Keeping it Real?

Subterfuge seems to be reaching new heights, or at least new avenues. Our society seems to be in danger of becoming such a caricature of itself that we are increasingly unable to acknowledge or accept reality at face value. Or perhaps we are engaging in an alternate reality in which truth has become inconsequential. It is only our perception of it, or worse yet the *appearance* of it, that matters. The exaggeration of what we want to be true ultimately results in the denial of what is.

Case in point: "Period pills," also known as "late" or "missed period pills." They are taken to induce bleeding when a menstrual period is late and pregnancy is suspected *but not confirmed*. They are promoted as an additional service *distinct from abortion*. But here's the kicker—the active ingredient in this pill is the same as that in an abortion pill—misoprostol and/or mifepristone. The difference? The absence of a pregnancy test (NRL News, 8/7/25). I imagine the marketing slogan will be, "Ignorance is bliss."

The journal *Contraception* published the results of a survey of over 6000 participants who were asked, "What are some of the possible advantages of having 'late period pills' available?" Popular responses include the following:

- Stop pregnancy earlier than abortion (50.3%). That's weird, since intentionally ending a pregnancy is the definition of abortion.
- More private than abortion (50.4%). So private that not even the recipient knows if it's an abortion.
- Less expensive (49.2%), simpler (47%), more convenient (45.1%), less stigmatized (40.9%) than abortion. Okay, I'll concede the immediate point, but the bigger argument is that this pill is not an *alternative* to abortion, but an abortion in a cheaper, simpler, more convenient, and more socially acceptable outfit.
- **Avoid having an abortion** (43.8%). Ignorance seems to be a necessary component to this pill's popularity. New slogan: "The less information, the better. Trust us."

Over 40% of respondents showed interest in this pill because not knowing if one was terminating a pregnancy would elicit less moral conflict and less guilt. An interesting perspective if it were simply a matter of eliminating an inconvenient clump of cells.

Another somewhat creepy example of selective reality involves lifelike "reborn" dolls, for which many are spending thousands of dollars (WSJ, July 2025). Collectors of these dolls consider themselves parents, and the likeness to living infants is uncanny. Vendors at doll conventions even sell perfume to give your little one that real-baby smell. It is quite possible that you have witnessed someone carrying a "reborn" doll without realizing it.

The irony is palpable. The abortion industry profits from reducing the living to disposable waste, while doll makers strive to make inanimate materials into something lifelike. And perhaps that's the attraction. A woman can have the perks of a child without the responsibility. (Perhaps these women *really* miss their high school FACS class, except these fake babies never cry.)

If this wasn't arguably weird enough, the industry has expanded into animal-human hybrids and school-age dolls. Apparently, whatever you envision your parenting reality to be, someone will accommodate it. (This subset is known as "fantasy dolls.")

Proponents will tell you that these dolls provide comfort for women who have experienced a miscarriage or suffer from PTSD, Alzheimer's, dementia, autism, trauma, or abuse. I cannot comment with authority, but does this type of therapy go deep to the root of the issue or is it merely a temporary or superficial fix?

Neither can I judge an individual's desire or motivation to own a "reborn." It's the cultural shift in mindset that is most worrisome to me. This hobby--fun, harmless, and a little quirky on the surface, may be masquerading as yet another vehicle to strip our defenseless young of humanity. A creative way to distract us from something more menacing—humanity as a commodity.

Partnering with You for Life!

Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR