

Charges Doctors Are Sterilizing Women Without Their Consent

Doctors in a number of major hospitals around the country are sterilizing women from low-income backgrounds who come in to have babies, The Progressive magazine charged.

In an article titled "Sterilizing the Poor," author Claudia Dreifus reported that many doctors who had worked, or were still employed, in major medical centers in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Houston, told her that they knew of cases where women had been sterilized without their consent or on the basis of misinformation supplied to them by their physicians.

In an article prepared with a study grant from the Fund for Investigative Journalism, the author said she found women who had been coerced into signing forms authorizing sterilization or who were told that it would be a simple matter to reverse a sterilization operation in the future, if they so desired. Other women said they had been drugged before being asked to sign papers authorizing tubal ligation.

Despite Federal guidelines enacted last year against coercive sterilization, a pediatric intern formerly at New York's Bellevue Hospital told author Dreifus: "There was a large Puerto Rican population and I think a lot of women didn't know the full consequences of what was happening to them. There was a language problem. Many of the women thought their tubes could be untied."

Another intern, formerly at UCSF-San Francisco General Hospital, said of the operation: "It was always explained -- IF the patient asked, yes, she'd be told it was permanent. If there was a big rush, the staff wouldn't bother. There was concern by some of the student that minority groups were getting pushed, so the hospital became very careful. They're slick now. Although official policy was changed, the attitudes of the doctors didn't."

They became slicker at talking patients into tubals. Tubals are way up and the birthrate is way down."

An intern who had done his medical school rounds at UCLA-Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles, said: "I did see instances of women in labor being asked (if they wanted to be sterilized). I didn't see any prejudice against Mexicans or blacks per se, but the ward patients weren't given as much information on sterilization as the private patients. Often an intern would say, 'I want to do a tubal.' That was a big influence in prompting them to do it - they wanted to get another tubal under their belt."

A former medical student from the University of Chicago, where the patient population is primarily black, said, "No one ever said to a woman, 'We don't trust you with taking the pill,' it would be presented very POSITIVELY. 'This is the best thing for you. This will be the easiest thing for us.' Mostly, we'd approach women with large families and we'd tell them this was the best solution. We would explain the world population problem."

One doctor who said he had been trained at Jefferson Davis Hospital of Baylor Medical School in Houston, said, "Our patient population was 80 per cent Black, 15 per cent Chicano and five per cent what you'd call poor white trash. There wasn't any racism there. No more than here (Los Angeles). If a resident wanted to practice doing a laparoscopic (tubal ligation), he'd push it, sure. There was a basic social pressure that three children were enough. If a woman came in with two children and wanted a tubal, we would try to talk her out of it. But if a woman came in with five children, we'd sell the operation - sure. Women were approached in clinic and sometimes during labor, sure. We'd ask a woman in labor, if her chart wasn't available."

One intern who had recently completed medical school at Wayne State in Detroit, said, "Most of our patient population was black, inner city. We had a lot of young girls come in, thirteen and sixteen and they'd have two or three children. In those cases, we'd ask 'em, often when they were in labor, if they wanted tubal ligations. There were so many young girls and most of them had a low mentality. We'd tell them about birth control and they wouldn't take it. It would get some of the residents really mad."

He continued, "With sixteen year olds, you needed the parents' permission. That usually wasn't hard to get. The parents weren't in labor. Some of the parents said, No! They liked having the babies around. Sterilization was offered to women in labor no matter what their age. Those over 18 you didn't need the parents' permission..."

Author Dreifus pointed out that Federal guidelines against coercive sterilization specifically ban sterilizations on women under 21 years of age and prohibit operations on women less than 72 hours after they have signed consent forms. The guidelines also require a careful counseling procedure so that patients can learn that the operation is permanent and that there are other birth control choices. Though a costly operation for reversal of a tubal ligation operation exists, it is only successful in 10 to 20 per cent of all cases.

An intern formerly at a St. Louis medical facility, Barnes Hospital, told author Dreifus of practices there, "Whether or not a patient was approached positively about sterilization depended on the doctor's own approach. A woman on welfare with a large family was more likely to be approached earlier than a woman not on welfare. No one was pushed, though."



MAN AT WORK - ST. LOUIS - Transportation Secretary William Coleman, Jr. might be described as the kind of executive who takes care of things personally. He presides January 13th at a St. Louis hearing about a new airport for the metropolitan area. Some at the hearing argued that the airport should be built at Waterloo, Ill. rather than just expanding facilities at Lambert Field. The argument about building anew or expansion of the present facility has "occupied" Missouri and Illinois residents for years. Coleman set up the hearing so he could listen to all arguments. (UPI).

Oak Grove Founders' Day to Be Noted

Annual Founders' Day Services will be held at the Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church on Sunday, Feb. 8. The Church was founded in 1924 by the late Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Cox. The speaker for the morning worship will be Dr. Joseph Bethea, Director of Black Church Studies at the Duke Divinity School. Dr. Bethea, a native of Dillon, S. C., received his B. A. degree from Claflin College of Orangeburg, S. C.; Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity from Gammon Theological Seminary of Atlanta, Georgia;

and did further study at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. The Rev. R. L. Fuller and his choir and congregation from Hatchett Grove Baptist Church, Morrisville, will be the guests in the concluding portion of the Founders' Day celebration. During this service, members who paid \$50 during the 50th Anniversary celebration will receive special honors.

The pastor, Rev. Z. D. Harris, and members invite everyone to come and share in both of these services.



DR. BETHEA

Black America

(Continued From Page 1)

four black workers in the nation was unemployed.

