

Planned Parenthood gives alternate view

No one, not even those of us here at Planned Parenthood, wants to see more abortions. No one, especially those of us here at Planned Parenthood, wants to see anyone hurt by abortion.

That's why we were so appalled by the lies in the 12-page paid advertisement in the recent issue of this paper. Truth is, we all want to see fewer abortions, fewer unintended pregnancies, and better health for women.

So why all the hysteria from the national organization Human Life Alliance? HLA does not provide health care, birth control and cancer screening like we do; they are nothing more than a political propaganda machine.

We could be spending our time working together to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies in the first place by:

- Making safe, affordable birth control available.
- Educating young people on abstinence, birth control and safer sex.
- Increasing the involvement of men.
- Creating new birth control methods for both genders.
- Making America friendlier to children, thus reducing teen pregnancy. As Marion Wright Edelman said, "The best contraceptive is a real future."

Instead of working together,

they throw mud and we are obliged to respond with the truth.

According to HLA: From the moment the sperm hits the egg, it's a "baby."

"Day 21 — heart begins to beat."

At week 16 "the baby is 8-10 inches."

Guest
Column

KATE
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The Truth (according to Planned Parenthood): Any med student can tell you that it is a zygote until week six when it is called an embryo, at week 12 it is called a fetus, and it is a baby when it is born.

Heart begins to beat at week six.

The fetus is five-six inches.

The insert depicts embryos and fetuses in highly enlarged photographs and implies that this is when most women choose abortion. Truth is, only 4 percent of abortions occur past the 15th week. Yet HLA's cover photo is a fetus of 16 weeks, a month past the point at which nine out of 10 abortions are done.

According to HLA: Women who terminate their first pregnancy have a two-to-four times greater risk of developing breast cancer.

Women will suffer from "Post Abortion Syndrome" following an abortion.

The Truth (according to Planned Parenthood): A study in the January 24, 1996

issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Society* finds only a "weak link" and concludes that "these results do not support a major role of induced abortion in breast cancer incidence."

A report in the April 6, 1990 issue of *Science* states that "abortion of an unwanted pregnancy does not pose a psychological hazard for most women." Common sense and evidence tells us that with almost 50 percent of American women having an abortion at some time in their lives, women feel relief more than trauma.

In fact, anti-choice President Reagan appointed anti-choice Surgeon General C. Everett Koop to investigate this. Koop reported that "the data simply do not support the premise that abortion does or does not cause a specific post-abortion psychiatric syndrome." Planned Parenthood encourages you to talk to women who have chosen abortion. How would their lives be different without that choice?

According to HLA: Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPC's), Catholic Community Services, Birthright and Lifeline provide "crisis pregnancy help."

Women are frequently injured or killed by abortion.

"The Supreme Court permits abortion on demand right up to birth for any reason!"

Life begins at conception. Abortion procedures are hor-

rible, gruesome and painful.

The Truth (according to Planned Parenthood): These clinics are "fake" clinics, propagandizing against abortion and not providing health care or objective counseling. "America's Crisis Pregnancy Helpline" told us that they don't even refer for ADOPTION; they tell every woman to have and keep the baby, even if she is a young teenager! (call to 1-800-672-2296 on April 5, 1996)

"We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins. When those trained in the respective disciplines... are unable to reach any consensus."
—The Supreme Court, *Roe v. Wade*

Again, with almost half the women in this country choosing abortion at some time in their life, common sense tells us that women are not endangered. Abortion is 7 to 28 times safer than giving birth. First trimester abortion is an extremely common and safe procedure that takes just a few minutes under light anesthesia.

It's insulting and absurd to think that women are deciding between the delivery room of abortion in the ninth month. Late abortions are done only in cases of severe health problems or fetal anomaly. In fact, the court stated, "A pregnant woman does not have an absolute constitutional right to abortion on her demand." And thus, there are many restrictions on abortion, especially in the last three months.

The Supreme Court stated in *Roe vs. Wade* that "We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins. When those trained in the respective disciplines of medicine, philosophy and theology are unable to reach any consensus. The Judiciary... is not in a position to speculate as to the answer." But HLA seems to know for sure!

Abortion is a surgical procedure and like any such procedure, is unpleasant and may cause pain of varying degrees. It would take too much space to accurately describe the procedure itself. Talk to your friends who have had abortions, use your common sense, and do some research. Look at neutral sources like *Our Bodies, Ourselves* or talk to a

health care provider.

There are many, many more inaccuracies and lies in the insert that we don't have the space to address. We urge you to think and ask questions.

Such as, who are these people? And what do they want you to believe? HLA is a political organization with an anti-choice agenda; they are not a health care agency.

They tell you that the birth control pill is an "abortifacient," as is Norplant, Depo-Provera and other common

birth control methods. In their view, given that all abortion is wrong and that life begins at conception, these contraceptives should be outlawed!

