



2005 Mid-Atlantic Region  
Women's Studies  
Association Conference  
8am-6pm Saturday  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>

This year, our conference will examine the future of women's studies and of women's leadership and activism, as well as report on recent research and issues in the field.

### Conference Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Conference Fees

\$50 (Includes coffee break, lunch & Saturday reception)

Student/Senior Conference: \$20

Friday Evening Reception (includes dinner) with Conference: \$40

Friday Reception Only: \$50

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to MONTGOMERY COLLEGE. Please write 2005 Mawsa Conference on check.

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Montgomery College  
Women's Studies Program  
51 Mannakee Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

## Young Feminists...Where are they?

BY STEPHANIE GOODWIN

Take a minute and ask yourself, how does the number 65 relate to NOW? Could it be the number of national conferences NOW has held? Could it be the average contribution amount? Or could it be the average age of a NOW member? If you guessed the last name, you've guessed it right.

NOW along with many other progressive groups that were founded in the sixties seemed to have focused too much on political wins and have failed to balance recruitment into their political agenda. As their average membership age pushes through the mid-sixties, progressive groups nationwide have realized that the need to increase their membership base is critical to stabilizing their political power. They finally have begun to reach out to young activists.

In the summer of 2003 NOW members voted to establish a Young Feminist Task Force to advise the board on young feminist issues. This year Maryland NOW took this idea a step further and has established a statewide task force that incorporates the national agenda as well as an increased focus on recruitment. After two three-hour brain

storming sessions, the core members of the task force have established three programs: a coffee house discussion, a program that sets up a skills exchange between second and third-wave feminists and a goal to fundraise enough funds to send four plus young women to the national conference.

Both the coffee house discussion and the funds for the national conference focus on outreach. However, the feminist skills exchange is regarded our jewel program. The program is focused on matching second and third wave feminists together with the hopes to exchange not only skills but also stories and their lives. Third wave feminists grew up in a time when we expected certain rights. We expect that we are treated equally in the work place. We expect the right to own a credit card in our names. We expect the opportunity to play sports in both high school and college.



(continued on page 3)

## House Bill 398 Homicide-Victim-Viable Fetus

BY DUCHY TRACHTENBERG, PRESIDENT, MARYLAND CHAPTER OF NOW

Maryland NOW strongly opposes House Bill 398 Homicide-Victim-Viable Fetus because it undermines a woman's right to reproductive choice. As of this writing, House Bill 398 passed the Maryland House and it is on its way to the Maryland Senate (for approval or rejection). If passed, does anyone doubt Governor Ehrlich will sign Homicide-Victim-Viable Fetus?

This bill relies on the sympathy people would naturally have for violently injured pregnant women to advance their anti-reproductive rights agenda of having a fetus recognized in law as an autonomous person. That legal definition would ultimately enable the government to prosecute women who undertake any activity that would harm their fetus.

In the 30 states where these kinds of bills have been passed, the incidence of violence against pregnant women has not decreased, but rather it has increased. In the 30 states where these kinds of bills have been enacted, the prosecution of vulnerable pregnant women who have unmet medical needs (particularly addiction issues) has increased tremendously. Research data show that a woman who is in an abusive relationship and a woman abusing substances are often times one and the same person.

If this bill passes the Senate, our reproductive rights in Maryland have been compromised. Maryland NOW was the lead organization opposing this legislation. Maryland NARAL, Planned Parenthood and ACLU did not oppose House Bill 398.

