

CHOICES

Feminist Majority Foundation Campus Program E-Zine

November 13, 2006

www.feministcampus.org

"Feminism is a struggle to end sexist oppression. Therefore, it is necessarily a struggle to eradicate the ideology of domination that permeates Western culture on various levels." - bell hooks



Standing with Our Sisters

The Feminist Majority Foundation's *Global Reproductive Rights Campus Campaign* serves to educate and activate young leaders of the women's and progressive student movements on college campuses around the essential need for access to comprehensive family planning, including safe abortion worldwide. To make a difference we must succeed in changing the direction of international family planning policies in the U.S.

World AIDS Day (December 1) and International Human Rights Day (December 10) are quickly approaching and they are perfect times to talk about global women's rights.

One idea is to show "*The Global Majority...Again*" DVD (22 minutes) and lead a discussion at your group meeting or during a class. This powerful film explores the connection between reproductive freedom, women's empowerment, sustainable development, fair labor practices, and peace around the world. A movie discussion guide is also available.

For more ideas or for a free copy of the movie and discussion guide contact campusteam@feminist.org

Michigan Votes to Ban Affirmative Action

Michigan voters approved a state-wide ban on affirmative action in public education, public employment, and state contracts on Tuesday. The referendum was opposed by many prominent leaders in the political, business, and academic worlds, including both major gubernatorial candidates, Governor Jennifer Granholm (D) – who was reelected on Tuesday – and Dick DeVos (R). Detroit and the surrounding metro area also showed strong opposition to the referendum, as evidenced by the ubiquitous "No on 2" signs. Roughly 58 percent of voters across the state came out in favor of the ban, garnering the most support from men and white voters, with 60 percent and 59 percent voting to approve it. Only 47 percent of women and 14 percent of black voters cast a "yes" ballot for the proposition.

In order to put Proposition 2 on the ballot, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI) paid workers two dollars for every signature they obtained. The initiative was spearheaded by Ward Connerly, a California businessman who was also behind a similar initiative in California in 1996.

The consequences of the approval of Proposition 2 will be far reaching in Michigan and beyond. Changes are set to start as early as December 22, but legal challenges are expected. The passage of Proposition 2 will not only affect Michigan citizens. With his success in Michigan, Connerly is expected to take the same ban to other states. Opponents of these bans plan to mobilize their base early in an attempt to keep similar referenda off of future ballots.

Kate Nielson, Campus Organizer

Gender Gap Key in Democratic Victories

The women's vote was key in Democratic victories on Tuesday. Nowhere was its impact more apparent than in the Virginia Jim Webb/George Allen Senate race. Fifty-five percent of women voted for Jim Webb (D), while 55 percent of men voted for George Allen (R), for a ten-point gender gap, according to exit polls. The gender gap was also decisive in the Montana Jon Tester/Conrad Burns Senate race, where 52 percent of women voted for Democratic challenger Tester and 50 percent of men voted for incumbent Republican Burns for another decisive gender gap. In Missouri's Senate race, 51 percent of women voted for Claire McCaskill (D), while 51 percent of men voted for Jim Talent (R). It can be said that if only men voted, Republicans would still be in control of the Senate.

In the House, again, women's votes made a difference in the election's outcome. The exit polls were largely not broken up by House district, but overall, women voted five percentage points more (56 percent) for Democrats than men (51 percent). According to past gender gap analysis and overall Senate and House exit polls, women played an integral role in the House going Democratic – especially in close races.

End of Semester Meetings!!

Call your campus organizer to schedule your end of semester debriefing.

Remember to meet with your groups to devise a power plan for next semester!!



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The
FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION
proudly presents...

THE NATIONAL YOUNG
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE:
FROM CAMPUS TO CONGRESS

EXPERIENCE THE SPECTACULAR
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
MARCH 24-25, 2007
ON THE CAMPUS OF
UNIVERSITY OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GLOBAL RIGHTS
DOMESTIC REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
ACCLAIMED FEMINIST SPEAKERS
AND OTHER WOMEN
JUST LIKE YOU!

GOHV Plays a Part in Campaign Success

The GOHV 2006 campaign was a huge success! The FMF Campus Team worked with students, young women and people of color to stand up and make their voices heard!

2006 had a record turnout of ten million young people under the age of 30 voting in the midterm election. Young voters spoke out for minimum wage increases which passed in six states. Feminists spoke out on reproductive rights and rejected the abortion ban in South Dakota and the parental notification measures in California and Oregon.

We can use this momentum to continue to increase the power of young people. As we approach 2008, we are a force to be reckoned with! Nancy Pelosi the first woman and self identified feminist Speaker of the House.



FMF Interns Elaine Heiberlein, Stephanie Ng, Rachel Fugate display just how important voting is.

Campus Group Corner

To keep retention up, showing appreciation for members goes a long way. When they participate in events, take lots of pictures, and post the pictures on your FMLA's website, Facebook, or Myspace. People love to see their own faces, and be recognized for the work they put into the group.

We also celebrate a "feminist of the month," a member (not on the executive committee, and often new, for encouragement) who has been especially active that month. They get a feature blurb and picture on the website and in our zine/newsletter. Last year almost every feminist of the month ran for an officer position.

Also, remember to connect with members socially; having outside school socials, such as dinners, parties, and movie nights — befriend them on personal levels — it really helps.

At every meeting acknowledge every person there — have a time at the beginning for introductions, with a feminist introduction question that has to do with the topic of the meeting. Ask if it's anyone's first time and if it is, make sure they get a membership packet with info on the group, the constitution, ways to get involved, and an application and getting-to-know you questionnaire. Make a point to introduce yourself and let them know it's good to have them there. Keep them involved. Tell them how much you need them to table and you need their input and help. Once they do come out to events, meetings etc., make sure to tell them how glad you are that they are there. Get to know them!

When people feel appreciated and needed, they will keep coming. Last, but not least, we can't stress enough how important it is to be friendly to anyone and everyone. Most people just need a friendly face and to feel welcomed, and they'll come back.

- Lena Glover, President, University of North Texas FMLA and Natalia Neira, Public Relations Chair, University of North Texas FMLA

Share your great ideas and success stories!
Send to campusteam@feminist.org
and you may see your stories in print.

Approval of Nonprescription Plan B Sales to Women Over Age 18 'Not Enough' to Reduce Need for Abortion

FDA's decision to approve Barr Laboratories' application for nonprescription sales of its emergency contraceptive Plan B to women ages 18 and older is "welcome news," but it will not be "enough to overcome our nation's stalled progress in reducing unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion," said Sharon Camp, president and CEO of the Guttmacher Institute.

According to Camp, the latest national statistics on abortion -- which show that "a decades-long decline in the U.S. abortion rate is stalling out" -- should "make no one happy."

However, there are some "easy ways to get things back on track," such as using state Medicaid waivers to expand eligibility for family planning coverage to more low-income women; allocating sufficient funding to Title X, the federal family planning program; creating better public education programs for teenagers and adults that provide medically accurate information on the safety and effectiveness of contraceptives and stress personal responsibility; and looking for "ways to make effective contraceptive use easier and less expensive" for women, according to Camp.

"We know how to make abortion rates start going down again," Camp writes, concluding, "Let's stop wasting time and get on with the job."

Welcome New FMLAs and Affiliates

Bennett College (NC)
Florida State University (FL)
Hampton University (VA)
North Carolina Central University (NC)
University of Central Florida (FL)

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