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## VARIATION ON A THEME: "40 DAYS OF HARASSMENT" New Version of "Pledge-A-Picket" Serves Dual Purposes

Pro-life activists are familiar with the "Pledge-A-Picket" fund-raising program run by many affiliates of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). The idea is simple. Fans of Planned Parenthood promise to donate a specific amount of money to the group for every pro-life protester that shows up in front of the building. There are two goals: raise money and discourage picketing. The program has been effective in raising some cash, but it is not as though Planned Parenthood has a lack of money. The plan to discourage protesters, however, has been a total failure.



**PPHSET escorts are "superheroes."**

A few Planned Parenthood affiliates have been participating in a variation of the old fund-raising scheme, "40 Days of Harassment," which is a response to the "40 Days for Life" project implemented by pro-life activists in 2004. This year, both programs were scheduled for September 23 to November 1.

Despite the fact that 40 Days for Life is rooted in prayer and fasting, Planned Parenthood of Southeast Pennsylvania (PPSP) issued a statement of opposition:

Planned Parenthood calls on organizers of a nationwide, 40-day protest against Planned Parenthood to keep efforts peaceful, citing a long history of violence against health centers from anti-choice organizations.

The inappropriately named "40 Days for Life" campaign began...in Philadelphia and cities across the country. No patient should have to risk her well-being, safety and privacy when accessing health care.

If these extremists were truly concerned about women and families, they would work with Planned Parenthood to increase access to affordable birth control and comprehensive sex education.

Want to raise your voice against the protesters? You can stand with others in the community against these acts of intimidation and harassment, by join [sic] PPSP's Pledge-A-Picket campaign.

One PPFA affiliate participating in "40 Days of Harassment" is Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas (PPHSET), which released a statement to its supporters. "During the 40 Days of Harassment...protesters will attempt to keep women from coming to Planned Parenthood," it read. "You can help women get health care without harassment by becoming a volunteer escort. Our

volunteers provide a smiling face to welcome our clients in the parking lot and escort them past the protesters into our health center."



PPFA affiliates provided those who may be customers during "40 Days of Harassment" with "information and tips" about protesters. Keep in mind that 40 Days for Life is rooted in prayer and fasting; it is not Operation Rescue:

**Q:** Why are there protesters outside Planned Parenthood?

**A:** These protesters don't believe in birth control, sex education or a woman's right to information about all of her options when she is pregnant. The protesters don't want clients coming to Planned Parenthood. Their goal is to shut down Planned Parenthood. Some protesters are loud and yell at clients and others stand quietly and hold signs. They all try to intimidate or mislead our clients. Don't worry. Planned Parenthood has volunteer escorts to help you get into our clinic safely.

**Q:** How do I avoid the protesters?

**A:** Have someone drop you off near our front door...We also have volunteers at some of our locations that will escort you into our clinics. The volunteers wear bright lime green vests that say "Planned Parenthood Volunteer." You can wait until one of them meets you to escort you past the protesters.

**Q:** Can the protesters come near me or touch me?

**A:** They can NOT [sic] touch you. If they do, it can be considered assault. Protesters can get near you and may try to hand things to you. You don't have to take their materials. They may ask questions and say mean and offensive things to you. For your safety, try to ignore them. Don't talk to them or interact with them.

**Q:** Can they block my car or keep me from getting into the clinic?

**A:** No. It is against the law for a protester to block you from entering a clinic.

**Q:** Can you make the protesters leave?

**A:** As long as they stay off of Planned Parenthood's private property they have a right to assemble and free speech. They cannot touch you or follow you into our parking lot or health center driveway. We believe in their Constitutional right to free speech, but we also believe that women and men have a right to get their health care without harassment.

**Q:** Can I talk to them?

A: It is your decision, but for your safety (and others) we strongly discourage you from engaging in arguments or discussion with the protesters.



According to Planned Parenthood, even talking with a 40 Days for Life participant could put a person in jeopardy. And they claim it is the pro-life protester who is against “a woman’s right to information about all her options”? Of course, these are the same people who believe abortion is “health care.”

Planned Parenthood urged its customers to share their experiences. “We’d like to hear from you. Tell us what you think about having to walk through the protesters,” read a Planned Parenthood statement. “The stories you share with us may be used in future Planned Parenthood publications, but will remain completely anonymous. Any and all references to personal information (such as names, dates or specific situations) will be removed.”

