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Reproductive Justice

Lucy Ebers
Chapman University

Mia Fowler
Chapman University

Amy Magsam
Chapman University

Olivia Schroeder
Chapman University

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REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE



Pro Choice vs. Pro Life

by: Lucy ebers

A FEMINIST, THE DEBATE BETWEEN PRO CHOICE AND PRO LIFE CAN BE EXTREMELY FRUSTRATING. HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL WOMEN EVERYWHERE WHO STAND ON THE SIDE OF PRO LIFE. THIS DOESN'T MAKE THEM ANY LESS OF A FEMINIST AS LONG AS THEY AREN'T TRYING TO CONTROL THE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS OF OTHER WOMEN. MY GOAL IS TO EXPLAIN EACH SIDE, BUT ESPECIALLY WHY PRO CHOICE FEMINISM IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF EVERY FEMALE.

MYTH: PRO-LIFERS CAN'T BE FEMINISTS

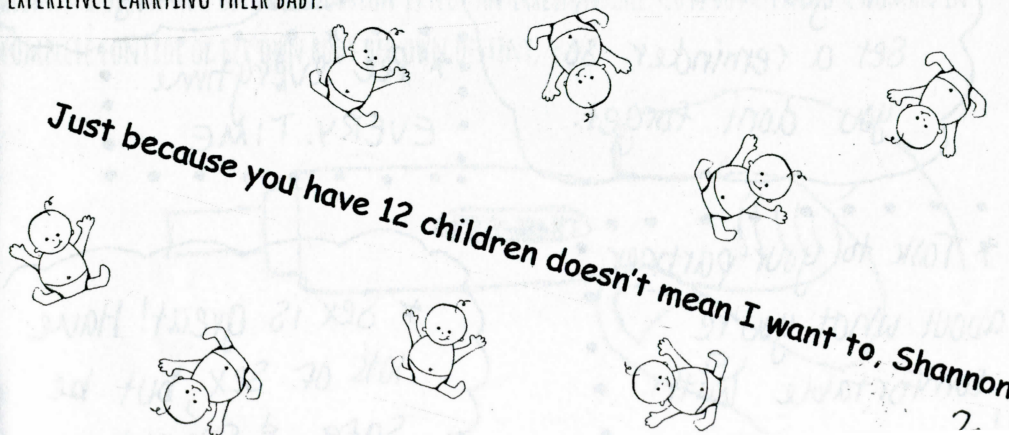
FOR A REASON UNBENOUNCED TO ME, THERE IS A DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT A WOMAN IS ALLOWED TO HAVE A CHILD IF SHE DECIDES THAT IS NOT WHAT SHE WANTS TO DO AT THAT PARTICULAR POINT IN TIME. IT ALL RELATES BACK TO THE IDEA THAT IF A WOMAN GETS PREGNANT SHE MUST BE PROMISCUOUS AND THEREFORE DESERVES IT. SHE MADE HER BED AND NOW SHE MUST LAY IN IT, SO TO SPEAK. SO IF A MAN CUMS INSIDE OF A WOMAN WITHOUT HER CONSENT, HE TOO IS COMMITTED TO FATHERHOOD AND CARRYING A CHILD ABOVE HIS PENIS FOR 9 MONTHS? NO, VERY OFTEN THAT IS NOT THE CASE AS MANY UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES RESULT IN NON-PRESENT FATHERS.. AND JUST IN TERMS OF BIOLOGY THAT PHYSICALLY DOES NOT HAPPEN, NOT YET AT LEAST BECAUSE I'M SURE SOME SCIENTIST SOMEWHERE IS WORKING ON THAT WE SPEAK. BUT UNTIL THEN, WOMEN ARE THE ONES WITH THE GIFT OF BRINGING LIFE TO THIS EARTH. I'M FREE, I THINK THAT HAVING THE ABILITY TO CREATE ANOTHER PERSON IS AMAZING. HOWEVER, I THINK THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A CHOICE IN WHEN AND HOW WE DO IT. IF WE ARE GONNA PUT OUR BODIES THROUGH ALL OF THAT, IT SHOULD BE ON OUR OWN TERMS.

