Success story of the month--how they won

Our success story for the month comes from Michael G. Cieply of the Central New Yorkers Chapter of NFD in Syracuse, New York. Their efforts were responsible for pornography being removed from 126 Fay's Drug Stores. In the letter below, Michael explains how sound planning helped win victory in Syracuse.

Dear Don:

For several months, members of Central New Yorkers for Decency have been writing to Henry A. Panasci, chairman of the board of Fay's Drug Stores concerning their sale of pornography. Fay's is a successful, quickly-expanding chain of approximately 120 drug stores throughout New York state.

After receiving negative responses to our letters, Jim Sotherden, founder of our group, decided that he and I should see Mr. Panasci face to face. Mr. Panasci agreed to meet with us on June 5, 1985. The two of us organized and prepared our presentation and concerns.

On that day Jim Sotherden's son became quite ill, and Jim informed me that he would not be able to attend the meeting with me. Many people were praying for me; and for Mr. Panasci, who talked with me for one hour. I showed him the objectionable material which I purchased in his store; a Fay's receipt was attached to the porn magazines.

I asked him to please cease the sale of this material, asking him kindly to respond to my request by July 30, 1985. He agreed that he would discuss the issue with his marketing department and reply to me. July 30th came and went.

Meanwhile, Jim Sotherden discovered that the Washington, D.C., NFD affiliate could supply us with some well-organized examples of porn magazines and explanations concerning the blatant, deviant call of these magazines. I'm sure that Jim's discovery of this Washington group's material, which also exposed new porn-related lawsuits, was not accidental.

I delivered this packet of new material to Mr. Panasci's office on August 2, 1985. Acting upon a suggestion from Jim, I wrote Mr. Panasci yet another letter, stating that if I did not hear from him by September 10, 1985, I would assume that Fay's had decided to continue the sale of sexually explicit material.

The accompanying letter from Henry A. Panasci, Jr. was received by me on September 7, 1985.

Knowing that God used me to do His work is a tremendously joyful, and yes, humbling experience.

Sincerely,
Michael G. Cieply

Response from Henry Panasci, Fay's Drug Company, Inc.:

Dear Michael:

Please be advised that on August 16, our marketing department voluntarily decided to drop from our product mix all sexually explicit magazines throughout our chain.

Sincerely,
Henry A. Panasci, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

Why they won

The group in Syracuse won this important battle because they followed a simple, successful plan. They (1) got organized; (2) undergirded the process with prayer; (3) did their homework; (4) began a system of courteous confrontation; and (5) refused to quit.

Those same principles—organization, prayer, homework, confrontation, and tenacity—are essentials for victory everywhere in the battle against pornography and obscenity.

More good news

Mobile, AL, Fred Walding..."Praise the Lord! Store manager, Renee Patterson of the Texaco store at Azalea & Cottage Hill Road, told me Thursday that their home office agreed with our point of view on pornography and is pulling the pornographic magazines from their stores."

Latrobe, PA, Joe Haas..."Out of six stores which were selling pornography one year ago in Latrobe only three are left. Sheetz, Widmon's Drugs and Howard's Gas and Oil have all removed the porn from their shelves since last year. In fact, Howard's would have been picketed this time except when we checked their shelves a couple of days before the picket, we found they had removed all the porno. When I asked them why they did so, the girl behind the counter responded, and I quote, 'We removed it because there's some group going around picketing and protesting and we don't want any trouble.' At that I responded with a 'Praise the Lord, that's NFD!' We removed the store from the picket list and gave the owners our heartfelt thanks.."

Tampa, FL, George A. Mayer III..."For those of you who missed the picture of the 7-Eleven picket in Sunday's *Tribune*, you may be surprised to know that Joe Redner held a counter protest. Mr. Redner is the owner of local bars featuring nude female dancers. He was a one-man-show with profane language, Penthouse centerfolds and public Bible burning. He helped our cause by drawing adverse attention to 7-Eleven as the nation's leading porn distributor.

"At several locations people pulled into 7-Eleven, saw the picket signs and left without making a purchase. Twenty-six stores were picketed involving 150 people."