### THE PRAYER PROJECT

Join us in daily prayer for the people who are active in the Pro-Abortion Movement and those who have not been strong in their claimed pro-life convictions:

*September:* **Kathleen Gilligan Sebelius**, pro-abortion Secretary of Health & Human Services; *October:* Vice President **Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr.**; *November:* **John Mackey**, chief executive officer of Whole Foods Market Inc.; and *December:* **Marie C. Wilson**, president of The White House Project.

### WHOLLY COW, WE’LL EXPLAIN IT AGAIN!

On several occasions, LDI has pointed out the dishonorable manner in which Whole Foods Market Inc. has been handling the boycott of the company by pro-life activists. One of the most outrageous displays of deceit is its inconsistencies when addressing the boycott with pro-life consumers who contact the company.

As boycott participants know, LDI contacts every boycotted corporation before releasing an updated *List* to determine if any qualify to be dropped as a target. Our most recent letter to Whole Foods led a response from Jessie Walker, a “Customer Information Specialist”:

I was forwarded a fax that you sent...to our Global HQ here in Austin. While I realize that this email did not make your required deadline, I felt it was important to reach out and once and for all get some kind of explanation as to why we are on your list. I have worked in this capacity for almost five years and in that time I have not known of any of our stores donating to PP [Planned Parenthood]. As a corporation we have never donated. I know that about 7 years ago some of our stores in the north and mid Atlantic states donated food items from time to time, but money, as far as I know, has never been given. We are a decen-

tralized company and the stores have the freedom to choose nonprofit organizations that are important to their team members as well as the communities they serve. However, they are encouraged to avoid politically charged organizations such as PP. so if you could please provide me with some sort of explanation as to why we continue to be on your list I would greatly appreciate it.

“Let’s get one point clear,” said LDI President Douglas R. Scott, Jr. “Whole Foods Market executives know why the company is a boycott target and they have seen the evidence we have against the company.” But, maybe Walker has been left in the dark by his superiors. LDI Director of Communications Ken Garvey responded:

Your company, Whole Foods, has been a boycott target since the late 90s for its support of Planned Parenthood. Whether the support comes from headquarters or individual stores is immaterial. Planned Parenthood is proudly using the name Whole Foods to legitimize its billion dollar (not an exaggeration) “non-profit” business.

Anyone can go to Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/Willamette’s website on which they thank Whole Foods for being a company “choosing to stand up for Planned Parenthood’s mission and proudly support [sic] our work.”

Just a few years ago, Whole Foods’ own website listed Planned Parenthood as a recipient of its “5%-Day” donations. But after we noted this fact in a press release, the Planned Parenthood name suddenly disappeared from the list, but those of the other recipients remained.

Other Planned Parenthood support by Whole Foods has included donations for fund-raising auctions, hosting voter registration drives for Planned Parenthood and its pro-abortion candidates, being included in a “Pro-Choice Shopping Guide” after making a donation to Planned Parenthood, and so forth. All of these occurred in just the past few years; not “about 7 years ago.”

Mr. Walker, we ask for nothing material. We simply ask for John Mackey’s [Whole Foods’ CEO] word that Planned Parenthood will be made ineligible for support in the future—in every form and from every location.



Walker’s response to the information was to make an excuse—essentially dismissing all of the evidence LDI had provided. “I’m afraid that because of our decentralized nature there will be something like what you mention here from time to time” he wrote.

While this exchange between LDI and Whole Foods Market is nothing new, Walker ended final communication with a disappointing message. “As I explain to many of the people you encourage to boycott us, check with your local store and see if they donate [to Planned Parenthood]. Many [pro-lifers] are happy with this.” Whole Foods has gone to great lengths to emphasize that Planned Parenthood is not being funded by the Company headquarters.

“We are surprised that so many pro-life consumers fail to see how they are being manipulated by Whole Foods,”

Garvey said. “Whole Foods could put an immediate stop to support of Planned Parenthood if Mackey chose to do so. Would the ‘decentralized giving program’ and local stores are ‘encouraged to avoid politically charged organizations’ excuses be acceptable to civil rights groups if a Market chose to make a donation to the Aryan Brotherhood? Certainly not. Corporate headquarters would put an immediate stop to it. Why isn’t Planned Parenthood viewed in the same way?”