(Voting Record on page 4)

Montgomery County NOW  
P.O. Box 2301  
Rockville, MD 20847-2301

**VOICE MAIL**  
301-236-0069

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

Genevieve Carminati  
genevievecarminati@  
montgomerycollege.edu

**Co-Executive Vice Presidents**

Janet Frank  
jsilversong@comcast.net

Bobbie Walton  
bwalton@crosslink.net

**Action Vice President**

Mona Langston  
mljld@cavtel.net

**Corresponding Secretary**

Fran Porter  
francesporter@earthlink.net

**Recording Secretary**

Vacant

**Treasurer**

Vacant

**Membership Coordinator**

Jeannette Feldner  
lj.feldner@verizon.net

**Community Relations**

Bobbie Walton  
bwalton@crosslink.net

**Newsletter Editors**

Mary Bailey  
bravenewworld@starpower.net

Elizabeth Callihan  
ecallihan@pubcomm.com

**TASK FORCE CONTACTS**

**Women's Health**

Amy Swann  
aswann@arhp.org

**MC NOW/PAC Chair**

Duchy Trachtenberg  
duchy@comcast.net

**MD NOW Council Rep**

Mona Langston  
mljld@cavtel.net

**Young Feminists**

Chris Henderson  
chenderson@mailblocks.com

Stephanie Goodwin  
knowledge.bound@gmail.com

**Domestic Violence**

Bobbie Walton  
Bwalton@crosslink.net

**MD NOW Lobbyists**

Ann Ciekot  
Mindy Binderman  
www.bandclobbyists.com

**Newsletter Distribution**

Rachel H. Howard  
rachelhoward@verizon.net

**NOW President Letter BY KIM GANDY**

Dear NOW Members,

We have very disturbing news to report—some Democratic leaders are actively recruiting anti-abortion candidates and forcing out pro-choice Democrats!

Feminists and progressives must speak out to stop the Democratic Party from becoming “Republican-lite” on women’s issues and undermining its own women candidates.

Barbara Hafer is a strong advocate for reproductive rights and was the frontrunner to take on extremist Republican incumbent Rick Santorum in the 2006 Pennsylvania Senate race. She has just been forced out of the race by Democratic leaders and consultants in favor of an anti-abortion candidate they recruited.

Who did top Democrats pick to run against Santorum, one of the leading anti-abortion, anti-women’s rights and anti-gay senators?

Top Democrats recruited Robert P. Casey Jr., a staunch abortion opponent in the mold of his father, the late Pennsylvania Governor Bob Casey Jr. You may recognize his name from the 1992 Supreme Court case of Casey v. Planned Parenthood, in which the senior Casey defended Pennsylvania’s Abortion Control Act, which was so extreme that the Supreme Court struck it down.

And who made sure Hafer would not run? She was pushed out by Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, head of the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee; Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell; and political consultants who are already lining up with the Casey campaign.

Don’t mistake this for a random act—it is a calculated effort by party leaders to build a so-called “bigger tent” at the expense of women’s rights. It’s happening in Rhode Island as well, where an anti-abortion candidate has been recruited by Schumer and national Democratic leaders to run against a pro-choice candidate in the party’s Senate primary.

If we don’t stop this losing strategy now, they’ll use it again and again. We must let the Democrats know that women will no longer be taken for granted: When Democrats do not support women, we will not support *them*.

Please go to [www.now.org](http://www.now.org) and sign the petition to DSCC Chair Sen. Charles Schumer and Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell right now. Tell them what you think!

For equality,

**Kim Gandy**

President, National Organization for Women

**Action Needed:**

**Tell Democratic leaders that moving to the *Right* is the *Wrong* strategy.**

**Sign the NOW email petition** to DSCC Chair Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Pa. Governor Ed Rendell. Visit <http://www.nowpacs.org/alerts/democrats-petition.html> to tell the democrats to support pro-choice candidates!

Last week, Democratic leaders forced winning pro-choice candidate Barbara Hafer out of the 2006 Pennsylvania Senate race against extremist Republican incumbent Rick Santorum, so they could run an anti-abortion male Democrat - the same losing tactic they used against Santorum in 2000.



**IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT**

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P.O. Box 2301, Rockville, MD 20847-2301.

