

May / June 2014

Standing in the GAP

Director's Corner C. Fletcher Armstrong, PhD CBR Southeast Director



Dear Partners and Friends,

This Spring, we completed one of our busiest GAP seasons ever! In 3 weeks, we visited 6 schools in Virginia, North Carolina, and Michigan. To those 6, add SUNY-Buffalo and 4 major universities in Florida. It was bodacious, to say the least! *We know what it takes to win. Our projects work. But to end abortion in America, we have to make them work more places, more often!*

Thank you for making this all possible. Your next gift of \$1,000, \$500, or even \$100 will help us take the truth to a major university near you!

Did Martin Luther King use pictures?

You bet he did! He didn't stand on the sidewalk with large photos of lynchings. No, he had the media on his side, and he skillfully used them to his advantage.

He organized marches so that racial violence, which had been perpetrated mostly in the shadows, could now be exposed to the light of day. When Americans saw racial violence for themselves, on TV and in magazines, they rejected it.

Richard B. Speed's review of Mark Kurlansky's book, *1968: The Year That Rocked The World*, describes how Dr. King orchestrated this enormously successful strategy:

In discussing the impact of civil disobedience, Kurlansky relates a telling incident that took place during a 1965 march in Selma, Alabama. Martin Luther King apparently noticed that Life Magazine photographer, Flip Schulke, had put down his camera in order to help a demonstrator injured



Dr. King: "America will never reject racism until America sees racism."

by the police. Afterward, according to Kurlansky, King rebuked Schulke, telling him that "Your job is to photograph what is happening to us."

Pro-aborts are turkeys at Virginia Tech (but so is everyone else!)

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It was our first visit to the land of "Hoki, Hoki, Hoki, Hy," home of the Gobblers (aka Turkeys!). We were hosted by the Advocates for Life (AFL), a student organization formed specifically to expose abortion at Virginia Tech. There are two prolife groups at Virginia Tech (VT), but the other one works very hard to fight abortion without exposing the truth of it.

Almost did that to my son. A 40+ year old housekeeping staff was crying as she stared at the 22-week abortion picture. When asked if she was OK, she replied "I almost did that to my now 27-year old son. Thank you for being here. I will take a brochure back to women I work with."

Pro-choice support for GAP. Even pro-choice students sometimes agree that women can have real choice only if they are fully informed. One pro-choice female student said, "Talking to you has helped me realize that pro-lifers are not what I thought they were. I was so angry because my roommate was angry about this display and so I had to come out to see for myself. I am so glad I talked with you. You are much friendlier than your pictures. Education on this topic is so important and even though I am still pro-choice, I want women to have all the information available to them."

Another pro-choice endorsement. A female student: "I know why you do this; I just don't like it."

Too big, too horrific to ignore. GAP forces people to think about abortion when they would rather think about anything else. Our opponents admit that GAP works. One pro-abortion student told us, "Because of social networking across campuses, this message has not only reached Virginia Tech, but has gone far beyond. Facebook is abuzz about abortion and people on this campus plus many others are talking about abortion now." Like Hannibal Smith, we love it when a plan comes together.

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Standing in the GAP Winning Hearts ... Changing Minds ... Saving Lives

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By comparing an abortion victim (who possesses fingers and toes, just like the rest of us) to an "ejaculation," pro-aborts at George Mason use the same kind of dehumanizing language that was employed by Nazis, Hutus, slave-holders, and many others.

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Bad emotions? A male student commented about the sadness of giving up a child for adoption. Response: parents might very well feel sad to give up a child, but that is a much better emotion than the sadness and memory of killing their own child.

Pro-life support. Sometimes we focus so much on the antics of our opponents, we forget to report on the many pro-life students who support our presence on campus. They are so thankful that they are not alone. What they said:

- "Thank you! I am glad you are here!"
- "I'm glad those other students [finally] have something to be upset about."
- "If they support [abortion], why don't they want the advertisement?"
- "Why are these people saying you should leave campus? It is just [the truth]!"
- "These are just pictures. If you are upset, that's good."
- "This is stirring up conversation; this is good." (Christian dining hall employee)

For more about GAP at VT, see Fletcher's blog at *www.FletcherArmstrongBlog.com*. Search for "Virginia Tech".



Old Man Winter pays GAP a visit at George Mason University

GAP was such a draw at George Mason University (GAP), even Old Man Winter came out to see it! He brought freezing temperatures, rain, snow, and winds gusting at more than 20 mph. Yuck. He made it hard to stand outside for very long, but we were determined to expose abortion in all its grisly reality.

Assisted by a dozen local volunteers, we endured miserable weather for three straight days (March 24- 26), too thrilled to be striking a blow on behalf of the preborn to worry about physical discomfort.

As always happens when GAP comes to town, the campus was saturated with literature, and conversations on the ethics of abortion could be heard continuously in the area surrounding the display and in classrooms all over. CBR's truth truck circled the campus, ensuring that no student could miss the message.

GAP prompts thought like nothing else can. People who otherwise never think about abortion are forced to confront the issue and try to reason out what they think of decapitating and dismembering little human beings. With the image of abortion's helpless victims staring them right in the face, it is hard to argue for the primacy of "choice". Of course, this doesn't stop many from trying.

About 10 or so pro-abortion protesters showed up with their own signs to "refute" the logic of the GAP display. Their presence always works to our advantage. Where else can we engage hard-core pro-aborts, on our terms, for a protracted period of time? The enthusiasm of many abortion supporters tends to wane under continuous exposure to powerful pro-life arguments.

And no argument is more powerful than the picture of a little human being who has been decapitated and dismembered.

For more about GAP at GMU, see Fletcher's blog at *www.FletcherArmstrongBlog.com*. Search for "Mason".