Garvey noted that Whole Foods stores located in liberal areas are supporting the pro-abortion group while those in more conservative areas are pleading ignorance and innocence. “It is foolhardy to buy into the idea that one may shop at Whole Foods if their local store claims it is not funding Planned Parenthood,” he said. “Every pro-life consumer who accepts this ‘reasoning’ is doing great damage to the Pro-Life Movement in general and the Corporate Funding Project in particular.”

### PRO-LIFE CANDIDATES SHOULD BE PROUD

By the time you read this article, voters in New Jersey and Virginia will have decided who will serve as governor of their respective states. And the races have been watched and analyzed nationwide.



**Christie**

The weary pro-life people in the Garden State faced a limited choice. Republican Christopher J. Christie claimed to be “personally” pro-life, but had said he would not use the governor’s office to “force that down people’s throats.”

Christie, who claims to be Roman Catholic, supports a few restrictions on abortion, such as requiring parental notification and setting a 24-hour waiting period. But his running mate, Kimberly Ann McFadden Guadagno, is openly and proudly pro-abortion, even though she tried to moderate her position during the primary campaign.

Incumbent Jon S. Corzine, a Democrat, has been openly and proudly pro-abortion. Corzine claims to be affiliated with the United Church of Christ, which supports abortion and homosexual marriage. Corzine’s running mate, State Senator Loretta Weinberg, a member of the legislature’s upper branch. She is also a member of the pro-abortion National Council of Jewish Women and has been openly and proudly supportive of the deadly deed.

Independent candidate Christopher J. Daggett served as commissioner of New Jersey’s Department of Environmental Protection. Daggett and his running mate, Professor Frank J. Esposito, a university professor, are both openly and proudly pro-abortion.

Given voter dissatisfaction with the Corzine regime, a Republican victory is likely. The victory will most certainly be with only a plurality of the vote.



**Deeds**

In Virginia, State Senator R. Creigh Deeds, a Democrat, faced Republican Robert F. McDonnell. Deeds claims to be Presbyterian and McDonnell says he is Roman Catholic. Interestingly, the pair faced off in the race for Virginia Attorney General four years ago, with McDonnell winning by just over 300 votes.

Deeds, as well as his party’s nominees for lieutenant governor (Jody M. Wagner) and attorney general (Stephen C. Shannon) are openly and proudly pro-abortion. Shannon claims to be Roman Catholic. All three candidates were endorsed by Planned Parenthood and NARAL.

McDonnell, as well as the Republican candidates for lieutenant governor (incumbent William T. Bolling) and attorney general (State Senator Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II), say they are pro-life. Bolling is associated with the United Methodist Church, which recognizes the right of women to choose abortion, but many members are pro-life. Cuccinelli is Roman Catholic. All three candidates mention abortion on their respective campaign websites. (We know Cuccinelli is pro-life. His office contacted LDI for information when he was fighting Planned Parenthood in the Virginia General Assembly.)

“There are few politicians who appall me more than Creigh Deeds,” said LDI President Douglas R. Scott, Jr., in a statement released to the media. “Deeds has staked his campaign on extremist anti-life positions. In fact, the first ads released by the Deeds Campaign attacked Republican candidate Bob McDonnell’s pro-life record.

This strategy is not new for Deeds. In his campaign for Virginia Attorney General four years ago, Deeds attacked McDonnell for opposing embryonic stem cell experimentation. “Just what does the job of attorney general have to do with embryonic stem cell experimentation?” Scott asked. “Absolutely nothing, but Deeds thought it would help him win the election so he raised the issue.”

Just what does the job of governor have to do with abortion and related issues? “Not much,” Scott said, “because the U.S. Supreme Court has imposed strict limits on the elected representatives of the people when it comes to legislating on the matter.” Still, legislators may enact some laws that would help protect the lives of preborn children.

“What Deeds does not seem to understand is that in every area where lawmakers are permitted to act, polls show great public support for doing so,” Scott said. “To Deeds this is a problem, so he presented the issue without telling the whole truth.”

