



## **JUST THE FACTS!**

**TITLE: "TROOP SNUBBING AND VIAGRA VOODOO?"**

**EPISODE #: 28**

### **HOST**

Welcome back to Just the Facts, the weekly vid-cast from FactCheck.org, I'm Emi Kolawole, and this week we have an ad re-hash from the McCain campaign, a bogus claim about Viagra, and an under-the-radar ad featuring a cameo from Fidel Castro.

**VIDEO: MCCAIN AD "TROOPS"**

The McCain campaign released a re-run of an ad we covered last week, but this part is fresh:

**AUDIO/VIDEO: MCCAIN AD "TROOPS"**

### **ANNOUNCER**

And now, he made time to go to the gym, but canceled a visit with wounded troops. Seems the Pentagon wouldn't allow him to bring cameras.

### **HOST**

The ad implies Obama skipped a trip Landstuhl Medical Center while he was in Germany because he couldn't bring along a press entourage. But we find that implication to be false. It's true Obama did skip a trip to Landstuhl. It's also true that he tries to visit the gym at least once a day that he did visit the gym once while he was in Germany. But that footage in the ad is not of Obama at the gym in Germany. That's footage of him shooting a three-pointer while visiting with troops in Kuwait. We hope the irony's not lost on you.

**GRAPHIC: OBAMA TROOPS GRAPHIC**

But Obama says he never planned to take reporters on the visit to Landstuhl, and it's a well-known policy that the press is not allowed to join high-profile or VIP guests during visits to military medical centers. And Obama knows this. He'd visited troops at Walter Reed Medical

Center earlier this summer, leaving the press behind. And earlier in his overseas trip, Obama visited the wounded troops while he was in the Baghdad Green Zone—again, sans press.

We don't claim to be able to read Obama's mind, but the facts fail to support the insinuation in the ad that Obama skipped a visit with the troops because he couldn't bring along the press.

#### **VIDEO: PLANNED PARENTHOOD AD**

This next ad from Planned Parenthood looks innocent enough, but listen to the question from this reporter:

#### **AUDIO/VIDEO: PLANNED PARENTHOOD AD**

##### **REPORTER**

It's unfair that health insurance companies cover Viagra but not birth control. Do you have an opinion on that?

##### **HOST**

This brings a whole new definition to the pregnant pause. But, McCain eventually responds...

##### **SEN. JOHN MCCAIN**

I don't know enough about it to give you a [sic] informed answer.

##### **HOST**

McCain wouldn't have been at a loss for words had he known the reporter's assertion was a myth. The question contains no specifics as to how many health insurance plans fail to cover birth control while covering Viagra. We discovered that the full list of contraceptives is covered by more than 86 percent of health insurance plans written for employers. And, that's not the reporter's full quote. This is:

#### **AUDIO/VIDEO: MCCAIN VIAGRA FULL QUESTION**

##### **REPORTER**

I guess her statement was that it was unfair that health insurance companies cover Viagra but not birth control. Do you have an opinion on that?

##### **HOST**

The "statement" she refers to is this one, from former Hewlett-Packard chief Carly Fiorina, who said:

#### **GRAPHIC: FIORINA QUOTE**

There are many health insurance plans that will cover Viagra but won't cover birth control medication. Those women would like a choice.

Fiorina's statement also contains no specifics about how many health insurance plans would fail to cover birth control while covering Viagra. But we find that the assertion that a disproportionate number of them do so to be false.

#### **GRAPHIC: MCCAIN GRAPHIC AD**

##### **HOST**

If you've been searching the Internet lately you may have come across this ad graphic from the McCain campaign. The ad is simply a picture of Obama next to a picture of Fidel Castro with the statement: "Fidel Castro thinks he is 'the most advanced candidate.'" There's also a button you can click on to "learn more."

We'll get to that button in a second. But the quote is actually from an opinion piece Castro wrote for the Cuban state-run paper, Granma. But the full quote is actually a portion of a much larger piece that contains less-than-kind words about the Illinois senator. Like this:

#### **GRAPHIC: CASTRO QUOTE**

"Presidential candidate Obama's speech may be formulated as follows: hunger for [Cuba], remittances as charitable hand-outs and visits to Cuba as propaganda for consumerism and the unsustainable way of life behind it."

That hardly sounds like a rousing endorsement to us. And, clicking on the "learn more" button doesn't do as advertised. Instead it takes you to a page on the McCain Web site that invites you to sign a petition to quote, "stand up to dictators like Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro." If you really are interested in learning more, we suggest you click through to our website at [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org). I'm Emi Kolawole. Thanks for watching, and see you next week.