

## **Protesting teens at Halloween Hell House were in danger themselves - where were their parents?**

Dear Editor,

On Friday Oct 19 Life and Liberty for Women, a new non-profit organization dedicated to aggressive radical abortion rights education, set up our protest signs out front of the Abundant Christian Life Center at 7100 Wadsworth the site of the yearly Halloween Hell House which depicts, among other "sins" the "sin" of legal abortion. Life and Liberty for Women takes great exception to that because the alternative to legal abortion is illegal abortion that maims and kills women and doesn't save babies. There's a better way, reducing the number of unintended pregnancies.

Several teenage boys approached us from the Church, two older teens who had approached us the previous Friday evening and several others who were 14, 15, and up. There was no adult who approached with these boys. These teens began the usual anti-abortion extremist sidewalk

preaching which included calling us baby killers and several of the younger of the teens proceeded to stand in front of our signs violating our civil liberties; our right to freedom of speech and expression, an act that could land them and their parents in court defending a lawsuit for violation of our civil rights.

Moreover, standing in front of our signs forced us to get at the street's edge and these youngsters then stepped into the street to stand in front of our signs. Traffic speeds past often faster than the posted limit. I called Arvada Police and several units responded. They spoke with the boys then with me. I told them I was deeply concerned about the hazard their behavior presented to them as well as to the traffic speeding by. The officer told me he couldn't tell us where to stand nor tell these youngsters where to stand and if they stepped into the street to get in front

of our signs, that was their choice and if they got run over that too was their choice. I don't know what the police officer said to the boys but they left after that.

The previous Friday the two older boys were asked not to stand in front of our signs. They complied. They stood beside us, as close as one can get to another without being intimate. They held their brochure inches from our face and jabbered away. We didn't interfere with their freedom of speech and expression and they didn't interfere with ours.

I was appalled that these youngsters were sent or allowed by their parents and Rev. Keenen Roberts to be there without parental or adult supervision. These youngsters had no idea what danger they may have been walking into. In addition to placing themselves in imminent danger by stepping into the street to get in front of our signs,

what if we had conducted ourselves in the harassing and dangerous manner that they did?

These youngsters' parents should be ashamed of themselves for allowing their children to be out there without parental supervision and teaching them that you have to violate others right to freedom of expression to be heard. And if they placed their children's well being in the hands of Rev. Roberts, they should be outraged that their youngsters were sent or allowed by him out there without adult supervision placing their youngsters lives at risk and placing them, their youngsters and the church in legal jeopardy for violation of our civil liberties. This is "pro-life?"

Peggy Loonan  
Executive director  
Life and Liberty for Women  
Fort Collins

Colorado Statesman Oct 19, 2001