

2005 Women's Legislative Briefing

12:30 pm – 5:45

Sunday, January 30, 2005
National 4-H Conference
Center

7100 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Keynote Presentation by:

Cokie Roberts
Senior News Analyst
National Public Radio
Political Commentator
ABC-News

Come learn about important legislative initiatives affecting women and families that will be introduced during the upcoming legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly and the US Congress.

The keynote address will be delivered by Cokie Roberts, senior news analyst and political commentator.

The briefing is provided free of cost to attendees. Program participants will be briefed by a panel of experts on legislative proposals that are of urgent concern to women. Topics to be addressed include violence against women, pay equity, and more.

For more information, contact Montgomery County Commission for Women at (240) 777-8330. Please visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw for further program and registration information.

The Erosion of Our Rights Under Bush and Ehrlich

BY DUCHY TRACHTENBERG, *PRESIDENT OF MARYLAND NOW*

In ways both well-published and carefully hidden, glaring and subtle, the Bush and Ehrlich administrations are taking steps to roll back women's progress in every aspect of our lives – our opportunities to succeed at work and in school, our economic security, and our health and reproductive rights. It is hardly a secret, for example, that the Bush administration's massive tax cuts are benefiting the wealthiest Americans and resulting in extensive cuts in important programs, although the particularly harmful impact of these policies on Maryland women may be less widely recognized. Other actions with harsh effects on women are occurring almost completely "under the radar," out of the public eye.

Rolling Back Policies That Guarantee Equal Opportunity for Women at Work.

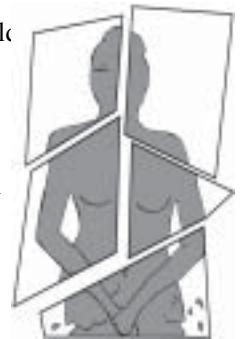
Although a pay gap remains for women and men doing equal work, and barriers to equal opportunity for women on the job persist – such as sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination, and lack of access to paid family leave – the Bush administration has

adopted policies that make matters worse instead of better. Here in Maryland, Governor Ehrlich has vetoed legislation that would guarantee a living wage for state contract workers (a majority of who are women) and the creation of a Pay Equity Commission to study current pay inequities and employment opportunities for Maryland women.

Shortchanging Child Care and Other Supports Women Need to Maintain Self-Sufficiency.

Child care and paid family leave are critical to enabling women to work and children to succeed. Yet the Bush administration has consistently underfunded and undermined programs to expand access to affordable child care and has offered welfare proposals that would make matters worse for families in poverty. There has been no leadership from the Ehrlich administration on either child care or

(continued on page 3)



New Book is Progressive Guide to Reframing the Debate

BY AMY SWANN

How many times have you heard a progressive friend use terms that were coined by conservatives, such as "pro-life", or "tax relief"? How many times have you talked to a member of a union and learned that they voted for the conservative candidate against their best personal interest? How many times have you wondered why

conservatives are able to position themselves favorably in public policy debates?

The recently-released book by linguist George Lakoff, "Don't Think of an Elephant: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate—The Essential Guide for Progressives," shines light on the way language is used by conservatives and how they have spent the past three decades effectively framing public policy issues in their favor. Lakoff describes the "strict father" and "nurturing parent" models as metaphors to describe the differences between the conservative and liberal approaches.

(continued on page 4)



Montgomery County NOW

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

VOICE MAIL

301-236-0069

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Mary Bailey
braveneworld@starpower.net

Elizabeth Callihan
ecallihan@pubcomm.com

TASK FORCE CONTACTS

Women at Work

Aileen Worrell
aeworrell@verizon.net

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

Jenn Czyprynski
jenniferczyprynski@websat.com

Scarlett Swerdlow
scarlett@ssdp.org

MD NOW Lobbyists

Ann Ciekot
Mindy Binderman
www.bandclobbyists.com

Newsletter Distribution

Rachel H. Howard
rachelhoward@verizon.net

President's Message

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Chapter of NOW,

The new year is known as a time of change, and we at MC NOW find ourselves in the midst of many changes. As we begin 2005, we must bid farewell to Rosemary Dempsey, Co-President of the Chapter. Rosemary has relocated out-of-state, where we wish her well in her future endeavors. We thank Rosemary for the energy and leadership she brought to all her efforts at NOW. Using one of her own favorite phrases, Rosemary is a wonderful woman.

