

Race for the Cure funds abortion service

By Mary Shepherd, Davenport | Thursday, June 08, 2006

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My mother, a Rock Island native, died of breast cancer June 10, 1977. She was 42, the age I am now. I intended to sign up for the Quad-Cities Race for the Cure in her memory, which falls on the 29th anniversary of her death. Then I discovered its link to Planned Parenthood.

In honor of Mom, I am writing this letter. Mom was very vocal about her beliefs. She would call radio talk shows and write her Congressmen. She was critical of charities that abused money entrusted to them and would be appalled that the Susan G. Komen Foundation provides grants locally and nationally to Planned Parenthood.

Locally, money from the Race was given to Planned Parenthood in 2004 for Muscatine residents. For 2005 and 2006, they played a shell game. Planned Parenthood wrote grant requests for Louisa County Health, which then passed the funds to Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood makes money by persuading people to kill their unborn children. It does not educate their victims on the lifelong physical and emotional repercussions of their decision.

The Susan G. Komen Foundation alleges funds are to be used for screening, not abortion services (another shell game), and it tries to discredit studies that show a link between abortion and breast cancer.

If you have any doubt about the relationship between the foundation and Planned Parenthood, I encourage you to research it on the Web.

Mary Shepherd

Davenport

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The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the views of the Quad-City Times or Lee Enterprises.

Another extreme opinion

wrote on June 08, 2006 3:56 AM:

"As usual, an opinion on abortion from the fringes. This author and those like her continually redefine what a person or organization has to do to meet their ever-changing standards. You have done your research on the internet. Obviously if it is on the internet, it must be true. I bet you did not get any information from the so-called "right to life" thugs who try to intimidate and bully everyone who does not think like you. The Federal government has used federal laws designed to prosecute the mafia (RICO) against the thugs you represent. That should give the public an idea as to who can be trusted. It is too bad, but typical, that you are using your mother's death 29 years later to make a weak political argument in an attempt to stop people from helping others who have cancer. Let me guess, people who want to help should give their time and money to an organization that will not abuse the money entrusted to them, like a church. It must be true that churches do not play shell games because I read it on the internet."

to Mary

wrote on June 08, 2006 5:04 AM:

"I'm truly sorry for your loss, however, Planned Parenthood doesn't just perform abortions. It counsels and educates also. It does go over all alternatives, and gives pros and cons for various methods of birth control, pregnancy, abortion, etc. While personally I am not pro-abortion, I am pro-choice. Using the same arguments you are using, the affected woman is ultimately responsible for whatever decision she makes, you and I are not."

JH

wrote on June 08, 2006 6:41 AM:

" If you are so worried about what your mother's beliefs were as far as Planned Parenthood goes then why don't you go over and tell the rape victims or teenagers or woman who have no way of keeping the baby and giving it the life it needs to not to use the Planned Parenthood services? Do you consider the 48 hour pill a service of abortion, too? Finally I would like to say that as a woman Planned Parenthood provides me with care I need at a cheap rate."

reality check

wrote on June 08, 2006 6:41 AM:

"The Komen breast cancer screening funds are part of a Planned Parenthood "shell game?" Now that would be a story! If PP does breast cancer screenings, the Komen Foundation has every right to fund them. The appropriate response, in my book, is "thanks!""

TheOne

wrote on June 08, 2006 7:33 AM:

"Thank you for writing this, it is a shame that many people who would rather not see 4000 babies die daily in the US don't realize that they're supporting the abortion industry through this seemingly well-intentioned event. For those of you slamming her and those who think like her you need to realize that most people having abortions are not raped nor are they young teenagers, they're just people who think having a baby would be inconvenient. Welcome to our materialistic society at it's worst (Next it'll be "Mom, you're old and burdensome to me, I don't think you have a right to live anymore...let's go out back") There are many adoption agencies and many people looking to adopt, promote those causes instead of this event. If you'd like to support breast cancer research I'm sure there are several other means of doing so. PP makes their money off of the abortions, they may also provide some useful services...but saying that makes them a good organization is like saying that since Osama bin Laden built schools and infrastructure in the middle east that he's a good guy (just ignore the murders)."

Mary your a nut

wrote on June 08, 2006 7:46 AM:

"While I am sorry for your loss, you are quite simply nuts. To discount all that PP does to provide women with healthcare and counseling, and only concentrate on the abortions. To try and portray the organization as one only interested in getting their hands on pregnant women and aborting their babies is very much an injustice. They do so, so much more. And yes they do make sure the woman is well aware of her options. I too am against abortion "for me", but am for pro-choice. I do not have the right divine or otherwise to judge those who have chosen abortion. The fact that you would not give to such a worthwhile cause as breast cancer because of a fraction of the money raised goes to PP is absurd. They are not funding the abortions, it is other women health issues that they give money towards. "

Tami Murray

wrote on June 08, 2006 7:54 AM:

"I am very against abortion however I will still support the race for the cure because Planned Parenthood does provide other services to women than just abortions. I personally would not go there because they do perform abortions but the Komen Foundations giving them money to help keep women healthy does not bother me. Also PP does give info on other options. To JH there are options for a woman who cannot take care of a baby. There are many people out there who are not able to have children that these women could help by giving birth to the baby that they became pregnant with because of their own actions. As far as teenagers are concerned they did the act they need to deal with the consequences! Adoption is an option for them as well. "

Stephanie

wrote on June 08, 2006 7:57 AM:

"My sister died at age 39 from her second fight with breast cancer. She was a mother of 4. Not a day goes by that I don't think of what we all are missing. Planned Parenthood does Not make money by "persuading" people to kill their unborn children. They assist women in making decisions for their future, whether it be abortion, adoption, or birth control. The same as any OB/GYN would do. Sounds to me as if you are looking for an excuse Not to support the Susan G. Komen Foundation by researching ways to discredit them. How would your mom feel about that?"