FACT: PRO-CHOICERS PRACTICE SAFE SEX

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE, THOUGH, THAT BELIEVE THAT THIS AMAZING CREATION OF LIFE OUTWEIGHS THE RIGHTS OF THE FULLY GROWN HUMAN PERSON WHO HAS TO COMMIT THE REST OF THEIR LIFE TO THIS PERSON GROWING INSIDE OF THEM. TO THESE INDIVIDUALS, THIS FERTILIZED OVUM IS AN ENTIRE PERSON WHO DESERVES THE RIGHT TO LIVE. I THINK THIS BELIEF HAS A LOT TO DO WITH AN INDIVIDUAL'S RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, AS ABORTION IS HIGHLY FROWNED UPON BY THE MAN UPSTAIRS (IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE INTO). MANY RELIGIOUS PEOPLE ARE PRO CHOICE AS WELL, BUT I WOULD ASSUME THAT MANY OF THE PRO LIFER'S BELIEFS ARE BASED UPON THESE VALUES.

CAN A FEMINIST BE PRO-LIFE?

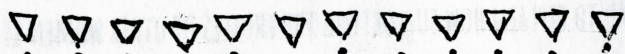
OF COURSE YOU CAN BE A FEMINIST AND ALSO BE PRO LIFE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS ZINE IS NOT TO SHAME WOMEN WHO ARE PRO LIFE, BUT INSTEAD TO EXPLAIN HOW SUPPORTING THE CHOICES OF OTHER WOMEN IS IMPORTANT. EVERYONE CAN DEFINE & LIVE OUT FEMINISM IN THEIR OWN WAY, AND IF THAT MEANS HAVING VALUES THAT MAKES YOU DECIDE TO KEEP A BABY YOU HAD NOT PLANNED ON HAVING, THEN THAT IS GREAT. THE PROBLEM ARISES WHEN WOMEN WANT TO FORCE THEIR VALUES DOWN THE THROATS OF OTHER WOMEN. I THINK FEMINISM IS ALL ABOUT WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN & I DOUBT THAT A PRO CHOICE FEMINIST WOULD SHAME A PRO LIFER FOR KEEPING HER BABY. THE MORAL OF THE STORY IS, SUPPORT OTHERS EVEN IF THEIR BELIEFS AND VALUES DON'T LINE UP WITH YOURS. ABORTION BEING LEGAL DOESN'T HINDER YOUR EXPERIENCE KEEPING YOUR BABY, BUT ABORTION BEING ILLEGAL WILL HINDER MANY WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE CARRYING THEIR BABY.



Just because you have 12 children doesn't mean I want to, Shannon

"SHIT HAPPENS"

HOWEVER, A WORLD WHERE ABORTION IS LEGAL SHOULD NOT EQUAL A WORLD WHERE WOMEN DON'T TAKE OTHER PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TO AVOID GETTING PREGNANT. WE AREN'T PERFECT AND SHIT HAPPENS, BUT USING ABORTION AS A FORM OF BIRTH CONTROL ISN'T WHAT IT IS HERE TO DO. ABORTION ISN'T EQUIVALENT TO A PLAN B AND WE SHOULD BE PRACTICING SAFE SEX WITH THE INTENT OF NOT GETTING PREGNANT. ONCE AGAIN, SHIT HAPPENS AND PEOPLE MESS UP WHICH IS WHY ABORTION SHOULD BE LEGAL SO THAT A MISTAKE DOESN'T RESULT IN AN UNWANTED PREGNANCY. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT SO THAT VICTIMS OF RAPE HAVE THE CHOICE TO NOT KEEP A CHILD FROM THEIR RAPIST. THIS GIVES WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF, A SENSE OF AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES.