Best wishes also to Roberta Frasier, who has served as our treasurer for the past few years and will be leaving the area, too. Thanks to Roberta for her careful attention to details and her dedication to the work. We hope she has a fruitful and healthful retirement.

MC NOW will begin a Court Watch Initiative in 2005. Women who have had violent acts committed against them benefit from the support and vigil of other women in court. Women in our community — and those who might act against them — need to know that there are people who are looking out for them. Our January 18th general meeting will launch the initiative with a program on crimes against women and a discussion on what we can do about them. (See the back page of this newsletter for details.) We hope you will be able to join us for this timely program.

Also, watch for more news about our exciting annual Susan B. Anthony Dinner, coming in March. At the SBA Dinner, MC NOW recognizes women in our community who have made outstanding feminist contributions and have served as excellent role models for us all. This year, we are encouraging more participation from Chapter members and welcome your input on how to make that happen.

We hope to see you in the coming year as we work toward creating a tomorrow of peace and equality for all.

In Sisterhood,

Genevieve

HELP US SAVE MONEY. GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY!

MC NOW is trying to save money on printing and mailing costs for this newsletter. We can do this by printing and mailing less newsletters and sending PDF versions of the newsletters via email.

Some of you provided your email address when you became a member or renewed your membership in NOW, thus letting us know that you are open to receiving email. Some of you let us know in earlier pleas, that receiving your newsletter as a PDF attachment was fine. I have been sending the newsletter electronically to those of you with email addresses.

If you are receiving a paper copy and would like to receive the PDF attachment via email, please let us know. If you prefer to receive a paper copy in the mail, it's perfectly fine. Just let us know that, too.

If you have any questions about this, or wish to let me know your preference, **please send an email to lj.feldner@verizon.net**. Thank you so much for being a member of MC NOW. Your membership makes a difference to the women in Montgomery County.

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

From NOW On is published 9 times/year by the Montgomery County Chapter of the National Organization for Women (chapter 0200),
P.O. Box 2301, Rockville, MD 20847-2301.

paid family leave initiatives. Over 40 percent of Maryland women who are single-parent heads of households and their children live at or below the poverty line.

Increasing Retirement Insecurity for Women.

Women face special challenges in achieving secure retirement. Because they tend to have lower lifetime earnings than men, they reach retirement age with fewer assets and pension benefits and lower monthly Social Security benefits; and because they tend to live longer than men, they need to stretch their assets over a longer period, are more likely to have higher medical expenses, and are more likely to live alone without the income or care of a partner. But instead of shoring up Social Security so that it will be there for all retirees – including women, who are the most dependent on it – the Bush administration is taking steps to weaken it and other sources of retirement income. “Minority Women and Retirement Income,” a report by the Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) found more than four out of every ten minority women in the United States will live in poverty in retirement. In the state of Maryland, that number is closer to six out of every ten minority women. Governor Ehrlich has not considered this startling fact reason enough to act decisively; in fact, last May he acted swiftly to deny fundamental pay equity and a living wage for Maryland women.

Sabotaging Policies That Protect Women’s Health and Reproductive Rights.

Health insurance coverage and access to comprehensive reproductive care are critical prerequisites to improving women’s health. Yet the Bush administration is supporting measures that will exacerbate problems in both areas. The Bush administration’s efforts to change Medicaid from an entitlement program (in which everyone eligible gets enrolled), to a block grant (in which there is a finite allotment of funds for each state) will result in the denial of coverage for many of those now eligible and fewer services for those who enroll, again with the greatest adverse impact on women. This past autumn, Governor Ehrlich’s advisors suggested financial cuts in the few breast and cervical cancer programs that exist in Maryland for poor women. They recommended reducing breast and cervical cancer diagnosis

and treatment for women with incomes between 150 percent and 250 percent of the poverty guidelines, for a savings of \$2.5 million. The Department states that “the impact would be that an estimated 1,200 uninsured, low-income clients would face financial barriers to care for breast and cervical cancer treatment services and may die as a result.”