What does cancer

wrote on June 08, 2006 8:07 AM:

" Have to do with funding a program that says "kill your unborn child because you can't control your sex life"?? Doesn't seem like theres a connection. Saving lives-Ending lives,nope those are called opposites,I wish all these "fringe" liberals would call it like it is-"Have sex with whoever,don't think about consequences,then stop in at Planned Parenthood (on Tuesday of course)to easily end your sleeping around problem. Please tell me it's a matter of the mothers life in danger,or product of rape-those numbers are so small they make up less than 1%-Heres an idea 1)use protection 2)stop bar hopping,3)take responsibility for what you do,These are crazy ideas I know, but to keep blaming republicans,and christians is ridiculous!"

Give me a break!

wrote on June 08, 2006 8:15 AM:

"Mary writes... "Planned Parenthood makes money by persuading people to kill their unborn children."
WHAT!? When was the last time you saw someone from PP stopping a pregnant woman and saying "let me kill your baby"? You haven't because it doesn't happen. I haven't seen coupons in the paper for 2 for 1 specials if you bring a friend. Mary, you can't be serious."

Does More

wrote on June 08, 2006 8:25 AM:

"Planned Parenthood does more than provide abortions. They provide health care service to women dealing both with reproduction and other health issues specific to women. Remember PP helps more women have children through education, prenatal care and counseling (yes to do often persuade women who are uncertain about abortion to keep their child or consider adoption as well). This is not a racket or scam. It is about women's health and their choices involving their bodies as individuals. "

Oh, Mary

wrote on June 08, 2006 8:47 AM:

"I lost my mother to cancer, as well -- and I would personally never choose abortion, either -- but I cannot support your position, Mary. For many years when I struggled financially PP was there for me, providing quality health care on a sliding scale in accordance with my income. While PP might assist some women in acquiring safe (and by the way, entirely legal) abortions, they also provide excellent pre-natal care to thousands upon thousands of women who go on to have healthy and happy pregnancies and births. It's certainly your right to withhold financial support to any organization for any reason, but it's best to do so with all the facts in hand. Things have changed since our mothers were young and if your mom was as smart as you give her credit for, she'd never expect you to honor her memory by simply parroting her beliefs. She'd want you to learn the truth, keep up with the world and decide for yourself."

Off topic

wrote on June 08, 2006 8:57 AM:

"I would think that a woman having an abortion at Planned Parenthood goes to Planned Parenthood to have an abortion. I would think that her mind was already made up. The Race for the Cure has my support 100%."

You can't be serious

wrote on June 08, 2006 9:18 AM:

"Are you kidding me Mary? Your mother died of breast cancer. Why wouldn't you want to help find a cure for it? Did your mother have an abortion? I'm guessing not. No one has the answer to exactly what causes breast cancer. Some say it could be the antiperspirant in your deodorant. Are you going to stop wearing it? Maybe you should join the rest of us in participating in Race for the Cure so that we can find the cause and the cure. As for PP they help detect breast cancer for women who may not be able to afford going to a regular doctor's office. Never have I heard Race for the Cure and abortion in the same sentence until now. "

kim

wrote on June 08, 2006 9:31 AM:

"if you believe that abortion is wrong then to support abortion or to support institutions that promote abortion is no different than the the germans that ignored the Nazi's extermination of the jews in WW2. "if you believe that abortion is killing another human then like the germans in WW2 you have closed your eyes, ears, mouth and turned your back to an atrocity. that is what the supreme court did in roe v. wade. they determined that they couldn't determine when life began and left it in the hands of medical corporations to determine when life begins. of course we all know corporations always balance the money they make with vast amounts of concern for humanity."

dont understand

wrote on June 08, 2006 9:37 AM:

"What I do not understand is that Mary is against Planned Parenthood because they offer advice about women's reproductive health? Or is it just because they offer an alternative view? She seems to have a very vocal opinion about her beliefs. I have always believed that this is my body and I will do whatever I feel is right for me. I think PP is an organization that is standing up for women's health no matter what the outcome is... As for the race for the cure... you can not find a cure without research... research takes money these types of events raise money to fund research and testings... I say regardless as to where the money is going... Mary if you want to save others from this cancer donate your time, money and energy to this cause! Who knows maybe your dollar will be the dollar that funds the research that finds the cure! Hows that for honoring your mother! "

Rev. Spitz

wrote on June 08, 2006 10:00 AM:

"If Race for the Cure funds are getting to these babykillers, Race for the Cure should stop immediately, demand their money back, and reject publicly Planned Parenthood. If not, everyone should withdraw and denounce Race for the Cure. Planned Parenthood kills unborn babies. They kill more unborn babies than any other organization in America."

