

Planned Parenthood: Truth behind misconception

by Arinn Dixon

I thought I was well informed. Really, I did. I watch the news and read the paper, and (I shudder at the memory) I have on occasion listened to Rush when there was nothing else on the radio. I thought I knew what was going on.

Well, I was wrong, and Joy Hodges certainly did a good job of putting me in my place. Hodges is a Meredith alumnae who works as the Communications Director of the Planned Parenthood downtown. When I went down there to interview her, I had my preconceived notions about Planned Parenthood. I thought their main duties were to hand out condoms right and left and to tell young pregnant girls that abortion was the best way out of a bad situation. I found out right away just how far off base I really was.

If your television is on 24 hours a day like mine is, you might have seen an advertisement a few weeks ago for "The Margaret Sanger Story" on Lifetime. It turns out that Planned Parenthood was founded by a woman named Margaret Sanger way back in the early 1900's. She was a nurse in New York who felt that unwanted pregnancies could be extremely burdensome and dangerous for women, especially since birth control could ease that burden. See, birth control was illegal back then, and Sanger's cause was to get contraception legalized and to help women, particularly poor women, understand that they did not have to continue having repeated, unwanted pregnancies.

Sanger's cause is still going strong today through Planned Parenthood. Contraception education and availability is just one of the many purposes of the organization. The 1993-1994 Annual Report states that "women rely on Planned Parenthood for contraception, diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, cancer screening, and advice and guidance about leading healthy, responsible lives." And they provide all these services on a sliding fee scale, which means that people are asked to pay what they can. Hodges explained, "We firmly believe that all women should be able to receive care, and no one should be turned away because they can't pay. Our purpose is to reach

people who are not likely to get information anywhere else."

Another main part of the Planned Parenthood is to educate and inform. When a teenager comes in to ask for contraception, they don't just hand over the condoms and say, "Have fun." They

helpful programs designed to educate women. Some program topics are "Abstinence and Beyond," "Sexually Transmissible Infections Update," and "Relationships and Intimacy." They have different workshops that address the changing needs of women. The

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sit down with her and make sure she knows what she is getting into. They counsel her and inform her of what the consequences of her actions could be. And remember when I said that I was under the impression that Planned Parenthood forced abortion down girls' throats? Again, I was wrong. Planned Parenthood gives every option to pregnant women. They refer the girls to doctors, adoption agencies, and abortion clinics. "Contrary to popular belief, we don't advise that people don't choose motherhood. In fact, we emphasize mature, loving motherhood," Hodges explained. "We do feel, however, that every child should be wanted and that women can choose when and where to have children."

Planned Parenthood also has many

Planned Parenthood in Wilmington has a program geared towards mothers 17 years old and younger. The program helps them develop job skills, encourages them to stay in school, and assists them in growing up to be successful people. Planned Parenthood also sponsors a hot-line called Real Talk in which people can call and talk about their health concerns with counselors and doctors. Hodges confirmed that Real Talk gets about 2,000 callers a month.

It is pretty obvious that Planned Parenthood does a lot more than I give them credit for. They are extremely committed to improving the sad state of women's health care in Raleigh, and on a broader scale, in the United States. I think if Margaret Sanger were alive today, she would be proud.

Thank you for coming to Planned Parenthood. In honor of your first visit, we're giving you \$5 off your total bill.

Planned Parenthood
of the Capital and Coast



Five Dollars

Give this coupon to a friend! When they redeem it, you'll receive a \$5 coupon in the mail good on your next visit.



Referred by: _____

Address: _____

Don't forget to fill in your name and address!



Seniors, mark your calendars!

- April 6 STUNT
- April 11 Alumnae Induction Dinner
- April 19 Senior Worship
- April 19-26 Crook Hunt
- April 26 Baccalaureate, Sr. Picnic, Sr. Bonfire
- May 13 Class Day
- May 14 Graduation

40 days until graduation!

Career Connections

On Campus Recruitment:

- *Caribou Coffee* Monday, April 3—Store Manager, Training Manager
- *Winn-Dixie* Friday, April 7—Management Trainee

Co-Op/Part-Time Position:

- MBA Candidate or Recent Grad*
- Marketing/Sales/Public Relations
- Strategic Performance Management
- Systems Corporation
- *Good Way to Get Your Foot in the Door!* Belcan Technical Services has temporary assignments for lab technicians, research assistants, and space planners.

Advertising Career Day
Atlanta—April 7—Details in Career Services

The Washington Center
Fellowship Program
Nomination deadline for fall semester is June 2

Employment Opportunities:

- *Management Positions* Nine West Group, Inc. (Full and Part-time)
- *Design Oriented Person* Sandavis Kitchens & Interiors
- (1) *Design & Software*
- (2) *Sales & Marketing* Ericson, Inc. RTP Telecommunications—Hiring 100 new employees
- *International Marketing & Communications* B & J Edwards Advanced Technology Products—Open to all students
- *Administrative Receptionist* Vanguard ONCOR Intl.
- *Paralegal* AT&T - Greensboro
- *Account Representative* Omni Business Machines
- *Teacher Positions* Full-time/Part-time
- *Programmer/System Administrator* Bob Barker Co., Inc.—Good Entry Level Position