

Maryland NOW  
and The Maryland  
Coalition Against  
Sexual Assault

invite you to join us

**Tuesday, February 22  
for Sexual Assault  
Lobby Day  
in Annapolis**

Mark your calendar so we  
can work together to  
improve Maryland's laws.  
Help us:

- ◆ **Make it clear that victims should never be required to physically fight off a sexual assault in order to succeed in prosecution (Maryland law currently imposes a duty to resist in certain circumstances);**
- ◆ **Expand access to emergency contraception for rape survivors; and**
- ◆ **Strengthen sentences for sex offenses.**

**Visits, calls, or letters  
are needed.**

For more information,  
contact Duchy  
Trachtenberg at  
301-984-5831 or  
[duchy@comcast.net](mailto:duchy@comcast.net)



## The Future Challenges in Maryland

BY DUCHY TRACHTENBERG, *PRESIDENT OF MARYLAND NOW*

The last few weeks in Annapolis have been more than interesting. The special session set the stage for an upcoming legislative cycle which is bound to be partisan and downright combative. And make no mistake about it—the unprecedented attack against women's rights has escalated here in Maryland and we need your support and participation as we confront this mounting crisis.

The House and Senate were able to find the votes to override Governor Ehrlich's veto of both the Pay Equity Commission and Medical Malpractice bills, but they were not able to find the broad support for an override of the Living Wage bill which had been a Maryland NOW top legislative priority last session. While we anticipate the registration of two minimum wage bills this session, the maximum wage outlined is \$7/hour, hardly a living wage these days! Maryland NOW clearly supports increased wages at a time when more and more Maryland women and their children live in poverty. Hopefully, a real living wage will become a political reality sooner rather than later.

In the area of domestic violence, a number of bills are being advanced by MD Senator Sharon Grosfeld. One of the bills Maryland NOW is most excited over is one that extends the period of a court-ordered protective order; this continues to be a problem for many abused women as they try to navigate a judicial process that is both unfriendly and far more complicated than necessary. There are also a number of concerns in the advocacy community over service funding which continues to dwindle as the community needs grow.

Numerous legislative measures addressing sexual assault against women will be introduced, including MD Senator Delores Kelley's bill which changes the polygraph requirement made of those women pressing sexual assault charges and MD Delegate Susan Lee's cyber stalking initiative.

A strong state coalition of reproductive rights groups (MD NOW/MD Planned Parenthood/MD NARAL/MD ACLU/Metro Washington Planned Parenthood) will be working this session on a wide array of

*(continued on page 3)*

## Domestic Violence, the Horrible Crime

BY MARY BAILEY

MC NOW is committed to tackling the "horrible crime," in the words of Bobbie Walton "the one committed by someone the victim trusts." The chapter is going to fight this travesty with a Court Watch program targeting domestic violence cases.

Walton, a member of both the MC NOW and MD NOW Boards of Directors, also wears another hat. For eight years Bobbie has volunteered as a court companion for an abused person program run by the county. For the past six years, she has managed domestic violence cases for County Councilmember Phil Andrews. She knows the court system and domestic violence issues well, so we are lucky to have such a person to head our new endeavor.

At our chapter meeting last month, Bobbie explained that the courts often don't understand the dynamics of domestic violence even though they hear these court cases. To compound the problem, there is no one from the community in court to watch and be able to report how cases are handled. Once, as an official court companion, Bobbie saw the judge open a case by turning to the abusive husband's attorney and asking, "Why are we here today?" Bobbie asked the judge's permission to speak, and pointed out that the wife, not the husband, was the plaintiff and was the logical person to state the reason for the hearing. Bobbie spoke up and told the judge, "I'm a volunteer and represent the community. We are concerned

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## President's Message BY GENEVIEVE CARMINATI

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Chapter of NOW,

I am writing this letter on the eve of the George W. Bush's second inauguration—and just a few days away from the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision. On the radio, a journalist is interviewing a married couple who will be attending a ball for service persons. As they chatter excitedly about shopping for an appropriate gown for the wife, so many thoughts rush my mind. How representative of this time this seemingly innocuous scene is: that the wife has been successfully sidetracked; that she doesn't realize how her rights are endangered by another term of this administration; that the husband has been convinced that going to war in Iraq was inevitable and his duty; the complicity of the press in the diversion of the public's attention, and the continued sale of these ideas; that this administration allows only the term "married couple" be applied to a heterosexual pairing. And I am reminded of the importance of the work that we all do.