Kodiak Joe

wrote on June 08, 2006 10:06 AM:

"Abortion may be horrible, but it helps control over-population."

PL4L

wrote on June 08, 2006 10:36 AM:

"It is a "shell game" because if I give \$100 for breast cancer testing, then PPFA has \$100 freed up for their other "services". As for the Abortion Breast Cancer link, it is very real and women deserve to know the truth. How can there be "choice" if women are denied accurate information on which to make EDUCATED, INFORMED decisions about their health? Abortion is a purely elective surgery that women could avoid IF she assessed that her risks are too great. Some factors (like heredity) are non-negotiable. Abortion (like smoking) is one risk factor that is preventable. As of 2006, eight medical organizations recognize that abortion raises a woman's risk for breast cancer, independently of the risk of delaying the birth of a first child (a secondary effect that all experts already acknowledge). There have been 4 decades of study on this topic with over 2 dozen studies supporting the link, 16 of which are statistically significant. If this isn't at least cause for pause and a call for more research, I don't know what is! I have heard panicked news reports about not eating fried potatoes or grilled food for fear of carcinogens and cancer...based on just 1 study! If I have to give up my grilled chicken and French fries based on a single study, why can't women be advised to pause and reconsider having an abortion based on over 2 dozen studies showing that abortion may ultimately kill her? Why should those trying to get this information to women be mocked and demonized? I can understand the desire to suppress this information by the abortion industry...it is bad for business. PPFA had combined revenues in 2004 of more than three-quarters of a billion dollars, with \$35 million in "excess" funds. Furthermore, PPFA accounted for more than 255,000 surgical abortions last year, and since 1970, when they started doing abortions, Planned Parenthood has caused the deaths of more than 3.8 million American babies. (Planned Parenthood's own statistics.) Why would women want ANY of their money going to an organization that provides the very procedure that has been shown by many scientific studies to cause the deadly disease women are dying from? And to say PPFA offers good services, not just abortion, and they should be funded by Komen, is like having the American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society fund Philip Morris! Sure they sell the tobacco that can cause lung cancer and kill many people, but they do good stuff too! Ridiculous. "

Shame on You

wrote on June 08, 2006 11:06 AM:

"Mary, while I appreciate your feelings of loss over your mother's death (I lost my grandmother to breast cancer, too), you have no right to jump to conclusions about what PP is doing with the money they received from the Kolman Foundation. Despite what you would like to believe, PP is not the evil empire. If they say the money is going to breast exams, I'm sure it is. They have to keep record of how that money is being spent, just like any other company. PP does not persuade women to kill their children and anyone who says so is a liar. They provide many many other VALUABLE services for families in this area other than abortions. The title to your The next time you'd like to express your opinions, please make sure you do your research and don't jump to ridiculous conclusions just because they fit into your ideas about what is right and wrong. Or should I say, your mother's ideas?"

TheOne

wrote on June 08, 2006 11:12 AM:

"The Komen foundation is actually working against itself here as it has been widely speculated (not proved definitively) that abortion can increase a woman's chances of getting breast cancer. Details are at <http://www.abortionbreastcancer.com/>. Yes this is a pro-life site, but they have data from scientific journals that are not to back them up. To Kodiak Joe: you are exactly on line with Margaret Sanger, who thought that only upper-class folks of what she thought was the correct race should propagate...here's a quote for you: "We should hire three or four colored ministers, preferably with social-service backgrounds, and with engaging personalities. The most successful educational approach to the Negro is through a religious appeal. We don't want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population, and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members." Margaret Sanger's December 19, 1939 letter to Dr. Clarence Gamble, 255 Adams Street, Milton, Massachusetts. Original source: Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, North Hampton, Massachusetts. Also described in Linda Gordon's Woman's Body, Woman's Right: A Social History of Birth Control in America. New York: Grossman Publishers, 1976."

thank you, race for the cure

wrote on June 08, 2006 11:19 AM:

"Thanks, Race for the Cure, for supporting women's health by contributing millions of dollars for research and medical care."

PP

wrote on June 08, 2006 11:39 AM:

"Planted Parenthood does more than just abortions. I may be pro life, but I also believe that the choice is up to the individual couple faced with the pregnancy. You truly don't know until you PERSONALLY are faced with that issue. While I believe that abortion shouldn't be a form of birth control, it is still the woman's choice, even though I'm against it. Planted Parenthood also does much in education, alternatives to abortion, as well as health check ups, to which Race to the Cure helps fund."

To Rev. Spitz

wrote on June 08, 2006 12:00 PM:

"Keep "thumping" that bible, Rev., but you aren't changing anyone's mind. If you believe babies are going to heaven anyway, why would you want them to have to make the detour to this hate-filled world you and your kind have created? "

Planned Parenthood

wrote on June 08, 2006 12:02 PM:

"Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the United States. And they make huge amounts of money for abortions. If you think they don't try to convince women to have abortions, then you are either brainwashed or know zero about the simple fundamentals of capitalism Planned Parenthood is an evil organization that makes money off of death, and then they sell baby parts to make a secondary profit..while using legal mumbo jumbo to circumvent the laws against that. All of this "but they were nice to me" stuff is like Hitler's grandma saying that he always sent HER a card on her birthday. Your personal experience with them has nothing to do with how they make their pheonmenal profits."