Sex Ed is extremely important In avoiding unwanted pregnancy

Here are some safe-sex reminders:

* Use condoms!

* IF you take the pill,
set a reminder so
you don't forget.

* Talk to your partner
about what you're
comfortable with.

* Talk to your doctor
about your birth
control options!

* Pee everytime.
EVERY TIME.

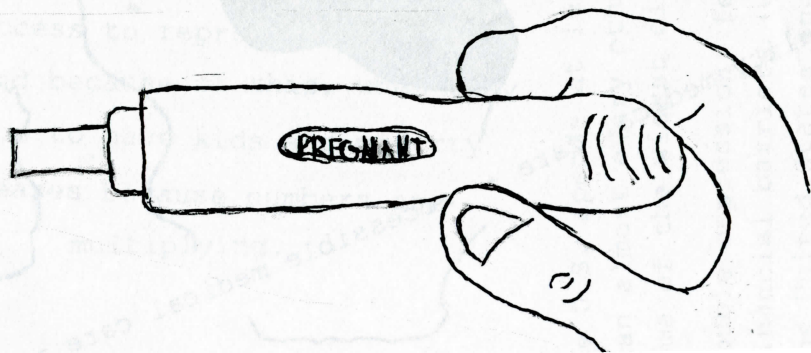
* Sex is great! Have
lots of sex, but be
safe & smart!

MY UTERUS, MY DECISION

IMPORTANCE OF AGENCY

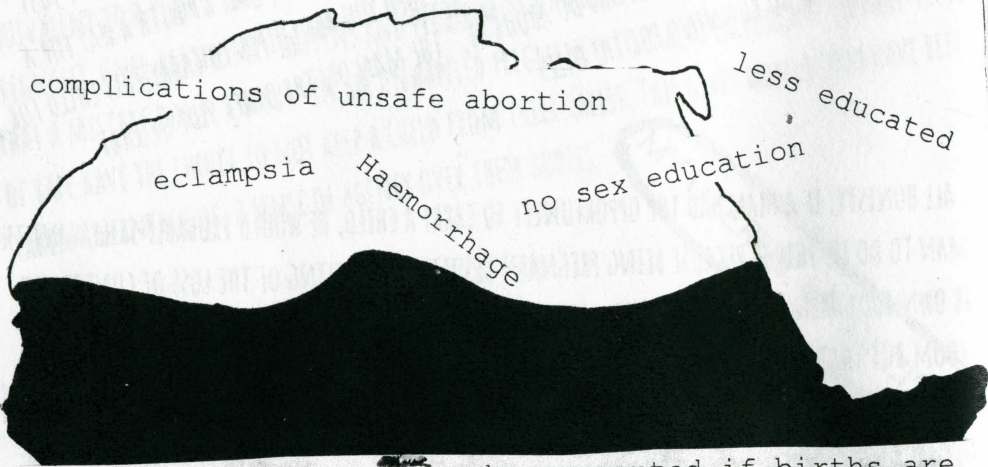
ONE ISSUE THAT ARISES IN THE HEARTS AND SOULS OF WOMEN WHEN THEY ARE TOLD THAT PEOPLE WANT TO TAKE AWAY THEIR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, IS THE SENSE OF AGENCY. I WOULD ARGUE THAT AGENCY, ESPECIALLY IN REFERENCE TO CONTROL OVER ONE'S BODY, IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN ANYONE'S LIFE, NOT JUST WOMEN. SAY FOR EXAMPLE THAT SCIENTIST I MENTIONED EARLIER ACTUALLY CAME UP WITH A WAY FOR A MAN TO CARRY A CHILD. IF A WOMAN SAID, "ALRIGHT, I DECIDED YOU ARE GOING TO CARRY THIS CHILD FOR 9 MONTHS AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT," THE MAN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT CONVERSATION WOULD GO RUNNING FOR THE HILLS.

