

# CHOICES

Feminist Majority Foundation Campus Program E-Zine

August 25, 2006

www.feministcampus.org

*The world has never yet seen a truly great and virtuous nation because in the degradation of woman the very fountains of life are poisoned at their source. ~Lucretia Mott*

## Message from the Campus Team: Get Out Her Vote

2006 is an election year. There are numerous threats to reproductive rights, affirmative action is under attack, global warming is on the rise, and our nation is at war. So why vote *again* to try and change things when it seems as if no progress is in sight? How about the fact that the establishment doesn't want you to vote! In fact, several states are passing legislation that makes it more difficult for young people to vote, especially college students AND *only 20.6% of 18-24 year-old women voted in the last mid-term election in 2002.* That's why it is so important that we *Get Out Her Vote!* *Get Out Her Vote 2006* is a student voter education and registration initiative aimed at significantly increasing registration and voting by young women.

In the next month, the campus team will travel to Arizona, California, Michigan and South Dakota to register and mobilize young people to vote.

In Arizona, organizers are working to register as many students as possible despite a harsh new restrictive law there. Prop. 200 passed in 2004 creating new and unparalleled obstacles for students, especially out of state students, to register and vote where they attend school in Arizona.

In California, campus organizers will



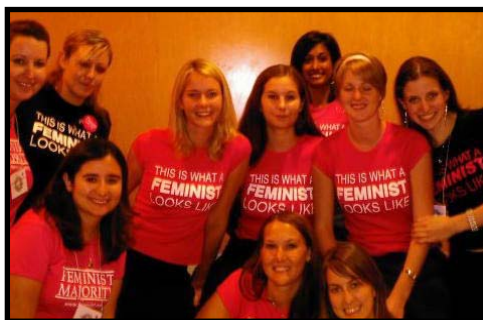
The New East Coast Campus Team!  
From left: Samantha, Cassidy, Kate, and Janel

## Feminism in Action Ms. in the Classroom

Integrating Ms. Magazine into your fall and spring semester curriculum is easy to do. As the Wall Street Journal is used in business courses, Ms. can be used as a contemporary reader for classroom discussions, assignments, and extra credit. Participating in the Intro to Ms. Program will expose your students to a feminist news source on a local, national and international level.

**To learn how to get Ms. in your classroom, go to [Msmagazine.com](http://Msmagazine.com)**

*The thing women have yet to learn is nobody gives you power. You just take it. ~Roseanne Barr*



What DOES a feminist look like?  
Send us your photos in a feminist tee and you can be in the next issue of **CHOICES!**

### FEM-worthy sites

[www.feministcampus.org](http://www.feministcampus.org)  
[www.msmagazine.com](http://www.msmagazine.com)  
[www.Feministing.com](http://www.Feministing.com)  
[www.bitchmagazine.com](http://www.bitchmagazine.com)  
[www.Womensmediacenter.com](http://www.Womensmediacenter.com)

## FDA Approves Over-the-Counter EC

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced its approval of over-the-counter status for Plan B emergency contraception for women 18 years and older. The announcement is a major victory for women and women's health advocates nationwide, who have demanded FDA approval for over-the-counter access since 2003. Emergency contraception (EC) is effective up to five days (120 hours) after unprotected sex, birth control failure, or rape, but it is most effective (95 percent) if taken within 24 hours. Because of the time-sensitive nature of EC, over-the-counter access is crucial to its effective use.

The approval of EC over-the-counter is a result of the demands of women across the country, especially of young women. The Feminist Majority Foundation has sent tens of thousands of petitions to the FDA asking for approval of EC over-the-counter, and conducts a major campaign to increase access to EC on college campuses around the nation. Women's health advocates also credit Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) for their work blocking the confirmation of FDA commissioner nominee Andrew von Eschenback until the FDA made a decision on over-the-counter status for Plan B.

"This decision is long overdue. For nearly three years politics took precedence over good science and good health policy decisions and women's health suffered," said Dr. Susan Wood, who resigned from the FDA in protest of the agency's delay in approved over-the-counter status for EC. "While I am glad that the drumbeat for a return to a science-based FDA has had some positive impact, this decision still represents a compromise." The decision leaves young women 17 and under with the extra burden of obtaining a prescription when time is of the utmost importance.

*Let your voices be heard!  
Send your thoughts to  
**CHOICES@feminist.org***

East Coast

1600 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22209

866.444.FMLA  
703.522.2219(fax)

CHOICES@feminist.org

West Coast

433 S. Beverly Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

3166.471.FMLA  
310.556.2509

## CA AFL-CIO Conducts Historic Vote to Oppose Prop. 85

Dolores Huerta, organizers with the Dolores Huerta Foundation, women labor leaders and a team of women college student interns with the Feminist Majority Foundation helped engineer a historic vote in support of young women's reproductive freedom.

