace page of one 21-year old male, Bonné, is headlined, “Where knowledge ends, religion begins.” His page is filled with slogans, cartoons, videos and other material that attack Christianity. For example, the page includes a photograph of a *Holy Bible*, but a “warning” sticker has been attached:

*WARNING:* This is a work of fiction. *Do NOT take it literally.*

*CONTENT ADVISORY:* Contains verses descriptive or advocating suicide, incest, bestiality, sadomasochism, sexual activity in a violent context, murder, morbid violence, use of drugs or alcohol, homosexuality, voyeurism, revenge, undermining of authority figures, lawlessness, and human rights violations and atrocities.

*EXPOSURE WARNING:* Exposure to contents for extended periods of time or during formative years in children may cause delusions, hallucinations, decreased cognitive and objective reasoning abilities, and, in extreme cases, pathological disorders, hatred, bigotry, and violence including, but not limited to fanaticism, murder, and genocide.

There is a long diatribe that refers to Christians as “nuts” and “scumbags” who take religion “to [sic] seriously.” Following a lot of name-calling and ridicule, the MySpace member urges those who visit his page to turn away from Christianity. He makes several arguments he believes will convince people to do so. At first glance the arguments *seem* to be well thought out, but they actually show a gross ignorance of Christian-

ity. Unfortunately, a young person is likely to accept what Bonn e has written about Christianity if he, too, is ignorant of the true teachings of Jesus Christ.

**“Religion...is the opium of the people.”**

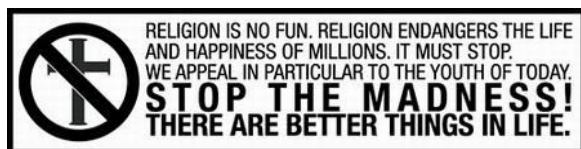
– Karl Heinrich Marx  
*Critique of [G.W.F.] Hegel's Philosophy of Right (1843)*

While Bonn e is ignorant, he does *try* to employ logic to support his beliefs (or lack thereof). This is more than one can say for the man who wrote nothing more on the subject than, “I am anti religion due to the fact that i [sic] as well as others have seen what it does to people. I am a man of reason. That is all i [sic] need.”



**Shouldn't this read, "No God, No Guilt, No Heaven"?**

What is truly interesting is that the avowed atheist is not happy just believing God is a figment of mankind's vivid imagination. There is no “live and let live” here. God does not exist, period, and those who believe otherwise are idiots, fools, gullible, and even dangerous. The atheist seeks to challenge those who believe in God. In other words, the atheist seeks converts. Lies and half-truths, sometimes based on ignorance, are routinely spread but this does not matter—the ends apparently justify the means.



If using MySpace to reach young people with a toxic message is good enough for anti-Christian zealots, sexual deviants, witches, and drug users, it is certainly good enough for Planned Parenthood. The deadly group's primary MySpace page is riddled with the usual propaganda.

### **“About Me”**

Every MySpace page includes space for a member to write something about himself. A typical “About Me” section includes rhetoric such as “I love to swim, fish and play volleyball,” or “My name is Tonya and I'm 23 years old. I am single and live in the Midwest,” or “Hi! I love people and animals. I live at home with my parents, three sisters, two dogs and one cat.” But with Planned Parenthood we get an atypical “About Me” section (atypical for MySpace; not atypical for Planned Parenthood):

Planned Parenthood is America's leading sexual and reproductive health care advocate and provider. Planned Parenthood believes that everyone has the right to choose when or whether to have a child, [sic] that every child should be wanted and loved, and that women should be in charge of their destinies. Planned

Parenthood affiliates nationwide provide sexual and reproductive health care, education, and information to millions of women, men, and teens in the United States each year.

Following this description is an invitation for young people to make an appointment at a Planned Parenthood center: “To find a Planned Parenthood health center or to make an appointment, call us toll-free at 1-800-230-PLAN or visit our web site.” A link to Planned Parenthood Federation of America's (PPFA) website is provided.

Planned Parenthood urges MySpace members to place a Planned Parenthood banner on their respective page. The banners, which include a link to Planned Parenthood's MySpace page, help advertise the group's agenda and “services.” They also spread its ideology.

