



The Caleb Report

November-December 2011

Life Decisions International

vol. xx • no. 6

"PROGRESSIVE" = "PRO-ABORTION"? Activist Group MoveOn Seeks To Make Its Mark In Abortion Debate

MoveOn, as described by Wikipedia:

MoveOn is an American non-profit, progressive or liberal public policy advocacy group and political action committee, which has raised millions of dollars for candidates it identifies as "moderates" or "progressives" in the United States. It was formed in 1998 in response to the impeachment of President Bill Clinton by the U.S. House of Representatives.

MoveOn, as described by Conservapedia:

MoveOn.org is a radical liberal political activist group with 3.3 million members in the United States. MoveOn.org says they bring "real Americans back into the political process". The liberal demagogue George Soros and a partner donated five million dollars in 2004 in an unsuccessful attempt to defeat the reelection of President George W. Bush. MoveOn.org participates in the Americans Against Escalation in Iraq coalition. The *Washington Post* cited MoveOn.org along with the liberal anti-Semitic group, A.N.S.W.E.R., as one of the early opponents of removing the fascist regime of Saddam Hussein.

MoveOn, as described by MoveOn:

The MoveOn family of organizations brings real Americans back into the political process. With 5 million members across America—from carpenters to stay-at-home moms to business leaders—we work together to realize the progressive promise of our country. MoveOn is a service—a way for busy but concerned citizens to find their political voice in a system dominated by big money and big media.

MoveOn consists of two parts (technically separate legal entities for tax classification purposes). The Civil Action division, which was formerly known as MoveOn.org, focuses on education and advocacy on national issues. The Political Action division is a registered political action committee that "mobilizes people across the country to fight important battles in Congress and help elect candidates who reflect our values."

and the ridiculous waste of our nation's focus at the time of the impeachment mess." In September 1998, Joan Blades (also cofounded the activist group MomsRising) and Wes Boyd posted a petition online that called on Congress to "Censure President Clinton and MoveOn to Pressing Issues Facing the Nation." Within days they had gathered hundreds of thousands of signatures. Understanding the power (having names and contact information for those who signed) of the petition, Blades and Boyd looked for a way to use it.



Starting in 2002 MoveOn Civic Action began campaigns to stop the Iraq war, keep the federal courts

"moderate," oppose the repeal of the estate tax, and reduce America's dependence on oil. MoveOn also supported campaign finance reform, but it seems their collective hearts were not really committed. After the McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Reform Bill was signed by the President, MoveOn used a loophole in the legislation to form a group that allowed it to circumvent the new law.

The MoveOn Political Action Committee was formed in 1998 so "like-minded, concerned citizens could influence the outcome of congressional elections, and in turn, the balance of power in Washington, D.C." MoveOn says the establishment of a political action committee "provides individuals, who normally have little political power, an opportunity to aggregate their contributions with others to gain a greater voice in the political process, and brings people together to take important stands on the most important issues facing our country."

MoveOn has broadened its scope over the years. It now has a Peace campaign. Founded by Maine resident Eli Pariser, the operation was created in response to talk of war that began shortly after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Shortly after the attacks Pariser started an online petition calling for a "restrained and multilateral response to the attacks." The petition was signed by more than half a million people. The campaign was later acquired by MoveOn, which benefitted from taking control of the names and contact information of those who had signed the petition.



Boyd

Blades

The Civic Action element was started by the cofounders of Berkeley Systems Inc., which by 1997 had 120 employees and \$30 million in annual revenue when it was sold for \$13.8

million. According to MoveOn, the pair "shared deep frustration with the partisan warfare in Washington D.C.



What is 99% of 0.01%?

More recently, MoveOn has latched onto the “Occupation Movement,” even though no one, including its participants, knows what is being demanded. We only know that they are opposed to “corporate greed.”