Gains in homeownership registered by blacks during the 1960's (from 38 per cent to 42 per cent of black households) have been eliminated by the recession that continued into 1975.

The Administration's 'Benign Neglect' policy toward social welfare programs continued during 1975. Its approach toward social service programs was consistently restricted as demonstrated by the use of the Presidential Veto threat.

In 1975 Congress was unable to enact any substantial

legislation pertaining to socio-economic programs or policies that would foster full employment.

The outbreaks of racial violence in Boston - "long regarded, if incorrectly as the fountainhead of liberalism in this country - served notice that racism has no geographical limits and continues to exist in the American body politic."

Concluding the review of the year, Jordan said: "All across the board black people lost out in 1975. We believe that the social fabric of our nation is too tenuous to withstand continuation of the policies that brought us to the brink of survival in the last twelve months. We believe in a 'new

realism' that brings solutions to our country's problems, rather than one that worsens those problems."



West Durham Blossom Club Meets

January 20, Tuesday night, the West Durham Blossom Garden Club met at the home of Miss Stephens, 402 Powe St. The 'Garden Gate' was opened by the first vice-president, Mrs. Gertrude Gibson, who also presided over the business session which followed. During this session committee reports were heard; discussions were made on buying shrubbery for West Durham Baptist Church and presenting a plant to a local rest home. A

very interesting report on 'Hanging Baskets' was led by Mrs. Gertrude McBroom.

Mrs. Gibson thanked the members who won five blue ribbons for their entries at the Christmas clinic sponsored by the La Petite Garden Club and for those who decorated a tree for sale at an outreach program sponsored by the Council of Garden Clubs at Northgate Shopping Center.

Preceding the business session

a delicious meal was served to the following: Mesdames Margaret Allen, Mary Allison, Margaret Fuller, Gertrude Gibson, Daisy Gunn, Mary Horton, Mary Love, Gertrude McBroom, Naomi Parker, Georgia Taylor, Gladys VanHook and Cornetta Williams.

Mrs. Gunn thanked the hostesses for an enjoyable evening. The February meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Georgia Taylor on Erie Street.

Mrs. Jones Hosts Ebenezer Floral Club

The Floral Club of Ebenezer Baptist Church met at the home of Mrs. Lillie M. Jones, at 4 p.m. Mrs. Lillie McIntyre opened the devotions with a song, prayer by Mrs. Dorothy VanHook and the president, Mrs. Addie Barbee read the poem, 'I'd Rather See A Sermon.'

after the President made remarks concerning the duties of the various committees.

The Valentine Party will be held Feb. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Each member of the club will invite 10 people each.

Mrs. Odell Keith made the presentation of the offering to Mrs. Jones who has been

shut-in for some time. Mrs. Jones thanked the club for remembering her and to come again. Mesdames Addie Barbee, Nannie Hamilton and Miss Lillie M. Upchurch served a lovely repast, assisted by Mrs. Beulah Morgan. Others present were: Louise Dalrymple, Lonnie Jones, Marina Fischer, Ruth Flowers, Louise Smith, Martha Stanley and Thomas VanHook, visitor.

Etta Moten To Appear At Central

Etta Moten, who was a friend of the writers of the Harlem Renaissance and a singing star of stage and screen during the Golden Age of the American musical, lectured at North Carolina Central University's Alfonso Elder Student Union Tuesday and Wednesday.

newspaperman Claude Barnett, performed in dramatic roles. She spoke on African American folklore and music.

Miss Moten is a graduate of the University of Kansas, has sung on four continents, and starred on Broadway and in Hollywood.

She was Bess in "Porgy and Bess" for three years on Broadway, where she also

performed in such movies as "The Gold Diggers of 1933" and "The Carioca." She produced her own radio show, "Etta Moten Sings," in Chicago.

The lectures were sponsored by the Alfonso Elder Student Union as part of its observance of Afro-American History Month.

BICENTENNIAL BY-PATHS
OUR COUNTRY 200 YEARS AGO

On February 6, 1776, William Hooper of North Carolina sent an urgent letter to his native province in North Carolina to alert the leaders of an impending British attack. It would be

important to leave no stone unturned in the preparation of the colony for an invasion. He concluded his letter with the wish that "God may have mercy on (this) Tory city."

IT'S NICE TO KNOW SOMEBODY REALLY CARES. . . .

And when it comes to finances, it's nice to know there's a bank that cares, too, with services geared to the needs of your community. Whether it's regarding a checking account, savings, or a loan, we're here to serve.

Enjoy Full Service Banking
Checking & Savings Accounts • Auto Loans • Mortgage Loans
Home Improvement Loans • Bank-by-Mail • Safe Deposit

Mechanics & Farmers Bank

DURHAM CHARLOTTE RALEIGH

North Carolina Central University

the 50th Year

Sunday, Feb. 8, 5:30

wtdvd 11
Raleigh-Durham

HERE FOR AUTO SAFETY CHECK

NU-TREAD TIRE Complete Tune Up Service

BRAKE SERVICE Servicing and
Balancing on all Popular Makes
Complete Brake Relining
Relined 69⁹⁵ Disc Brakes 74⁹⁵

CHECK BATTERY For Weak Cells
Add Water and Replace if Necessary

COMPLETE LINE OF SHOCK ABSORBERS
For Most Popular Models
Reg. \$12⁰⁰ Installed Heavy Duty \$17⁰⁰

COMPLETE LINE OF NEW & RE-CAPPED TIRES

30 Friendly Folks Anxious to Serve You

NU-TREAD TIRE CO.

601 Foster St. Durham, N. C.