# Religious Right Organizes for Assault on Sex Ed in Schools at “Town Meeting”

BY FRAN PORTER

A religious right organization sponsored a meeting mainly of parents of school children at Johns Hopkins’ Rockville campus on Saturday, March 19. The topic was the new sex education curriculum recently approved by the Montgomery County Board of Education. A film on condom use, shown at the meeting, is part of that curriculum. Speakers to a crowd of about 200 rallied the faithful to drum up support for an attempt to force the school board to abandon the new curriculum.

The first part of the program emphasized the dangers to children of discussing homosexuality in the classroom. It amounted to an hour of gay bashing. Citizens for a Responsible Curriculum (CRC), sponsors of the event, brought in “featured speakers” whom they must have known would slander people who happened to be homosexual, and they did just that. Their talk about the so-called “homosexual agenda” was an attempt to inflame people, when the proposed curriculum revisions do nothing more than state some basic facts as understood by every mainstream American medical and mental health professional association.

The condom video includes a woman using a cucumber to show how to put on and remove a condom. Following the video, several speakers quoted “facts” arguing that condoms do not work.

After seeing the video, one woman with a daughter in public school, said, “I ask the board not to put religious families in a position where we cannot in good conscience send our children to regular public school.” But the condom demonstration video does not significantly change the health education curriculum, since contraception information has been part of the curriculum for many, many years. Over those years, only one percent or less of families, including “religious families,” have chosen not to have their students take the human sexuality unit. All the video does, in the opinion of the county’s health educators, is to make the existing curriculum more effective.

From a write-up in the Washington Post about the meeting: “The quietest moment came when Scott Davenport of Bethesda spoke. ‘I am scared’ he said, ‘because I am a gay man, and I am very scared to be here right now.’”

## Young Feminists

(continued from page 1)

Many of us forget that it wasn’t that long ago that our mothers and grandmothers were not given these same opportunities. The Maryland feminist skills exchange will allow older women to remind us what we are fighting for, while younger women can teach second wavers about advancement in their fields. If you or any one you know is interested in this program, please contact Stephanie at [knowledge.bound@gmail.com](mailto:knowledge.bound@gmail.com).

It is time for second wavers from Montgomery County to reach out to young feminists. It is time for NOW to embrace the new wave of feminism. It is time for Maryland NOW to commit some of its resources to these rising stars. Over thirty years ago, the Republican party hired Karl Rove to focus on youth recruitment, and here we are over thirty years later wondering what we’ll do if the Conservative Right adds the Supreme Court to their iron fist grip of the Executive and Legislative branch. The Right has maintained a mantra of recruitment and with doomsday scenarios starting to become reality, the Left is left with little unity and power. It is time for second and third wave feminists to create a mantra of their own and take back our rights.

### NOW Young Feminists Task Force

#### MC & MD

Stephanie Goodwin

[knowledge.bound@gmail.com](mailto:knowledge.bound@gmail.com)

Chris Henderson

[chenderson@mailblocks.com](mailto:chenderson@mailblocks.com)

#### National

Allendra Letsome

[hurled\\_peas@yahoo.com](mailto:hurled_peas@yahoo.com)

Scarlett Swerlow

[scarlett@ssdp.org](mailto:scarlett@ssdp.org)

### IN MEMORIUM: Wanda Alston, Prominent Leader in LGBT Community and Former National NOW Staff Member

Prominent leader in the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community and former National NOW staff member Wanda Alston of Washington, DC, 45, was the victim of an apparent homicide in her home. Alston, a lesbian woman of color, was appointed to direct the newly-established DC Mayor’s Office of LGBT Affairs last September.

Alston served as the executive assistant to former NOW president Patricia Ireland and as special projects director at NOW from 1992 to 1996.

Along with Ireland, she helped to organize four national Marches on Washington and a Fight the Right March in San Francisco, and participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

She also served on the NOW National Board, as liaison to the National Rainbow Coalition, and on the committee that planned the 1998 Women of Color and Allies Summit. She recently organized the first city-wide LGBT summit to be held April 30.

