Special Reports

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# DECEPTION OR TRUTH

## "UNDERCOVER" WORK IN THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

### Part II

by **Douglas R. Scott, Jr.**

A relatively new pro-life group has been making headlines by releasing secretly recorded video and audio of Planned Parenthood employees lying, gleefully accepting donations motivated by racism, ignoring the law, and protecting sexual predators. Not surprisingly, Live Action has faced a barrage of criticism from pro-abortion forces. And most pro-life activists have accepted the work of the group without question. Has Live Action distorted the truth and employed extreme tactics in an ungodly effort to discredit Planned Parenthood? Are pro-abortion critics simply motivated by an incessant dedication to the "right" to kill preborn human beings? Are pro-life allies willing to bend the truth "for the cause of life"? What is the truth?

The Pro-Abortion Movement was built upon lies and is sustained by lies. Pro-abortion "big shots" have intentionally created an atmosphere that encourages people to lie and mislead when defending the abortion empire.

According to pro-abortion leaders, Live Action's Lila Rose is a "guerilla anti-abortion videographer" and "notorious smear artist" who has "a shocking lack of respect or compassion for women." Similar accusations have been made of the group she represents.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) has naturally taken the lead in defending itself against allegations brought by Live Action. But the pro-abortion goliath is getting a lot of help from likeminded groups.

### The Art Of Deception

If one could earn a doctorate in the "art of deception," a large percentage of the faculty would come from People for the American Way (PAW). The group was founded by leftist television and motion picture writer/producer Norman Lear (see "Getting To Know…" on page 2).

RIGHT WING WATCH

As part of its "Right Wing Watch" (RWW), PAW routinely attacks Christian and conservative leaders. But its favorite targets are anyone involved in the Pro-Life Movement. RWW does not present an intellectual, in-depth analysis of its "enemy." It relies on belittling, name-calling, ridiculing and bulling.

In May 2012 a PAW research associate released an article titled, "Lila Rose Pledges to 'Take Out Planned Parenthood' and Do Battle with the 'Lie of Satan.'" The writer was reporting on an appearance by Rose on "Life Today," a program hosted by Rev. James Robison.

After identifying Rose as the "anti-choice activist" who is "best known for her deceptive attacks against Planned Parenthood," the PAW employee, Brian Tashman, said she had called on Christians to "rise up" because "this is our country." Rose also made the point that "the enemy" (Satan) has been trying to discourage Christians and make them disinterested in politics because "he doesn't want our nation to be a nation under God."

Rose

"We're facing many challenges. I know with the election coming up…we need a new president," Rose said. "We need to take out Planned Parenthood. We need to stop funding them. We need to make sure they are no longer operating in our communities." One can almost hear the anti-Christian, pro-abortion activists cringe.

It is surprising how non-Christians seem shocked when they hear "God-speak"—the rhetoric used by Christians when talking about God and the things of God. (Many Christians probably are unaware that they use such rhetoric.) In their ignorance, non-Christians respond with virtual fear, thinking believers are clearly out of their minds. Despite the fact that Christianity has been around for more than two millennia, nonbelievers are still sorely ignorant of the faith.

Kyle Mantyla, a senior fellow in PAW's Department of Communications and Research, recently wrote a piece for RWW titled, "Lila Rose and Her Historically Important Campaign for Human Rights." Mantyla clearly believes it absurd and outrageous that she would dare compare "anti-choice activism" to the Civil Rights Movement. Even worse, Rose essentially said efforts to end slavery in the United States and the Holocaust in Europe were less important when she called abortion the "greatest human rights crisis…our country has ever seen."

Mantyla was referring to comments made by Rose during a July 2012 interview with John Stonestreet on the radio program "BreakPoint This Week." Asked about the com-

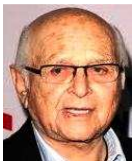
parison between the Movements, Rose said there is "a fundamental connection." She explained:

> I mean, the Civil Rights Movements that have been fought in this country against slavery, against segregation and discrimination, against even women's suffrage have all been done because we want to protect basic human rights and we want a country that is a place that we're proud to live in, that our neighbor, the person next to us, their human rights are protected too. And so the fight for the most fundamental human rights, which is life—and it's in our Declaration of Independence, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—this is the defining Civil Rights Movement of our country because if we don't get the right to life right, if we don't protect that basic foundation, then we can't survive as a nation, all the other rights are meaningless.
>
> And especially it's a concern because, in terms of victims, we're talking 50 million children that have been killed since *Roe v Wade*, since abortion became legal. We're missing 50 million children, boys and girls who have been attacked and killed in the womb, torn apart and aborted, and that's a human rights crisis of a proportion we've never even seen before, it's hard to even imagine.
>
> So I think that history will look back on this time as we look back on the Anti-Slavery Movement and even the movement to try to, you know, be truthful about what was happening with the Holocaust and try to do something to stand up to fight for the rights of those that were being persecuted like the Jews in Germany, history will look back and say, "What did we do?" We're living in the middle of the greatest human rights crisis I believe our country has ever seen; what are we going to do about it?

Two points should be made regarding Rose's comments. First, it is obvious that the Declaration of Independence holds a significant place in American life. It is a highly respected document worldwide. After all, who could argue with such a remarkable message?

> We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive to these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles...

Unlike the Constitution, the Declaration has no status in law. It was essentially a letter to King George III of England. The Declaration was a bold, visionary and remarkable letter to be sure, but it plays little more than a symbolic role in American government.



