

Poorly Planned Parenthood

History behind the federation demonstrates legacy of racism



JOSH MOENING is a sophomore advertising and political science major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

As I was flipping through this fine publication on Monday afternoon, I came across an advertisement that seized my attention.

The headline for the Planned Parenthood ad on page 6 of Monday's Daily Nebraskan stated boldly and informatively: "We're More Than You Think!" The ad seemed to be aimed directly at me.

You see, I've entertained the idea of writing a column about Planned Parenthood's little-known, sordid past all semester, and now with this disturbingly factual advertisement, the folks at Planned Parenthood seemed to be daring me to do it.

"We're more than you think!" How true indeed. Planned Parenthood's sinister past (and present) includes a whole heck of a lot more than people think. Allow me to explain.

The Planned Parenthood

Federation of America began as the American Birth Control League in 1921. Among its founding members was Margaret Sanger, a much celebrated heroine of feminists because of her pioneering role in the birth control movement.

Throughout her life, Ms. Sanger established many birth control clinics and followed the birth control movement with an almost religious devotion. But in looking closely at Sanger's personal life and world views, one begins to question Sanger's underlying motivations.

I say this because Margaret Sanger and her cronies at the American Birth Control League were active supporters of the eugenics movement, whose main goal was to create a super race of man.

Sanger and her friends tended to be Nazi-sympathizing white supremacists, and they didn't go to great lengths to hide it. Sanger coined the term "birth control" and bluntly defined it as "the process of weeding out the unfit" aimed at "the creation of a superman."

The historical evidence of her racist and hate-filled motivation to spread birth control among "inferior" races is endless.

She was a favorite speaker at Ku Klux Klan rallies, and she was responsible for the creation of a plan she called the "Negro Project," designed to sterilize blacks and reduce the number of black children being born in the South.

Sanger labeled the urban poor "an ever widening margin of biological waste," and created the motto of birth control and eugenics supporters worldwide: "More from the fit, less from the unfit."

Sanger also was the founder of the publication Birth Control Review, a magazine that showcased the incurably racist views of her eugenicist friends and colleagues. Thanks to Human Life International, I was able to find a compilation of some of the racist excerpts featured in the magazine. Here are just a few examples of the sentiments on which Planned Parenthood was founded:

■ "The social and biological worth of the individual is determined by his inheritance ... the different races are radically unequal in mental endowment, and that civilization in America is threatened ... through the unrestricted reproduction of persons of bad heredity and inferior racial constitution." — a review of the book "Heredity and Human Affairs" by L.C. Dunn, November 1930

■ "We must get rid of the inferior colored races (the Blacks, the Yellow and the Red races must be exterminated)" — "Overpopulation," Bernard Sacks, M.D., September 1924

■ "The human race will degenerate if the superior races and the superior classes among civilized races will curtail the number of their offspring while inferior races ... will continue their high birthrate." — Editorial in The Critic and Guide,

September 1931

■ "The least fit to carry on the race are increasing most rapidly ... Funds that should be used to raise the standard of our civilization are diverted to maintenance of those who should never have been born." — "Pivot of Civilization," Margaret Sanger, 1922

All this comes straight from the mouths of the early founders and supporters of Planned Parenthood. If these quotes are not shocking enough, there's more dark information lying within the death trap that is Planned Parenthood.

It seems as if the organization has not let go of its deep-seated racism. Indeed, statistics reveal that abortion, Planned Parenthood's modern population control tool, is most undeniably a racist institution in itself.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau and the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a pregnant minority woman is 57 percent more likely to abort her baby than a pregnant white woman.

The average abortion rate among minority women is 2 1/2 times higher than that of white women.

A Human Life International research team found that in the 11 major U.S. cities with less than 10 percent minority populations, there are only about 15 abortionists per million people. But in the 11 major U.S. cities with more than 70 percent minority populations, there is an average of 53 abortionists per million people.

This means that cities with high minority populations have nearly four times the number of abortionists than cities with low populations of minorities.

If this isn't evidence of blatant racial bias, I don't know what is. It's time for the people at Planned Parenthood to explain themselves.

In fact, if anyone associated with the Lincoln chapter is reading this today, I wholeheartedly invite them to write in and try to explain away their organization's racist past and bloodstained present.