Just last month, anti-abortion legislators bullied into federal law broad new limitations on women’s reproductive health care. The sweeping language, which was slipped into a massive budget bill,

Other actions with harsh effects on women are occurring almost completely “under the radar,” out of the public eye.

makes all health care providers eligible for federal dollars — regardless of their unwillingness to provide a full-range of health care services for women. The provision permits health care entities that refuse to provide abortion services, counseling or referrals (even in cases of rape, incest, or danger to the woman’s life) to collect federal, state and local tax dollars. It overrules state and local regulations requiring full coverage for such services. Current federal law, previously aimed at protecting doctors who do not want to undergo abortion training or perform abortions, now provides a farther-reaching ‘conscience clause.’ The new language expands the exemption to all health care providers, including hospitals, doctors, clinics, HMOs, and insurers that profess a corporate or individual objection to providing abortion or reproductive health services. Maryland is one of those states that will be impacted by this change, and considering that anti-choice lobbyists are now welcomed into the Governor’s residence and office, we must be alarmed. Over a dozen anti-choice legislative proposals are anticipated this upcoming session, and MDNOW and our allies fully expect more deafening silence from Governor Ehrlich.

Closing and Undermining Government Offices and Expert Advisory Bodies Dedicated to Safeguarding Women’s Interests.

A variety of government offices and advisory committees play an important role in developing and implementing federal and state policies that are critical to women. The Bush administration has eliminated or weakened several of them, or attempted to do so – a pattern of action that is undoubt-

edly both a reflection and a cause of the low priority given to women’s interests. Within weeks of taking office, Bush closed the White House Office for Women’s Initiatives and Outreach, which has monitored policy initiatives within the departments and agencies for their impact on women and served as a liaison to outside organizations concerned about policies affecting women. Like Bush, Governor Ehrlich has taken recent steps to silence Maryland women’s organizations. This past August, Governor Ehrlich moved the Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women (LAMW) directly into the Legislation and Public Policy Committee (LPP), therefore weakening the primary role of the Maryland Commission for Women.

All of this sounds quite dismal and overwhelming, but the important factor to weigh is that we have a strong voice and can and will stand up to this assault on our lives. As we face these challenges we must understand the strategic connection between Washington, DC and Annapolis, Maryland. We must recognize that we have no choice other than to stand up and be counted. Please join us in Annapolis this year as we defend our rights and lobby for our needs. MDNOW will be hosting forums and arranging lobbying efforts on a variety of issues. We ask for your help in these projects and we encourage you to offer your name to our Roe Anniversary signature advertisement in January. We must continue to advance the rights of all women. ♦

- 2 Stenographer Alice B. Sanger of Indianapolis, the first woman hired by the White House, reports for work, 1890.
- 4 Utah becomes a state, with women's suffrage in its constitution, 1896.
- 5 After 53 womanless years, the University of Michigan becomes the largest school to admit female students, 1870. Matilda Sissleretta Joyner Jones, dramatic soprano who sang for President Benjamin Harrison, considered the first black prima donna, born to a former slave, 1869.
- 8 First issue of the suffrage journal, *The Revolution*, appears, 1868. "Some denounced it, some ridiculed it, but all read it," says publisher Susan B. Anthony.
- 9 Carrie Chapman Catt, suffragist, born, 1859.
- 11 Alice Paul, who founded the National Woman's Party and organized the nonviolent pickets that pressured President Wilson for the vote, born, 1885. Lucy Stone's father, a prosperous farmer who at first opposed female education, writes his poverty-stricken daughter at Oberlin College that she need no longer work for 8 cents an hour, as he will at last assist her financially, 1845.
- 16 The annual convention of the National Woman Suffrage Association opens in Washington, where, Elizabeth Cady Stanton gives her "Solitude of Self" speech, 1892. Susan B. Anthony calls it "the speech of Mrs. Stanton's life."
- 18 Vassar College is founded with \$400,000 by Matthew Vassar, to give women an educational opportunity equal to that of Yale and Harvard, 1861.