In one Deeds ad, he accused McDonnell of “denying women access to birth control.” In another, the Deeds

Campaign says McDonnell has a record of “reducing access to birth control.” In yet another ad, McDonnell is charged with “opposing birth control for married adults.” (The issue was actually who should pay for it; not its legality or availability.) And Deeds said McDonnell supported “35 bills restricting a woman’s choice.” (That’s a “woman’s choice” to kill her baby, but for some reason Deeds leaves that part out.) The Deeds Campaign has even attempted to raise religious bigotry by repeatedly noting that McDonnell attended “Pat Robertson’s law school.” (That’s “Liberty University School of Law.”)

“It is obvious that Deeds is a zealot who is grossly out of touch with the vast majority of Virginians on abortion,” Scott said, “but it is also important to note that he has little regard for the truth. It is not surprising that Deeds airs the abortion-related ads only in the most liberal parts of Virginia, but it is appalling that he stoops so low as to deliberately mislead voters and use such highly emotion issues for personal gain.”

Scott has prayed that McDonnell will win the election and he expects the candidate will do so quite decisively. “But it saddens me that not once did McDonnell take on Deeds over abortion. In short, McDonnell was a political coward, which is exactly what the Deeds Campaign had hoped would happen.”



**McDonnell** Soon after the race for governor began, pro-life leaders virtually begged the McDonnell Campaign to let them help formulate a winning strategy on abortion. “I asked the political director of a notable Virginia-based conservative organization if he could offer some advice on how to get McDonnell to listen,” Scott said. “He hasn’t exactly been defending himself, has he?” the gentleman responded. This was an understatement. And McDonnell refused to let those who know how to turn abortion into a winning issue help his campaign. Instead of highlighting the extremist Deeds position, McDonnell has chosen to ignore the attacks. (The political director said that he, too, had trouble getting return calls from the Campaign.)

So why raise this issue when the election is over? “The McDonnell approach perpetuates the myth that espousing a pro-life position means the death of a political campaign,” Scott explained. “The problem is that that most candidates do not know how to defend and advance the pro-life point of view. But such a problem becomes even worse when a candidate refuses to learn how to do so, which does nothing but encourage pro-abortion candidates and discourage pro-life candidates.” Scott said that if McDonnell had put Deeds “in his place” on these issues four years ago, the Democrat may have had second thoughts about raising them this year.



**Kaine** Four years ago, Democrat Timothy M. Kaine, who claims to be Roman Catholic, faced Republican Jerry W. Kilgore in the race for governor of Virginia. Kilgore attacked his opponent for opposing the death penalty. Kaine said he was personally opposed to capital punishment, because of the teachings of his religion, but would follow the law. He made it look as though Kilgore was attacking the Democrat’s religion. Kaine won the election by a wide margin. (While Kaine upholds the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church on the death penalty, he supports *Roe v. Wade*, which is a key reason why he was considered as a running mate by Barack H. Obama.) “This was one of the best examples of turning an issue to your favor in the history of state—if not national—politics,” Scott said.

Scott said he could think of two other candidates who did an excellent job dealing with the abortion issue. One is former presidential contender Gary L. Bauer. The second is former Virginia Governor James S. Gilmore III.

“Gary Bauer would simply say that people who wake up in the morning and their only concern is ‘abortion rights’ should certainly not vote for him,” Scott recalled. “But those people who wake up concerned about education, national defense, health care, the economy, and so forth, should vote for him. The strategy was brilliant.”

“Gilmore, who was not pro-life but was more anti-abortion than his extremist opponent, addressed the attacks head on,” Scott said. “A Gilmore ad referenced the decision in *Roe v. Wade* and the candidate said no one in Virginia is going to ban abortion. He branded the attacks by his opponent as an attempt to shift focus from other issues. The strategy worked.”

Scott said he believes that when it comes to the life issues, “Bob McDonnell is the best candidate for governor Virginians have had in a long, long time.” But he also believes that if McDonnell “were able and willing to articulate that position with confidence and pride, he would be among the greatest candidates we have ever seen.” But despite promises by McDonnell campaign staff to return calls, no one picked up the phone. “This will not lead to a beating being taken by a candidate; it will lead to yet another beating being taken by the Pro-Life Movement.”

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