Thank you for your courage to speak out. Montgomery County gave an overwhelming response to the Maryland NOW call for contributors to this year's "Private Choice, Public Health" full-page ad to run in *The Annapolis Capital* in commemoration of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The contributors signed their names to the letter that asserted, in part, "we affirm our support for a women's right to safe, legal and accessible birth control and abortion." A strong contingent of MC NOW members joins United States Representative Chris Van Hollen, National NOW's Kim Gandy and Olga Vives, twenty legislatures from throughout the state, and many others, in declaring their opposition to any attempt to control or weaken a women's right to choose. In this current era of intimidation and with more and more worthy causes in need of our financial support, your contributions are greatly appreciated.

*Updates:* MC NOW's Court Watch Project is underway. Court Watch volunteers will witness and record their observations of procedures and behavior in Family Court, District Court, and Circuit Courts. MC NOW will collect and analyze the court data and prepare reports about the actions in these courts, where decisions affect the lives of women and children. Even those with limited time to offer are welcome to volunteer. To become involved in this valuable project, contact Bobbie Walton, whose contact information is listed in this newsletter.

Also, watch for more news coming soon about this year's Susan B. Anthony Awards Dinner, which we have decided to move to May.

In Sisterhood,

*Genevieve*

### Are You Paid Fairly?

#### NEEDED: WOMEN'S STORIES ABOUT DISCRIMINATION AT WORK

The WAGE Project is a new national organization dedicated to closing the wage gap. WAGE stands for Women Are Getting Even. This April, WAGE will launch a new, interactive website, [www.wageproject.org](http://www.wageproject.org), that will provide women and employers with many tools to eliminate gender bias in the workplace. A centerpiece of the website will be a collection of stories from women workers, those who feel they are paid unfairly, those who have taken action to remedy workplace injustices, and those who would like to improve their situations.

We need your help now to build the initial collection of women's stories. Have you, your colleagues, your friends, or members of your family been paid less, been denied promotions, experienced sexual harassment, and been treated differently in the workplace as a woman? Has this discrimination affected your paycheck? We want to hear women's stories. Women's stories can be submitted to [www.wageproject.org/stories](http://www.wageproject.org/stories). Our site is not yet open to the public so you will need to complete a form requesting user id and password. The user ID is WAGE; the password is new. You may need to submit this information twice.

### IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

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## Domestic Violence *(continued from page 1)*

for her safety.” The judge allowed the victim to guide the discussion.

Unlike the county program where Bobbie volunteered, MC NOW’s Court Watch will stand outside the county structure. Our court monitors will not intervene as Bobbie did, but just observe. Two people will be assigned to a court, armed with training and forms upon which to report any problems with a procedure or judge. “We aren’t required to identify ourselves,” Bobbie said, smiling. “Let people wonder if we are in the courtroom.” A good judge, she added, will ask the right questions and help a plaintiff who cannot afford her own attorney.

Two assumptions will underlie the Court Watch. First, monitors cannot determine motivation, but can observe behavior and write notes for the chapter’s database. Did the judge speak clearly about the reasoning for a decision? Does the law need changing? And second, we may find by monitoring court actions that there are issues not thought of before.

Monitors will be trained so that they feel confidence in what they’re doing. They will be introduced to the courts, probably by Bobbie herself, by watching courts in action and then discussing what occurred. They will learn the

correct procedures for criminal cases and civil protective orders. When they go to court, they will have questionnaires to structure their observations.

The Court Watch Project will start up immediately. A NOW committee will design the scope of the project and the training of volunteers. Once volunteers are trained,

“The horrible crime against women involves not just husbands and boyfriends. If you trust the authorities and they let you down, that also violates your trust—and may even be more horrible.”

—Bobbie Walton

they will be able to begin collecting data for the NOW Court Watch Project. Bobbie suggests that we start “strong and small and narrow, and build on what we have learned. We must not exceed our capacity to do a good job.” This means focusing perhaps just on protective orders for now and branching out into other types of domestic violence later. We hope to have some monitors in the courtroom by the first day of spring. Then, after we have collected our data, we will analyze the results and publish a report one year from now.