## Getting To Know...

**Norman Milton Lear** was born to Herman Lear, a salesman, and Jeanette Seicol Lear, in New Haven, Conn., on July 27, 1922. In 1931 Herman Lear was convicted of fraud and sentenced to serve three years in prison. Raised in a Jewish home, Lear attended high school in Hartford, Conn. He attended Emerson College in Boston, Mass. on a full scholarship after winning first prize in an American Legion Oratorical Contest, but dropped out in 1942 to join the U.S. Army Air Forces. During World War II, Lear served in the Mediterranean Theater as a radio operator/gunner on B-17 Flying Fortress bombers. He flew 52 combat missions.

After serving in the military Lear worked in public relations, but he soon decided to try freelance comedy writing. In 1950 he co-wrote "The Ford Star Review" variety show. In 1951 he was hired to write for the (Jerry) Lewis and (Dean) Martin "Colgate Comedy Hour." Lear also wrote for "The Martha Raye Show," "The George Gobel Show," and "The Tennessee Ernie Ford Show." Lear began working in television production in 1958. His first series, a western titled "The Deputy," premiered in 1959.

In 1970 Lear sold a new sitcom to CBS. "All in the Family" premiered in January 1971. Key characters were conservative and bigoted "Archie Bunker," his timid, naïve wife "Edith," their daughter "Gloria," and liberal son-in-law "Michael Stivic." The show was based on the British sitcom "Till Death Us Do Part." The American version broke ground by addressing issues previously considered unsuitable for U.S. television, including racism, homosexuality, women's rights, abortion, and the Vietnam War. The British version covered such issues in a rather uninhibited manner, but American sensibilities required that they be tackled with great care. Initial ratings for "All in the Family" were unimpressive, but it became a bona fide hit during the 1971-1972 season. "Archie" became a well-known character in American culture, just as "Alf Garnett" had become in the U.K.

Several other Lear shows enjoyed great success, including "Sanford and Son" (based on the British sitcom "Steptoe and Son"), "Maude" and "The Jeffersons" (both spinoffs based on characters introduced in "All in the Family"), "Good Times" (a "Maude" spinoff), and "One Day at a Time."

Working closely with Lear on the production of most of his successful sitcoms was Alan David "Bud" Yorkin. The pair created Tandum Productions in 1958, but ended their collaborative relationship in 1975. Lear also co-founded TAT ("Tuchus Affen Tisch"—Yiddish tor "putting one's butt on the line") Communications. Tandum and TAT were among the most successful independent television producers of the 1970s.

Lear has been involved with the making of several motion pictures. His early work included writing the screenplay for "Divorce American Style" (1967) and directing "Cold Turkey" (1971). Lear's slightly more contemporary film credits include "Stand By Me" (1986), "The Princess Bride" (1987), and "Fried Green Tomatoes" (1991).

In 1977 Lear received the Humanist Arts Award from the American Humanist Association. He left television the following year to work on a film about the growing influence of "radical rightwing evangelists." The film was never fully developed, but he became an outspoken supporter of liberal causes.

Lear produced a television ad featuring a forklift operator saying he has "a problem" with preachers telling people they're good or bad Christians based on their political views. "That's not the American way." The ad led Lear to found People for the American Way (PAW) in 1981. It has run several ad campaigns opposing the inclusion of religion in political matters. In 1987 PAW was a leader in the successful smear campaign against Judge Robert H. Bork, who had been nominated to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court by President Ronald W. Reagan. Lear supports Planned Parenthood of Los Angeles through the Lear Family Foundation.

Lear wed Charlotte Rosen in the mid-1940s, but the marriage ended in divorce. His second wife was Frances Loeb Lear. They divorced after 30 years of marriage. Lear's current wife is Lyn Davis. Lear has six children, including two daughters born to surrogate mothers, and four grandchildren.

The Declaration of Independence specifically mentions a right to life. The well-known phrase "life, liberty, or property" is in the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution:

> No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Two colossal problems arise when trying to apply "life" from "life, liberty, or property" to preborn human beings. The first is that the Fifth Amendment clearly addresses rights afforded those accused of a crime. It is not necessarily a blanket statement establishing a right to "life," "liberty" or "property."

The second problem is that constitutional rights are bestowed on "persons," which is a word seen throughout the Constitution. It is no accident that "persons" is used rather than "human beings." For legal purposes, a "person" is anyone or anything given that designation by law. For example, while black Americans are human beings, prior to the Civil War they were not legal "persons" and, therefore, any "rights" guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution did not apply to them.

While it befuddles many, entities such as corporations can be designated "persons" for legal purposes. Review the following definitions of "person," which, with only slight variation, can be found in virtually any dictionary: 1) An individual human being, whether man, woman, or child; 2) A human being as distinguished from an animal or a thing; and 3) A human being or a corporation recognized in law as having certain rights and obligations.

The second point is that a focus on how the Pro-Life Movement compares to other social causes, past or present, is largely a waste of time. It can, however, encourage pro-life activists and help them understand that such efforts can take decades—or even centuries—to achieve the goal. Pro-abortion activists naturally laugh and snicker at such comparisons. After all, they do not even recognize the humanity or value of preborn human life. How can we expect them to embrace our comparison?

Actually, the Pro-Life Movement *is* indeed "the greatest human rights crisis…our country has ever seen." This is not because our success will save more lives than those involved in other social movements. It is because the Pro-Life Movement is the most selfless of all. Pro-life activists will personally gain little (in this life, anyway) from the effort—at least that is how it is should be. (Pro-abortion activism is an *investment*. Pro-life activism should be a *sacrifice*.) The victims will never thank pro-life activists for their work. Furthermore, in every other social movement the injustice brought against a victim could be witnessed by the general public, which makes a positive response more likely. In abortion injustices are committed in secret. Pro-life people rarely see the victims they are trying to protect. This is true of no other social movement.