What Makes Me Angry

BY BOBBIE WALTON

You know what makes me angry? It's the illogical behavior of our society, our culture, and our public safety system toward violence against women. We are out of touch with reality and we react with mixed messages. Consequently, we perpetuate even more violence.

Do you recognize these messages?

One message is "We care about you and your families"

- We have laws to punish a person who attacks another.
- We have public safety systems to enforce these laws and protect people from being harmed by others: our law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, social services agencies.
- We provide shelter for individuals and their children when they need to escape from being harmed by a partner or spouse.
- We advocate for victims of violence—in courts and through other agencies.
- We mourn when someone is killed by a partner.

The other message is: "I don't want to become involved. It must be your fault."

- When we see a neighbor or friend who has been beaten we avert our eyes.
- When we hear angry and violent noises coming from the neighbors we stop our ears.
- When we know a woman has gone to court for protection, has forgiven him and

taken him back, we say, "When will she learn?"

- We say, "Why doesn't she leave him?" instead of, "Why doesn't he stop hitting her?"
- Police say, "We've gone to that house so many times. We can't take this seriously," instead of arresting the violence by arresting the violator.

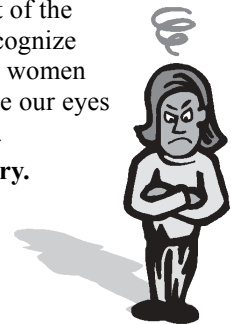
Women are battered and are scared to testify: the case is dropped in spite of evidence which would support the case without their testimony.

Judges imply, "What did you do to make him hit you?"

The message we send to violated women is: "If you have been hurt by someone you love and trust, it must be your fault. You shouldn't have loved and trusted him." We say this when we don't hold the attacker responsible for what he has done. We say this when we put the burden for taking action on the person who has been the most harmed. We say this when we don't notice that the system is not working for many women and their children.

And, we don't acknowledge that we are part of the system. We don't recognize that violence against women is terrorism. We close our eyes and stop up our ears.

This makes me angry.



Book Review *(continued from page 1)*

The author claims that conservatives are winning by putting their values front and center, by controlling the national dialogue by "framing" issues in their favor, and by developing overarching strategic initiatives rather than advocating single issues and one-time programs. This book is a great primer for progressives who want to better understand the values that unite progressives, and how they can better and more persuasively articulate their values. It also provides an explanation of the tactics that have worked for conservatives, and how progressives can

re-frame conversations to be more effective for promoting progressive values.

Once you've read this book, you'll understand the buzzwords and phrases that have allowed the conservatives so much success. The book is practical and inspiring and will change the way you understand public policy debate and ultimately help you communicate progressive issues more effectively.

For more information about this topic, visit the web site of the Rockridge Institute, a prominent progressive think tank, at <http://www.rockridgeinstitute.org>. ♦

We're Growing...quietly

I asked our membership to renew and give gift memberships. As of my last update from the National office, we are up 10 members! I am hoping this is the beginning of a trend, and I am ever optimistic. So THANK YOU to those of you who realized how important and valuable your MC NOW membership is and heeded the call to help us grow.

I am hopeful that in the new year our membership will continue to grow. I am also hopeful that from that growth we will find members who wish to be involved in our important work.

However, our members have been so quiet. Our newsletter writers offer interesting, newsworthy, controversial articles, yet we rarely hear any feedback from our members. Our Board sends action notices of events in the community, and we rarely see our members at these events. We hold general chapter meetings nearly once a month, with interesting speakers and topics. Yet we see so few of our members at these meetings.

You quiet members are missing out on such wonderful conversations and camaraderie with women. You are missing out on opportunities to give to your community of women here in Montgomery County.

In 2005, we have plans to hold another Susan B. Anthony Award Dinner and our weary Board members need help. We desperately need to raise funds, and we need your help. There is discussion of starting a Court Watch to ensure that women who have been victims of violence get the justice they deserve, and we will need help from our members. We have discussed having a Feminist Book Club or a Feminist Sunday Matinee Movie Club.