### **Weblog**

MySpace users typically post a blog. (A “blog” is similar to a journal. Entries may express an opinion, discuss something happening in the MySpace member's life, address current events, or virtually anything else.) Planned Parenthood's blog space is used to post headlines related to its agenda. The July 11, 2007 entry is titled, “‘Nation's Top Doctor' Speaks Out: Bush Administration Suppressed Critical Health Information.” The blog for June 19, 2007, is headed, “FOX and CBS Say Yes to Sex, No to Condoms.” Needless-to-say, the stories associated with every news headline are slanted toward Planned Parenthood's point-of-view. Unfortunately, most young people would not notice the slant.



**People are urged to place a Planned Parenthood banner on their MySpace page.**

Planned Parenthood often includes “action items” with the news stories. In the case of the condom advertisement people were urged to, “Tell FOX and CBS executives to stop the hypocrisy and air ads that protect public health.” A link is provided to PPFA's [saveroe.com](http://saveroe.com) website.

### **“Who I'd Like To Meet”**

MySpace users are invited to complete a section titled, “Who I'd like to meet.” It is easy to guess the kinds of responses most people provide: President Bush, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Brad Pitt, Jessica Simpson, and so forth.

Now just who would the people at Planned Parenthood like to meet? “You. For medical questions, or to schedule an appointment with the nearest Planned Parenthood health center, call toll-free 1-800-230-PLAN (7526). Oh, and don't forget to visit our [online] store.” How clever! A link to the online store is provided.

## Self-Serving Links

Planned Parenthood was sure to include links to several of its projects and associated groups. One link is titled, “*TAKE ACTION. Join Our Action Network!*” MySpace members who click on the link are sent to [ppaction.org](http://ppaction.org), which is part of PPFA’s political arm. The website’s “About Us” section describes its purpose:

Planned Parenthood is a visible and forceful advocate for reproductive rights and reproductive health issues wherever public policy is deliberated and formed: in Congress and in statehouses, in the courts, in the media. Planned Parenthood has a long history of fighting to protect and expand reproductive rights and access to reproductive health care for individuals worldwide. SaveROE.com is an integral tool in Planned Parenthood’s efforts to win the battle to protect reproductive freedom.

SaveROE.com provides visitors with the latest information on policies impacting women’s health and reproductive rights and urges activists to speak out on these critical issues. The SaveROE.com online action center has all of the tools pro-choice activists need to make their voices heard. By providing the tools to send letters to the editor or take action on legislative issues, SaveROE.com mobilizes people who are committed to defending and increasing access to birth control, abortion, and sex education.

People are urged to take action on various issues. Recent advocacy campaigns include:

- *Expand Access To Health Care!* People are asked to tell their member of Congress to add provisions to Medicaid that would allow more people “access to health care and have preventive family planning options.” Included in this proposal is a call for the Federal Government to pay for the “family planning needs” of people who entered the United States illegally, which would translate into many more taxpayer dollars going to PPFA.
- *REAL Sex Ed Saves Lives!* “In the past 10 years, Congress has wasted more than \$1 billion on dangerous abstinence-only programs that deny teenagers vital information about birth control and responsible decision-making. The Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act will provide funds for...sex education in schools.” People are urged to ask their member of Congress to “stop wasting money on abstinence-only programs and to support REAL sex education instead.”
- *FOX and CBS Say Yes to Sex, No to Condoms.* “FOX and CBS have refused to air a condom ad because it is “inappropriate” and focuses on preventing unintended pregnancies rather than explicit-ly [sic] on prevention of sexually transmitted infections. This is an outrage and an extremely hypocritical stance for both networks as their prime time programming is brimming with sexual content.” Planned Parenthood asks people to contact the net-

works and tell them to “stop the hypocrisy and air ads that promote public health!”

- *Sign the Fill My Pills Now Petition.* “What would you do if you needed emergency contraception, but your pharmacist refused to provide it because he or she didn’t ‘believe’ in it? Yes, it’s hard to believe that something like this could happen to YOU and those you care about. But it is happening in pharmacies across the country. In an outrageous attack on women’s health and safety, a number of pharmacies have failed to adopt policies to ensure that customers can get their emergency contraception and other birth control methods without delay. This is discrimination, plain and simple, and it must be stopped. Fight back with Planned Parenthood—sign our Fill My Pills Now petition today.” Of course, petitions are generally used as a ruse to get names and contact information for fund-raising.
- *“Pro-Family Planning” Congress?* “House members are debating on next year’s spending bills.... While they have taken a very important first step in preventing unintended pregnancies by increasing family planning funding, they are also authorizing a \$27 increase to dangerous abstinence-only programs.” People are asked to urge their member of Congress to “stop playing insider politics with teen’s health and to stop wasting money on ineffective abstinence-only programs.”