What to expect as a volunteer? You will have to be free at least one business day a week or month. Sitting in on a protective order case takes 30 minutes on average, but requires a half-day commitment because short cases are thrown together on the roster. Criminal cases usually take a day.

What’s in it for women? Just imagine being able to witness for those held in virtual captivity by their husbands, especially immigrant women not speaking English. Or imagine a woman handcuffed to a bed with her mouth about to be duct taped when the police burst in. Or a woman with her top clothing ripped off, running down the street from the husband who wants to strangle her. Bobbie has observed all these cases and more. Abused women need our watchful help.

What effect will our Court Watch have on domestic violence? “When we do something on the ground, women are getting back their own power,” Bobbie said. Right now, Bobbie is working with state Sen. Sharon Grosfeld (D-MC) on seven or eight bills addressing the issue.

A careful study can only strengthen our efforts to help women who are victims of the horrible crime of violence committed by someone they trust. We hope our press releases and reports will stir up public attention, and be the basis for lobbying for changes in the law or court procedure. And finally, if MC NOW does this successfully, its Court Watch Project could be a model for other NOW chapters in Maryland.

If you’re looking for a meaningful project in your life, something that involves your heart and your head, this could be it. To get involved, contact Bobbie Walton at [bwalton@crosslink.net](mailto:bwalton@crosslink.net) or 301-236-0069.

## Future Challenges *(continued from page 1)*

legislative bills – some friendly and some not. This is the legislative area where the women’s community is most under attack, as we expect several legislative measures requiring parental notification, ensuring fetal viability, mandating care restrictions, and funding abstinence programs rather than comprehensive family planning services.

Given the challenges, Maryland NOW has put together an aggressive legislative effort. We have retained our lobbyists, Ann Ciekot and Mindy Binderman, once again. And four different legislative interns (law students) are on board as well. MC NOW’s Co-Executive VP, Bobbie Walton, will be working out of Sen. Grosfeld’s office on several domestic

violence bills. And I expect to be up in the trenches once again this session.

Consider lending a few hours each month to this critical effort. Take the time to call or e-mail your legislators in response to our legislative alerts. Join us at the Equality Maryland LGBT Lobbying Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>, as NOW’s Action VP (Olga Vives), will be joining us for the entire day. Participate in the upcoming lobbying effort on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, as we join forces with the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault. And don’t forget about the MD NOW Legislative Reception scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>, in the State Capitol, Calvert Room, from 5 to 8pm!

## How it Was FEBRUARY (1850 – 1899)

- 1 Readers of “The Woman’s Column” learn of Sarah Frances Dick, the first female cashier in a national bank, at the First National Bank in Huntington, Indiana, 1896.
- 2 Spanish Queen Isabella becomes the first woman to be honored on a U.S. postage stamp, on a 5-cent brown issue of the Columbian Exposition series, 1893. The stamp shows Columbus asking her for money.
- 3 Gertrude Stein born, 1874.
- 4 Constance Markievicz, Irish suffragist and revolutionary, who called the lack of woman suffrage “one of the crying wrongs of the world,” born, 1868.
- 6 Poet Kate Slaughter McKinney, known to the public by her pen name Katydid, born 1857.
- 14 Elizabeth Cryor becomes the first woman in the U.S. to demand naturalization papers, in Omaha, 1857.
- 18 In a military report, conclusive proof is furnished that Anna Ella Carroll planned the Tennessee campaign of the Civil War—“the greatest military event in the interest of the human race known to modern ages,” 1879. But Anna is never paid or given due fame.
- 18 Annie Abel, historian of Indian affairs, whose thesis was entitled “Indian Reservations in Kansas and the Extinguishment of Their Title,” born, 1873.

## The Sky Is NOT Falling—But We Have Been Robbed!

JOSIE WELLS, PAST PRESIDENT OF MC NOW

Social Security is a safe, secure, and responsible system which allows our elderly to take care of themselves while maintaining their dignity. It is a benefit which has been earned through years of contribution to our society and our country. Recipients include many who have sacrificed their childhood in defense of our country, World War II veterans, Korean veterans, and Viet Nam veterans and will include veterans of both the Gulf War and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It includes women who went to work in factories during World War II, nurses in the Korean and Viet Nam war, and mothers who work tirelessly to raise our children.

