

Sanger

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and president of Texas Black Americans for Life (TBAL), insists that Planned Parenthood presented The Negro Project in the early 1930s to get blacks to promote birth control to other blacks, which it successfully did, but it also deceived the black community of its absolute mission. TBAL's mission statement says its is a small group of Christians concerned about families that strives to educate the community on vital family issues such as crisis pregnancies and sexual education for parents and children, all to promote independent family life and stronger communities.

"Margaret Sanger invited prominent African-American educators, doctors and church leaders to write articles for her Birth Control Review. Du Bois talked about the social conditions of blacks at the time and need for the services that the Birth Control League was promoting. In an essay he wrote about developing the propaganda for Negro community, Du Bois suggested going to the black churches to get the message out. Five years later Sanger developed The Negro Project based on what Du Bois had (written) but he probably didn't intend for his words to lead to an extermination of so many blacks from the population, but that gave Sanger the model to do it."

Pack also believes that if Du Bois and others had known at the time what Sanger's ulterior motive was they may not have extended a hand of support to her. Pack wrote that "Through programs such as the Negro Project of 1929, Planned Parenthood began to spin a web of deception by baiting the African-American community with the pretense of 'family planning' and other 'health services'."

Brian Lewis, director of development and public policy for Planned Parenthood of North Carolina, argued that "people have taken what she said, in letters she wrote to African American leaders and really distorted what she really represented."

Quotes like the following continue to spark debate over Sanger and keep Planned Parenthood under fire. "The most successful education approach to the Negro is through a religious appeal. We do want word to get out that we want to exterminate the Negro population, and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members." Many believe this quote was Sanger's way of outlining her plot to exterminate black people and other "undesirables" worldwide.

But, Lewis explained that although Sanger "had some views that might make you cringe now, they were views held by 99 percent of everyone at the time." Lewis also claims that the Planned Parenthood network of today is "here on the back of Margaret Sanger" and that her primary concern was making available to women everywhere, including black women, their right to control their reproductive functions if they so desired, at a time when contraceptives were "revolutionary and obscene."

"If people are opposed to birth control, then that is fine, they have that right to their opinion, but they should not make Margaret Sanger out to be some sort of monster or racist," Lewis said.

Planned Parenthood has devoted a section of its Web site (www.plannedparenthood.org) detailing Sanger's mission and career in legalizing birth control. In a section about "Sanger and Eugenics" it reads, "Sanger's critics attempt to discredit them by intentionally confusing her views on 'fitness' with eugenics, racism and anti-Semitism. Margaret Sanger was not a racist, an anti-Semite or a eugenicist."

However, Sanger was a member of the American Eugenics Society, and one issue of Sanger's Birth Control Review, the official organ of Sanger's American Birth Control League, shows that Dr. Ernst Rudin, head of Nazi Germany's eugenics program, published his ideas and support of eugenics in America.



Sedlak

Although statistics reported by The Alan Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of Planned Parenthood, indicate that black women obtain abortions at a higher rate than white women, Lewis said it is merely a result of socioeconomic status, lack of health care options and sexual education and institutional barriers to under-served minorities, including black women.

But Pack is convinced that the figures on trends in abortion among women of different races are anything but circumstantial. Having researched and published various articles on abortion and eugenics in the black American community, Pack says she sees more than a coincidental trend among black women and abortion, but the clues to a plot to racial genocide.

"Planned Parenthood has done a good job of marketing itself to other communities, including the Black community, so that now they have developed a reputation of being a benevolent organization that cares about families and women and all of the propaganda that goes behind it," Pack said.

Still, Lewis insists that the controversy surrounding Sanger's legacy is a ball of confusion and misinterpretation. The racist tag that has since been placed upon Sanger is one that Lewis believes was due to her concern about women and their controlling the size of their families in order to be economically independent. "Margaret Sanger created access to birth control for low-income and minority women and immigrant women," Lewis said.

"The idea that she did this in poor communities was an idea that the other side pounced upon and was taken as 'sterilizing the African-American community.'" The fact that the family planning clinic in Harlem was staffed by African Americans and endorsed by Amsterdam News and the Urban League should indicate that Sanger's intentions and concerns were genuine, Lewis said.

"It's using words that we don't use anymore and trying to explain what they were trying to do that gets Sanger's intentions turned around in a way that makes it look as if she was racist," Lewis said.

Jim Sedlak, president of STOPP International (a Christian-

based organization of parents devoted to educating the public on the hidden agenda of Planned Parenthood) and vice-president of the American Life League, considers Planned Parenthood to be "a very politically savvy organization," one that remained a very secret network for much of its early existence. The groups are well known for anti-abortion stances.