To Rev. Spitz

wrote on June 08, 2006 12:09 PM:

"Amen! If some of these people think Christians are intolerant they obviously have no idea how intolerant God is! I love when people speak for God all the while having no idea what his word has to say about these things."

To Rev. Spitz:

wrote on June 08, 2006 12:14 PM:

"I assume that you are just as passionate about the administrations lack of concern about access to medical care. Correct? Or are you only concerned about PP?"

KillRoy

wrote on June 08, 2006 12:35 PM:

"First I'm glad most of you were not my guardian! I think if I give money to one charity or group it should stay with them. Why find out in fine print that it's being dispursed while they keep asking for more. I also can't believe how blind most people are to our health, values and the government. "

William Heller

wrote on June 08, 2006 12:46 PM:

"I cannot say that I come down on either side of the debate, but Mary is ignoring one large fact. Planned parenthood doesn't "make money by persuading people to kill their unborn children". Planned parenthood is a not-for-profit organization. You imply that they encourage women to get abortions so they can line their pockets. That claim is either ignorant or intentionally misleading and dishonest. "

To the 12:09 poster:

wrote on June 08, 2006 12:59 PM:

"You are just the kind of Christian who drives away people by the thousands. Maybe your god will have something to say to you about that."

my baby girl

wrote on June 08, 2006 12:59 PM:

"When I was 16 years old I became pregnate. My boyfriend at the time said he would support me but I knew that he did not want to have a baby because it would ruin his chance to play college sports... his only true love. I went to planned parenthood to discuss my options. I was a emotional confused high school sophmore, and I needed someone to talk to. My family would not have understood. They would have had the mad reaction first and then thrown me out. I talked with a woman at pp and we talked she listened to me without ever telling me that abortion was my only option. After reviewing all of the facts, and information. I decided to keep the baby. When I finally told my family of my decision they were suprisingly ok with. As for the father, we managed to work it out and this summer we are getting married not because of our little girl but because we love eachother. I blieve that pp not only helped me make the right decision but also left that decision up to me. Sure I was a scared 16 year old facing a life changing event but without their help I would have probably ended up some place not good. I am just one of the many stories that went to them for advice and help and that is exactly what I got. I considered abortion but now I would not take anything that I did back.. I love my life and my choice and I love the fact that I was able to make that choice and not have someone else make it for me. It is that choice that makes me feel that I do have my freedom and I respect that!"

HM

wrote on June 08, 2006 1:17 PM:

"This is a ridiculous letter. Mary is having to draw us a map as to how she and those that think like her have their "logic" twisted around,upside down and sideways. Did she look to the Komen Foundation for answers to this situation? No. Instead she wrote a half-truth letter to the editor in hopes of sabotaging a very worthwhile event that BENEFITS ALL WOMEN! I can't stand people like Mary. Get off your high-horse!"

Eagle Eyes

wrote on June 08, 2006 1:36 PM:

"Planned Parenthood equals baby killing for profit. Without the money they can't increase budgets and kill more babies. You give them money you support killing babies. Or you can continue to hide your head in the sand and not think about the facts that they kill babies to make money."

To "HM" from a man

wrote on June 08, 2006 1:52 PM:

"Thank you for being a voice of reason. Many of these letters are actually troubling, not in their "facts", but in their hysterical and twisted claims. I would like to add to one thing that you said, however. You claim that the Komen Foundation "BENEFITS ALL WOMEN." Certainly, it does. But, it also benefits EVERYONE WHO LOVES A WOMAN. I'm one of those guys."

Stark Raving Mad

wrote on June 08, 2006 1:58 PM:

"The children. What about the Children. Oh, the Children. Be a good christian and don't forget about the children. Oh, by the way. I saw that \$50 bill in your wallet, could you place it in the collection basket and kindly pass it to your right. Thank you."

TD

wrote on June 08, 2006 2:04 PM:

"To PL4L, If I may ask...I am sure you are very well off, have health insurance, drive a nice vehicle? Have you ever been to Planned Parenthood? Seen a doctor there? Gone there for a yearly checkup? I suppose you go to a regular OB/GYN that your health insurance will cover. For you to say that Planned Parenthood does not offer good services is absurd. Maybe you don't realize, but there are many young working females in our community that cannot afford health insurance or their place of employment does not offer it to them. It is very difficult to make a living on what some places offer to pay and unfortunately a college education is extremely expensive (but that is a whole different issue). My point is that the women using Planned Parenthood to have their normal checkups, get birth control: ya know for their bar hopping slutty nights out on the town as they are working two jobs and going to school (that is sarcasm for you "What does Cancer"), have mammograms performed, etc are taking responsibility for their reproductive health by using an organization that provides medical services on a sliding scale according to income. Last time I checked Planned Parenthood was not funded by your tax dollars, like the welfare system is. Those PP statistics are very alarming but so are the statistics of the number of innocent children dying of AIDS, malnutrition, child abuse, etc. Maybe you should do a comparative study. "

SAS

wrote on June 08, 2006 3:07 PM:

"I'm really sick of hearing all you "women" spout off about your bodies and your rights! What about the rights of that innocent baby you're about to murder, and yes I mean murder! If you don't want the baby let someone adopt it. Abortion is never the best alternative. If your body is so important to you maybe you should have taken care of it "before" you got pregnant instead of relying on abortion to fix your "mistakes". And don't give that argument about the victim of rape. The majority of abortions are not done on rape victims! That is just an excuse to try to justify the fact that millions of babies are being murdered by Planned Parenthood!"