The Civil Rights Movement was aided by the fact that Americans could witness injustices against black Americans. In this photo a police dog is used to attack a black demonstrator.

Still, let us not get caught up in all of this as we do not want to look like we are criticizing those who have been active in other noble causes. Nothing can be gained by the "our cause is more important than your cause" game. We are all called by God to do what we do. And *all* "credit" goes to Him. It is not as though God cannot accomplish his goals without our assistance, but He gives us a great honor when He allows us to help prevent the killings of those He created. Sometimes one has to wonder why He does so, especially since we far too often let sin (pride, greed, etc.) get in the way.

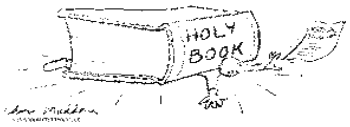
## Pot/Kettle

One of PAW's most lengthy and strident attacks on Live Action is titled "Deceptive Video 'Sting' Attacking Planned Parenthood: Dishonest Hit Job is Part of Religious Right's Campaign to Deny Women Access to Reproductive Health Care." In other words, pro-life activists have no desire to save the lives of fellow human beings. They just want to deny women access to "reproductive health care" and pretending to be interested in saving lives is just a ruse that gives them a way to reach their "real" goals.

Most people have no problem with "reproductive health care"—if it does not end up hurting or killing someone. (Is this too much to ask of our "health care" system?) And given the way "reproductive health care" is defined by pro-abortion activists, assuming that "health care" will do no harm would be a *grave* error.

The introduction to "Deceptive Video 'Sting'…" notes the "wave of political attacks on Planned Parenthood…," which PAW says is just "the latest example of a now-familiar kind of coordinated propaganda campaign waged by right-wing activist groups, far-right pundits and media outlets, and politicians willing to collaborate in promoting false information for political purposes." The article alleges that the "coordinated" effort is a "dishonest hit job" on Planned Parenthood and Live Action videos attacking the abortion-committing group "are part of a years-long campaign that religious fundamentalists and their political allies have waged to destroy Planned Par-

enthood and thus deny millions of women access to reproductive healthcare."




**Anti-Christian Propaganda: Christianity = Stupidity; A man is crushed by the *Bible*, preventing him from reaching "Rational Thought."**

PAW has alleged that the campaign by religious nuts and rightwing zealots (or is it religious zealots and rightwing nuts?) is "cruel irony" because the crazies say Planned Parenthood exploits women, yet it is the Far Right that wants to defund Planned Parenthood, redefine "rape" to restrict victims' access to abortion, deny countless young women "essential" medical screenings, birth control and "a place to turn during times of medical and emotional crisis." It claims that "the vast majority" of PPFA's work is "not even abortion-related; its services help prevent 612,000 unintended pregnancies annually."

PAW rebuked the media and elected officials for giving a voice to the anti-choice zealots. They were told to "keep in mind the "well-documented record of deceptive editing and misleading statements by the individuals peddling this story and should refuse to give these false charges more credibility than they deserve."

One section of the PAW work says Lila Rose believes the video "proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that Planned Parenthood intentionally breaks state and federal laws and covers up the abuse of young girls it claims to serve." PAW claims this is untrue. "In fact, far from proving a pattern of illegal activity, the Live Action project demonstrated that Planned Parenthood has strong institutional procedures in place to protect young women." Besides, the "one" Planned Parenthood staffer who violated those procedures and is featured in Live Action's video was fired. This section of the PAW report is titled, "Lila Lies."

The current campaign against PPFA "heated up" in 2008, the report states, when the leaders of some 50 organizations "banded together to form the National Coalition to Defeat Planned Parenthood." But this was not the only key development in 2008:

> Religious Right leaders intensified efforts to portray Planned Parenthood as engaged in a Hitlerian [sic] effort to "exterminate" black people. For example, Harry Jackson, better known for his anti-gay activism, has denounced abortion as "black genocide" and "pandemic extermination." Jackson spoke at a Religious Right gathering on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in August 2008:
>
> > "We have got to, on our watch, defund Planned Parenthood in America…there's got to be a concerted effort that we take Planned Parenthood out. They've put out a hit on all children, but they've set themselves up to put out a hit on black and Hispanic babies especially. It's time that we take them out."

True to form, pro-abortion zealots use such rhetoric to suggest pro-life activists will resort to violence:

> Of course, there is a tragic history of deadly violence against abortion providers. Just five months ago, a Planned Parenthood office in Madera, California, was firebombed after 20 years of service. A report from this year's anti-abortion "March for Life" notes that among the speakers was Rabbi Yehuda Levin, who warned, "The liberals, pro-aborts, and homosexualists [sic] who champion the killing of the preborn baby murder agenda don't connect the dots, when ultimately a doctor kevorkianizes [sic] them or their loved ones. God acts measure for measure." Levin denounced Planned Parenthood while the crowd chanted "defund Planned Parenthood now!"

The next section of "Deceptive Video 'Sting'…," accuses Rose of showing "a shocking lack of respect or compassion for women." (Is not Lila Rose a woman? Yes, but she is apparently not a rational one.) PAW pointed to a statement she made at a Values Voter Summit:

> If I could insist, this might sound a little strange, but if I could insist, as long as they are legal in our nation, abortions would be done in the public square until we were so sick and tired of seeing them that we would do away with the injustice altogether. Maybe then we would value the unborn child as we value the one year old child just learning to walk, and maybe then we might hear angels singing when we ponder the glory of conception, that first beginning of human life.