We will be having many more interesting conversations with women in 2005, and we want you to be a part of those conversations. Quiet members: Resolve to be quiet no more. Speak to us. Join us. Happy New Year!

LJ.Feldner@verizon.net

New Report Reveals Misleading Information in Abstinence-Only Curricula

BY AMY SWANN

A new report released in early December by Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) shows that many federally funded abstinence-only sex education courses for elementary and high school students are based on false and misleading information.

The report, based on a study examining the scientific and medical accuracy of the most popular federally funded curricula, found that over two-thirds of these programs included false information. Among the information that was distorted was basic scientific information, including the effectiveness of contraceptives, and safety and risks of abortion. Furthermore, the report states that the curricula present the religious view that life begins at conception.

The report also found that the abstinence-only curricula reinforced gender stereotypes;

including stereotypes that undermine girls' achievement, stereotypes that girls are weak, and stereotypes that reinforce sexual aggressiveness among males. One curriculum instructs: "Women gauge their happiness and judge their success on their relationships. Men's happiness and success hinge on their accomplishments."

The Bush administration has dramatically increased support for abstinence-only programs during the past four years. The Waxman report states that in fiscal year 2005 the federal government will spend \$170 million on abstinence-only education.

The complete report, entitled "The Content of Federally Funded Abstinence-Only Education Programs" is available at <http://www.democrats.reform.house.gov>.

How it Was JANUARY (1850 – 1899)

- 21 Jane Austen begins writing her novel "Emma", 1814.
At the National Woman Suffrage Association convention in Washington, DC, a resolution is introduced calling on the Christian ministry to teach that men and women were "given equal rights over the earth, but none over each other," 1885. It doesn't pass.
- 23 Elizabeth Blackwell, who had often been rebuked for the indelicacy of her choice of career, receives her diploma from Geneva College, Geneva, N.Y., becoming the first female doctor in the U.S., 1849.
- 24 Dr. Mary Walker becomes the first and only woman to win the Congressional Medal of Honor, for her courage and medical care during the Civil War, 1866. When she became active in the suffrage movement, the medal is recalled and never again given to a woman [reported in 1973].
- 25 Virginia Woolf, author of "A Room of One's Own", born, 1882.
- 26 University of Michigan Geology professor Alexander Winchell reads his essay, "Woman—Her Actual Place and Her Rightful Place," demanding that women be given full partnership in society, 1866.
- 29 Two sisters, Julia and Abby Smith, petition the Senate of the State of Connecticut to grant them the same property privileges as men, 1878.
- 31 Atlanta welcomes Susan B. Anthony and the 27th annual convention of the American Woman's Suffrage Association, 1895.

Now Remains Dedicated To Marriage Rights

NOW remains deeply committed to equal marriage rights for every committed couple in the U.S. Our goal to achieve marriage equality has not been changed by the outcome of the 2004 election, and post-election data prove that the marriage issue did not cost Sen. John Kerry the presidency.

"We are committed to seeing that full marriage and social equality are a reality for same-sex couples," said National NOW President Kim Gandy. "We are asking our allies not to cave to pressure created by the radical right. We will not compromise our values. We will not allow discrimination to be written into the constitution."

"Ensuring equal marriage rights will demonstrate this country's commitment to diversity, equality, tolerance and respect—ideals that we continue to promote throughout the world," said Gandy. "The civil rights movement fought for interracial couples to be able to marry—and we won. We're fighting for marriage rights again, this time for same-sex couples. Again, we will win."

"Moving further to the center or the right is a faulty tactic," said Gandy. "We must stand firm in who we are and continue fighting until our vision for marriage equality is won."



Elsewhere in the World

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November 6, 2004

Ethiopia Sets Quota

Ethiopia's ruling political party has announced it will guarantee women 30 percent of its parliament seats, calling the move a necessary step toward "a true democracy." The party, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, said it will also impose gender quotas in regional elections, in which half of all candidates will now have to be women. Various opposition parties have taken similar steps in the battle leading up to the country's next elections in May 2005. Currently, the composition of Ethiopia's parliament is 42 women and 505 men.