The President’s recent “the sky is falling” rhetoric is just that, rhetoric. The President has betrayed the trust of the American people by spending our hard earned Social Security payments on the war. That’s how we can have deficits without tax increases. That is how we can fight a war without paying the price at home.

Let’s see if I can figure this out. Social Security is a “pay as you go system.” That means the Social Security taxes I pay out of my paycheck goes to pay my mother and father’s Social Security benefit (which keeps them independent, and helps them maintain their dignity)—a benefit for me and the country as well. So far I don’t see any problem! But wait, we have a big balloon coming (a large population of baby boomers). With fewer young people to pay, we won’t have as much money coming in as we will have to pay out! What should we do? Some people would like to throw the baby out with the bath water.

**A little history.** President Reagan wanted to get rid of Social Security also; but there was not the political will at the time. Instead, he formed a committee to study the future and health of social security system. The committee chairman was none other than our current Federal Reserve Chairman, Alan Greenspan (who also wants to get rid of social security). Alan Greenspan recognized that when the baby boomers (those people born between 1946 and 1964) began to retire, there would not be enough funds (because fewer people would be paying into to Social Security, than the amount of people receiving Social Security—those dreaded baby boomers). The recommendation of the committee was to increase the social security tax to an amount which would over-fund the system, thus leaving extra money to pay out when the baby boomers retired. This recommendation was enacted by Congress in the 1980s. The trick

here was NOT TO SET THE MONEY ASIDE (the current term is lock box). Instead, it was put into general revenue (income to the Government) and used to offset the budget deficit created by the cold war against the Soviets. So to put it in simple terms, if the government overspent its budget by \$200, and they collected \$100 in extra social security money, they could say that they only had a deficit of \$100. If you and I did this, we would be considered irresponsible and undisciplined.

When President Clinton took office, he cut the deficit but never fully restored all the original social security monies spent during the 1980s for the cold war.

**And now for the present.** When President Bush took office we had a **projected** “surplus.” But that wasn’t a budget surplus, it was a surplus created using the Social Security money. Money you and I had paid into the system. I suppose one could argue that he was giving us back some of the money we paid to social security in the 1980s, but if that is the case, I got pennies to the dollar return on my investment—not a very good deal in my mind. President Bush has further exacerbated the problem by increasing the deficit (what the Government takes in versus what it spends) AND using more of the Social Security money to hide exactly how much of a deficit has been created by the war. Thus **creating** “the sky in falling” mentality.

**THIS IS IMPORTANT—SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT NOW NOR HAS IT EVER BEEN IN THE RED!** The only thing that has ever been in the red is our National Budget! The question is by how much—if the extra Social Security money, which is still being collected (to fund the baby boomer generation’s payments), is used to stem the red ink created by overspending, the amount of the deficit goes DOWN. If you take that money out of the National Budget, the deficit INCREASES.

Today, our Social Security money, as well as our parents money and our children’s money, is being used to offset a ballooning deficit caused by an unjust, and, more than likely, un-winnable war and we are being told we can do this WITHOUT any personal cost (tax increases).

The question Americans should be asking is **WHO** spent our future Social Security money? **WHO** robbed us of our security? **WHO** betrayed our financial trust and **HOW** did you use that money and on **WHAT**? Personally, I don’t think President Bush is being a very good steward of our money.

## Member Opportunities

This is going to be a fun and exciting year, despite what's happening at the White House. And Montgomery County NOW has many opportunities for you to serve your chapter and help the women in our county. Below are some opportunities, including contact information. Find something that suits you and get started now. If you don't see your area of interest, let me know and we'll see what we can do to get a group going to assist you.

**MC NOW Treasurer.** Our current treasurer is moving to another state. We wish her the best, but we need a replacement now. Are numbers your thing? Please consider serving on our board. Familiarity with Quicken is helpful, but will train. For more information, please contact Bobbie Walton at [bwalton@crosslink.net](mailto:bwalton@crosslink.net).

### **Susan B. Anthony Award Dinner.**

We are planning for the event to be held in May this year, and there's lots to do. If you can help plan the event, run around and do errands, pick up awards, design, print or label invitations, make phone calls, etc.—any or all of the aforementioned—please contact Amy Swann at [aswann@arhp.org](mailto:aswann@arhp.org).

