Code Name: HIV

December 13, 2017

Angelo Bonomi

Dr. Stewart

GLHLTH 302 Global Narratives: Living with HIV

717 Words

MLA

"In a way, A Humument can be understood as an emulation of the experience of encountering an art-object for the first time: the unattainable logic of what snags the mind, what catches one's eye, is refreshed," as said by Tom Phillips on Andrew David King's work. These words have driven Angelo Bonomi to create his profound piece, *Code Name HIV (2017)*. His piece calls forward the way in which pharmaceutical companies go about dealing with their consumers, and how if you read between the lines, one can figure out the "code" and determine the truth. The original piece that was chosen was a document from box 14 that was sent to Maria by a colleague, Ms. Ann Fraizere. Ms. Fraizere seemed to have sent the piece in order to show Maria what she has to deal with. These "code words' were made by a "rabid right winger" group in order for them to talk about HIV. Mr. Bonomi was very interested because it continues to depict how stigmatized HIV and AIDS was at the time. The piece emulates the humor and satire of having to explain simple words. The simplicity of the original document piece drew Angelo to the piece. The black in white depicted to how cut and dry the disease was at the beginning. Referring back to how HIV was a death sentence. Whilst creating the first drafts of his piece, Angelo tried to age the document at first with coffee to show that it was battered with age and singe the edges. After quite a few failed attempts, he realized that it makes more sense to have an intact document. The words that he chose are still things that we as consumers of pharmaceutical companies still deal with today.

The main focus of his art piece and the main focus of the document was to discuss code words. Code words are an extremely important part of many cultures, and we still use many of them to this day. Such forms of code such as Morse code fire signals, or drum beats are some older forms of coded messages, but some more modern forms of coded languages are slang and even certain phrases we use in the English language. Angelo attempted to bring focus to the coded language that pharmaceutical companies typically try to hide in documents that they may make public. He believed this to be important because these companies, during the period where HIV was an epidemic and still to this day, try to take advantage of consumers, and in particular African consumers that are less fortunate.

In the piece, he chose to stick to two colors, HIV ribbon red and black. The borders of the piece are blacked out to bring more contrast to the words what white space in the middle. At the top, he painted some words and made them very obscure, just like how the companies would try to be obscure as well. If one were to look at the piece quickly one would probably not notice it. At the top it says "Profit Expansion: Code Name (HIV in Morse code)", again tying back to a company's main goal. Below this, he left the word code words white with a red border to draw attention. In the actual white space, he embroidered different streams of words to point out different points of importance that a harsh company would bring importance to.

For the first stream of words, he made the phrase "1. Agencies… Health Department… Pharmacies receive". The second stream said. "2… prevent (this part diverges into two parts) a.) parental knowledge or consent, b.) attitude… focus … behavior. The next phrase states, "We promote (again diverges into two parts) a.) high risk… involvement, b.) premarital sex/promiscuity. Next states, "Do not set high standards for youth," and finally, "learn how to… forget them!"

In closing, Angelo made an effort to make as many vindictive and evil phrases as he could. As he was making these phrases, he was brought back to Moele's work, "The Book of the Dead." The phrases he was forming reminded him of the evil vindictive nature of AIDs that was portrayed in the work. He sees his work as similar to the voice of AIDs but though the mouth of pharmaceutical company or any big business that benefits from others' strife.

1. ABSTINENCE --- may not mean abstinence-until-marriage; it could mean to abstain until the condom, etc. is available.
2. ADOLESCENTS---any child under 19 years old...could be age 10.
3. COMPREHENSIVE ED.---includes contraceptive ed.
4. COMMUNITY AGENCIES (HEALTH SERVICES)---(1) Health Department; (2) Dept. of Social Services--applications for abortion referrals; (3) Mental Health Center
    Also in some locales, participating Pharmacies give contraceptives to minors free.

    G.S.90-21.5---Child can receive 5 Health Services:
    1. Contraceptives
    2. Abortions
    3. Treatment for Mental Illness
    4. Treatment for Drug Use
    5. Treatment for Sexually Transmitted Diseases
    all without parental knowledge or consent!!!
    Also exams/tests
5. DECISION-MAKING SKILLS---Child decides for himself/herself whether to be sexually active---don't need parents or God/church to say. Also known as NON-DIRECTIVE ED., VALUES CLARIFICATION, etc.
6. DROP OUT PREVENTION---includes abortion referrals--to keep child in school
7. FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION---Same as Comprehensive Ed./Healthful Living Ed.
8. FAMILY PLANNING---includes contraceptive information/availability, code language of some kind for 'further services' at the Dept. of Soc. Services--if the girl wants an abortion.
9. FOLLOW-UP---track them...keep up with them to promote contraceptive use/'prevent' another pregnancy. Change in attitude and behavior is not the focus.
10. INTERVENTION--information on contraceptives. Encouragement to enroll in Family Planning; Transportation may be provided.
11. HIGH RISK---Any or all of the adolescents
12. POSTPONING SEXUAL INVOLVEMENT---same as abstinence
13. PREVENTION---Pregnancy Prevention is the key focus. Prevention means contraceptive information/use or abortion---to prevent pregnancy or birth. We promote prevention of premarital sex/promiscuity. The 'other side' does not set these high standards for youth.
14. REFERRALS---to Community Agencies/health services for contraceptives, abortion, etc.
15. RESPONSIBLE---learn how to use contraceptives/don't forget them!
16. SCHOOL BASED CLINIC/SERVICES---Family Planning is a part of each of them, whether in the beginning or not. In some, contraceptives are distributed at school; in others, referrals are made for contraceptives/abortions. According to CPO, the avg. cost per visit for each student is $79.00. No sch.based clinic is showing a decrease in adol. preg. consistently. It's a duplication of already existing health services. SOCIALIZED MED.
17. SEXUALLY ACTIVE---we call it 'having intercourse', fornication, promiscuous

Bibliography

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