Alston, a former co-chair of the DC Coalition of Black Lesbians, Gay Men and Bisexuals, received several community service awards: the 1994 Welmore Cook Award from Black Pride, Inc.; the 1995 National Welfare Rights Union community award; and the DC Coalition of Black Lesbians, Gay Men and Bisexuals community service award in 1995. In 2004, she received the Trust Servant Award from the Transgender Health Empowerment Organization.

Among the tributes, this from Loretta Kane: “I affectionately called Wanda ‘Dif’ which was short for ‘Wandiferrous’—a melding of her name and the words ‘different’ and ‘wondrous.’ That’s what Wanda was: different from anyone we’ve ever known and wondrous in more ways than I dare try to list. She embraced her differences proudly and counted them as assets. And that’s one of the things that made Wanda wondrous.”

## How it Was APRIL (1850 – 1899)

6 Jeanette Rankin, suffragist and lifelong pacifist, first woman elected to Congress (1917), and only member to vote against WWI and WWII, born, 1880.

9 Florence Price, first African American woman symphony conductor, born, 1888.

10 Francis Perkins, first woman cabinet member (Secretary of Labor as appointed by FDR in 1933), key contributor to the Social Security Act and the Fair Labor Act, born, 1882.

Rachel Frank, believed to be the first woman to speak from a synagogue pulpit on Yom Kippur (1890), born, 1866.

13 Lucretia Mott responds to an invitation that she address the Ohio Convention about remodeling the state constitution, suggests that women "not ask as favor, but demand as *right*," equality for women, 1850.

Anne Sullivan Macy, teacher of Helen Keller, who was blind, deaf, and mute, born 1866.

14 Vinnie Ream, sculptor who was chosen over male artists to create a bust of President Lincoln that would sit in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, puts the finishing touches on her masterpiece, 1865.

As you fill out your income tax form, remember Boston-born physician Harriot Hunt, who, starting in 1852, mailed an annual letter protesting her having to pay taxes while not allowed to vote.

17 Jane Grey Swisshelm, columnist for the New York Tribune, becomes the first woman to sit in the U.S. Senate Press Gallery, 1850.

19 Suffragists attending a lecture in Salem, Ohio learn that Siberian women are not allowed to step across the footprints of men or reindeer, 1850.

## HB 398 (continued from page 1)

### Montgomery County Delegates Voting Record for House Bill 398

#### Voted NO against HB 398

Charles Barkley  
Brian Feldman  
Michael Gordon  
Ana Sol Gutierrez  
Anne Kaiser  
Susan Lee  
Richard Madaleno  
Adrienne Mandel  
Karen Montgomery  
Carol Petzold

#### Absent

Marilyn Goldwater (who opposed HB 398).

#### Voted YES for HB 398

Kumar Barve  
William Bronrott  
Jean Cryor  
Kathleen Dumais  
Peter Franchot  
Henry Heller  
Sheila Hixson  
John Hurson  
Nancy King  
Luiz Simmons  
Joan Stern

## New Sex Education Curriculum in Montgomery County Public Schools

BY JEANETTE FELDNER

Last November, the Montgomery County Board of Education (BOE) unanimously voted to revise the sex-education curriculum to include comprehensive, age-appropriate issues, such as beginning a discussion of sexual orientation in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and showing a condom demonstration video in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. It is now being taught as a pilot program in three high schools and three middle schools.

A group opposing the revised curriculum, Citizens for a Responsible Curriculum, held a town hall meeting on Saturday, March 19, in Rockville. They showed the condom demonstration video and discussed why they are opposed to it and resist the inclusion of sexual orientation issues for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. There were many speakers who are extremely opposed to the new curriculum and urged those in attendance to write to the BOE to change the curriculum to an abstinence only curriculum.

The press was there (an article about the event appeared in the Metro Section of the Sunday Washington Post) as were officials from various organizations and a delegate from Annapolis. They strongly urged people in attendance to give money to organizations opposing the curriculum and to call the BOE with their complaints.

