

Gregg L. Cunningham, Executive Director

November 2009

Dear Berkeley Students for Life Alumni,

My name is Gregg Cunningham and I direct The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform (CBR), which just finished its Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) exhibit on the campus of U.C. Berkeley. This huge abortion photo display was cosponsored by Berkeley Students for Life (BSL) and was an enormous success.



Berkeley was an especially important school on our fall GAP tour because The Academic Ranking of World Universities lists it the third best school *in the world*. That may be why TopUniversities.com says Berkeley hosts students from all fifty states and more than one hundred foreign countries.

We watched countless young people stand in stunned disbelief in front of our immense abortion photos. Many pulled out cell phone cameras and snapped photos which they emailed to friends all over the country and the world. These students are the best and brightest their countries have to offer or they could never

gain admission to a school which rejects four out of every five applicants. Most will eventually return to their home states and countries to become influential leaders in every profession. They will never forget our pictures. The pictures really do work wonders.

Reuters.com reported a story November 2, 2009 headlined “Planned Parenthood Director Quits Abortion Business, Experiences Conversion at Starting Place of 40 Days for Life.” It quotes Abby Johnson, who says she resigned when she “... really reached my breaking point after witnessing a particular kind of abortion ...” She quit because she saw an abortion. The same thing happens when college students see our abortion pictures.



Berkeley has a long list of distinguished alumni and sometimes we are showing our abortion imagery to a young person who will go on to great professional responsibility. In the mid-1990s, Dr. Bill Calvin, one of our regional directors, persuaded a young lawyer to come to an abortion talk I gave at the Park Avenue Club in Morristown, NJ. I don't know where he went to school but he watched our CBR abortion videos and they changed his life. His name is Chris Christie. A few weeks ago he was elected Governor of New Jersey. At the start of our Park Avenue Club meeting he was “pro-choice.” But during his campaign against Gov. Jon Corzine, he was attacked for supporting a constitutional ban on abortion and opposing embryonic stem cell harvesting. I was able to influence his policy positions because faithful donors sent me to meet him. Our pictures had an effect. So did his election victory.

A Berkeley student posted on Facebook:

... [T]his 'Center for Bio-Ethical Reform' showed up for a 2-day display right in the middle of campus I mean HUGE display covering most of Sproul plaza ... educating/fostering healthy debate around the issue of abortion. The organizers were anti-abortion and they really woke up this passive/lethargic campus; for once students had to really defend themselves. These pro-lifers were very VERY organized though ... that's the impressive part ... they had ALL sorts of people (women who HAD abortions and spoke to how they regret it and church leaders, volunteers ...) that could talk to any scenario/caveat the students came up with. They just kept knockin' 'em out one by one. I just listened. Whatever the bias ... just the fact that lively debate was HAPPENING was refreshing/ENERGIZING” (October 27, 2009).



The Daily Cal article quoted sophomore Imali Bandara’s criticism of our prominent display: “‘This is just in your face,’ she said. ‘It’s just imposing these images comparing abortion to the Holocaust and genocide, which I find really offensive.’”

While many students recognized the value of lively debate, the pro-aborts could only chant slogans. “URGENT ALERT! Defend Women, Defend Choice! Right Wingers Assault Both in Berkeley!” was the call-to-arms broadcast by a radical Bay Area group:

Seemingly out of nowhere, a horribly ugly assault on women and reproductive rights is happening right now at UC Berkeley. A Christian fundamentalist and Christian fascist road show calling itself the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform arrived at Sproul Plaza early this morning ... their mission is to “create debate” [T]his anti-abortion/anti-women group covered Sproul Plaza with (according to one outraged eyewitness) ‘... an elaborate, huge, huge display of bloody fetus pictures, targeting Obama, comparing abortion to Nazi genocide and lynching in the Old South, and sporting a picture

of Mario Savio as its “free speech” centerpiece.’ This horrendous display looks like it cost huge bucks....

As of mid-afternoon, students from the Gender Studies Department and the local NOW chapter were texting everyone they know to get down to campus, where they formed a line & locked arms in front of these creeps, chanting ‘Our bodies, our choice’ for hours. People hurried to bring signs they had at hand – ‘Abortion doctors are heros’ – enlargements of a Revolution newspaper centerfold, ‘A Fetus Is Not A Baby’ – and joined in. The situation was very tense.... (sfbaycantwait.org, Monday, October 26, 2009).



On the first day of the display, I was asked by a professor where and how we got our abortion photos. In an effort to protect our many sources, I was appropriately circumspect in my answers but the faculty member repeated, apparently sincerely, how “compelling” the abortion pictures were. He said, “I have always been very ambivalent about abortion.” He kept saying, almost to himself, “I didn’t know that is what they looked like.” If he didn’t know, what are the odds that his students knew?

We were able to do this project at Berkeley because pro-lifers just like you donated the ten thousand dollars we spent transporting our equipment and flying staff in from around the country. We now turn to you to help us move on to the next campuses. Among those schools will be the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The governing board of the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics recently approved a plan to perform late-term abortions on women nineteen to twenty-two weeks pregnant – for any reason or no reason

at all (AP, “UW Hospital Late-Term Abortions,” May 18, 2009). We are better prepared to fight this atrocity, at that liberal school, than any pro-life group in the country. But in the face of the worst recession in a generation, we will need your help more than ever.

As of mid-November 2009, our major donor contributions are off by 78% relative to their levels at the end of 2008. So far this year we have received \$86,114 in major donor income, as compared to our 2008 total of \$403,930. We will have to receive \$318,000 in the next six weeks if we are to close that shocking shortfall. In 2007, our major donor giving totaled \$786,000. That means 2009 could see a 90% reduction in major donor giving relative to our 2007 total. As sobering as those numbers are, the bad financial news gets even worse. Our regular donor giving (contributions under \$5,000) is down by 27% year-over-year. As of mid-November, we have brought in \$343,131 in regular donor contributions but our 2008 figure was \$470,280. That is a shortfall of \$127,000 which we must, and I do mean must, make up by the end of the year. When you add our major donor deficit of \$318,000, we need to generate \$445,000 in additional giving just to keep pace with last year’s devastating drop.



Earlier this year, Sproul Plaza was the site of a very different Obama display. That one was highly hagiographic. Had we not responded with a convincing rebuttal, most students and faculty would have never seen the darker side of Mr. Obama’s presidency. If you have any doubt that our rebuttal evidence works, you may be interested to know that just three days ago we received a note from an eighteen-year-old girl from Dallas, TX, who said she used them to “... make a point to my friend about abortion because she was about to get one. Thank you so much. You have helped change her mind.” I am certain that these same images also saved the lives of Berkeley babies. In addition, Alberto Gonzalez, who did a magnificent job (along with all his BSL associates) believes that the group will sign up twenty-five new members as a result of the display.



So as I end this report, I want to thank you for being a witness for life at Berkeley when you were a student. I want to thank you for standing by the current BSL membership since your graduation. But I also want to again ask you to support our CBR campus project and if possible, to do so on a monthly basis. Even as little as \$5 per month can make a great difference in our ability to reach the next school.

Lord bless,

Gregg Cunningham
Executive Director

P.S. Literally as I was writing you this note, I received a message from a staff member who just saw a comment from a young girl posting today on one of our YouTube abortion videos. After watching the horror of abortion, she said, “I’m eighteen and am pregnant.” I held my breath till I got to the next part of her post: “I put myself in this situation so I’m going to live with [it]. I’m going to grow up and take care of my baby.” Praise God and thanks to the donors in whose hearts he placed the burden to make it possible for us to be there for this young mom! Please pray about joining them!