MoveOn addressed its affinity for the Occupation Movement in rather vague terms:

MoveOn stands in solidarity with the brave protesters at Occupy Wall Street, but we’re not Occupy Wall Street and we’re not trying to become Occupy Wall Street. That said, many individual MoveOn members have chosen to participate in their local occupations and many others have provided material support.

MoveOn’s members agree with many of the core beliefs that protesters at Occupy Wall Street have expressed—that corporations have far too much power in our political system, that our economy is only working for the richest 1% of Americans while leaving 99% of us behind, and that big Wall Street banks wrecked our economy and were never held accountable.

And as would be true with any diverse, vibrant movement like Occupy Wall Street, MoveOn members don’t agree with everything every Occupy Wall Street supporter says. But we’re grateful for the amazing work that Occupy Wall Street has done to highlight deep problems that for too long have been ignored in public discussions.

Has MoveOn not sought to make the Occupy Movement part of its structure? Not yet. After all, the Occupy Movement does not have a mailing list of hundreds of thousands of people with money to spare.

MoveOn was initially funded by the notoriously liberal chairman of Soros Fund Management, George Soros. According to *Forbes* his net worth is \$22 billion (ranks 46th on the list of the world’s richest people). Linda Pritzker of the Hyatt Hotels dynasty has made large donations to MoveOn. A Tibetan Buddhist and trained psychotherapist, *Forbes* says she is worth \$1.6 billion (736th on the list of the world’s wealthiest people).



Lewis

Another person who has given a lot of money to MoveOn is Peter B. Lewis, chairman of The Progressive Corporation. Lewis is well-known for his financial support of many liberal causes, including the Marijuana Policy Project (\$3 million), America Coming Together (\$10 million), American Civil Liberties Union (\$15 million), Democratic Party, Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (\$750,000), Traction, and Proposition 19, which would have liberalized California’s marijuana laws (\$159,000). Soros and Lewis have funded many of the same groups, including more than \$2.5 million each to MoveOn. The group claims it no longer has any “large” contributors.

Now that we know MoveOn will take on virtually any radical cause that can grab some headlines and a bag of

cash, no one will be surprised that it also takes a strong pro-abortion stand. Its Civic Action division has produced several television and print advertisements to advance its agenda, including one that features actress Lisa Edelstein of “House” (FOX Television) fame. The message is that Republicans want to significantly reduce women’s reproductive rights.

A page on MoveOn’s website, which corresponds to the video, is headed, “916 Bill Against Women?” The figure refers to the number of anti-abortion bills that had been introduced in the United States, at all levels of government, by early 2011. “For the past four months, Republicans have been preoccupied,” reads the introduction. “But not with fixing the deficit or creating jobs. Instead, they’re trying to figure out new ways to limit a woman’s right to choose, and so they’ve introduced a grand total of 916 new pieces of legislation.”



Scenes from MoveOn’s pro-abortion ad.

The ad shows Edelstein wearing clothing from the 1950s. She walks toward a closet that holds a single wire coat hanger. Titled “We Won’t Go Back,” Edelstein narrates:

Only decades ago, women suffered through horrifying back alley abortions. Or they used dangerous methods when they had no other recourse. So when the Republican Party launched an all out assault on women’s health, pushing bills to limit access to vital services, we had to act. Why is the GOP trying to send women back—to the back alley?

Despite the many—and we mean *many*—factual errors and flaws in logic in the ad it has helped make MoveOn a leader among pro-abortion groups

THE PRAYER PROJECT

Please 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 (subject to change):