U Have My Support

wrote on June 08, 2006 3:32 PM:

"Thank you Mary - I have registered for the race and will not be running on Saturday, I have also emailed them and asked for my registration money back. It is not my place to judge others choices - I personally will not support any organization that kills babies. My husband is adopted - if his mother had chosen an easy way out from a one-night stand, our community would miss out on his talents and I would not have the wonderful family I have today! Every one of us will meet our maker... will you pass the test - pick up a bible."

Jo

wrote on June 08, 2006 4:12 PM:

"Thanks for the well written letter. My thoughts are the same. As a breast cancer survivor I will find a better place to provide my support. Planned Parenthood was not my choice when I signed up for the race. Now does anyone know about the funds for the luncheon/style show? Where do the \$\$ go? Jo"

to TheOne & Rev Spitz & PL4L & SAS

wrote on June 08, 2006 4:45 PM:

"TheOne, why don't you produce stats as to how many abortions are done at planned parenthood. Not that many. It's a very very very low percentage. The majority of what they are doing is counseling, pre-natal, adoption, birth control, Breast Cancer Awareness, etc. Why don't you go there and check it out. Seeing is believing, listening to Rush and thumpers is not SEEING. Obviously none of you are women who need the Planned Parenthood services. Also, please show me how the non-profit organization is selling "baby parts" to line their pockets. Please talk out of your mouths, not the other end, and please think before you spew your hatred."

To SAS

wrote on June 08, 2006 5:24 PM:

"Just wondering what you would rather us call ourselves, since you don't believe we are really "women." Perhaps baby factories? Servants who are seen and not heard? Or just another patriarchal male's play(sex)toy to do with what he wants and not have to deal with the consequences? Don't forget that "women" don't just miraculously get pregnant, but that somewhere there is a MAN who IS NOT STEPPING UP to care for HIS "child." Perhaps if "men" used some of PP's services for condoms, this difficult decision would not be an issue."

Hope you're ready...

wrote ON June 08, 2006 5:30 PM:

"Mary, I hope you are prepared to eat your words someday. As much as it may upset you, if you ever get breast cancer and need treatment, you will be benefiting from research funded by the Komen Foundation. Unless you choose not to receive treatment based on your "high morals." What a conundrum...."

Afraid of facts

wrote on June 08, 2006 7:08 PM:

"The race for the cure is a Great Event... Why is it when Abortion supports are faced with facts the many go into hysteria? Here are some other facts on Maternal Death Rates: The maternal mortality is defined in this analysis as death by any reason within 12 months following a ending of a pregnancy. Due to privacy laws this analysis cannot occur in the United States. The data chosen from Finland. Finland is a state with liberal abortion laws and with socialized medicine. Their socialized medical records are stored in central databases for analysis by STAKES the Finnish equivalent of the CDC. The age adjusted death rate of non-pregnant women is included in the study for comparison. The study is large (9184 maternal deaths) over the period seven years. Data is always subject to statistical variation from year to year, country to country, study to study. For this reason, the researchers also reported what is known as "95 percent confidence intervals." This means that the available data indicates that 95 percent of all similar studies would report a finding within a specified range around the actual reported figure. For example, the .50 odds ratio for childbirth has a confidence interval of .32 to .78. In other words, it is probable that 95 percent of the time, the odds ratio of death following childbirth will be found to be between 32 percent and 78 percent of the non-pregnant woman rate. The 95 percent confidence interval for the odds ratio of death following abortion was reported to be 1.27 to 2.42 of the annual rate for non-pregnant women. With a 95% confidence, it can be stated that abortion maternal mortality is higher than both birth or miscarriage. Gissler, M., et. al., "Pregnancy-associated deaths in Finland 1987-1994 -- definition problems and benefits of record linkage," Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica 76:651-657 (1997), Mika Gissler, Elina Hemminki, Jouko Lonnqvist, "Suicides after pregnancy in Finland: 1987-94: register linkage study" British Medical Journal 313:1431-4, 1996. <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/~whatsup/Finnish.html> According to www.usccb.org, a chief strategist later admitted that claims that thousands of women were dying from illegal abortions at the time of Roe v. Wade decision were fabricated for political purposes. Due to the commercial production of penicillin and sulfa drugs following WW2 and other medical advances, maternal deaths from all abortions (legal and illegal) dropped from 1,231 in 1942 to 39 in 1972, the year before Roe v. Wade. The 1965 and 1973 legalization of birth control has also affected this downward trend (Griswold v. Connecticut, 381 U.S. 479 (1965), Eisenstadt v. Baird, 405 U.S. 438 (1973)). In 1990 it is estimated that over 1400 women died following a legalized abortions with the majority of these deaths resulting from suicide, homicide or accident. Abortion related maternal deaths are calculate to be 10 times higher than reported deaths caused from complications due to illegal abortion as reported to the CDC in 1972. I estimate that in the United States between 1970-2005 that 12,000 maternal deaths have occurred as compared if the mother had given birth or had a miscarriage. In the years following WOE v. WADE there have been an estimated 45,000,000 children that have died from abortion. Data sources: STAKES data mortality rates (deaths per 100,000) of 27 birth, 48 miscarriage and 101 legal abortion, CDC 1970 total reported deaths of 39 per year from illegal abortions, estimated 45,000,000 actual abortions from 1970 to 2005.)"