Rose is not the only one to stand accused:

> The same level of compassion was on display at an anti-Planned Parenthood press conference in Virginia last year at which Virginia Delegate Bob Marshall said that disabled children are God's punishment to women for having had abortions. He also once said regarding women who become pregnant after being raped that "[T]he woman becomes a sin-bearer of the crime, because the right of a child predominates over the embarrassment of the woman."

Marshall's understanding of God and Scripture is vastly different from mine. Sometimes we invite criticism when we say things that cannot be supported.

Republican leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives were called out for showing a lack of compassion and understanding. PAW pointed to the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act," which would "further restrict abortion funding to cases of 'forcible' rape, a change that could eliminate the option for underage girls who are victims of statutory rape, women who were drugged, and many victims of date rape; incest would only be covered for women under 18."

Congressional Republicans were criticized for using the current economic situation as an excuse "to hit poor women while they're down." PAW pointed to a December 2008 article in the *Wall Street Journal* in which arts

and culture reporter Stephanie Simon wrote that Religious Right groups are "mounting a new anti-choice lobbying campaign that 'focuses more on economic than moral concerns' and 'paints Planned Parenthood as a wealthy organization that doesn't need taxpayer help.'"

Rep. Michael R. Pence, R-Ind., was blasted for saying the nation's "tough economic times" are good reasons to end funding of Planned Parenthood. PAW said this sentiment was supported in a letter from "Tea Party" leaders which Simon quoted as saying, "Most of the members of this movement would probably describe themselves as pro-life. Regardless, abortion is a multibillion-dollar business. Why is the government paying Planned Parenthood anything, much less almost $1 billion from 2002-2009?" (The actual figure is *much* higher than $1 billion.)

PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY

## Key Figures

***Prominent Board members include:*** *Norman Lear* (screenwriter/producer), *Alec Baldwin* (actor), *Arthur J. Bellinzoni*, Ph.D. (professor of Religion, Wells College), *Mary Frances Berry* (professor of American Social Thought & Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania), *James C. Hormel* (grandson of Hormel Company founder, U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg, founding member of the pro-homosexual Human Rights Campaign), *Jane Lynch* (actress), *Seth MacFarlane* (creator of "Family Guy"), *Joshua Sapan* (AMC Networks Inc.), *Dennis van Roekel* (president, National Education Association [NEA]), *Reg Weaver* (former president, NEA).*

***Prominent Foundation Board members include:*** Rabbi *David Saperstein*, *Kathleen Turner* (actress; also active with Planned Parenthood).*

***Prominent PAW supporters include:*** *William Jefferson Clinton*, *Christie Hefner* (Playboy Enterprises), Rep. *Keith Maurice Ellison* (U.S. Congress), *Doris Roberts* (actress), *Bill Moyers* ("journalist"), *Tom Vilsack* (Secretary of Agriculture and former governor of Iowa), *Katrina Vanden Heuvel* (editor of *The Nation*).

***In addition, two prominent founding members were:*** Andrew Heiskell (chairman and chief executive officer of Time Inc.) and Fr. *Theodore Hesburgh* (president of Notre Dame University).

** Some people, such as Norman Lear and Alex Baldwin, serve on the boards of both PAW and the PAW Foundation.*

Needless-to-say, pro-abortion activists are the last people I would look to for a critique of the arguments used when trying to defund Planned Parenthood. At the same time, I have never been a fan of the economic argument. If we rely on this point, what do we say when the economy improves? Planned Parenthood should be defunded because of what it stands for and what it does. This is true regardless of the state of the national economy.

### Making Deception Look Easy

Despite being an obvious master of deception ("practice makes perfect"), PAW is not number one. When it comes to spreading falsehoods, the all-time "greatest" (other than Satan, of course) is Planned Parenthood. In response to the work of Live Action, PPFA's approach has largely been to let allied groups do the "dirty work" while its leaders try to stay above the fray.

Shortly before the release of a video showing Planned Parenthood employees protecting sex traffickers and ignoring state laws, PPFA's national office learned about the "sting" from affiliated centers. In an effort to diminish the impact, PPFA announced it had contacted the U.S. Department of Justice to report the operation of a multi-state sex trafficking ring. This was done even though PPFA officials knew it was the work of Live Action to make it appear as though Planned Parenthood cares about girls and respects the law. It was a smart ploy.

An official PPFA statement on the matter began by noting that the pro-abortion group had "alerted federal authorities to a potential multistate sex trafficking ring." The statement continued:

> Over a five day period, visitors to Planned Parenthood health centers in six states said they were seeking information from Planned Parenthood about health services Planned Parenthood could provide to underage girls who were part of a sex trafficking ring. Subsequent to alerting U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Planned Parenthood learned the identify of one of those involved and believes these visits are likely a hoax by opponents of legal abortion seeking to discredit Planned Parenthood, which delivers preventive health care and abortion services to three million women each year.
>
> Men, sometimes accompanied by a woman, have visited at least 11 Planned Parenthood health centers in six states within a one-week time frame. During their visits, they claimed to be involved in sex trafficking of teens, some of whom are in the United States illegally. These men appeared at health centers without appointments and said that they were seeking health services for themselves, but they quickly turned the conversation to the sex ring they said they were managing.
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> "When Planned Parenthood learns of an operation that exploits young women, we vigilantly work with law enforcement authorities to uncover and stop this abhorrent activity," said Stuart Schear, PPFA vice president for communications. "Planned Parenthood's top priority is the health and safety of our patients and the health and well-being of women and teens across the country, and we have been in contact with federal and local authorities to identify the persons involved in these visits."
>
> One of the men involved in these visits has now been identified, and he appears to be associated with or influenced by Live Action, an anti-Planned Parenthood organization that uses surreptitious videotaping and manipulative editing for media and political campaigns. The pattern of these visits and the highly unusual nature of the information being shared with staff lends credibility to the possibility that these multistate visits are part of this organization's ongoing effort to "bring down" Planned Parenthood, a nearly 100-year-old organization with more than 800 health centers from coast to coast...