**Newsletter Reporters/Writers.** The newsletter is always looking for new voices of women. Please send articles to Mary Bailey at [bravenewworld@starpower.net](mailto:bravenewworld@starpower.net).

**MC NOW Court Watch for Victims of Domestic Violence.** Get in on the ground floor of this new project. We are looking for planners and court observers. We want to be sure that justice is served to victims of domestic violence in Montgomery County. If you'd like to help design the program, we need you. We will be having a planning meeting in the near future. Do you have a few hours or a day a month to observe procedures and behavior in Family Court, District Court and Circuit Court? Court observers will record their observations and data in an organized way, using standardized forms. For more information or to volunteer, contact Bobbie Walton at [bwalton@crosslink.net](mailto:bwalton@crosslink.net).

**Yahoo Listserv Administrator.** Work at home. You don't need to attend meetings (unless you want to). Keep our listserv updated with new members. Send out notices and reminders to members (copy will be provided) using the listserv calendar. To volunteer, contact Jeannette Feldner at [LJ.Feldner@verizon.net](mailto:LJ.Feldner@verizon.net) or leave a message at 301-263-0069.

## Women's Health BY AMY SWANN

### Emergency Contraception Omitted from New Sexual Assault Treatment Guidelines

The Department of Justice recently released its first ever version of Sexual Assault Treatment Guidelines. The 130-page protocol provides step-by-step medical treatment guidelines for sexual assault patients, but fails to include a discussion of emergency contraception.

While the establishment of such a national protocol is an important step in ensuring that sexual assault victims receive high quality medical and forensic services, the omission of emergency contraception endangers the health of sexual assault survivors. Medical groups, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, recommend that emergency contraception be offered to all sexual assault victims at risk of pregnancy. The

new guidelines do not mention emergency contraception or recommend that it be offered to sexual assault victims, even though studies consistently show that emergency contraception is very safe and is most effective when taken very soon after unprotected intercourse.

Take action today by writing to Diane Stuart, Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, Department of Justice, 810 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC 20531. Also, the American Civil Liberties Union is circulating a sign-on letter and is accepting individual and organizational signatures; to sign on, send an email to [rpf@aclu.org](mailto:rpf@aclu.org) by February 1, 2005.

For more information about emergency contraception, visit [www.not-2-late.com](http://www.not-2-late.com).

## How it Was FEBRUARY (1850 – 1899)

- 21 After being rebuffed for four years and practicing skillfully without formal education, Lucy Hobbs becomes the first woman to earn a D.D.S. from dental school, 1866.
- 23 A resolution in the U.S. Senate to learn of the American Indians' status inspires ethnologist Alice Cunningham Fletcher to prepare her book, "Indian Civilization and Education," a groundbreaking effort to find the Indians' real needs, 1885.
- 24 Olive Schreiner, South African feminist and novelist, marries Samuel Cronwright when he agrees to adopt her name, 1894.
- 26 Flora Brewster, physician and surgeon who, with her physician sister broke the sex barrier at the Johns Hopkins University medical department, born, 1852.
- 27 Dr. Alice Hamilton, pacifist, pioneer in treating industrial diseases such as lead poisoning and air pollution, first woman to teach at Harvard, and co-founder of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, born, 1869.

*(Selections from The Liberated Woman's Appointment Calendar, 1972-1974)*

Answer This  
Questionnaire and  
Improve Your Sex Life

By Carole Schor

Changing times require new programs! So that we can better tailor our chapter meetings to your wants and needs, please answer the following questions and send to: [cschor@ymcadc.org](mailto:cschor@ymcadc.org) or 601 Stirling Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901.

1. I would prefer the following format for the monthly chapter meeting (check all that apply):

- provide a speaker
- provide a panel discussion
- provide the opportunity for small group discussion
- provide a feminist book club discussion
- provide a feminist film and discussion
- other (please specify)

2. The topics I would like to see addressed include (check all that apply):

- politics and new legislation
- influential women throughout history
- women's issues in other countries
- women's health issues
- parenting and childcare
- care for elderly parents
- business and finance
- career development
- media and image issues
- violence against women
- others (please specify)