Here is the problem with statistics....

wrote ON June 08, 2006 10:11 PM:

"Lung Cancer Math - from the American Cancer Society website... 300,000,000 US population - 162,000 lung cancer deaths - 1 out of 1852 people will die from lung cancer this year. 50% of the lung cancer deaths are from smokers/former smokers which comprise 17% of the population. - 300,000,000 X .17=51,000,000 people - 51,000 lung cancer deaths - 1 in 630 smokers/former smokers will die from lung cancer this year. - Note the TOTAL deaths at 162,000. Now lets look at the CDC website. 201 people per 100,000 are going to contract (not die) some form of cancer. 603,000 will contract cancer. Can someone explain to me how over 25% of the cancer cases contracted end up being lung cancer deaths? With a mortality rate of less than 25% for all cancers combined? Thing that make you go hummmmmmm... Statistics can be played with to show what whoever is paying for the study wants it to show. Don't believe anything that doesn't make sense. Enjoy your day and don't believe squat that is posted on any site that paid for a study themselves. "

The Bible is Pro abortion

wrote ON June 08, 2006 10:44 PM:

"From Ecclesiastes (can't give chapter and verse, but it is there) "Better than both (the living and the dead) are those who have not yet been born!" By the way, according to the bible, life begins at quickening. Quite some time after conception."

Simpleman

wrote on June 08, 2006 11:40 PM:

"People, pp kills unborn children. Hello, do you understand. What has become of this world."

John T Moeller

wrote on June 08, 2006 11:40 PM:

"Mary has shared a point of view that should be addressed by charities that ask for our hard earned money. What I read is hate spewed out to a person who has a right to make a valid comment. This letter is not about how well Planned Parenthood succeeds in snuffing out the very "Breath Of Life" given to every living fetus by it's creator. It's a letter making people think about the uses of the funding they are asked to donate to. Mary's mother taught her by example, to speak up about situations in life that using old timey language is, "A Vexation To The Soul."

CaroLinn

wrote on June 09, 2006 2:28 AM:

"Perhaps you believe that a group of cells growing in a woman's uterus, that could become a baby, is a person. Others (many, many others) do not. What right do you have to force your view of reality on others? Can the fetus live on its own, or even breathe? No, it cannot. And if you care so much about fetuses, why not save them all by transferring each aborted fetus to a new host mother? Perhaps you don't care enough to actually save them? The reality is that there are many reasons women become pregnant, and you are not the one to judge those decisions, the woman is to judge for herself. In short, other people's bodies are not your property. If you care, truly care, about aborted fetuses, adopt them. But my hunch is you just want to punish others for what you percieve as their sins."

to Afraid of the Facts

wrote on June 09, 2006 5:23 AM:

"Except - regarding Roe V Wade: please explain why I lost 3 friends to back alley butchers that would have survived if abortion had been legal in the late 60's.... Tell that to them. Check out the pockets where the illegal abortions occurred (to the poor right in the QC), were people were rendered sterile. All women don't want to (and definitely shouldn't) be carrying products of incest (like them carrying their own brother/sister to full term). You pointed out the fallacy of your own study - counting any death that occurred the first year, vs actual deaths occuring from illegal abortions. Actual facts indicate - 39 from illegal, and 1 from legal (figuring only one actually died of complications withing the first 72 hours, and I'm being generous - I'd say it's more likely that it's only .0005 percent) abortion. By manipulating the statistics you previously manipulated, I showed that once again, it's better to have a legal abortion than an illegal one. That of course, is putting aside all of the other wonderful things done by planned parenthood!"

kim

wrote on June 09, 2006 7:33 AM:

"throughout history mankind has always managed to find fellow humans to discriminate, abuse and murder. they all had reasons and quoted experts about why this treatment was acceptable. abortion is just another form of discrimination, abuse and murder. the people who accept it are part of the same creeds who were accepting and apathetic of past hate crimes. the advanatge babykillers have is that mankind has finally found a victim that hasn't the ability to fight back."

TheOne

wrote on June 09, 2006 9:46 AM:

"CaroLinn--you sound like every other militant feminist out there. Mary's note states that if you are against abortion, do not give to Race for the Cure...she does not shove her opinion upon you, if you don't like it disregard it. She isn't holding a gun to your head until you agree with her. I hope that you are never on a ventilator after a car accident or something and are not able to breath on your own, if you spewed your short-sighted reasoning on your childrend they'd probably just have you killed, even if all you needed was routine surgery (all the babies need are routine pregnancies). Someone lost three friends to back-alley butchers? I bet you wouldn't have if they hadn't decied to revel in the "free love" ideology of the 60's. They took their lives for granted long before they went into that alley...nothing is free, but of course that would require people to be accountable for their actions and we all know how unpopular that is."