Omaha, NE, Darleen Burkart..."Tom Osborne, the football coach at the University of Nebraska has become involved in the fight against pornography. He is a Christian and has high visibility because in Nebraska, Big Red football is everything to a lot of people.

"When we were picketing in front of the 7-Eleven offices, a car stopped in the middle of the street and a guy in the back seat jumped up and pulled down his swimming suit. Fortunately no one was unnerved by the exposition, and if anything we were more determined to see this through."

Colorado Springs, CO, Phil and June Harrison..."While we were picketing, two young men parked in the 7-Eleven parking lot. One of them said, 'I agree with what you're doing.' I said, 'Then why don't you boycott them?' They asked about the grocery store across the road. We told them the pornography had been removed from there. They promptly got in their car and drove across the road. Praise God!

"A local record/tape store that was selling porno magazines and porno rock just went bankrupt! Prayer, letters to the editor, visits to the store...We made a difference. We do what is possible and God takes care of the impossible! He receives all the praise, honor and glory!"

Marion, OH, Mike Murrell..."Every store in Williams County except Lawson's has removed the pornography. Praise the Lord! We are going to work even harder to remove all pornography from Marion and all areas we influence. Pray for us as we pray for you. God bless you."

Lawton, OK, Diana Slaven..."It's somewhat difficult to get people to boycott 7-Eleven here. 7-Eleven gives free slurpees to church groups. They allow the churches to have car washes at the store locations. They finger-print children, put pictures of missing children in their windows, and they help Jerry's Kids. And for all this some people here in Lawton think that justifies them being the top retailers of porno, which is used by the perverts who prey on little children. They continue to sell the trash to the very people feared by the parents who are having their children fingerprinted. No one is so blind as those who refuse to see.

"At one 7-Eleven we picketed, a church group was having a car wash. One of the church men came over speaking very loud, angry that we were messing up their car wash. He was defending 7-Eleven because of what they did for the churches in our city. Then the 7-Eleven girl brought out a bigger sign that emphasized C-H-U-R-C-H car wash. Apathy is the word. The battle lines are drawn.

"Oh, yes! We praise the Lord Jesus that Cagles chain store took all their porn out after we visited them only once. The battle is a hard one, but we'll stay on the front lines with you. We *will* effect change. The harder the battle, the sweeter the victory."

PARENTAL CONCERNS

A father outlines objections to themes of teen novels

Editor's Note: This article by Richard Jeck first appeared in the Catholic Standard. *Mr. Jeck is a member of St. Paul's parish, Gaithersburg, MD.*

If your young daughter likes to read, and she brings home paperback novels by Judy Blume and others from the public library or even the public school library, you had better have a close look at these novels.

Beginning in the early 1970's, there seems to have begun a conscious effort by publishers and authors (mostly female) to target teen-age, and even pre-teen elementary school girls with novels that preach against just about all the standards you have been trying to promote in your family.

Judy Blume (**Deenie**) encourages our daughters to masturbate; Gertrude Samuels (**Run, Shelley, Run**) dwells on child lesbianism and drugs; Ellen Conford (**To All My Fans, With Love, Sylvie**) is occupied with child molestation and seduction; Phyllis Green (**Nicky's Lopsided, Lumpy, But Delicious Orange**) makes a mockery of the priesthood; Rosemary Wells (**The Fog Comes on Little Pig Feet**) popularizes nudity and chronic lying, and the list goes on and on. Novels of this kind are stocked in many elementary and junior high school libraries as well as in the public library in the juvenile (grades one to six) and teen-age sections.

And that's not all. The themes of most of the offensive novels are anti-parent and anti-authority as well. It is not uncommon for the author to portray parents and teachers as idiots, incompetents, and objects of ridicule by the preteen or teen-age characters in the stories. Parents and teachers are cursed, lied to, sneered at and despised.

Naturally there is not an exemplary family in the lot. The novels invariably convey the idea that ugly behavior, bad home situations, and obsessive preoccupations with sex are what all other families are like. In the novel **Hangin' Out With Cici** by Francine Pascal, the lead character, the always-in-trouble teenager, Victoria, supposedly has her conscience eased by finding out that her mother did even worse things when she was a teenager herself. Victoria is nearly kicked out of school for a variety of things, but that is not so bad, the author implies, because her mother used to do things like drawing cartoon books full of nude couples having sex! Also, Victoria is caught smoking pot, but it is presented as just the modern day version of when her mom used to sneak smokes on cigarettes as a kid.