At a time when both sexually transmitted diseases among teens and suicide rates among gay teens are endemic, the effort to teach life-saving sex education in our public schools is critical.

**YOU CAN HELP:** Contact the BOE at Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Road, Rockville, MD 20850 or [boe@fc.mcps.k12.md.us](mailto:boe@fc.mcps.k12.md.us) Speak up at your next PTA meeting. Or go to [www.teachthefacts.org](http://www.teachthefacts.org), where you can get more information and sign an online petition in support of the new curriculum.

### The Road To Oz

Former MC NOW president Josie Wells has started a blog (web log) where she gives us a piece of her pertinent mind. Her articles range from feminism to the various issues of the day. Under the address [www.theroadtooz.blogspot.com](http://www.theroadtooz.blogspot.com), Josie becomes Dorothy, with the promise of other Oz characters to come. Check it out!

### An Easier Way

If you wish to contact your delegate in Annapolis during these last hectic days, here is an easier way than was printed last month: Dial 301-8587 followed by the last four digits of the delegate's telephone number as found in last month's issue. Thanks to Delegate Adrienne Mandel (Aspen Hill area) for this tip.

## Why I'm a Member of MC NOW

I became a member of NOW in the early 1970s when women were fighting to get the Equal Rights Amendment passed. I had recently graduated from high school and was working as a secretary. I'm not sure why, but I feel I was born knowing that men and women are equal, or at least that they should be. Perhaps it was because in my family, it wasn't that way. My mother raised seven kids and my father worked to support us financially. She was strong and independent, although she will never admit it, always relegating power and authority to my father.

I married young, but my husband and I had an equal marriage, sharing equally duties of the household, work and childrearing. And we fought for equality together.

I was crushed when the ERA didn't pass. I couldn't, and still don't, understand how women couldn't understand such a simple concept—that women should not be discriminated against on account of sex—and wouldn't want it for themselves and their daughters.

I stayed involved through the years, though mostly through sending checks to National NOW and going to marches for equality and choice in Washington, DC, the area in which I live.

Then in 1997, after reading years of MC NOW newsletters, I answered a call for help from Liz Joyce, then MC NOW President. The chapter was in dire need of volunteers to serve on the board. So I volunteered to

become co-newsletter editor. Graphic design is what I do for a living, so it was an easy fit. I served as newsletter editor for seven years. During these years I have met the most remarkable women. Many of them have become my close friends. I have learned so much from these women about the County, politics, opportunities to help where needed, women's rights, and so much more. We talk, work together, share stories, laugh, cry, go on road trips....

The National Organization for Women covers every aspect of women's lives and is there to help when needed. It is such an all-purpose organization, you could hardly need to be involved with another.

Last year I chose to change positions on the MC NOW board. I am now Membership Coordinator. I chose it because I knew nothing about it, and I wanted to learn. So I am learning. I continue to grow. And it's so wonderful being a part of this group of women—the ones who are involved now, the ones who have been involved and are now resting, the ones who send their membership checks in because that's all they can do right now, and the ones who are on the verge of volunteering to help where needed.

I'd love to hear from you and share your story. Please write me, [LJ.Feldner@verizon.net](mailto:LJ.Feldner@verizon.net). And thank you for being members of this wonderful organization and supporting our chapter.

## How it Was APRIL (1850 – 1899)

- 22 Susan B. Anthony writes to the fertile Antoinette Brown Blackwell, "Not another baby, is my peremptory command, two will solve the problem whether a woman can be anything more than a wife and mother better than half a dozen or ten even," 1858.
- 23 Anna Christy, lawyer, who lectured across the state on the "Position of Women under the Massachusetts Law," and won the first jury case in Mass. tried by a woman, born, 1855.
- 24 Ellen Lawson Dabbs, who married a widower with four children, looked after them, clerked in her husband's store, bore five children, helped her husband build a fortune, and then saw him deed all the property she had worked on to his first wife's children, then decided to become a doctor, born, 1853.