To CaroLinn

wrote on June 09, 2006 10:26 AM:

"That group of cells growing in a womaon's uterus is a baby! Not something that could become a baby. It will not become a dog or a book. IT IS A BABY and if allowed to grow will be a productive member of society. I'm sure you are glad your mother did not abort you while you were most vulnerable. I belive in a woman's right to choose but she must accept the consequences. When she chooses to have sex, she needs to live with the consequences of possible pregnancy. Don't give me the crap about rape, incest and life of the mother. Those are a small percentage of the abortions provided and most people are willing to agree to those but none of the partial birth abortions should ever be allowed and planned parenthood provides and supports those."

Pharoe

wrote on June 09, 2006 10:50 AM:

"To To Carolinn. No, that group of cells is not a baby. It is called a zygote. It is only a baby after it is born. It could become a dog or a book or a bar of soap or anything else. Most of us prefer the human offspring though."

planet_juggler

wrote on June 09, 2006 11:07 AM:

"To Pharo: "No, that group of cells is not a baby. It is called a zygote. It is only a baby after it is born. It could become a dog or a book or a bar of soap or anything else." Huh?!? What biology class did you take? Since when is a ball of cells with 23 pairs of chromosomes going to become a bar of soap or a dog? Talk about a serious case of denial."

not really a non-profit

wrote on June 09, 2006 11:18 AM:

"Planned Parenthood is no charity organization - they are a corporation with the public face of "not-for-profit", but the profit motive is very much alive and well. They are one of the largest lobbying powers in D.C. and the state governments, but they also dump quite a bit of money into the pockets of their higher-ups. Do you honestly think that Ms. Feldt will walk away from Planned Parenthood needing to find another job? Do you think the regional managers of PPs for given states don't receive significant bonuses if they manage to increase the number of abortions or the income of the offices under their control? How many new PP clinics have been opened in recent years? Not many at all. What kind of capital expenditures and new technology investments do you really think PP has to make? They certainly aren't buying sonogram machines! (After all, some of their studies say that sonograms hurt the baby - as if they have any concern for a fetus in the first place!) Have the prices of abortions come down at all? If they really care about the women they talk about, wouldn't they try to make abortion as cheap as possible (even free)? So then what are they pouring their profits into? No, there is a very real profit motive, and it is not just driven by the executives of PP. Money is power, especially in politics. The politicians they have in their pockets are much like Mafia "insurers" who demand their money, or "screw you, you lose my vote". Hence, PP is constantly fighting for more money. This is why they made such a big push for D&X abortions (a.k.a. "partial-birth" abortions) - unlike the usual slice & dice abortions, D&X abortions allow places like Planned Parenthood to keep the parts to sell to medical labs for things like embryonic stem cell research. If they really cared about stem cell research, why aren't they just donating these aborted fetuses the same way that pro-lifers donate cord blood for adult stem cell research? The reason: it's another revenue stream. To make a long story short (too late!), Planned Parenthood is a not-for-profit corporation, and there may be some sincerely concerned (albeit sincerely wrong) volunteers, but there is a very real profit motive on the part of the upper-level executives and the politicians whose campaigns they fund. That said, why does Planned Parenthood need Komen's money? I'm sure Komen could find breast cancer research facilities that are not controversial, e.g. those that use adult stem cells for a cure."

Bible is NOT pro-abortion

wrote on June 09, 2006 11:23 AM:

"From Ecclesiastes (can't give chapter and verse, but it is there) 'Better than both (the living and the dead) are those who have not yet been born!' Those not yet born are better because the condition of the world generally (but not always) gets better. This interpretation of a Bible quote out of context is so asinine that I almost didn't even bother to dignify it with a response. I figured it's better to educate than to leave you (and others) in the darkness of ignorance. Thus endeth the lesson."

Orthodoxy

wrote on June 09, 2006 11:25 AM:

"Since I wanted to leave a proper (albeit lengthy) response, but the censors have not allowed it to be posted here, anyone wishing to read what I originally wrote can see it here: <http://spaces.msn.com/jamiebeu/blog/cns!6E0753BD56367285!481.entry> Please feel free to comment on my site without fear of censorship."

Periodic Table

wrote on June 09, 2006 11:25 AM:

"Dear planet_juggler. Perhaps you missed the point that Pharo was making. These cells are composed of elements. They can be arranged or combined to create many things, including soap, dogs or nice big things that go boom, or zoom or varoom. If you just stick to observable or empirical data and information, and leave out trying to force mysticism and mythological explanations for the world, perhaps we can do some good."

planet_juggler

wrote on June 09, 2006 12:03 PM:

"Dear Periodic Table. The point I was making, though is that once those elements are arranged into DNA strands and such - that which we call a zygote - there is no way for it to suddenly become a bar of soap or a dog (except by means of a miracle, which, if I am correct, you are trying to discount in this discussion). The simple fact is that the law of entropy says that the universe is always tending toward a more disorganized state, unless acted upon by an external force. However, life flies in the face of this, for life is one of those forces that organizes our world. This is observable by empirical data. Science however cannot measure or theorize on mysticism any more than it can measure emotions or quantify philosophy. Science is not the end-all-be-all that some want it to be. Neither is faith, but faith and reason go hand-in-hand, for truth is binocular and requires the eye of reason and the eye of faith to fully observe."