In recent years Planned Parenthood has been the target of activists attempting to portray the organization negatively by secretly videotaping inside health centers and publicizing heavily edited versions of those tapes to the media. Recent incidents are the first time that such visitors have told Planned Parenthood staff that they are involved in sex trafficking of minor girls.

"If a multistate sex trafficking operation is in place, those responsible must be pursued to stop the exploitation of girls and young women," said Schear. "If these visits are part of a 'dirty tricks' campaign, they must be condemned. Falsely claiming sex trafficking to health professionals to advance a political agenda is an astoundingly cynical form of political activity."

All Planned Parenthood staff have been alerted to the suspicious visits, and Planned Parenthood is working with FBI investigators and local authorities.

PPFA officials claimed they suspected Live Action was behind the ruse *after* contacting the Department of Justice. PPFA leaders either knew beforehand or they were foolish to not suspect Live Action because of past activities by the activist group.

Kantor

A more recent Live Action effort showed Planned Parenthood has no problem with sex-selection abortion. Once again, the subsequent public reaction led Leslie Kantor, PPFA's vice president of education, to release an official statement:

Planned Parenthood health centers provide high-quality preventive health care and more than 90 percent of what these health centers do nationally is lifesaving cancer screenings, birth control, testing and treatment of STDs, breast health services, Pap tests, sex education, information and health counseling.

As a woman's health advocate for nearly 100 years, Planned Parenthood opposes sex selection abortion and insists on the highest quality care. Planned Parenthood and its affiliates have extensive guidelines and training requirements for all staff. If any Planned Parenthood organization learns of an instance where a staff member has not fully followed policies or procedures, they take swift action and remedy the situation.

A group that opposes Planned Parenthood's mission and services is promoting a series of hoax patient videotapes related to sex selection. Edited videos of hoax patient visits are part of a coordinated campaign over the last several years to distort Planned Parenthood's services, mission and values.

The video released today shows a Planned Parenthood social worker providing information to someone who claimed to be a patient. The video was selectively and heavily edited in order to distort what actually happened. In the longer video, the social worker discusses a range of options with the hoax patient—suggesting prenatal care if the hoax patient continues her pregnancy, inquiring about whether the hoax patient would consider adoption, and asking, 'Have you definitely decided that you want to terminate your pregnancy?' The video demonstrates non-judgmental, informative services that are in accordance with social work standards for patient interaction.

Let us be clear with regard to PPFA's true position on sex-selection abortion. According to PPFA, no woman should be "forced" to carry a pregnancy to term. There are no qualifications. No one has a right to interfere. No one has a right to criticize. No one has a right to demand an explanation. And according to *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, the woman need not give—or even have—a reason. Consequently, no one should be surprised when PPFA and President Barack Obama come out against legislation to outlaw such abortions. PPFA and Obama claim to be pro-*woman*; not pro-female. The distinction is appalling and sad, but not particularly surprising.

The pro-abortion online "Huffington Post" reported that "spotlighting the issue of sex-selective abortions is an increasingly common tactic that the anti-abortion community has been using lately to turn the 'war on women' around on Planned Parenthood, to galvanize social conservatives and to push legislation that would restrict abortion access. But the articulate Carol Tobias of the National Right to Life Committee put this statement into perspective. "In 2010, more than 9 out of 10 PPFA's services going specifically to pregnant women were abortion," she said. "Roughly half of those abortions are performed on unborn girls. That's the real war on women." You can say that again.

The "Huffington Post" article reported that PPFA "condemns" seeking abortions on the basis of the gender of the fetus," but PPFA's director of global advocacy, Chloe Cooney, said the group is "committed to providing high-quality, confidential, nonjudgmental care to all…" and none of its "clinics" will deny a woman an abortion based on her reason for wanting it. "Decisions about whether to choose adoption, end the pregnancy or to raise a child have to be left up to a woman, her family and her faith, with the counsel of her doctor." Yes, according to PPFA, sex-selection abortion should be "condemned," but everyone should be "nonjudgmental."

Live Action's first release of secretly recorded Planned Parenthood staff showed the willing and excited acceptance of a donation that was to be used exclusively to kill black preborn children. In an effort to cover itself, PPFA released a policy on gifts. "Like many nonprofits, Planned Parenthood reserves the right to decline offers of gifts and grants that may be discriminatory, are for purposes

outside of our mission, or are too difficult to administer." PPFA "reserves the right," but that does not mean the so-called "right" will ever be exercised.

## Creating An Atmosphere Of Lies

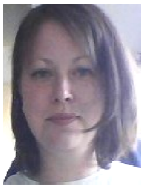
Just like YouTube, the Internet itself has made it possible for every voice to be heard. And there are no "Internet Police" to monitor websites for truth. Every John and Jane Doe may say virtually anything. Laws protecting the public from falsehoods placed online are rather new and, even if enforced, cannot undo damage done.