Following intense lobbying led by Huerta and a group of young college feminists, the Executive Council of the CA AFL-CIO initial "No Recommendation" vote on Proposition 85 was overturned by a super-majority of delegates.

"It's very rare for the executive council to reverse its decision," said Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers, founder of the Dolores Huerta Foundation and long-time member of Feminist Majority Foundation Board of Directors. "We had some of the big unions on our side, but we needed a two-thirds vote...This is a smashing victory for the feminist movement."

On the ballot again this November, Proposition 85 would amend the California state constitution to prohibit abortions for young women under the age of 18

"Many delegates, not just women, but men were speaking out for their daughters; and unions who don't usually see a correlation between their work and young women's lives were standing up for the women in their unions."

Amanda Luterman, FMF intern

**CAMPUS TEAM cont.** work with student clubs, faculty and women's centers to stop Proposition 85, a dangerous anti-abortion parental notification initiative.

The Michigan team is working to defeat the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI). This initiative is extremely misleading since it aims to ban affirmative action across the state of Michigan, not increase civil rights opportunities. This ban on affirmative action would result in the decrease of women and minority enrollment in universities and limit opportunities for women and minorities in the workplace.

The South Dakota campaign aims to mobilize some ten thousand students to register to vote and Vote No on Referred Law 6 to repeal the most severe abortion ban in the nation. FMF Campus Team staff will be in South Dakota working with the South Dakota Campaign for Healthy Families. If South Dakota citizens reject this ban, it will be a huge victory for reproductive rights.

## Activists in the Field

"Pro-Life, your name's a lie! You don't care if women die!"

This and many other rally cries echoed through downtown Jackson, Mississippi mid July as pro-choice activists from all over the nation gathered in support of the last remaining abortion clinic in the state.

In response to the organized protests of the clinic by the anti-choice extremist group Operation Save America (OSA), field director of the Feminist Majority Foundation's National Clinic Access Project (NCAP), Nancy Kohsin-Kintigh and Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) Campus Organizer, Sandi Lyman helped organize students, teachers and community members to loudly proclaim their support for the clinic and comprehensive reproductive healthcare.

Schools including Jackson State University, Millsaps College, Mississippi State University, and others brought delegations of students and professors to the events that ranged from a march and rally to going door to door with information about Emergency Contraception in underserved areas.

Despite attempts to stifle the pro-choice voice of Mississippi, the actions of the Mississippi Reproductive Freedom Summer Coalition were a resounding success. Even after the kick-off rally was met with a bomb threat, pro-choice advocates simply turned the rally into a march around the Governor's Mansion. Throughout the week pro-choice protesters outnumbered anti-choice extremists at every turn.



Holding the freedom chain in front of the Capitol building

In addition to their extreme anti-choice sentiments, OSA destroyed a Quran on the steps of Mississippi's capitol, and shredded a rainbow gay pride flag, then proceeded to take them back to the church

that was housing them and burn the items, an act that would ultimately get them kicked out of the church that had originally agreed to house them.

Following the presence of OSA, a second anti-choice group, Oh Saratoga, attempted to "shut down" the clinic, however, thanks to the continued vigilance of FMF's NCAP field director Nancy Kohsin-Kintigh, both groups were unsuccessful and the clinic was able to see patients every day.

Sandi Lyman, West Coast Organizer



Protestors in front of the Capitol building in Mississippi left a lasting impression on anti-choice extremists

## In the Know...

*Feminist Campus and Ms. Magazine have joined cyberspace.. We're on MySpace!*

*Join us for forums and new information everyday at [www.myspace.com](http://www.myspace.com)*

*-Say hello to our new campus organizers:*

*Kassidy Johnson-Deep South and HBCU's  
Kate Nielson-New England and Great Lakes region*

*Olivia Ortiz-West Coast*

*Samantha Sewell-Midwest and South Central region*

*Janel Quarless-Mid-Atlantic region*

*~8/27 Organizers Samantha and Jessie will be in South Dakota to help Get Out Her Vote (GOHV)*

*~9/7-9/18 Organizers Kassidy and Kate will be in Michigan to help Get Out Her Vote (GOHV)*

*~Organizers Olivia and Sandi will be in Arizona to help Get Out Her Vote (GOHV)*



## Did You Know...

*Statistics*

*86% of all US counties are not served by an abortion provider*

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