*(Selections from the Liberated Woman's Appointment Calendar, 1972-74, and the National Women's History Project newsletter)*



The Rockridge Institute is now accepting applications for its Summer 2005 internship program. Rockridge internships are a great opportunity for students and recent graduates to explore the effects of framing in public discourse and make a contribution to American progressivism.

The Rockridge Institute is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization located in Berkeley, California. By combining insights from the social and cognitive sciences, Rockridge seeks to reframe public discourse from a progressive moral perspective. We reconceptualize progressive social change in terms of fundamental American values and find ways of communicating these ideas that resonate with the American public. We are a small organization, so our interns take an active role in all aspects of our work.

The deadline for applications is April 22, 2005. All internships are unpaid. More information, as well as links to application materials, can be found at: <http://www.rockridgeinstitute.org/aboutus/internships/2005/announcement>.

COMING THIS  
SPRING



## Susan B. Anthony Brunch

Come network with other progressive women and men—everyone is invited to attend this exciting awards brunch, in which three prominent Montgomery County advocates will be recognized.

Tickets are \$40/person. Tickets include brunch and participation in the Silent Auction.

If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, or helping with planning the event, contact Amy Swann at [aswann@arhp.org](mailto:aswann@arhp.org) or (301) 585-5726. If you have something to contribute to the silent auction, please contact Bobbi Walton at [bwalton@crosslink.net](mailto:bwalton@crosslink.net).



## Elsewhere in the World

ABRIDGED FROM WWW.WOMENSENEWS.ORG

February 23, 2005:

### In Tsunami, Women Put Modesty Above Survival

As aid workers in Sri Lanka consider the sad statistics left by the tsunami, they say that, unlike women in the cities, women in poor, rural villages are tied a strict standard of modesty and caretaking which was a major cause of death. While official statistics are not yet available, it is estimated that women and children accounted for the majority of deaths tied to the tsunami. Villagers say women were killed by putting modesty or family members above their own survival. While men survived by climbing trees to escape the waves, most of the village women were drowned wearing traditional saris that restricted them from running and weighed them down. Women also were hindered by fear of tearing or losing their clothes and exposing themselves. In order to preserve their modesty, few rural women have been taught to swim. They even bathe—usually at wells—while covered in a long cloth. Women were found dead with babies in their arms, suggesting that they died because carrying children slowed them down. Others were pinned by their long hair to broken rubble. Sadly, the women who survived are being stigmatized. Some are blamed for losing their children or even bringing bad luck in the form of the tsunami itself.

March 6, 2005

### India's Barefoot Reporters Tell Their Own Story

Women trailblazers in rural India are telling stories from the margins of society. For the past seven years, a group of female reporters and editors have been reporting on conditions in the poor rural villages where they live and make a name for themselves as the country's "barefoot" media. In 1997, women from 75 villages in and around Pastapur decided they needed their own media to express themselves, facilitate dialogue across rural communities, document and analyze local events and issues, and convey information and ideas to the outside world. A decade ago, they were poor, illiterate women from Dalit communities (former "outcastes"), with little access to the

media even as viewers and listeners. However, they were members of village-level collectives organized by the Deccan Development Society that works with disadvantaged rural communities. Seven of the women took a 10-month video course and now have made over 100 films in the local dialect on their lives and concerns. In 2001, they established an independent, rural, women's media collective, the DDS Community Media Trust, to produce and promote their work.

