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2011

The New Pro-Life Target: Black Women's Wombs

Author: [Cheryl Contee \(Jill Tubman\)](#)

Have you seen these billboards?



There's a ton of them in the East Bay which has higher concentration of black folks here in Northern CA. [Here's the map](#) if you'd like to throw eggs, or stick your tongue out or just give it the finger. It's part of a national effort on the part of pro-life groups to target African-American communities with pro-life messaging.

In a [recent tweet](#) The Radiance Foundation - which is apparently footing the bill for the billboards around the country - called the NAACP the "National Association for the Abortion of Colored People." I mean, *really*? Do they really think we're gonna respond positively to that?

Local CBS5 ran a story about the national campaign that's worth a peep ([video](#)). And Belle Taylor-McGhee described the sitch and the stakes in the [SF Chronicle](#):

The Bay Area now has its own taste of the offensive billboards sponsored by anti-abortion groups that target African American women. Earlier this month, dozens of billboards went up around Oakland that read "Black & Beautiful" and are anchored to an anti-abortion website: [toomanyaborted.com/ca](#). These billboards place African American women at the center of a propaganda campaign over a basic health care procedure that is both legal and safe, while ignoring the realities of the barriers the black community faces in health access and outcomes.

Abortion opponents have put up similar billboards across the United States in a multimillion-dollar campaign, mostly in cities with a large black population - including New York and Atlanta. And African Americans are not the only targets.

Bilingual billboards in Los Angeles targeting Latinas recently went up, some of which quickly came down because of community pressure.

But the issue isn't really where abortion opponents place their billboards - it's what they hope to gain. First and foremost, abortion opponents want to make abortion illegal - and are hoping these billboards will persuade more African Americans to support their goal. Secondly, they purport to claim some moral authority over black women's private medical decision making about childbearing.

As an African American woman, I find the billboard campaign both racist and offensive: racist because it singles out a group of people - black women. And offensive because it dares to insinuate that black women are not intelligent enough to decide for themselves what is best for them and their families. I frankly don't know of any black woman who consults the Radiance Foundation or Issues4Life Foundation - groups behind the billboards - when she is making a decision about whether or when to have a child.

The reason abortions are higher in black and brown communities is due to poverty - lower-income women in this country receive little help in this nation with appropriate sex education, child care subsidies or health care. Given this situation, some women responsibly choose not to become a parent to a child they know they

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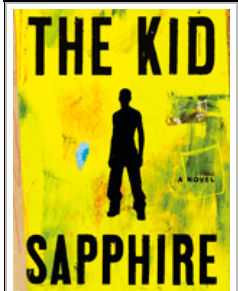
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mon_dieu_ishmael Crap - looks like i work until i die. aint got no govt. pension. aint got no govt. paid for healthcare during retirement.

Afternoon Open Thread · 40 minutes ago



Fifteen years after the publication of *Push*, one year after the Academy Award-winning film adaptation, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author **SAPHIRE** gives voice to Precious's son, Abdul.

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would struggle to care for. From Guttmacher Institute:

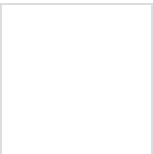
The reasons women give for having an abortion underscore their understanding of the responsibilities of parenthood and family life. Three-fourths of women cite concern for or responsibility to other individuals; three-fourths say they cannot afford a child; three-fourths say that having a baby would interfere with work, school or the ability to care for dependents; and half say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner.

That's the real tragedy, ain't it? I'd be more swayed if pro-lifers were arguing for funding free pre-natal care and inexpensive daycare for hard working tax-paying mothers. No, that's not what they want. Terminating a pregnancy is a very difficult choice – and one that women must be free to make for themselves.

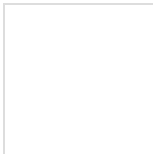
This cynical manipulative campaign has to go. "Black & Beautiful" is a phrase that has been used to empower and uplift our community through years of adversity. They are using our words to divide our community, attack Black women and scapegoat health clinics like Planned Parenthood that provide necessary & affordable preventative healthcare. It is offensive and we won't stand for it; not in Oakland, not in Atlanta, not anywhere.

The majority of Black women just like **the majority of all Americans** believe that the full range of reproductive choices should be available in America, although **some may have conditions on that**. Look, kinda like the faux-debate on gay marriage equality, this is a conversation that will be over someday – younger Americans are much more supportive of choice and of equality than older ones. I'll be glad when this particular dialogue dies down and we can address the real issues at play here – the need for more support for mothers and families in our society. Our tax dollars should work for us – not for war or to support tax breaks for corporate jets....

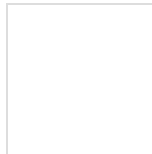
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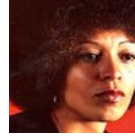


Saynsumthn Blog 7 hours ago



Ametia Spoken like a contained racist. BYE TROLL!

Casey Anthony = O.J.? · 1 hour ago



Ametia *sigh* If the RACE CARD fits, the deck of cards we must SPLIT!