"Huge black leaders seemed to have endorsed Planned Parenthood. But Planned Parenthood says what it needs to publish in order to gain a political agenda," said Sedlak, who also explained that the eugenics nature of Planned Parenthood was not just shared by Sanger alone, because she surrounded herself with people who believed as she did. The successor to Sanger at Planned Parenthood was also a member of the American Eugenics Society.

Sedlak, who is white, questions the influence of people such as Dr. Lothrop Stoddard, author of "The Rising Tide of Color Against White Supremacy," a book which Sanger reviewed in her Birth Control Review. Lothrop also sat on the advisory board for the Negro Project, and Sedlak questions his influence as an avowed Nazi supporter on Sanger and her birth control efforts.

The primary objective of Planned Parenthood, Sedlak said, is to reduce the families in world to two children or less; that was Sanger's specific goal. According to Sedlak, Sanger went so far as to propose a program for birthing licenses in the United States, where no one would ever be allowed more than three children, because she wanted to eliminate as many people as possible, particularly those she considered "unfit" such as members of the minority community who were poor and uneducated.

"Planned Parenthood is more clever today but just as adamant. They have learned to disguise what they're doing and they don't openly talk about eugenics. Now they call it a problem (of) 'overpopulation.'" According to recent United Nations data, there is no overpopulation problem," Sedlak said. "Margaret Sanger was speaking in language of her time, but her organization has not turned away from those philosophies and goals of (the) early birth control movement."

The root of Sanger's fight, to some, to legalize birth control was plain and simple: reproductive and economic freedom. Families, including her own, struggled to feed the mouths and clothe the bodies of large families on small incomes. Sanger saw birth control as a way to prevent households from overextending their economic capabilities.

Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortions in this country and around the globe, and statistics prove that a trend exists in abortion among women of color. Although few are disputing that Sanger indeed opened the doors to reproductive freedom for women globally, the debate over whether her movement may have resulted in the death of an entire black generation seems like an issue that may be as contentious as the abortion debate itself.

For more information on Sanger, the birth control movement and abortion, log onto www.plannedparenthood.org, www.abortionfacts.com or www.stoppinternational.org.

Benefits-of healing arts to be touted

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Golden Flower T'ai Chi Center, 612 Trade Street in Winston-Salem, will celebrate World T'ai Chi and Qigong Day April 6 by holding a free large-scale tai chi demonstration at 10 a.m.

Tai chi is an integrated system of physical and mental exercises that is to be performed slowly with a very relaxed body and with intense mental concentration. The soft martial art teaches inner strength while toning muscles, increasing flexibility and boosting immune power. Practicing it helps develop sensitivity and promote tranquility of the mind.

Qigong is most often referred to as any set of breathing and circulation techniques capable of improving health, preventing illness and strengthening the body. The practice of qigong aims at balancing and strengthening "qi," a Chinese term used to refer to all types of energy in the human body. Also, it is said that qigong is a way to attain great wisdom and realize the true nature of human existence and its relation with the cosmos.

Together, the two ancient Chinese healing and martial arts



San Gee Tam of Golden Flower Tai Chi Center.

are said to help reduce stress, relieve chronic pain, lower blood pressure, slow the aging process, alleviate asthma, fight depression as well as improve balance and help prevent other major diseases.

World T'ai Chi and Qigong Day is celebrating its third year with more than 50,000 people

practicing these martial arts. After the demonstration, there will be opportunities to learn about feng shui, massage, acupuncture and other related arts for well being.

There will be a live band, African drumming, dancing and arts projects for children of all ages.

Execs

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Corporate Program at the University of Virginia's Darden Business School. She serves on the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Board and the Milwaukee Art Museum board of directors.

"One of my first summer jobs was working for the YWCA executive director in Denver, Colorado," said Walls. "She was a great role model for me and instilled in me the value of hard work, which I strive to bring to every facet of my responsibilities at Philip Morris."

Washington serves as vice president for external affairs at Philip Morris Management

Corp. and has held a variety of sales and government affairs positions within the family of companies over the past 14 years. Before joining Philip Morris, Washington worked in Columbia, S.C., for the Township Auditorium and the lieutenant governor's office. Washington is on the board of directors of D.C. Central Kitchen, National Coalition for Black Civic Participation, D.C. Chamber of Commerce, National Black Arts Festival and the Delta Research & Education Foundation. She is a member of the Executive Leadership Council. She received her B.S. degree from the University of South Carolina.

"It is my distinct honor to be

recognized with this prestigious award," said Washington. "The women in my family have always been strong and supportive role models throughout my life, and I have tried to use the lessons they have taught me to help the next generation of women achieve their dreams."

In addition to Walls and Washington, two other Philip Morris Companies executives were recently inducted into the YWCA's Academy of Women Achievers: Dr. Jane Lewis, vice president of scientific technical services for Philip Morris U.S.A., and Denise Morrison, vice president of Kraft Foods North America and general manager of the company's snacks division.

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