One website that has taken on Live Action is Veracity Stew ("The Stew"). Its pro-abortion cofounders, Steve Moore and Jordan Franklin, described their website:

> *Veracity Stew* provides timely, insightful, and unique commentary on a mix of issues including politics, society, pop culture and the law. While we do embrace liberal perspectives, we also believe in being an equal opportunity critic of any public servant, public figure or corporate entity that behaves inappropriately. We always champion the underdog, believe that charity begins at home, and that the futures of education and science in America are threatened by those who would revise facts and history.
>
> *Veracity* = habitual observance of truth in speech or statement; truthfulness… *Stew* = savory mix

Surely emboldened by pro-abortion "big shots," Veracity Stew offered its perspective on the Live Action video showing that PPFA has no problem with sex-selection abortions. Beth Starbuck authored the article titled, "Lila Rose Lies About Planned Parenthood, Part Deux":

> We've . . . expecting this, since we reported last month that Planned Parenthood was experiencing an up-tick in suspicious visits to their clinics, and sure as [expletive deleted], here we are with—Ta da!—another brand spankin' new video "exposé" from the pro-life movement's favorite little liar and manipulator, Lila Rose.
>
> The video, entitled, "Gendercide: Sex Selection in America," is the latest push from the anti-choicers to paint Planned Parenthood as some sort of murder factory, and to facilitate enough outrage to get them defunded and to dismantle women's access to affordable reproductive care. The gender angle is also the new battlefront in the war on women's reproductive rights, and their attempt to turn the tables on and deflect from the real war on women *being waged by the GOP*. And I'm just going to warn you now; you *will* see a slew of gender-related abortion bills popping up in state legislatures near you (more on that later).
>
> In the opening moments of the video, they try ever so hard to make it clear that they are forever on the side of women and girls, with this bit:
>
> > "Female gendercide: The targeting of females for extermination through infanticide, and most often, the aborting of pre-born girls, just because they are girls."
>
> The video continues as a hot mess of slick propaganda (and *it is* propaganda), with anxious, melancholy music and shaky camera shots, along with emotionally manipulative images of fetuses in the womb.
>
> But does Rose's gender discrimination argument hold water?
>
> Um, in a word…***No***.
>
> This is simply an attempt by the right-wing to grasp onto gender-specific abortion practices that *are* taking place elsewhere in the world, in countries such as China and India…
>
> . . .
>
> As I said, this is the new battlefront, this is the new angle the anti-choicers are working to ultimately outlaw *Roe v. Wade*, and to force a showdown at the Supreme Court level…
>
> . . .
>
> You might as well slap on that Eveready Chastity Belt now and go into lock-down mode, because, *make no mistake*, this is simply another shot off the bough meant to *demonize and shame women for the unspeakable right of having sovereign control of their bodies*. I know I sort of beat the [expletive deleted] out of that word, "sovereign," but by the same token, I am a sovereign human being, with "supreme authority" over my own body, fully capable and empowered to make my own decisions.
>
> So, with that being said, this shit ain't goin' down without a fight from me.


Starbuck

In other articles posted on Virtual Stew, Rose is referred to as a "vile anti-abortion propagandist," "right-wing extremist," Starbuck even suggested that Rose do the physically impossible when she said "go [expletive deleted] yourself." (Did not Starbuck use the word "vile" to describe *Rose*?)

Last year, when Rose was a guest on Glenn Beck's radio and television programs, Virtual Stew referred to the pair as "dumb and dumber." The article ended by saying that, "Together, these two make a healthy dose of crap that stretches as far as the day is long." Shockingly, the writer openly said what he would like to do to Beck:

> What can I say? I'd kind of like to punch Beck in the face for this kind of irresponsible smearing of an organization that *does* keep young women safe, that *does* prevent unwanted pregnancy, that *does* provide medical support to make sure young women *remain* healthy when they can't afford to go to a doctor because they

> have no insurance, or are afraid or in danger, or living in poverty.
>
> In fact, I'd like to punch him so hard that he'd never get up again, because this kind of pontificating nonsense from the likes of Mr. Crazy Pants, is garbage that over a million viewers each day listen to.

Live Action's video and audio recordings were described as "discredited" a "blatant hoax," and a "hatchet job." PAW is not the only entity that relies on belittling, name-calling, ridiculing and bulling to make a point.

Believe it or not, Veracity Stew content is quite tame in its treatment of the Pro-Life Movement compared to some other websites.

## Proof And Truth

So, PPFA and PAW accuse Live Action and other pro-life activists of: 1) being part of a conspiracy, 2) a willingness to concoct and spread lies, 3) wanting to deny women "reproductive health care," 4) editing recordings in a way that they become misleading, 5) unfairly taking one incident and extrapolating it to all of PPFA, 6) being willing to resort to violence to achieve their goals; and 7) having no compassion for women. But how many of these accusations have PPFA proven?

*Conspiracy*: Does a conspiracy actually exist? Several pro-life groups are indeed working together to expose and end government and corporate funding of Planned Parenthood. If PPFA wants to call that a "conspiracy," it is certainly no different than when it works with NARAL, People for the American Way, National Organization for Women, and so forth. In fact, considering the documented conspiracy between PPFA, many of its allies and the media designed to "take down" pregnancy help centers, maybe Planned Parenthood leaders should look around before throwing stones.

*Lying*: How much evidence has PPFA produced to show that Live Action has lied? None. On the other hand, pro-life groups have released countless examples of lies told by PPFA and its legions. The PPFA-media conspiracy noted above is a perfect example. What is enormously important is that PPFA has a decades-long and consistent record of lying. And its lies are perpetuated by the media, pro-abortion lawmakers, and "researchers" such as the Guttmacher Institute.