I'm willing to bet that won't happen though. When Planned Parenthood does acknowledge its sordid past, it doesn't apologize or try to offer explanations.

Quite the contrary, it praises the name of its cherished founder and spokesperson, Ms. Sanger.

Former Planned Parenthood president Faye Wattleton exalted the eugenicist during an annual organizational meeting, "First, as you know, as we celebrate the 100th birthday of Margaret Sanger, our outrageous and our courageous leader ... we should be very proud of what we are and what our mission is. It is a very grand mission ... abortion is only the tip of the iceberg ... I believe Margaret Sanger would have been proud of us today if she had seen the directions that we have most recently in this organization taken."

I'm sure she would be very proud.

Human nature

Daytime television's dramatic talk shows exhibit survival of the fittest



LORI ROBISON is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

Lunging beasts snarled, bearing fangs and claws, as they circled around each other before pouncing for the kill.

Others feigned retreat only to attack from their opponent's blind spot, using the advantage of surprise to get the best of their enemies.

Still others chose to participate in a peculiar rite of humiliation, thereby establishing their place of superiority in the group hierarchy.

Life sure can be rough in the wild, but nature's got nothing on daytime television.

On the shows inhabiting that time slot there are no exciting camera shots showing the speed of the cheetah in a chase for its prey, no views of African hyenas fighting over a dead carcass, no insights into the hunting rituals of the wild wolf pack.

This show is MUCH more basic than that, and every day millions of anxious viewers tune in to see this bizarre bloodsport — who will come out on top, who will lose, who will be humiliated, who will strike first.

And instead of a smiling Marlen Perkins popping up between commercials with the Mutual of Omaha logo in the background, a content Jerry Springer (or Montel Williams, Ricki Lake, etc.) strolls among the aisles as his devoted audience sits chanting his name in a wild frenzy of adulation.

Specimens of all sizes, shapes and backgrounds are paraded before the cheering crowd before disclosing

their stories. The more shocking their confessions, the better their chances of getting out of this alive — and with all their limbs (and hair) still intact.

It's enough to make all that high-minded stuff learned in human behavior courses seem trivial and outdated. For the real low-down, in-your-face instruction about what keeps us firmly entrenched in the roots of the wild — egotism, betrayal and depravity — one afternoon of talk show entertainment will be all the instruction you'll ever need.

Little did I realize that so much valuable insight into our species at its finest, and for far fewer dollars than an average textbook, could be had through television. I mean, where else can a viewer attain such an up-front view of hair-pulling, shirt-ripping, chair-swinging battles of the fittest?

Score another point for Darwin. The sheer popularity of these shows seems to back up the view of survival of the fittest (or at least, survival of the one who can swing his or her fist or chair faster than the bouncers can react and tackle).

And like Nero lounging on his velvet pillows preparing to announce the fate of a defeated gladiator in the Roman arena, the crowd passes its verdict of each specimen paraded on the stage. Screams of encouragement erupt as opponents vie for a piece of scalp or a bit of clothing.

I would like to report that I sat dispassionately by as my friends were swept up in the long-awaited and much-sought-after uncensored Jerry Springer's "Too Hot For Television" video (now being heavily marketed on a station near you).

I would like to report that the call of the wild and primitive collective memory of humankind didn't affect MY place in so-called civilized society.

But the truth is that, even though I've always found these screeching, name-calling, nail-scratching contests tiresome after about, oh, three minutes, I found myself caught up with

and incorporated into the mob of viewers in my living room while watching this no-holds-barred spectacle.

Forgive me. It was a moment of weakness brought about by the disbelief that grown adults would be willing to indulge primitive impulses and disclose the most intimate of personal facts before millions of viewers.

I guess my excuse, my defense, would revolve around a temporary memorization, in which I could not be held responsible for my viewing choice.

Because it all seemed too unreal to be real, reminding me of a pro-wrestling blowout. The guests didn't appear at least to be acting (unlike the award-winning performances of the WWF), but the outbursts of violence were about as spontaneously planned as a three-count win for Hulk Hogan.

It's not that Jerry's colorful specimens of human nature were insincere in their hatred for each other. But when the show's producers sit a man beside the gent that stole his last three wives and is now making goo-goo eyes at the guy's new pet lizard, it's not an honest, open dialogue that's being sought after.

