

# "Nobody's Fool" (or Everybody's Fool – Courtesy of PP)

For the last 14 years, every July in Waco, an annual youth conference titled "Nobody's Fool", is held by Planned Parenthood of Central Texas.

Controversy over Nobody's Fool reached new heights this year when Planned Parenthood added a new feature. With the support of a donor, Planned Parenthood gave each child lured into the conference a sex-ed book. Students in grades 7 - 9 received the controversial book, *It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley. The theme of the book is that just about anything you can imagine is perfectly normal. The book is a wholesale assault on Catholic morality and amounts to borderline pornography. In just 89 pages, the authors manage to include 71 nude drawings, designed to dissolve modesty and desensitize children into thinking of sex in a casual way. Topics covered in the how-to book include heterosexual intercourse, homosexuality, masturbation, birth control and abortion.

Waco pro-lifers tried to alert fellow citizens to the book give away in a variety of ways. A handful of pro-lifers, including myself, attended a Parent's Preview the evening before the conference.

Here are some of the points made by Planned Parenthood in the Parents Preview and in *It's Perfectly Normal*.

- Our society is permeated with sexual images and promotion of sex. We must respond with good sex education for our youth.
- Teens were told, "Whether or not to have sexual intercourse is a decision each person has a right to make." (p.68) Children are independent therefore parents should butt out.
- Planned Parenthood offers a particular version of "abstinence." "It makes sense to wait to have sexual intercourse until you are old enough and responsible enough to make healthy decisions about sex." (p. 15) "Healthy" means you can effectively use contraception. Waiting until marriage is not a relevant consideration.
- Regarding homosexuality, youngsters are told, "The ancient Greeks thought that love between two men was the highest form of love." (p.17)
- This insight is offered on masturbation, "People of all ages masturbate—babies, kids, teenagers, grown-ups, and the elderly." (p. 48)
- Youngsters received directions for obtaining contraception. "Condoms, spermicide, and sponges are types of birth control that can be bought at a drugstore, a convenience store, or even a supermarket. They are usually displayed in a special section or on the counter next to the cash register." (p. 69)
- Mention is given to Natural Family Planning in the form of : "Some methods of birth control such as the rhythm method are not considered effective." (p. 72)
- Planned Parenthood sex education could not be complete without abortion advocacy. "There are many reasons why a female or a couple might want or need to end a pregnancy." (p. 73) Nine good(?) reasons to have an abortion are listed. Reason #9 is "female did not intend to become pregnant." (p.73)
- *It's Perfectly Normal* ends with these dangerous, and amoral words: "It's important to make the decision that is best for you—one that is safe and healthy for you. Everyone makes mistakes and has bad judgment once in a while, and you probably will too. But most of the time, you can and will make responsible choices—ones that are good for you, right for you, and healthy for you and your friends." (p. 84)

Concerning point #1. Yes, sexual messages with no moral context or negative consequences are all around our children. We are right to criticize Planned Parenthood sex promotion; but we must go further. We must help our children through the sexual minefields of today's society. Whatever our personal and corporate failings of the past, we must do better for our children in the future. What messages on God's gift of sex will our children hear from parents and grandparents, from church pulpits, from Catholic schools and Catholic education?

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