By identifying with the pre-teen or teen-age character, the reader is also given the impression that decent behavior is an impossible ideal. It is implied that the anti-social attitudes and debased behavior depicted in these novels are also the level to which the young reader is expected to descend if she wants to be normal.

We know of one pre-teen girl who suddenly began to steal money from her mother's purse and from her big brother as well as stealing items from her dad's desk. She also unexpectedly kicked a hole in the wall of her room one day when she was angry about something. At about the same time the parents happened to glance through a novel the girl had brought home from her elementary school library. Interestingly, they discovered that the leading character, a girl in her early teens, stole money from her family and kicked a hole in her bedroom wall one day when she was angry!

The potential for learned destruction and anti-social behavior is even worse than that. One novel was about a suicidal teenage girl, and the story describes in detail how to commit suicide with pills from the home medicine cabinet! The motives for the girl's suicide attempts were routine teenage problems and disappointments, and a young reader may be left with the impression that such everyday concerns are enough to warrant thoughts about self-destruction. Suicide was portrayed as a normal and, by implication, a common way out.

A rule of thumb that seems to be useful for concerned parents is to carefully check any paperback novel from the local school or public library when the novel has one or more of the following characteristics:

1. It is written for pre-teen or teenage girls.
2. It was published or copyrighted after 1970.
3. It has a female author.

We don't mean to sound prejudicial on this last characteristic, but the fact is that most of the offending authors are female.

Not all of the novels written by the authors named above are objectionable, but you can't tell by the title, cover, or the brief synopsis of the story on the back cover. Five minutes spent skimming through each novel is usually enough to spot any four-letter-word profanity or other objectionable content in most of the novels. Some, like the masturbation sequences in **Deenie** are less noticeable to a casual glance, however.

Try reading some of the new teen and pre-teen novels. Using the rules of thumb noted above, it won't take long to find a good example of what we are talking about. It will open your eyes.

'Creepy' children's magazine alarms parents

Cindy and Dan Miller of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, wrote NFD recently about a new magazine titled *Creepy*. It has a cover that is deceptively patterned after the much tamer teenage magazines, *MAD* and *Cracked*, as the Millers stated, "thus providing camouflage to unsuspecting merchants and parents."

The Millers pointed out that *Creepy*, by its own statement, has as its targeted audience "kids." The inside front cover of one issue carried a grotesque character saying, "HI, KIDS! Heh,heh,heh! I bet you little bast—-s thought old Uncle Creepy was dead and buried. Well, you're right, but you can't keep a good corpse down. I'm back with a whole new batch of brain-rotting filth to give you twisted little psychos a wholesome outlet for your sick fantasies. So sit back, get out your drool cups and enjoy!"

In an appearance before the Broken Arrow City Council, the Millers went on to say the magazine has:

"Filthy street language, graphic scenes of violent death, murder and suicide, vivid scenes of sexual orgies, occult rituals, animal and human sacrifices, violent physical abuse and murder directed towards women, sadism, sado-masochism, etc.

"In one story a man stabs his mother to death and she is called 'one more piece of obscenity'. There are erotically posed nude women throughout. There are sexual acts depicted that probably violate adult pornography standards. Young boys involved in witchcraft and occult rituals are led to violent animal sacrifice, human sacrifice and suicide."

NFD reviewed selected pages of *Creepy* sent to us by the Millers and found their description of the perverted publication was very accurate. According to *The Daily Ledger* of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, the magazine is published by Harris Publications, Inc., of New York City, New York, and is distributed by ARA Services, of Tulsa Oklahoma.

ARA Services Vice President Norm Stahl told *The Daily Ledger* the magazine is being distributed to 424 stores throughout Oklahoma. When asked about the magazine's content, Stahl said, "We distribute some 2,500 different magazines monthly and we have no way of knowing what is in each magazine."

Thanks to a concerned City Council in Broken Arrow the magazine is no longer available in that city. Others may want to check the children's magazine section in the local stores.