These kinds of one-sided statements provided as an “explanation” of an issue are likely to have the desired impact. The sooner Planned Parenthood can get a young person politically active on its behalf, the longer that person can be of service.



MySpace members who click on the link for [teenwire.com](http://teenwire.com) are sent to PPFA’s website designed for teenagers. Recent articles found on the website include:

- “Inside a Crisis Pregnancy Center.” This article trashes pregnancy help centers, which are labeled “deceptive” and “dangerous.”
- “Transgender Health 101.” This article gives health tips to transgender youth. It also provides links to groups that will support the teenager’s decision regarding sexual identity.
- “Teaching Homophobia: Abstinence-Only Sex Education Programs.” This article blasts abstinence education programs for not embracing homosexuality.

Young people who visit the website are invited to take a “quiz” on several subjects, including: HPV 101, Masturbation 101, Herpes 101, Puberty 101, Chlamydia

## 101, Sexually Transmitted Infections 101, and What Can Cause Pregnancy?

A “Republican? Get Involved!” link sends MySpace members to PPFA’s website and its Republicans for Choice page:

Republicans for Choice (RFC) is dedicated to the preservation of individual rights and reproductive freedom. We represent women and men across the country who believe our nation is best served by policies that support family planning and a woman’s right to choose. Never once have we felt that our core Republican values were in conflict with our support for providing women with the necessary means to ensure that every child is a wanted child.

The final link in this section of Planned Parenthood’s MySpace will surprise no one:

**\$ or \$\$ or \$\$\$**  
**Support Planned Parenthood Now!**

The link sends the MySpace member directly to PPFA’s website and its “Donate Online” page.

### Photos

The space provided for MySpace members to upload photographs is well used by Planned Parenthood—to promote its agenda. Many of the postings are PPFA advertisements. Cartoons and banners are also posted:



### “Friends”

Probably the most depressing part of Planned Parenthood’s MySpace page is its list of “friends.” The group boasts nearly 21,000 “friends.” These are fellow MySpace members who have chosen to align themselves with Planned Parenthood and its agenda.

MySpace members are able to list their “top” friends. Most of Planned Parenthood’s top friends are PPFA affiliates. This means that *many* more MySpace pages are operated by groups directly related to PPFA.

Planned Parenthood’s MySpace “friends” are allowed to leave comments on the page. All comments are pro-Planned Parenthood because members have control over what comments are placed on their page. Some

highlights follow. (Note: We have not identified errors with “sic” as there are far too many.)

Nick, a 20-year-old from Price, Utah, wrote:

I cant believe this, hundreds of anti-choicers are blockading clinics across alabama and in wichita...Everyone needs to start sending in donations to NOW or the Feminist Majority foundation to help them defend the clinics.

Greta (age and hometown were not provided) wrote:

Thank you!!! Planned parenthood helped my 19 year-old son this past weekend with medical care he needed!! You are great. I have supported you for the last 20 years and will continue to...

Jen, 35, is from St. Petersburg, Florida:

Thank you for all you do! I have been watching the news over just the last 3 weeks and see all of the dead moms and children/unborn children, and I am so glad we have choices now. We have a choice with who, when, and what time of our lives; we if we want too, to bring a human into this world and raise it to provide greatness for the earth. Thankyou you again!!!

Eighteen year old Julia had identified herself on her MySpace page as “The Woman Rebel.” (*The Woman Rebel* is the name of a book written by PPFA founder and eugenics advocate Margaret Higgins Sanger.) She wrote that, “It’s a sad thing that most people don’t know PP [Planned Parenthood] is also pro-child.”

### “Think For Yourself”

A banner on Planned Parenthood’s MySpace page reads, “Think For Yourself.” This is exactly what those who seek to convert Christians to atheism ask people to do. “Believers, please take your time to let your mind absorb the information you are about to receive,” Bonnié wrote on his MySpace page.



The legion that brazenly spews anti-Christian poison defines “thinking for yourself” as a rejection of the teachings of parents, pastors, and other “traditional” authority figures. Planned Parenthood uses a similar definition. Essentially, anyone who chooses to do that which is considered morally or ethically right by those in authority is nothing more than a mindless robot. Only when one chooses to do the exact opposite can one really be thinking for himself. This kind of pressure does not serve the young person who is trying to make a decision. But it does serve someone.

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