*Health Care*: Do pro-life people want to deny women "reproductive health care?" When it comes to *true* health care—the kind that saves lives—the answer is a resounding "no." But when PPFA insists that abortion be included in the definition of "reproductive health care" and that deadly chemicals be called "medicine," the answer is a re-sounding "yes," but only because pro-life principles demand it. If Planned Parenthood really wanted to help women it would stop insisting that deadly acts be included in health care legislation. Doing so would probably lead to a significant increase in spending on true, life-saving reproductive health.

*Editing*: Have Live Action videos and audio recordings been edited in a way that the context or meaning of words used have been altered? It has been alleged that the recordings were "heavily" edited, making them "deceptive" and "manipulative." Sure, the recordings were edited and this is quite normal. But such editing has never changed the context or meaning. Moreover, Live Action has expressed a willingness to release unedited footage to any party, yet not even one of its critics has accepted the offer. We wonder why? They are certainly welcome to take the unedited footage and point a specific example of "deception" or "manipulation." But we know PPFA and allies prefer to make accusations over and over again rather than provide even one piece of evidence. So much for the claim of a "well-documented record of deceptive editing and misleading statements" by Live Action.

Everybody knows "one bad apple" does not spoil the entire harvest. Setting aside the many times PPFA did not seem to embrace this maxim when attacking pro-life people and groups, recordings made by Live Action have shown a pattern of deception by Planned Parenthood and a shocking willingness to engage in illegal and immoral acts to protect itself and its philosophy.

*Violence*: Are pro-life advocates willing to use violence? This argument is used when PPFA wants to change the subject. Unquestionably, there are a few people on both sides of this debate who are willing to resort to violence. *Every* great social movement in history has had an element that supported radical and violent methods, yet we do not judge an entire group of people or the validity of a cause by the actions or words of a few. If we were to do so, no social movement would be successful, regardless of how worthwhile.

"Anti-Abortion Violence": Harlan James Drake (l) was so "offended" by the literature being distributed by James Pouillon (r) that he shot the pro-life activist to death.

The Pro-Life Movement could stop abortion throughout the United States in just one day. If activists conspired to destroy the buildings where abortions are committed and/or kill those who do the evil deed on the same day, abortion would stop—for about 48 hours. The resulting backlash would virtually assure passage of the Free-

dom of Choice Act and efforts would be made to severely curtail the civil liberties of everyone involved in the Pro-Life Movement. From a strategic perspective alone, violence is just plain foolish. Add to this the moral and spiritual issues involved and it becomes downright abhorrent.

The Board of Directors of LDI has adopted one of the clearest anti-violence policies in the Pro-Life Movement:

> While LDI steadfastly upholds the free exercise of constitutional rights, we unequivocally condemn acts of violence committed in the name of the Pro-Life Movement. Violence is morally reprehensible and contrary to the fundamental premise that every human life is precious and deserving of respect. In line with this policy, LDI accepts only those words and deeds that are life-affirming and God-honoring. No degree of justification will change the truth; violence is wrong—in and out of the womb. This is not just a policy; it is a deeply held conviction that will never be ignored, weakened or altered. Any person who disagrees with this policy is invited to withhold financial support.

Do PAW and PPFA speak the truth?

*Compassion*: PPFA and PAW say pro-life people have no compassion for women in need. Needless-to-say, this is ridiculous. Similar to the "war on women" rant, such statements are used to turn attention away from specific issues and arguments. How can PPFA and PAW explain the fact that most pro-life advocates are female? How can they explain the fact that abortion was made legal by seven *men*? How can they explain the fact that the original Feminist Movement was adamantly opposed to abortion? What's more, when pro-life people work to fill a void in care for women, PPFA attacks them for doing so—if abortion is not included as part of that "care." An impartial jury could easily see which group of people has truly helped women in crisis.

It is absurd that PAW would take seriously the comment by Rose regarding abortions done in public. She was making the point that PPFA claims abortion is just like any other "surgery"—an appendectomy, for example. Many people have seen educational films of appendectomies. This is true of every other kind of surgery as well. But abortion is intentionally hidden from the public.

Pro-life activists were shaken by "The Silent Scream," a groundbreaking film by the late Bernard N. Nathanson, M.D. And they were horrified by "Eclipse of Reason." Pro-abortion activists were equally shaken and horrified, but for a different reason. Nathanson, who had co-founded the National Abortion for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (NARAL) in 1969, was revealing secrets—shining the light where there had once been only darkness. Nathanson was changing "abortion" from a word, vague concept, and political issue into an experience—making the viewer a witness to the killing of a human being.

Before making films Nathanson put fear into the hearts of pro-abortion activists with the 1979 release of *Aborting America*. The book covers "the dishonest beginnings of the abortion movement" and Nathanson's conversion from pro-abortion to pro-life. (*Aborting America* was influential in making me rethink my opinion about abortion. Every pro-life activist should read Nathanson's books and see his films.) "The Silent Scream" and a second book, *The Abortion Papers*, were released in 1984, followed by "Eclipse of Reason" three years later. In his 1996 autobiography, *The Hand of God*, Nathanson confessed, "I am one of those who helped usher in this barbaric age." This was true, but few people did more than Nathanson to reign in the beast that had been unleashed.

## Déjà Vu

This past winter the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation decided to stop funding Planned Parenthood. LDI warned Foundation leaders to prepare for a strong backlash, just as AT&T had experienced when it announced that funding for PPFA would end back in 1990. The advice was sound and came from experience, but it was obviously not heeded.