November: Governor **Edmund Gerald “Jerry” Brown, Jr.**, D-Calif., who claims to be Roman Catholic and even worked with Mother Teresa in the 1980s, but also studied Buddhism and is rabidly pro-abortion; *December:* Lieutenant Governor **Gavin Christopher Newsom**, D-Calif.,

who claims to be Roman Catholic but is rabidly pro-abortion; *January*: Pro-abortion and anti-Christian zealot **William “Bill” Mahar, Jr.**, who recently mocked the Christian faith of pro-life football star Timothy Richard Tebow; *February*: **Nancy Goodman Brinker**, founder and chief executive officer of The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, which funds Planned Parenthood as well as research institutions that engage in embryonic stem cell research; *March*: Major **George Hood**, chief communications officer for The Salvation Army USA, who is disingenuously attempting to distance The Salvation Army USA from the pro-abortion overly pro-abortion positions taken by the other divisions of The Salvation Army International; *April*: **Wes Boyd** and **Joan Blades**, cofounders of MoveOn—an advocacy group that promotes legal abortion, among other causes; and *May*: **Kenneth Cole**, chief executive officer of Kenneth Cole Productions Inc., who has paid to produce ads that take a strident pro-abortion stand.

ACTOR ATTEMPTS TO VISIT DISSIDENT

Academy Award-winning actor Christian Bale, who was in China to promote a new film, “The Flowers of War,” should “feel embarrassed” for his attempt to visit “detained” Chinese dissident Chen Guangcheng during his recent tour of the People’s Republic of China. At least that is how the Chinese government sees it.



Bale

Speaking for the Government Foreign Ministry, Liu Weimin accused Bale of “fabricating news” by attempting to visit Chen. Asked by reporters if Chinese leaders were embarrassed by Bale’s actions, Liu said it is Bale who should feel embarrassed; not the Chinese government. “China did not invite him to some village in Shandong to create news or make a film. If he went there to create news, I don’t think that would be welcomed in China,” the spokesman said.

Chen, who is blind, has been under “house arrest” for more than a year since his release from prison. He spent more than four years behind bars for allegedly instigating an attack on government offices in his village in 2006. The attack occurred after Chen publicly released proof of the harsh population control measures imposed by the government on the local population, including forced abortions and sterilizations. (Chen’s actual “crime” was damaging property and disrupting traffic during a protest. Hey, if the Chinese government will kill children it is certainly willing to lie as well.) Chen, who is 40 years old, lives with his wife, mother and daughter. They are always under close surveillance by state security.

In December 2011 Bale, who had asked correspondent Stan Grant and cameraman Brad Olson from CNN International to accompany him on the eight-hour drive

from Beijing to Linyi district. Bale had learned of Chen’s plight through foreign news reports when he was making a film in China. “The injustice faced by the activist and his family stirred such strong emotions in Bale that, upon hearing his impending return to China to promote the movie, he decided to do something unusual to raise the international awareness of Chen and thereby to turn up the heat on the Chinese government,” said Grant.

“This doesn’t come naturally to me,” explained the usually media-shy actor during the long trip. “This is not what I actually enjoy—it isn’t about me. But this was just a situation that said I can’t look the other way.”

The group was stopped by four men just outside the village where Chen is being held. “I am here to see Chen Guangcheng,” said Bale, who is a British citizen. The response from the plainclothes guards was unambiguous. “Go away!” they bellowed, pushing back the actor and his companions. The subsequent scuffle and yelling alerted many more guards who joined the mêlée.



Bale is escorted from Shandong.

“Why can I not visit this free man?” Bale asked repeatedly as he received punches from guards as they tried to confiscate his camera. Bale and the crew from CNN returned to their vehicle to leave the scene. Wanting to be certain the “troublemakers” left the area, guards chased them for some 40 minutes.

“What I really wanted to do was to meet the man, shake his hand and say what an inspiration he is,” Bale said as the trio sped back to Beijing following the incident. “I’m not being brave doing this. The local people who are standing up to the authorities, who are visiting Chen and his family and getting beaten or detained, I want to support them.”



The government of China has faced increasing criticism in recent years over its treatment of pro-democracy and anti-population control dissidents. In Sichuan province, Chen Wei was given nine years in prison for criticizing the government. The official charge was “inciting subversion.” In Guizhou province, Chen Xi received a ten year sentence for organizing a human rights forum and writing essays critical of the government. He, too, was charged with inciting subversion.