They tell you that women pregnant from rape or incest (we're talking young girls here!) will feel "triumph" by carrying the pregnancy to term. This is a bizarre view to foist on all women in this horrible situation. If some women choose to carry to term, that's the best choice for them, and we support that. But to force rape and incest victims to carry a pregnancy of hate, not love, is sickening, and out of touch with the vast majority of Americans who support abortion in such tragic times.

Does HLA really care about women, or just about fetuses? And have they ever run a 12 page paid advertisement for funding for birth control? For prenatal care for rape and incest victims? For help for poor children after they're born?

If you have further questions about the validity of any aspect of the advertisement, please contact Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada at 878-7776 (or another reputable reproductive health care provider). PPSN provides information, birth control, sexually-transmitted disease screening and treatment, cancer screening like Pap tests, men's services, services for menopausal women and much more. We don't provide abortions, but we can help with counseling or referrals.

We encourage you to continue to seek out truth, especially in paid advertisements.

—Kate Reinisch is director of public affairs for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains in Denver, Colo.

Disorder

from pg. 5

States have ADD symptoms. They excel in their field, some say, because of the ADDer's high intuition.

Would you rather have your teeth drilled than follow a list?

Lists can cause the downfall of an ADDer. It is easier for the attention deficit sufferer to move from task-to-task without a plan. They make it up as they go along.

Would you describe yourself as hypersexual? Do you find it hard to be alone? Do you have an addictive personality?

Persons with ADD, more often than most, need to have someone or something to hold on to. ADDers are very codependent.

Do you regularly break rules or minor laws rather than put up with the frustration of obeying them? Do you change jobs a lot? Do you work best in short spurts? Do you let the bank try and balance your checkbook? Are you always eager to try something new?

ADDers look for new and sometimes dangerous activities to try all the time. Different stimulation feeds the ADD mind.

Do you daydream in class? Are you the class clown? Do you love to travel? Do you laugh a lot? Have you ever wondered if you were crazy? Do you have a really hard time keeping secrets? Did you have trou-

ble paying attention at the beginning of this column?

True, everybody at one time or another will exhibit ADD-like symptoms, but true ADDers face these obstacles on a daily basis.

Imagine, if you can, not being able to control the speed of your own thoughts or forgetting what you are going to say, right before you say it.

Persons with Attention Deficit Disorder struggle everyday of their lives with distraction and performance inconsistency, and their peers and even instructors constantly label them with unfair and untrue terms.

It is the constant bombardment of negativity that leads to the total failure of some attention deficit sufferers.

I have a friend that was diagnosed with ADD at a very young age. He made it into college by the skin of his teeth and didn't spend much time there at all.

Through his first semester he was constantly called a bone-head, liar and totally lazy by one of his instructors.

The name-calling got so bad that he attacked the instructor verbally in class. This resulted in the university inviting him to leave.

The instructor wrote a letter of apology to my friend after finding out that he suffered from ADD.

If the instructor and the school had been more educated in what to expect from ADD students, it is safe to assume that this injustice to my friend could have been avoided. The university he attended had no program to render assistance for ADD students. It still

doesn't.

Most attention deficit persons find it difficult to inform friends, their workplace and school of their disorder. This "coming-out-of-the-closet" is extremely difficult for ADDers because so many people don't understand and many times don't believe the reporting ADDer.

It is this lack of understanding that aids the debilitation of the ADD student.

True, ADD is no excuse for rude behavior and should never be used alone as a scapegoat for failure. It is the public's own lack of knowledge about ADD that breaks the moral and esteem of its sufferers.

It is important to understand all people. If you don't know something about a person, you had better find out before you proceed to label them.

Tom Cruise, Robin Williams, Stephen Morrissey, Don Henley and many other public figures and entertainers have ADD and the society we are in does not label them lazy or unable, they get labeled as artists.

We should follow example and not label our peers with destructive titles. You wouldn't call Tom Cruise a loser, so why would you call the girl in your computer class a loser?

Remember, if you did have trouble reading this column, you too could have ADD. The person you labeled "unable" today, could be the Pulitzer Prize winner of tomorrow.

Living

from pg. 5

from my brother I realized it was time to go before the demon could do more damage.

I let him drive home.

At the end of it all I felt I had failed as a host. My brother and his wife didn't have as great a time as I had hoped. At least that's what I inferred when he said: "I hate this #\$\$%*!! city." I think he lost a little money.

It's hard being a good host in this town. There is just too much to do here and you end up spreading yourself out. Besides that, it's not fun being the host. It's a lot of hard work

trying to do the coolest things in town.

The things you plan never work out. It seems best to just wing it and go with the flow of the town. The more you plan the more trouble you get into.

So next time friends or family tell you they're coming out to Vegas, tell them you love them but don't expect a host. You live here and it's too hard juggling school, work, and hosting at the same time. But don't tell your parents that, they may stop sending you money and I don't want to be responsible for giving anyone that advice. Except maybe a little demon I know.

—Vincent Caliguire is a staff Opinion writer for The Rebel Yell.