

Eugenics and Commemoration in Science Archives

Peter Sachs Collopy
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A Publication of
The Human Betterment Foundation

STERILIZATION FOR HUMAN BETTERMENT

*A Summary of Results of 6,000 Operations
in California, 1909-1929*

BY
E. S. GOSNEY, B.S., LL.B.
AND
PAUL POPENOE, D.SC.

NEW YORK
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
1929



MILLIKAN'S SCHOOL

A HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

JUDITH R. GOODSTEIN

Collection Guide

∞ <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf2h4n98gb/>

Collection Title: Register of the E. S. Gosney Papers And Records Of The Human Betterment Foundation, 1880-1945

Collection Number: Consult repository

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Descriptive Summary

Title: E. S. Gosney Papers And Records Of The Human Betterment Foundation,

Date (inclusive): 1880-1945

Creator: Gosney, E. S. (Ezra Seymour), 1855-1942.

Extent: Linear feet: 28

Repository: California Institute of Technology. Archives.
Pasadena, California 91125

Language: English.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research, except: files in Section VI and others containing personal information on patients. Application for access to restricted portions of the collection should be addressed to the Caltech Archivist with a research justification.

Collection Overview

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Container List

Section I: Human Betterment Foundation--Records, Research and Personal Correspondence

Section II: Correspondence Files--by Country and State

Section III: Sterilization--Papers, Data, Correspondence

Section IV: Printed Materials--Journals, Articles, Laws, Clippings

Section V: Sterilization Survey Data

Section VI: Case Histories

Forced Sterilization Once Seen as Path to a Better World

■ Decades of files on mental patients reveal how a group of noted Californians hoped to influence the fate of the human race.

By MIKE ANTON
Times Staff Writer

In a basement at Caltech, 59 gray boxes contain thousands of documents that reveal in detail how an influential group of California men once hoped to help direct the fate of the human race.

think tank that promoted sterilization from 1926 to 1942, have been at Caltech for six decades. They were kept in a warehouse until 1968. Only since 1995 has most of the collection been open to researchers.

"California is an enormous story in the history of eugenics," said Paul Lombardo, a professor at the University of Virginia's Center for Biomedical Ethics. "What makes California special is the work of the Human Betterment Foundation, how it shaped public policy, and the links between major players in the private sector and state off-



Associated Press

MEMBERS: The Human Betterment Foundation included USC President Rufus B. von Klein Smid, left, Caltech's Robert A. Millikan and Stanford University's David Starr Jordan.

Anti-Racism:

What Can Caltech Do?

1.1 Disaggregate "Underrepresented Minority" enrollment statistics.

1.2 Utilize demographic data to inform institutional diversity efforts.



4.1 Advertise campus-wide CCID events in Caltech Ion.

4.2 Rename buildings currently honoring Nazis and eugenicists.

4.3 Clarify procedure for reporting racial bias.

4.4 Provide adequate support for students applying to diversity-related fellowships.

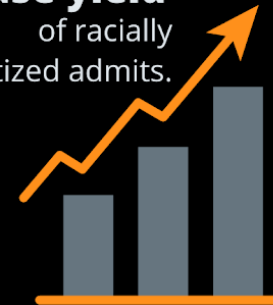
2.1 Guarantee funding for successful diversity programs.

2.2 Establish cohort-building programs for incoming racially minoritized students.

2.3 Award fellowships to students committed to increasing diversity.

2.4 Reduce racial bias in graduate admissions.

Increase yield
of racially
minoritized admits.



**<1% of Caltech
students are Black.**

To address this issue,
Caltech must...

Vitalize diversity
recruitment efforts.



3.1 Pilot a fly-out program for applicants committed to diversity.

3.2 Engage in diversity recruitment through conferences and visits to minority-serving institutions (MSI's).

3.3 Prioritize community service.

REMOVE MILLIKAN'S NAME FROM CALTECH

Please go to <https://bit.ly/2AgRIWg> to sign this petition.

This petition was covered in the *Los Angeles Times*: [Caltech faces reckoning over its links to eugenics and sterilization movement](#), by Michael Hiltzik, July 7, 2020. More press coverage is available [here](#).

This petition was [transmitted](#) to Caltech administrators on July 22, 2020. In response to many calls to rename campus buildings and spaces, Caltech President Thomas F. Rosenbaum [announced](#) a “task force to explore naming and recognition policies at Caltech” which plans to produce a report by the end of 2020. On August 6, 2020, Michael Chwe spoke before this committee using these [slides](#).

Please continue to circulate this petition and encourage all interested people to sign.

The Black Scientists & Engineers of Caltech (BSEC) is also circulating a [petition](#) on several racial justice issues including the removal of Millikan and others from campus buildings. To sign it, contact caltechbsec@gmail.com.



As members and friends of the Caltech community, we believe that Caltech cannot honor individuals who actively supported and encouraged crimes against humanity. Therefore, we call for Caltech to rename all buildings, spaces, and programs named after Robert A. Millikan, including the Robert A. Millikan Memorial Building, Millikan Library, Millikan Pond, and the Athenaeum's Millikan Suite. We call for the removal of the bust of Millikan on the Caltech campus.

Millikan, together with individuals including E.S. Gosney, A.B. Ruddock, Harry Chandler, and William B. Munro, led an organization that widely advocated for forced sterilization of people with disabilities and actively supported and encouraged, and even took pride in, Nazi Germany's 1933 forced sterilization law. Accordingly, we also call for the renaming of the Gosney Research Fund, Ruddock House, Harry Chandler Dining Hall, and the William Bennett Munro Memorial Seminar.

Committee on Naming and Recognition

 July 22, 2020

Office of the President

To: The Caltech Community

From: Thomas F. Rosenbaum, Sonja and William Davidow Presidential Chair and Professor of Physics

Date: July 22, 2020

Re: Committee on Naming and Recognition

I am delighted to announce that the following members of the Caltech community have agreed to serve on the task force to explore naming and recognition policies at Caltech: Benjamin Rosen (Chair), trustee; France Córdova, trustee; Shirley Malcom, trustee; Deborah McWhinney, trustee; Ron Olson, trustee; Prof. David Baltimore, BBE, president emeritus; Prof. Azita Emami, EAS, deputy division chair; Prof. Nicolás Wey Gómez, HSS; Prof. Mark Wise, PMA; Chris Bryant, former president, Caltech Alumni Association; Ralph Amos, assistant vice president of alumni relations and executive director, Caltech Alumni Association; Diana Jergovic (co-Chair), vice president, strategy implementation; Stewart Mallory, CCE, AGEF California Alliance postdoctoral scholar; Sarah Sam, BBE graduate student, president, Black Scientists & Engineers of Caltech; and Paulina Ridland, undergraduate student, president, Ruddock House. Hillary Downs, administrative affairs manager in the strategy implementation group, will staff the committee.

The question of naming buildings on university campuses has engendered debate across the country. The most intense concerns at Caltech center on Robert A. Millikan, given his involvement with eugenics