Casey Anthony = O.J.? · 1 hour ago



Plantsmantx You say there is no comparison, then you proceed to make one, which, conveniently enough, leads you to the conclusion that "blacks are the real racists".

Casey Anthony = O.J.? · 1 hour ago



Ametia HA! *CRICKETS*

Afternoon Open Thread · 1 hour ago

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Since when do YOU represent a MAJORITY OF BLACK WOMEN???? Have you ever watched the documentary Maafa21 and listened to the racist comments of the founders and supporters of Planned Parenthood? How can you support them? Founded by a KLAN SPEAKER - That is who their founder was. Nope...I think you have ANOTHER agenda and it is NOT the preservation of blacks. I urge your readers to view Maafa21 <http://www.maafa21.com>

Like Reply



Plantsmantx 5 hours ago in reply to Saynsumthn Blog

You've just revealed that you believe black women aren't capable of making their own decisions.

...the documentary Maafa21...

...distortions, half-truths, and outright lies.

Founded by a KLAN SPEAKER ...

What did she speak to the Klan about? Document.

Like Reply



djchefron 6 hours ago in reply to Saynsumthn Blog

No one on this site speaks for anyone but themselves. I am sick and tired of you taliban trying to put your views on everybody.



Plantsmantx liked this Like Reply



fig8jam 1 day ago

More sick shyt from pro-life zealots:

"Rennie Gibbs is accused of murder, but the crime she is alleged to have committed does not sound like an ordinary killing.

Yet she faces life in prison in Mississippi over the death of her unborn child.

Gibbs became pregnant aged 15, but lost the baby in December 2006 in a stillbirth when she was 36 weeks into the pregnancy.

When prosecutors discovered that she had a cocaine habit - though there is no evidence that drug abuse had anything to do with the baby's death - they charged her with the "depraved-heart murder" of her child, which carries a mandatory life sentence."

<http://www.alternet.org/reprod...>

FIFTEEN years old and they wanted imprison her for LIFE!!...assholes.

Like Reply



Lisa 1 day ago

If this is true, about Blacks killing our babies at such a high rate, then it is very saddening. Abortion does not equal birth control!! You can put your baby

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up for adoption.


 coop10 liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **missdk** 8 hours ago in reply to Lisa

Or not. It's not up to you to decide what is the right choice for each individual woman.


If you don't want to have an abortion, don't have one. It's as simple as that. For each woman that is a decision she can only make herself.


 rikyrah and 1 more liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **Plantsmantx** 1 day ago

I mean, really? Do they really think we're gonna respond positively to that?

If the "we" in "we're" are most black people, then no- they don't expect you to respond positively to it, but this campaign and others like it aren't really about a sincere concern for black people, are they?


 fig8jam and 1 more liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **fig8jam** 1 day ago in reply to Plantsmantx

ICAM!


Of course it isn't. They simply are using black folks for their political gain just as the LGBT agenda did. Every effin thing in this country always comes down to race polarization where blacks get the shaft but are used as the leverage for non-black gains.

This shyt just nauseates me.

 Ametia liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **Ametia** 1 day ago

Once again these holier than thou charlatans want to feed off black women as the culprits and victims of welfare abuse. We sistas see through the bullshit. Fuck'em

 fig8jam and 2 more liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **Sarah Prinslow Frempong** 1 day ago

Amen!

[Like](#) [Reply](#)


 **rikyrah** ★ 1 day ago


this was a thoughtful and calm piece on these offensive billboards.

thanks so much for taking the time to do it. I'm still mad and offended by these folks who don't have shyt to say about Black babies and how to help them, once they are born, but think they have anything to say about whether a Black woman has an abortion.

G-T-F-O-H

my body and other women's bodies are none of their business.

 fig8jam and 5 more liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **Kate_from_Iowa** 6 hours ago in reply to rikyrah

They don't care about any of the "unborn Americans" they save...once they're past that magical point of being an abstract entity. As soon as birth happens. they want to be completely hands off. Can't afford



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somewhere to live? Not thier problem. Can't afford food or clothes? Not thier problem. Can't afford health care? Not thier problem. Can't afford to go to a decent school? Not thier problem. Crippled or otherwise disabled or sickened by a complication during your pregnancy, that you didn't abort because you bought into thier line of tripe? Not thier problem. Baby born disabled to the point where s/he will never be able to work or function adequately in society on her/his own? Not thier problem.

In fact, the only time these "pre-born citizens" they so desperately want to save (up until they're born, of course) are ever thier concern again is when they're on trial in a death penalty case. Then all they want to do is kill them.

Like Reply



Ametia 1 day ago in reply to rikyrah

THIS!

Like Reply

Reactions



LSRJ 8 hours ago

From [Twitter](#)

"The New Pro-Life Target: Black Women's Wombs" <http://t.co/Ta9NUII>



reprojustice 8 hours ago

From [Twitter](#)

awesome. thank you. <http://fb.me/11mcULIPZ>



ajszymanski 16 hours ago

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freepress1969 1 day ago

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