March 9, 2005

### Lesbian Activists in Jamaica Tell Horror Stories

While gay rights activists in the U.S. push for the right to marry, lesbians in Jamaica are fighting for the right to live. Local activists say women who step outside societal norms risk threats of verbal and physical abuse. Women have reportedly been raped, beaten, murdered, and forced out of their homes or jobs simply for being lesbians. Activists criticize the violent lyrics peppering some dancehalls as part of the problem. At a concert last January, Jamaica's most celebrated artists repeatedly used derogatory terms for gay men, one urging the audience of 30,000 to kill them, according to Amnesty International. Human rights groups have rallied in response, working with J-FLAG (Friends of Lesbians and Gays), an all-volunteer group with few resources and about 100 members, to raise awareness about the damaging effects of hate lyrics and to document the pattern of homophobia in Jamaica. Receiving less attention is the impact of this homophobic culture on Jamaican women. Vigilante attacks most often target men, while the violence against women usually occurs outside the public eye. Activists are now trying to get Jamaica's public officials to take some responsibility, "because ultimately they are responsible for the climate." They also seek international intervention, since Jamaica is dependent on tourism dollars.

—MB



**Hairstylists in Maryland** are being enlisted as first responders against domestic violence. Salon professionals are natural interventionists, according to Jennifer Jaquess of Cut It Out, a national program that coordinates stylist-training programs. Hairstylists often see signs of abuse—bruised scalp,

bald spots where hair was pulled out—before doctors or domestic violence agencies are aware of the problem. Their comfortable, trustworthy relationship with their clients makes it possible for stylists to point abuse victims in the right direction. The plan, already in place in a dozen states, hopes to train hundreds of Maryland stylists over the next 18 months. Two volunteers from the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence have already taken the course, and they in turn will train the others. “We’re not training counselors,” Jaquess said. “What we teach stylists to do is, in a caring and compassionate way, say, ‘I’m worried about you.’” The state of Maryland announced its plan at the Robert Andrew Salon near Crofton, attended by Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, Jr. (D). (Wash Post 3-8-05)

**Culture watch.** The Washington Ballet’s rendition of Stravinsky’s “Rite of Spring” was “pointlessly provocative,” according to the Washington Post. Scenes proffered assault, implied rape, and lots of skin—“some of the very same formulaic elements that movies adopt to get that teen-enticing rating.” (2-26-05)... *The Great Mosque*, Djenne, Timbuktu, shut its doors to tourists after a Western woman bared her breasts for a friend’s camera inside the edifice (Wash Post Mag, 2-27-05)

**Theresa Wright.** Hollywood’s girl-next-door of the 1940s, died last month at 86. After being an Academy Award nominee three times, including for her performance in “The Best Years of Our Lives,” Wright’s career was seriously undermined by her erstwhile benefactor, Sam Goldwyn. Producer Goldwyn fired her for not obeying his order to pose in swimsuits and tight sweaters. (Wash Post 3-9-05, Time 3-21-05)

**Food for thought.** Speaking before a Senate subcommittee hearing on obscenity and the Constitution, Frederick Schauer, a professor of the First Amendment at Harvard, told the panel that images of violence against women “do bear a causal relationship to the incidence of sexual violence in the society, an effect that is independent of the degree of sexual explicitness.” He said that “although a concern about violence against women is occasionally mentioned these days, such mention is rare and decidedly secondary,” adding that “the current pressure to increase the level of obscenity prosecution is based on issues of sexual morality, or on the supposed evils of pornography addiction, or on undocumented harmful effects on children, but not at all on the real and scientifically supportable issue of violence against women.” ([webmaster@womenspolicy.org](mailto:webmaster@womenspolicy.org) 3-18-05)

**Black activists challenge** the entertainment media. Howard University hosted a conference last month on “Consuming Kids: How Marketing Undermines Children’s Health, Values & Behavior.” Among its subjects: the sexualization of childhood in advertisements. (Wash Post, 3-2-05)...*Peacaholics*, a DC-mentoring program founded by Jauhar Abraham and Ronald Moten, in February wrote 11 stores in the area—including Best Buy, Blockbuster, Target and

Wal-Mart—demanding that they stop selling the violent San Andreas video game, with its “gangbanging,” “hate-inducing,” “fear-creating” Black and Latino characters. Only Target responded, saying the current ratings system is sufficient. (Wash Post 3-16-05)... *The University of Chicago’s* Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture will hold an April conference exploring the impact of hip hop on the consciousness of young people. It will also examine whether hip hop’s promotion of drugs, crime, misogyny, consumerism, and nihilism normalizes or even promotes the degradation of women, especially Black women. (<http://csrpc.uchicago.edu>)

**Addicted to Porn**, a report released by the DC-based progressive non-profit Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics, details how 15 Members of Congress, including 13 Republicans and two Democrats, all of whom revile pornography, have accepted campaign contributions from corporations and executives who derive substantial profits from selling pornography. Check [www.citizensforethics.org/press/](http://www.citizensforethics.org/press/) for names, amounts.