Prison will not be a new experience for either man. Both were at the forefront of 1989 pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square. Chen Xi served three years in prison

for that offense and Chen Wei spent more than five years behind bars. The demonstrations in Tiananmen Square were brutally crushed by army tanks.



This illegal poster calls for Chen's release.

The crackdown on dissidents by the totalitarian Chinese government has been going on for several years and has resulted in the arrests of hundreds of people, yet only the names of those known in the West have been mentioned by the Chinese government. For instance, on Christmas Day 2009 it announced that dissident writer Liu Xiaobo had been sentenced to eleven years in prison. Liu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

in 2010. (The Chinese government often announces sentences during the Christmas season in the hope that doing so will lead to less attention in the West.)

The crackdown is not over but Hong Lei, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, said China's human rights record is "the best in its history." But this is not exactly saying much—even if we grade on a curve.

"The Flowers of War" is a film about the 1937 Nanjing (sometimes spelled "Nanking") Massacre. Also known as the Rape of Nanking, it refers to the mass murder that occurred after the Japanese took the city during the Second Sino-Japanese War. In just six weeks, hundreds of thousands of Chinese civilians and disabled soldiers were killed and tens of thousands of people were raped by soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army. The Japanese government has admitted that a large number of noncombatants were killed, but some officials say the death toll was military in nature and there were no war crimes.

"The Flowers of War" has topped the Chinese box office. It has taken in more than US \$23.7 million since it opened in December 2011.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Reservations by the medical community and even Gov. Haley Barbour ahead of Election Day have made a dent in support for a Mississippi measure that would confer 'personhood' on fertilized eggs."

— subheading of an article in *The Christian Science Monitor* published on November 8, 2011 (Election Day)

MAKE A SMARTER BABY—START EARLY

A question. We know when human life begins, but when does a baby begin to hear? According to Annie Murphy Paul, hearing "starts much earlier than many of us would have imagined—in the womb." And if there is hearing, there is learning. "I was surprised as anyone when I first encountered this notion," she said.

A few years ago, Paul noticed that new technologies have made it possible for scientists to learn much about prenatal life than ever before. "These discoveries were generating considerable excitement among scientists, even as they overturned settled beliefs about when we start absorbing and responding to information from our environment," she said. "As a science reporter—and as a mother—I had to find out more."

Paul, the author of *Origins: How the Nine Months Before Birth Shape the Rest of Our Lives*, said the new research is part of a growing field called "fetal origins" and it has turned pregnancy into "a scientific frontier." She said research on babies in the womb is "the focus of intense interest and excitement, the subject of an exploding number of journal articles, books, and conferences."



Paul

So what can scientists tell us now that they did not know just a decade ago? A lot of what a woman experiences each day is shared with her preborn baby, including "the air she breathes, the food and drink she consumes, the chemicals she's exposed to, even the emotions she feels." Paul said these experiences "make up a mix of influences as individual and idiosyncratic as the woman herself." The baby essentially downloads the available data, which can be helpful later in life. She said the mother's diet and stress levels contain a lot of messages received by her baby.

"The recognition that learning actually begins before birth leads us to a striking new conception of the fetus, the pregnant woman and the relationship between them," Paul said. She explained:

The fetus, we now know, is not an inert blob, but an active and dynamic creature, responding and adapting as it readies itself for life in the particular world it will soon enter. The pregnant woman is neither a passive incubator nor a source of always-imminent harm to her fetus, but a powerful and often positive influence on her child even before it's born. And pregnancy is not a nine-month wait for the big event of birth, but a crucial period unto itself—"a staging period for well-being and disease in later life," as one scientist puts it.

This crucial period has become a promising new target for prevention, raising hopes of conquering public health scourges like obesity and heart disease by intervening before birth. By "teaching" fetuses the appropriate lessons while they're still in utero, we could potentially end vicious cycles of poverty, infirmity and illness and initiate virtuous cycles of health, strength and stability.

Of course, as a pro-life activist, this is no surprise to you.

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