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## Anti-abortion letter misquoted, misrepresented

To the editor:

In his Feb. 27 letter, William Schnell allegedly quotes Mary Calderone, co-founder of SEICUS in 1954 and its executive director until 1982. She was the medical director for Planned Parenthood from 1953-1964. She died in 1998. It would've been nice if Schnell had told us where he found the quote. Nevertheless, Webster's 3rd Edition College Dictionary defines epidemic as a rapid, widespread occurrence or growth. That accurately describes the situation when birth control is nearly or completely nonexistent and a country has an ever-increasing birth rate. It was 1965 in *Griswold vs. Connecticut* before married couples in the United States got the legal right to access birth control, including the now infamous birth-control pill. It was after that when unmarried couples got that legal right.

Schnell says he's quoting a Planned Parenthood publication when he quotes "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives," but that's absolutely false. It's a book with absolutely no affiliation with Planned Parenthood, authored by Ruth Bell, who has a master's degree in education and is one of the founders of

the Boston Women's Health Book Collective who first published, in 1970, the now infamous "Our Bodies, Ourselves." Moreover, Life and Liberty for Women has the book, and the quote he alleges taking from the book we didn't find.

Schnell should provide the page and paragraph where that quote can be found.

Next, Schnell quotes the American Medical Association. Again, without knowing from where he took the quote, its accuracy is questionable. The American Medical Association, founded in 1847, initially opposed abortion, claiming it was immoral and medically dangerous, considering the incompetence of many practitioners then. It was also a way, says Carol Joffe in "Doctors of Conscience," for doctors trained in universities "to attain professional dominance over the wide range of healers, homeopaths and the like ..." And, of course, midwives.

By 1970, Joffe says, the American Medical Association responding to several things, including "the growing visibility of both the population control movement and the abortion rights movement, and, most of all, the increasing frustration with illegal abortion, adopted a resolution endorsing liberalized abortion laws."

Finally, I'd encourage Schnell to go to Life and Liberty for Women's Web site: [www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org](http://www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org) and click on our first ISSUE article.

Being created in God's image

has nothing to do with abortion or when God believed the beginning of human life occurs; that's at birth. Further, in Exodus 22, God clearly shows that he believes that a woman has a right to life and liberty over a fetus, conception to birth, no exceptions.

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