November 13, 2004

Iran Jails Activists

Two leading female journalists have been arrested in Iran as part of the hard-line conservative government's efforts to suppress pro-democracy journalists and Web sites. Mahboubeh Abbas-Gholizadeh, the editor of the Farzaneh Journal and outspoken women's rights activist, and Fereshteh Ghazi, who writes about women's rights in a daily newspaper were arrested in early November. Iran's newly elected parliament has been steadily chipping away at women's rights.

December 3, 2004

Chilean Women Gain Right to Divorce

Divorce has never been legal in Chile, but in the past couples could separate and perhaps get their marriage annulled—but that meant the marriage never existed in the eyes of the law, leaving women without protections or support payments. With the new law, a divorce is final after a year's separation if the request is mutual, and after three years if it is unilateral. The man still retains rights over his wife during the wait. Lawyers in Chile are dealing with a crush of new clients, eager to break their marital bonds. An estimated 50,000 requests for divorce are making their way through the court system. Since Chile legalized divorce, only Malta and the Philippines still forbid it.

December 4, 2004

Ethiopia Okays Abortion

Ethiopian lawmakers recently approved a number of legal reforms aimed at promoting women's reproductive health and rights, including the removal of penalties for

abortions in case of rape, incest, and extreme danger to a woman's life or health. The new code also establishes punishments for the trafficking of women and children, rape, sexual abuse by family members, female genital mutilation, and abduction for the purpose of marriage. The code clearly outlines the circumstances under which abortions are not subject to punishment, as when a pregnant woman is too young to be physically or mentally prepared to raise a child. The Ethiopian Ministry of Health reports that unsafe abortions are the fifth-leading cause of hospital admissions and second-leading cause of deaths among hospitalized women.

December 9, 2004

Ukraine's Top Dissident Raises a Rare Female Voice

Ukraine's Yulia Tymoshenko is rich, powerful, and leading the country's political opposition—in sharp contrast to the position of most women in her strife-torn nation. Tymoshenko, Ukraine's former deputy prime minister, closest ally of Viktor Tushchenko, and candidate who is contesting the results of the recent presidential election, has inspired millions of Ukrainians to protest a vote called "not free." She helped stoke the Supreme Court decision to invalidate the highly contested vote that gave the election to Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. A former government official in charge of reforming the post-Soviet Union energy sector, Tymoshenko made a personal fortune before falling out with outgoing President Leonid Kuchma. In 2001 she was briefly jailed on corruption charges that she dismissed as politically motivated. In 2002, she led a popular campaign against Kuchma for his alleged role in the murder of a journalist. She then narrowly survived a suspicious car crash. In Ukraine, women suffer from high rates of maternal mortality and sexually transmitted diseases, and are "vulnerable to being trafficked into the commercial sex industry or other forms of forced labor," says the Human Rights Watch. In this atmosphere, Tymoshenko not only becomes a symbol for the opposition, but also brings attention to the plight of Ukrainian women. As a Ukrainian Women's Fund spokesperson put it, "even if Yulia has to use men's ways to achieve her goals, the more of such powerful women we have in Ukraine, the better it is for all of us."



Same-sex marriage is constitutional, said Canada's Supreme Court, giving Parliament the right to legalize gay marriage nationally. The unanimous decision also said that clergy who oppose same-sex marriage cannot be forced to perform the ceremony. Lower courts in most Canadian provinces,

with the notable exception of Alberta, already have upheld gay marriage. If Parliament passes a national law, Canada will join Belgium and the Netherlands as the only countries legalizing such unions. A law to standardize gay rights was drafted in 2003, but awaited the Supreme Court's go-ahead. What a contrast between Canada and the U.S., where 11 states banned same-sex marriage last November. "It's hard to believe that just a river separates us from the reality of the United States," said Douglas Elliott, a Toronto lawyer and president of an international association that monitors laws on gays. (Wash Post 12-10-04)