IN ALL HONESTY, IF A MAN HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY A CHILD, HE WOULD PROBABLY STILL WANT THE WOMAN TO DO IT. THIS IS BECAUSE BEING PREGNANT RESULTS IN A FEELING OF THE LOSS OF CONTROL OF YOUR OWN BODY. MEN DON'T LIKE TO FEEL LIKE THEY AREN'T IN CONTROL (EXCEPT FOR MAYBE IN THE BEDROOM BUT THAT IS BESIDES THE POINT) BUT SOME HAVE NO PROBLEM TELLING US WOMEN THAT WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CARRY A BABY FOR 9 MONTHS AND PAINFULLY DELIVER IT FOR 20 HOURS. THIS WOULD RESULT IN A WORLD WHERE A DRUNKEN ONE NIGHT HOOKUP COULD RESULT IN A CHILD WITH A PERSON YOU NEVER PLANNED ON SEEING AGAIN. I WOULD ARGUE THAT WITHOUT ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL, ABORTION, ETC. THEN THIS WOULD RESULT IN A HUGE LOSS IN THE SENSE OF AGENCY FOR WOMEN. BEING ABLE TO HAVE SEX, ENJOY SEX, AND NOT HAVE THE FEAR OF GETTING PREGNANT (OR AT LEAST HAVE THE OPTION TO TERMINATE THE PREGNANCY IF ONE OCCURS) IS NOT ONLY LIBERATING AND FUN, BUT ALSO EVERYONE'S RIGHT. A WOMAN WHO GETS AN ABORTION IS NOT AN IRRESPONSIBLE SLUT, BUT INSTEAD A WOMAN IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF HER OWN BODY HER OWN DESTINY.



MATERNAL MORTALITY: AFRICA

250,000+ African women die each year in childbirth



Most maternal deaths can be prevented if births are attended by skilled health personnel who have the proper equipment and supplies. Complications require access to quality obstetric services equipped with life-saving drugs, including antibiotics, and the ability to provide blood transfusions

Quality medical care + accessible medical care

African American women and Latinas account for 80% of reported female HIV/AIDS diagnoses, even though they represent only 25% of the U.S. female population

LACK OF ACCESS: MINORITIES



Research suggests that many impoverished people have never been formally educated about the repercussions of unsafe sex, so most of them do not understand the consequences (unplanned pregnancy, STD's, STI's) when they choose to have sex.

Impoverished communities have little to no access to reproductive health care, and because of this, when they continue to have kids and poverty increases because numbers are multiplying.

U.S. spends at least twice as much per capita on healthcare an almost every other western industrialized country, but has one of the widest disparities in health outcome
able oppression: female minorities face educational barriers, nancial barriers (wage gap), and less access to healthcare in e United States and a combination of these things can lead to verty which leads to poor healthcare overall.

SEX ED: HOME EDITION

Hey mom, how are babies made?

When two people love each other...

"THE TALK"

"It is too awkward"



When children run into unforeseen problems because they are not educated on their consequences (STD, pregnancy, HIV)... who do they turn to? The majority of parents in the United States say that they do not have "the talk" with their children because they rely on schools to do it instead. But only 22 states require sex education to be taught in schools...

parents and kids alike express preference for keeping this part of their lives private from each other

SEX ED: SCHOOL EDITION

AFLA: Adolescent Family Life Act (1981) set the precedent to teach abstinence-only programs and taxpayer money funded this for 30 years.

sex outside of marriage damages physical and emotional health as well as promotes a desire for STI's and STD's.

Mississippi girls are victims of teen pregnancy. 55 out of every 1,000 abstinence-only education

Sex Education:

Do's: abstinence

Don'ts: sex

Consequences: pregnancy, shame, disease

alternatives: nothing

Slut shaming in schools

A Mississippi schooldistrict that promotes abstinence-only education had a classroom pass around an unwrapped piece of chocolate and at the end compared the dirty and messy chocolate to a girl who has sex before marriage.