## Elsewhere in the World

ABRIDGED FROM WWW.WOMENSENEWS.ORG

### December 15, 2004 Saving Girls Should Top World Agenda

We are doing a terrible job of taking care of our girls. In much of the developing world, a little girl eats less and last, and is up to three times more likely to suffer malnutrition than a boy. She is often not taken to the doctor when sick, and is less likely to be immunized. Girls are often kept out of school and put to work, proving the adage "A girl is never a child." If she goes to school, she still is in danger, as 32 percent of reported child rapes in South Africa, for instance, were committed by school teachers. This is the life of a girl in the developing world, if she is allowed to live at all. Great numbers of women in the world—93 million—are literally not alive today due to discrimination and family neglect. This is roughly equivalent to all the deaths in all the wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a holocaust many times over. The developed world can help by increasing the amount of aid, and by making all developmental aid conditional on improving the lives of women and girls. Gender discrimination is the greatest moral challenge of our age. And, we will be judged by history on how we respond to it.

### December 23, 2004 Spouse Abuse Laws, Mores Change in Bulgaria

In the last decade, Bulgaria has begun to acknowledge domestic violence as a major problem. But, with no laws on the books and only a handful of organizations working to aid victims, battered women have few places to turn. The government does not compile statistics on domestic violence, but nongovernmental and aid organizations estimate its prevalence is running around 40 percent and growing. Activists point to social and economic reasons for the scourge, with males lashing out in increasing numbers as long-term unemployment—now hovering around 20 percent—continues to grow. But, for the women, there is a lack of legal redress. A Bulgarian task force set up in 2002 to examine the problem came up with draft legislation that would recognize spouse abuse as a cause for divorce, but it does not require jail time for the abusers. So far, domestic violence has not become an accession issue for Bulgaria, which awaits entry into the European Union in 2007. Currently, the EU does not have a uniform standard for domestic violence laws, but the Council of Europe is calling upon it to come up with one. The EU has promised to focus on this issue for all its member countries in 2006.

### January 7, 2005 As Tsunami Recedes, Women's Risks Appear

The December 26<sup>th</sup> tsunami swept away the structures of established communities, leaving female survivors vulnerable to a wide range of threats. Reports of rape and violence against women and children have been accumulating, but women also face basic health problems due to a lack of personal hygiene products and maternal care. Women in ravaged societies face many pressures. They are responsible for attending to the sick, which can prevent them from getting distributed supplies and from attending to their own personal needs. There are no longer enough midwives or safe and clean birthing facilities. Although UNFRA earmarked \$3 million for the provision of the most basic maternity and hygiene support for women in the region, "\$3 million is seed money" only, said UNFRA's del Vecchio. A statement from five women's rights groups in Sri Lanka said, "We have received reports of incidents of rape, gang rape, molestation and physical abuse of women and girls in the course of unsupervised rescue operations and while resident in temporary shelters." Del Vecchio also noted that women are often put in a position to barter for supplies, and sometimes they barter themselves sexually, to feed their children. One way to ensure fair distribution of supplies is to put women in charge, he said. "We have found that women are good at aid distribution. They know family by family, who needs what. In addition, putting women in charge makes them less vulnerable to molestation."

### January 8, 2005 DOD Delivers Sexual Assault Policy

The Department of Defense delivered to Congress a new sexual assault policy that includes clear steps to prevent sexual assault, protect victims, and increase accountability. According to its summary, the policy will provide training for all DOD personnel for dealing with sexual assault, and includes revised guidelines for how to investigate complaints, treat and care for victims, and report sexual assaults. The Pentagon said it plans to designate a sexual assault response coordinator at all its military installations around the world, including all military branches and academies. These changes come in the aftermath of a series of sexual assault reports in the Iraq war, the Air Force Academy, and elsewhere in the military.



*Shirley Chisholm*, a founder of New York NOW, the organization's first chapter, died New Year's Day at age 80. She was a true trailblazer: the first African American woman elected to Congress (1969); founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, and fierce

advocate for women's rights. A former teacher, Chisholm co-authored a day care bill that would have accepted all children regardless of income—only to have President Nixon veto it, calling it “the Sovietization of American children.” When in 1972 Chisholm became the first African American to seek a major party's nomination for president, NOW issued its first-ever endorsement of a presidential candidate. Chisholm later said, “I've always met more discrimination being a woman than being a black. When I ran for the Congress, when I ran for president, I met more discrimination as a woman than for being black. Men are men.” ([www.now.org](http://www.now.org))