Pro-Hope

wrote on June 09, 2006 3:04 PM:

" "Walk a mile in another's shoe's"...If you've never been pregnant in a situation where you didn't know how to cope, don't preach against abortion. If you've never had breast cancer, don't condemn any organization that can help. If you've never taken in a foster child, or worked in a shelter for abused children, or volunteered at Boy's and Girl's Clubs, you need to. It's a rough world out there for unwanted children and you need to see it first hand."

Greed and ignorance

wrote on June 09, 2006 8:24 PM:

"They say "if you've never been pregnant...don't preach against abortion". Ok. So if you've never been a Nazi dictator with a hatred for Jews, don't preach against Hitler. What an extremely ignorant line of reasoning. I'm glad there are at least a few people on this planet who care more about life than about their own temporary inconvenience. Some people are extremely selfish (PP's customers) and some people are bloodthirsty and greedy (PP itself.)"

to The0ne

wrote on June 10, 2006 8:29 AM:

"(Or should I just call you the big ZERO). I'm the one that lost three friends. No, you ignorant fool, it was not part of the free love. One was the result of rape by her stepfather, and the other two were married. One was told by her doctor that another pregnancy would kill her that soon (but "sorry, nothing we can do to help you"). The Last? 6 Kids, 6 years. Barely enough money to live on. Or is the free love going to provide free food? My entire point is that Planned Parenthood (who is more non-profit than AAA, who even has credit cards), provides other services besides the small number of abortions they provide in this area. They do much more, including pregnancy prevention (for you, that's called birth control or abstinence), family counseling, adoption, low cost medical exams, breast exams, etc. Think think think. Think some more. Keep your hateful opinions to yourself."

To The0ne and other anti PP

wrote on June 10, 2006 8:38 AM:

"You are exactly the reason why yesterday I went out and tripled my donations to the Susan G. Komen and planned parenthood. You hateful people all seem to support GW Bush in his systematic killing of all muslims (read non-christians). You are anti abortion, but pro murder. HmMMM. I personally don't agree with abortion, but I adamantly oppose this farce of a war. I will go on record I will donate all I can afford to organizations like PP in the hopes that people like you will someday see the light."

kim

wrote on June 10, 2006 10:19 AM:

"its "heartening" to know that the hate of one man can help to triple the income of an institution that kills millions of babies. as to the war reference; our worst war casualties happened during the civil war when we were killing Americans on both sides of the war line. if you add up the total casualties for the war it does not equal the amount of babies, who are unable to defend against their attackers, killed by abortion clinics in a single year. even hitler at his worst did not kill as many of our jewish brethren as the apathetic and pro-abortionist movement has killed babies since its legalization. it will make a "nice" inscription in our historical biography ;one of the greatest nations in the history of mankind that killed more innocents than hitler. "

PP is a non-profit

wrote on June 10, 2006 1:43 PM:

"But it's execs make some big bucks. The profit is for the exact, not the organization. "

Follow the money

wrote on June 10, 2006 5:33 PM:

"Follow the money!"

Give to Planned Parenthood and the Susan Koman foundation

wrote on June 11, 2006 11:22 AM:

"Mary you and those like you, such as "John T Moeller" with your narrow-minded view of the world should just stay home, shut-up and let others live their lives without having to listen to your "single issue" judgments"! How many babies has your pal George W Bush killed with his denial of HIV prevention funding to organizations which promote condom usage? Or the Republican poster boy, Ronald Reagan with his denial of funding to any organization which promoted, needle exchange, abortion, condoms. And I won't even go to the subject Catholic Church with it's contraception stance. You are all part of the problem."

The problem isn't the government

wrote on June 11, 2006 1:07 PM:

"I certainly don't need them to wipe my butt for me. I can practice safe sex by buying my own condom. I can manage to get through a day without shooting up drugs. I can read the Bible and make my own judgements on birth control compared to murdering of babies. It's you who deny we are allowed to debate and inform people who are the problem, whichever side of the fence you are on."

Proud to work for Planned Parenthood

wrote on June 12, 2006 4:50 PM:

"I have to respond... "Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the United States. And they make huge amounts of money for abortions." As someone who works at PP, I can tell you we don't make "huge amounts" of money on anything, especially abortions. Most of our work, from reproductive health care, to prescriptions, to abortion services, cost way more than we charge. If there are "huge amount" of money here, I don't see it. What I do see is more need, more patients, more misinformation about PP and health care in general, and more narrow minded bigots. If we had a nickle for ever time I heard one of these fundamentalists lie about our work and our patients, we would be making those "huge amount" that they say we are. Someone needs to ask these anti-abortion groups what they do with their donations? Seems to me a lot of money goes there way, and no one ever sees anything good come from them. "

kim

wrote on June 12, 2006 5:16 PM:

"planned parenthood's use of abortion as a form of birth control makes them no better than Nazi Germany. both have chosen to destroy millions of lives and they expect to be honored for their disservice to human life. they kill the innocent that are unable to protect themselves from the barbarous act of murder christened abortion. so hail to all the genocidal institutions such as Planned Parenthood performing murder for hire. "

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