Lack of sex education in schools and at home forces kids outside sources such as the internet and friends, where 9 times out of 10, the information is relayed incorrectly.

PSA: ABSTINENCE IS NOT THE ONLY ANSWER!

THE RIGHT TO REPRODUCE

Sterilization The Golden State



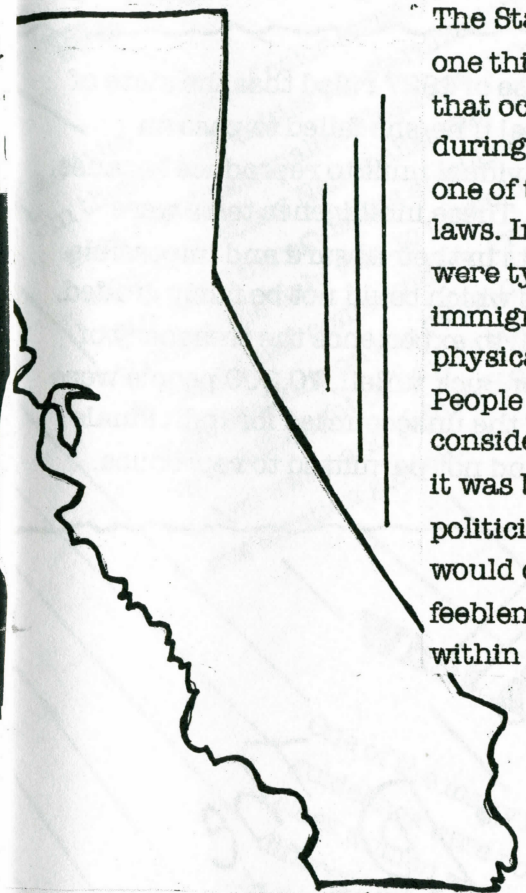
You're Cut Off

The sterilization abuse imposed on women of color began as a vehicle for implementing population control. It was used alongside other tactics such as immigration policies, welfare reform, eugenics laws, and targeted family planning to unofficially prevent anyone other than Caucasian Americans from reproducing. Of all the minority women who have been sterilized throughout history, a vast majority of them were unaware of the procedure and did not give consent. Often times women were coerced to sign consent forms in a different language or forced to undergo surgery if they wanted to continue receiving welfare.

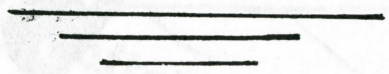


During the 1990s, the Committee of Women, the Population, and the Environment (CWPE) worked persistently to raise awareness about a detrimental organization named CRACK (Children Requiring a Caring Kommunity). This group offered \$200 to any drug-addicted woman that would undergo sterilization or use long-lasting contraceptives. The ideas used to create this organization stem from incredibly racist eugenics laws and attempt to control and regulate women's bodies.

Amy



The State of California alone conducted one third of the sterilization procedures that occurred in the United States during the early 20th century, making it one of the strictest enforcers of eugenics laws. Individuals affected by these laws were typically Mexican, Asian, or Italian immigrants, violating the sexual binary, physically disabled, or mentally ill. People falling into these categories were considered "unfit" to reproduce because it was believed by many scientists and politicians at the time that their genes would create "criminality, feeblemindedness, and sexual deviance" within the generations to come.



Although California's sterilization law was finally repealed in 1979 after being regarded as outdated and prejudiced, a 2013 report from the Center for Investigative Reporting exposed the illegal tubal ligations that sterilized 16 female inmates in California Prisons between 2006 and 2010, most of the victims of these unfair procedures were Latina, African-American, or first-time offenders. The exposure of this event led to the passing of a bill that finally banned sterilization in California once and for



How-To: Get a Smarter Nation

The Buck v. Bell Supreme Court case of 1927 ruled that the state of Virginia could sterilize an individual if he/she failed to pass an intelligence test, deeming that individual unfit to reproduce because of their moronic "imbecile" nature. These intelligence tests were significantly similar to literacy tests in their absurd and impossible design, posing subjective questions which could not be fairly graded. Carrie Buck was the first individual to experience the treachery of this Virginia Law. Under the case of Buck v. Bell, 70,000 people were sterilized in the U.S., not including the unaccounted for individuals who were taken away to colonies and not permitted to reproduce.