*Why does the left* “let conservatives get away with being the advocates of ‘traditional values,’” liberal columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. wonders. “The coarsening of the culture that traditionalist conservatives denounce is abetted by the very media concentration that economic conservatives defend. Why are liberals so tongue-tied in exposing this contradiction?” (Wash Post, 12-31-04)

*Culture watch.* Murders dropped 6 percent from a year ago, and violent crime fell 2 percent, the FBI reports. But rape rose 1.4 percent during the same period (12-14-04).... *A vice president* at media giant Viacom sent the following note to GOP Congressional offices: “Subject: Looking to fill a position in our office. Importance: High. We need to hire a junior lobbyist/PAC manager. Attached is a job description. Salary is \$85-90K. Must be a male with Republican stripes.” (Wash Post 12-17-04)

*Governor Macho.* Why did Hispanics and union members vote for Arnold Schwarzenegger to be California governor against their self-interest? For that matter, why did women vote for the macho actor despite his sexist behavior? The Schwarzenegger victory, claims George Lakoff, lies in Arnold's use of the politics of identity, not self-interest. At the heart of politics, Lakoff writes, lies an idealized family. We choose our leaders based on either a “strict father” (conservative) model or a “nurturant parent” (liberal) one. The difference: Liberals believe the world can be made better, while right-wingers think the world is dangerous place where we need a strict leader to steer the course. In reality, people are mixtures of the two views. We can relate to both a Schwarzenegger movie and to “The Cosby Show.” Strict parents can be liberals at work, and vice versa. Women tend to be nurturant, but may accept a strict political leader when they are fearful. “Enter the Terminator: the ultimate in strictness, the tough guy extraordinaire.” In a time of war

and fear, Schwarzenegger didn't need to run on the issues, but relied instead on the core Republican value—i.e., his strict father image. (George Lakoff, “Don't Think of an Elephant: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate”)

*Children for sale.* Not only aid relief moves in after a disaster, experts say, so do human predators. Pedophiles and child traffickers are preying on areas devastated by the Asian tsunami. One e-mail ad offers hundreds of orphaned children for rent or sale. When social structures fall, children lose their natural protection. Peter Van Arsdale, a University of Denver senior lecturer who is writing a book on refugees and human rights, says that the safety of women and children should be a priority for relief agencies—perhaps by giving them separate camps. “The...things most often thought about are proper sanitation, water supply, food supply and shelter,” he says. “What I'm suggesting is...social structure needs to be a factor in relief.” (Wash Post 1-14-05)



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## MC NOW New and Renewal Membership Form

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## 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.

### February 2005

- 5 1pm-3pm. Maryland Young Feminist Task Force meeting. First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville, Room 209. Metro access. To RSVP and get directions: [whurl\\_peas@yahoo.com](mailto:whurl_peas@yahoo.com) or 301-277-2435
- 7 7 pm, MC NOW Board Meeting, members welcome. Montgomery College, Macklin Towers, Women's Studies Commons, #212
- 14 3pm-8pm, MD LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender) lobby day, Annapolis. Contact [www.equalitymaryland.org](http://www.equalitymaryland.org).

- 22 Lobby Day, Annapolis. (See box below)

### March 2005

- 7 5-8pm, MD NOW Legislative Reception, Calvert Room, State Capitol, Annapolis
- 14 7 pm, MC NOW Board meeting. Location TBA (Note change to Tuesday)

### 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 MARCH ISSUE:  
February 15, 2005**

## February 2005 SEXUAL ASSAULT LOBBY DAY IN ANNAPOLIS

*In lieu of February 22<sup>nd</sup> Chapter Meeting*

### Join the Sexual Assault Lobby Day in Annapolis

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

In collaboration with the MD Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the main focus will be on the *No Means No* bill, sponsored by Sen. Ida Rubin and Del. Kathleen Dumais, both of Montgomery County.

NOW participants will need to register through MD NOW President Duchy Trachtenberg beforehand ([duchy@comcast.net](mailto:duchy@comcast.net) or 301-984-5831). Please provide full name, address and phone and/or email number. Details on meeting room and day's activities will be confirmed by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

TRAINING AND  
INFORMATION IN  
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MILLER BUILDING

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**(Room to be  
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