Give a gift of membership to your Friends, Family, and Yourself.



## MC NOW New and Renewal Membership Form

\$35 **ONE YEAR, FULL NOW MEMBERSHIP**  
(newsletter subscription free)

\$17-34 Sliding scale; what you can afford

FREE I am a Maryland or National NOW member and wish to affiliate with Montgomery County NOW (chapter 0200)

Contribution to MC NOW of \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I got this newsletter from: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **Montgomery County NOW** and mail along with the application to:

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY NOW**, P.O. Box 2301, Rockville, MD 20847-2301

## MC NOW Calendar of Events

Board Meetings will take place on the first or second Monday of each month. All members welcome.  
Chapter meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of the month and action activities are held regularly.

### April 2005

- 1-3 NOW Foundation's Women of Color & Allies Summit. Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City, Arlington. 202-628-8669, ext. 143
- 9-11 National Collegiate Global Women's and Human Rights Conference. Feminist Majority Foundation. Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City. \$35 Register: [www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org)
- 11 7 pm. MC NOW Board Meeting. Vegetable Garden. 11618 Rockville Pike, across from White Flint Metro.
- 14 7-9 pm. MC NOW General Meeting. Montgomery College Rockville Campus Macklin Tower, Room 212 (see box below)

- 16 2 pm. Rally Against Rape. US Capitol Bldg. Sponsored by Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment. [www.PavingTheWay.net](http://www.PavingTheWay.net) or Angela at 630-547-0020.
- 16 8:30am-5pm. Montgomery County Women's Fair. Work shops and exhibits. Marriott North Bethesda, 5701 Marinelli Rd. \$25 incl. Lunch. 301-649-5551.

### MAY 2005

- 2 7 pm. MC NOW Board Meeting. Vegetable Garden, 11618 Rockville Pike, across from White Flint Metro
- 20-22 National Conference on Gender. Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City, Arlington. [www.gpac.org](http://www.gpac.org)

### Submissions to Newsletter Welcome.

*From NOW On* reserves the right to edit submissions for brevity. Ads accepted for nominal fees.

Call 301-236-0069

Email Mary Bailey at [bravenewworld@starpower.net](mailto:bravenewworld@starpower.net)

Write P.O. Box 2301  
Rockville, MD  
20847-2301

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
FOR MAY ISSUE:  
April 15, 2005**

## April 2005 MC NOW General Chapter Meeting

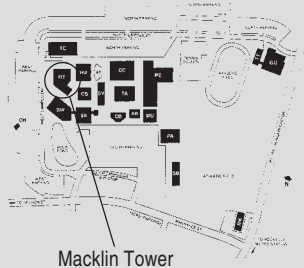
### Building Your Feminist Toolbox: THE FEMINIST SKILL EXCHANGE

Thursday April 14, 2005, from 7-9 pm  
Montgomery College Rockville Campus  
Macklin Tower, Room 212

The MD Young Feminist Task Force is creating an intergenerational reciprocal mentoring program in Maryland, and we want your help to do it. We need people of all ages who are willing to serve on a planning and steering committee, and we also need people who want to participate in the initial program.

**Anyone with ideas is welcome.** If you have any questions, please email Chris Henderson at [chenderson@mailblocks.com](mailto:chenderson@mailblocks.com).

Join us in the  
Macklin Tower,  
Room 212,  
Montgomery College  
Rockville Campus



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