Culture watch. Kids Page of the Washington Post asks its readers a different question each week. Recently, it asked children what is the highest-rated movie they'd ever seen. The nearly 500 respondents reported as follows: 3.3 percent said G-rated films, 7.4 percent said PG-rated films, and 23.6 percent said PG-13 films. But a whopping 56.7 percent reported seeing R-rated movies. (11-16-04)... *Today's youngsters* are the first to grow up with the Internet, notes People magazine. When a researcher asked a class of New Jersey

eighth-graders if they'd ever seen Internet pornography, the entire class of 42 students raised hands. Said one boy who uses it as a research tool, "The cool kids, the jocks, they talk a lot about sex. If you don't know what they're talking about, they'll make fun of you." (12-8-04)

Overriding prejudice. Some science-oriented people think that racism is inevitable, given a human's automatic and biology-based wariness toward anyone who looks different and might be a threat. This, they say, is the job of the brain's amygdala, which flashes its 'stranger alert' in just 30 milliseconds to the primitive, emotional part of the brain, so fast only the subconscious may be dimly aware of it. "But that primitive response is not inevitable," reports prominent science writer Sharon Begley. If a person has 525 milliseconds to respond to an encounter with someone from another race, that is enough time for the brain's prefrontal cortex (deals with higher thought) and its anterior cingulate (controls reflexive responses) to kick in. "If people have a chance," says William Cunningham of the University of Toronto, "they can modify or override the emotional response with the cognitive regions of their brain." (Wall St. Jnl, 11-19-04)

Way over-used. Surgery to reshape the labia and other vaginal areas is a new trend, say plastic surgeons. While some women undergo the operations to improve comfort, many want to conform to ideals set by the pornography industry. Labiaplasty was once the domain of sex workers, nude entertainers, and the occa-

sional woman who needed the procedure for medical reasons. Today, surgeons say, the bulk of the women getting this surgery are ultimately pressured by men who want them to conform to standards set by sex-oriented magazines and Internet porn. Some doctors dispute whether constructing a tighter vagina increases sexual pleasure for a woman. Incisions cut nerves, induce scarring, and may result in pain, they say. Commented NOW President Kim Gandy, "Plastic surgery is being way over-used in many different ways. There's something off about what's going on in our culture that makes women feel they need to live up to some ideal." (Women's Enews, 11-14-04)

New Zealand music retailer Roger Harper refuses to put Eminem's new album on the shelves but will sell it upon request. For each sale, he will donate \$4.20 U.S. to the Women's Refuge charity and a suicide prevention organization to "help the victims that suffer from Eminem's worldview," Harper says. (Wash Post, 11-20-04) ♦



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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.

January, 2005

- 10 7:00 pm: MC NOW Board Meeting, members welcome. Broadway Diner, Rockville Pike.
- 17 Justice Monday, Lawyers Mall, Annapolis, early pm. First civil rights march in MD in 20 years.
- 18 7:00 pm: MC NOW Chapter Meeting (See box below)
- 22 32nd anniversary, Roe v. Wade
- 27 3: 00–7:00 pm: MD Legislative Agenda for Women Reception Lobby Day: briefing 3–5 pm; lobbying 5–5:30; reception 5:30–7 pm. Miller Senate Bldg, Annapolis.

- 30 12:30–5:45 pm: MC Commission for Women's 2005 Women's Legislative Briefing (See page 1 for details)
- 31 5:00–7:00 pm: MDNOW LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender) Education Forum/ Legislative Reception, Miller Senate Building, Annapolis. Details tentative. duchy@comcast.net.

February 2005

- 8 7:00 pm: MCNOW Board Meeting, Place TBA.
- 22 MD Coalition Against Sexual Assault: Sexual Assault Lobby Day. Details TBA.

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

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

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE:
January 15, 2005**

January 2005 MC NOW General Chapter Dinner

THE HORRIBLE CRIME AGAINST WOMEN (the one committed by someone the victim trusts)

**Learn how MC NOW's Court Watch will witness
and advocate for victims of Domestic Violence**

Speaker: Bobbie Walton

Chief of Staff for MC Councilmember Phil Andrews
Court Companion for MC's Abused Person Program
Recipient of MC NOW's Betty Ann Krahnke award for advocacy

Tuesday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m.
Montgomery College Rockville Campus
Technical Center, Room 136

Join us in the
Technical Center
Room 136
Montgomery College
Rockville Campus