Live Action's leaders can take solace in knowing that Bernard Nathanson had been subjected to the same kinds of criticism they are currently experiencing. More specifically, abortion apologists are responding to Live Action's videos and audio recordings in the same way they reacted to Nathanson's films. After release of "The Silent Scream," PPFA published an article titled, "The Facts Speak Louder: Planned Parenthood's Critique of *The Silent Scream*" in response to the film:

> *The Silent Scream* . . . has been treated as factual, when the opposite is true.
>
> From its title, to the description of a fetus as a "person," . . . the documentary aspects of this film are flawed and biased. The film is riddled with scientific, medical, and legal inaccuracies, misleading statements, and exaggerations. And through innuendo, the film attempts to denigrate the efforts of Planned Parenthood and other reproductive health and rights organizations to provide safe, legal, inexpensive reproductive health care services, including abortion, for women who want and need these services.

Nathanson died from cancer last year at age 84.

The media quickly helped PPFA spread the word that the film consisted of half-truths. Pediatric neurologist Hart Peterson of the New York Hospital at Cornell Medical Center, said, "The notion that a 12-week fetus screams in discomfort is erroneous." Peterson argued that if you poke an earthworm, "it responds, too." Nathanson countered by saying pain is a "reflex," not an "intellectual exercise."

The American Humanist Association (AHA), which has honored PPFA founder Margaret Higgins Sanger and former PPFA boss Alyce Faye Wattleton, released its own attack. "The Abortion of *The Silent Scream*: A False and Wrongful Cry for Human Pain, Suffering and Violence" was authored by James W. Prescott, Ph.D., who has served on the AHA board of directors and is a signatory of "Humanist Manifesto II." It was originally an article in the AHA newsletter, *The Humanist*.

Prescott began with the sarcastic use of two Scriptures: 1) *Proverbs 23:13-14*—"Withhold not correction from a child; for if thou strike him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and deliver his soul from hell;" and 2) *Matthew 26:24*—"It would be better for that man if he had never been born." He continued:

> Is it appropriate to compare from a moral perspective the production of *The Silent Scream* and the production of "snuff" films in which women are enticed into a sexual encounter and, unbeknownst to them, are scheduled for sexual torture, mutilation, and murder? Assuming that abortion is murder and "snuff" is murder, do the producers and supporters of these two kinds of films share a certain common morality? If so, what would be the nature of that common morality?

After gaining considerable experience maligning "The Silent Scream" and its producer, PPFA received a great deal of help attacking "Eclipse of Reason," in which a second-trimester abortion is shown in vivid detail. Its most shocking aspect is that the abortion is shown by inserting a camera into the uterus, capturing the death as it happened.

Woodman

"Eclipse of Reason" came under attack in the September 1987 edition of *Self*. The article by Sue Woodman asserted that "instead of exploring" late-term abortions, the film "exploits them." Comparing "Eclipse of Reason" to "The Silent Scream," Woodman said that, "once again, according to several doctors, it's an overall misleading portrait, gorily graphic and often inaccurate…" She also said "The Silent Scream" was an "admitted piece of anti-abortion propaganda that was widely denounced for presenting sensationalist, misleading and often false information about early abortions." Woodman wrote that, "The last thing any woman trying to sort out her own ethics and feelings about abortion needs is to be lied to."

What did Woodman allege were distortions in "Eclipse of Reason"? Take a look at the kinds of arguments she used as support for her accusations:

- It was made by filming several abortions and using the "most gory" and "distressing parts." (How would Woodman even know such a thing?) She said all "surgery" is bloody. Even childbirth can be bloody.
- Nathanson lumped second and third trimester abortion data, which he labeled "late abortions," and implied that "one in ten takes place after 20 weeks." Woodman said the U.S. Centers for Disease Control reported that about ten percent of abortions are done in the second trimester and less than one percent "after 21 weeks, or late in the second and into the third trimester"—implying abortions are not done after 21 weeks gestation. She quoted Douglas Gould, then-PPFA vice president for communications, who cited "the respected" Guttmacher Institute, which said there are "no more than 120 third-trimester abortions" annually and they were done because of "extreme need."
- "Needs of the pregnant woman are never addressed in its emotional, melodramatic commentary. In its near-exclusive concern for fetuses, the women who bear them are mentioned only once…" As usual, Woodman used a pro-abortion source to back her claim. In this case, NARAL's Kate Michelman was the "expert."

"Medical professionals" taking an innocent life in "Eclipse of Reason."

The attacks rapidly hit the level of ridiculous—even criticizing Nathanson for wearing a doctor's white coat. (He *was* a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist.) Regardless of the criticism it was difficult to argue with Nathanson because nobody was a better expert on the subject. And he had a knack for returning people to the issue at hand. One can say anything they like about his films, but the bottom line is that they both open with a living baby and end with a dead baby. Both films show the world exactly what its producer claimed. There is no arguing with that, which left pro-abortion advocates scrambling for ways to shift attention to peripheral or altogether contrived issues.

The bottom line is that pro-life people seek solutions to social and economic problems that do not result in the deaths of millions of innocent human beings. Planned Parenthood, on the other hand, embraces death. This is the real difference between the two sides.

It is clear that the people of Live Action have behaved honorably and responsibly. Pro-abortion activists are resorting to lies, distortions, and innuendo. As we have seen, this is neither new nor surprising. After all, anyone who supports the killing of preborn babies would surely be willing to lie to protect the billion dollar empire.

*– Douglas R. Scott, Jr. is president of Life Decisions International*

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