But thank God for the disclaimer at the end of "Too Hot" If it weren't for the fact that Jerry explained that the video was not meant to endorse such behavior, I may have walked away with the wrong impression.

As it turned out, I came to understand that Jerry and others like him aren't promoting that kind of behavior, they're just exploiting it for our entertainment (and for the consequent load of money).

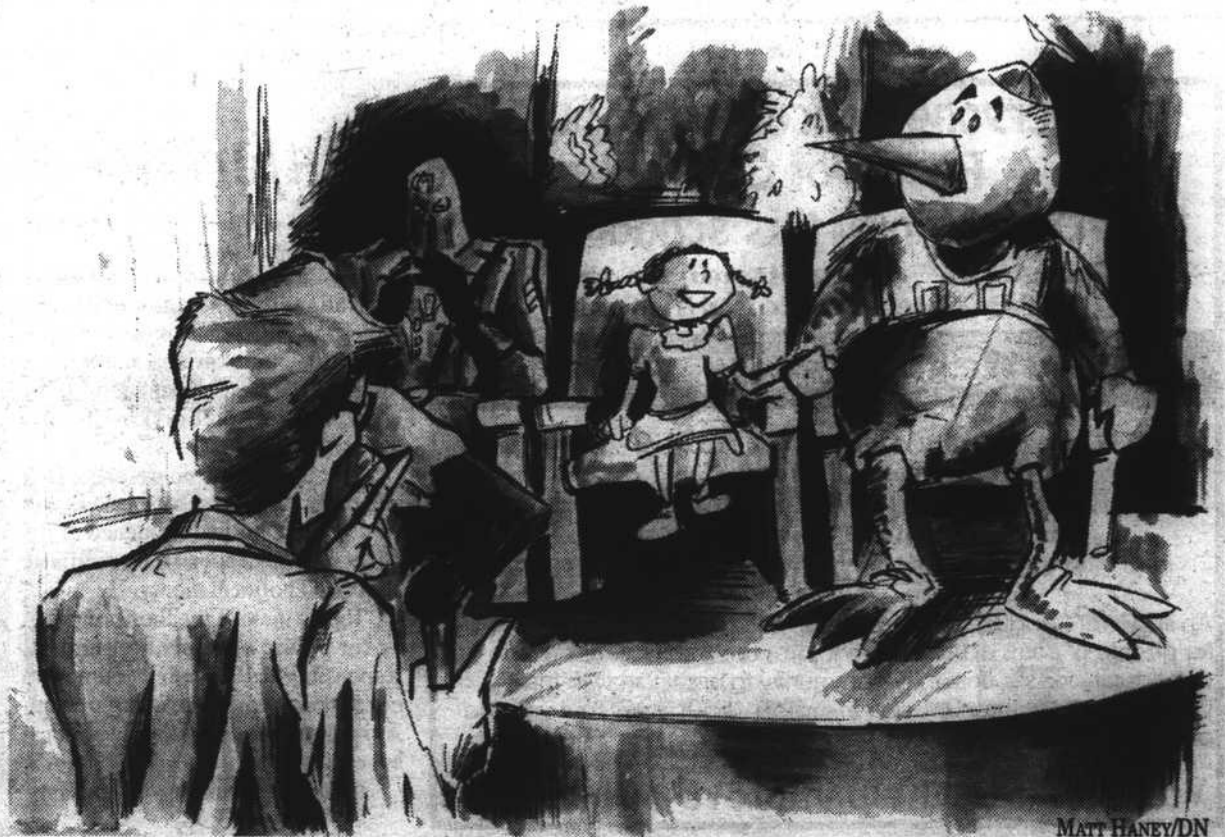
Well, that makes me feel a lot bet-

ter. And after I returned the video to the friend I borrowed it from (he had others lined up who were anxiously awaiting to watch the tape), I tried sitting down on occasion to find out just what some of these other shows were like.

But, alas, the thrill was gone. The momentary journey into the recesses of primitive delight was fleeting. You see, it was the SAME show! Channel after channel, time slot after time slot — the same! Oh, there were different people, different topics, but the plot never really ventured very far away from its true nature of eliciting pleasure and shock.

I can't help but wonder if anyone in Roman audiences also found it hard to keep from yawning after the thousandth show.

But at least we can change the channel.



MATT HANEY/DN