



# CHOICES

Feminist Majority Foundation Campus Program E-Zine

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www.feministcampus.org

## A YEAR IN REVIEW: THANK YOU FEMINISTS!



The time has come to say goodbye to another successful school year, but before we do, we would like to say thank you --thank you for the wonderful memories and your hard work; thank you for your input and your gratitude. We hope the 2006-2007 school year has been as fantastic for you as it has been for us. The campus organizers, Janel, Kate, Olivia, Samantha, Sandi, and Cassidy, are in your debt for making this school year a success.

This academic year has flown by and it is now time to reflect on what a year it has been for the campus program!

The campus team hit the ground running in August ready to defeat initiatives such as the South Dakota abortion ban, the Michigan anti-affirmative action initiative, the Arizona same-sex marriage ban as well as student voter suppression efforts. With your help in the states, we were successful in mobilizing more young people and more people of color to "Vote As If Their Life Depended on It."

Our votes let the world know that young people, especially young women, could not be ignored or taken lightly.



The youth vote increased by 10 percent in the 2006 midterm election. Female voting also increased fifty-six percent in the midterm election, out-voting men by five percent nationwide. Women of color proved to be the deciding factor in several key races.

In January 2007, history was made when Nancy Pelosi became the first woman Speaker of the House. The campus organizers were joined by members of FMLAs and affiliates in the hallowed halls of Congress as we and watched Speaker Pelosi get sworn in.

Ms. magazine featured Speaker Pelosi on the cover of the Winter 2006 issue, her only solo magazine cover.



At the opening of the 110th Congress the campus organizers were honored to meet Senator Hillary Clinton, arguably the first viable woman for President of the United States of America. With two people of color and a woman running for President, the face of leadership can change.



Also in January campus groups across the country celebrated the 34th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* by holding candlelight vigils for those women who died because of botched abortions or illegal abortions.



While women on television continue to be defined only by their looks, shows like "Ugly Betty" redefined beauty for millions of women. A show based on a Spanish telenovella, it breaks with traditional conventions of race, class, and gender. Ugly Betty is executive produced by feminist activist, Salma Hayek.



The new FMLA and faculty at Bennett College for Women in North Carolina held a forum on sexual assault and screened the film *NO!* by Aishah Simmons. Feminist university president Dr. Johnetta B. Cole thought the topic was so important she attended the program to show support.



The dream of Dr. C. Delores Tucker, the founder and chair of the National

Congress of Black Women and Pennsylvania Secretary of State, was finally realized shortly after her death when Congress passed legislation for a statue of Sojourner Truth to assume her rightful place next to Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the Capitol.

Over 400 students attended the Campus Program regional conferences in Maryland, California, Colorado and Minnesota, where your passion, commitment and energy for women's equality were displayed en masse.



In March more than 375 students from 96 campuses in 36 states came to Washington DC to attend the

National Young Women's Leadership Conference: *From Campus to Congress*. This conference was amazing! Speakers included Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey of California, a former welfare mother; Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America; and Dr. Sima Samar, head of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

What a year it has been for women leaders!

Unfortunately, we had our low points too: namely, the defeat of Affirmative Action in Michigan and the recent Supreme Court decision to uphold the so called partial-birth abortion ban with no health exception. We also said goodbye to the legendary Ann Richardson, former Texas Governor and amazing feminist as well as Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald, a

Democratic member of Congress from California's 37th District and the first African American woman to chair a committee in Congress.

Congratulations to our graduates who are moving on to grad school or who are just entering the "real world" in general. Take care of yourself. Remember you will always have a friend at FMF. Congratulations to those that have finished another year of higher level we look forward to working with you next year.

The campus team will be traveling to the SisterSong, NOW, NCRW and NWSA conferences this summer. If you plan to attend any of them, please look us up.

Have a wonderful summer, but do remember that we are always available to you, summer months included.

Remember to update your information with your campus organizer and to turn in your end of semester surveys.

So instead of saying goodbye, we'll say see you later...

In Solidarity and For Equality,

FMF Campus Team



## CT Governor Signs EC Bill for Sexual Assault Victims

Connecticut Governor M Jodi Rell (R) signed a bill on May 16, 2007 ensuring that all licensed health care facilities make emergency contraception available to victims of sexual assault. The law, which will take effect on October 1, 2007, requires that victims of sexual assault receive medically accurate and objective information about emergency contraception (EC) and are provided with EC upon request.

Women advocates lobbied extensively for the legislation. "No woman deserves to face bearing the child of a rapist or having an abortion because she was denied a simple course of pills when she needed them the most," Laura Cordes, director of policy and advocacy for Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, told the Hartford Courant.

Out of the state's 31 hospitals, only the four Catholic hospitals objected to the bill. In order to appease concerns by Catholics who oppose distribution of contraception, the bill allows a third-party provider, such as a rape crisis nurse, to dispense the medicine. Catholic officials, however, are not satisfied with the provision; Archbishop Henry J. Mansell still objects to the distribution of EC on hospital grounds, the Hartford Courant reports.

Other states are also considering bills that would provide sexual assault victims with EC. Most recently, the Wisconsin state Senate voted 27-6 to approve a similar bill yesterday, and the Oregon legislature approved a bill, sending it the governor's desk where it expected to be signed into law.

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### ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET!

It's time to nominate your FMLA for the Feminist Majority Foundation Fierce Feminist Awards!

Send one to two paragraphs to [CHOICES@feminist.org](mailto:CHOICES@feminist.org) and let us know why you and the members of your FMLA are Fierce Feminists!

No FMLA is too small; we want to hear from all of you!

The coveted Regional Excellence in Leadership will be decided by the campus team.

*All nominations are due June 15, 2007.*

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| Glorious Global Reproductive Health Action Award | Innovative Action Award  |
| Domestic Women's Reproductive Health Award       | Best Fundraiser Award    |
| Biggest On Campus Success                        | Best FMLA Leader Award   |
| Exceptional Emergency Contraception Action Award | Best Collaborative Award |

*Winners will be announced in the first semester issue of the CHOICES ezine*