Buck v. Bell
The
Sisters
Relf.

¡No Más Bebés!

We Want Our Eggs

Activist women of color struggled to gain support in their communities for sterilization guidelines because of Nationalist ideas and pro-choice struggles. Many Nationalist men of color were not interested in regulating sterilization because they thought the only way to prevent racism was to expand their communities. Pro-Choice organizations on the other hand were threatened by the thought of having their birth control options taken away and refused to stand behind the sterilization guidelines.

Reproductive Rights are Human Rights

What A (White) Girl Wants

One of the many reasons that sterilization guidelines were not supported by white middle-class women was that they had a completely different experience with it. White women actually had the opposite problem with sterilization: they could not persuade doctors to perform the procedure and occassinsaly even needed permission from outside medical committees. The thought of restricting doctors already limited abilities to perform sterilizations scared Caucasian women and caused them to take on the stance that such guidelines interfered with the physician-patient relationship.

y: UIVIA Schroeder

TYPES OF BIRTH CONTROL

- ◊ The Pill
- ◊ IUD
- ◊ Implant
- ◊ The Vaginal Ring
- ◊ The Shot
- ◊ The Patch
- ◊ Permanent Birth Control
 - ◊ Condoms
 - ◊ Spermicide
- ◊ Emergency Contraception
 - ◊ Fertility Awareness
 - ◊ Pull-out Method

You thought birth control was always legal? **WRONG!**

BIRTH CONTROL TIMELINE

'any drug, medical article or instrument for the purpose of preventing conception'

- 1965:** birth control legal for married couples
 - Ruling that it was protected in the Constitution as a right to privacy
 - Millions of unmarried women denied birth control
- 1972:** birth control legal for singles
 - The Supreme Court legalized birth control for all citizens of this country
 - Irrespective of marital status
- 1977:** birth control legal for minors
 - Available birth control for children under the age of 18

Margaret Sanger

Margaret Sanger completed her nursing training at the age of 21 during the 1900s. Later in her life after her marriage and birth of her three children she returned to the nursing field and made her way to the slums of New York City. Here she assisted in child birth of poor women and saw the damaging effect that bearing too many children has caused these women. However, Sanger was not allowed to help these women in forms of birth control. It was not until one of Sanger's patients died in the act of child birth that she decided to stand up for women's right to demand birth control.

In 1914 Sanger started the Women Rebel, which was a magazine encouraging women to think about themselves and what their bodies need through thoughtful family planning. The magazine was banned from US Postal Service due to the Comstock Law and Sanger was charged with nine counts of obscenity, so she left the US and headed for England. Here she founded the National Birth Control League, which later became Planned Parenthood



"My Fight for Birth Control"

This article tells the story of a young mother and wife named Mrs. Sacks became sick from her pregnancy and her situation was almost fatal. She was frightened that if she became pregnant again she would lose her life, and she was correct. However, the doctor refused to supply Mrs. Sacks with any form of birth control and suggested comically that her husband should sleep outside. She begged Sanger for help from another pregnancy however despite a heavy heart she could not say anything. Unfortunately, Mrs. Sacks became pregnant again, used drugs, consulted an abortionist, but her death followed. After her death Margaret Sanger knew she could not continue this profession but wanted women to have control over their bodies and felt the **NEED TO BE HEARD!**

TO TYPES OF
MAYBERRY
BIRTH

...control...
...birth...
...control...

...control...
...birth...
...control...

BIRTH CONTROL TIMELINE

...the...
...purpose...

"My Right for Birth Control"

...The...
...birth...
...control...

