

Biden Plans Legal Brigade for Domestic Safety

BY ALLISON STEVENS
WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF, WOMEN'S ENEWS

The scourge of domestic violence can't be cured with one piece of legislation or one round of federal spending, says Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.). That is why Biden — author of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) — keeps thinking about new ways to reduce violence against women. And now with his party in power in the House and Senate, he is in a position to find more support.

Biden's new plan involves legal assistance. Only 170,000 low-income domestic violence survivors have legal representation each year, less than 20 percent of at least 1 million victims who experience abuse annually, according to a 2005 report by the Institute for Law and Justice and the National Center for Victims and Crime. The need for legal assistance is definitely there.

Creating A Network of Lawyers

To address this need, Sen. Biden has written a bill that would create an electronic network of 100,000 lawyers willing to do volunteer work on behalf of victims of domestic violence. The bill would also set up a fund to help a separate group of lawyers — those who spend a majority of their time working on behalf of domestic violence victims — pay back their student loans.

Biden's proposal comes at a time when the Department of Justice reports that the rate of domestic violence in the U.S. is dropping. This report is a sign of success that the VAWA programs are working, activists assert. Economists point out that the availability of legal services, improvement in women's economic status, and higher levels of education explain the drop. However, they say, although shelters, hotlines and counseling services provide critical crisis-intervention services, they do not give women the ability to leave their abusers permanently. Legal assistance gives victims the tools — such as protective orders, child support and public assistance — to achieve financial independence and freedom from harm.

(continued on page 3)

Who Said That?

Children's bodies aren't like automobiles with the assailant's fingerprints lingering on the wheel. The world of child abuse is quintessentially secret. It is the perfect crime.

(See answer page 3)

Spotlight Shines on Montgomery County Schools' Sex Ed Curriculum

BY FRAN PORTER

Montgomery County's recent battles over sex education in schools have gained national attention, and school administrators in the region, as well as opponents of sex ed, are watching reactions to the new curriculum unveiled January 9. The Board of Education voted 8-0 to approve a curriculum that includes a new condom demonstration video and teaches students "what it means to be homosexual," the *Washington Post* reports. The curriculum will be tested in eighth and tenth grade classes in selected schools this spring.

Counties in Maryland are said to be examining their own health classes in light of Montgomery County's initiatives. Most restrict the way homosexuality can be discussed, and in Charles County, the Board of Education drew up a legislative position supporting laws that would restrict teachers from discussing homosexuality, a direct response to the controversy in Montgomery, board members said.

In Virginia, Fairfax County introduces students to the topic of homosexuality in grades nine and ten in classes that emphasize respect and dignity. Loudon County schools do not discuss homosexuality at all, and in Prince William County, homosexuality comes up only during discussion of sexually transmitted diseases.

This will be the first time sexual orientation is included in the Montgomery County curriculum, and the subject is discussed in the context of tolerance and diversity. Board member Patricia O'Neill proposed adding a sentence that strengthened support for gay, lesbian and transgender students. It stated that mainstream medical and mental health organizations have concluded that homosexuality is not a disease or a mental illness. However, the board was split 4 to 4, and the motion failed. School Superintendent Jerry D. Weast stated that the curriculum, written by his staff, had been built on specific academic objectives and tailored to "circumscribe our liability," according to the *Post*.

Nevertheless, a legal challenge, like the one in May 2005, is expected. A lawsuit, brought by two organizations opposed to a new curriculum, caused the school board to completely revise it, eliminate its condom demonstration video, throw out its teacher resource materials and fire its citizens' advisory committee.

(continued on page 3)

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MC NOW Co-President's Message

BY JEANNETTE FELDNER

Women Are Speaking And More and More are Listening...

It's the eve of the Women's Legislative Briefing, and I just received a notice that the event is closed because record numbers have registered for the event. Isn't it wonderful that so many women, men, and legislators are so interested in learning what issues women in Maryland are passionate about and will be fighting for in this upcoming legislative session.

Isn't it also wonderful that Nancy Pelosi is our new House Majority Leader. And that Hilary Clinton is running for President, challenging the notion that our country isn't ready for women in power. And that we have elected men and women to the U.S. House and Senate, and the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates, not to mention our new Governor, who are dedicated to women's needs.

But we must be watchful, vigilant, and let these legislators know how we wish them to vote on issues. Stay involved. Stay in touch.

Jeannette Feldner
Co-President, MC NOW
LJ.Feldner@verizon.net

MCNOW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE FORMING

MCNOW needs concerned members to serve on a Domestic Violence Task Force to help us get a grant to study domestic violence issues in Montgomery County, find the needs, increase awareness, and find ways to do something about it, including setting up a court watch. It would be wonderful to have someone volunteer to lead the task force. Interested? Contact LJ.Feldner@verizon.net.

Correction

Careful readers of *From NOW On* may have noticed that the numbers in the January issue didn't add up! In "2006 Election Results: Pro-Choice Still A Struggle," there were more congressional representatives taking a stand on choice (447) than there are in Congress (435). Congress hasn't suddenly expanded; the correct numbers are: 165 representatives considered pro-choice, 219 anti-choice, and the remaining 51 are considered "mixed." These numbers indicate that there is some work to do!

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
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SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE:
FEBRUARY 20, 2007

Biden (continued from page 1)

“There is a wealth of untapped resources in this country, lawyers who want to volunteer,” Biden says. Under his bill, lawyers who devote more than half their full-time caseload to low-income domestic violence survivors for more than two consecutive years will get a 20 percent discount on their student loans, paid for by the Department of Justice. Lawyers who serve four and five years will get a 30 percent break.

Combating International Violence Against Women

Sen. Biden is working on a second bill to combat violence against women at an international level. Called I-VAWA, the bill would, for the first time, commit the U.S. to ending violence against women around the globe. The measure is expected to involve remedies in the areas of public health, the global economy, foreign law, international conflicts, and humanitarian conflicts. Among other provisions, the bill is expected to promote more equitable property rights, teach women how to build credit, improve women’s access to education and training, provide sensitization programs for judges and judicial officials, and incorporate domestic violence and sexual assault screening into HIV/AIDS programs.

Biden, the chief anti-violence advocate in the Senate and a contender for the Democratic Party’s 2008 presidential nomination, now holds a seat in the majority party and therefore has greater sway in Congress. Even so, prospects are uncertain for the two bills, which he plans to introduce this spring. (Full account on womensenews.org 1-11-07)

Answer to Who Said That, page 1 Beatrix Campbell in Unofficial Secrets, 1988

Campbell is a British author and columnist who often writes on social issues in publications such as the *Feminist Review* and *New Statesman*. Many women have written about the sexual abuse of children, of course. Maya Angelou described her own experience: “Then there was the pain. A breaking and entering when even the senses are torn apart. The act of rape on an eight-year-old body is a matter of the needle giving because the camel can’t. The child gives, because the body can, and the violator cannot.” Elizabeth Janeway gave a strong reaction to child abuse: “I am not sure how many ‘sins’ I would recognize in the world.... But I can imagine none that is more irredeemably sinful than the betrayal, the exploitation, of the young by those who should care for them.” And, again, Beatrix Campbell, who saw something new on the horizon: “Sexual abuse of children now presents society with the ultimate crisis of patriarchy, when children refuse to protect their fathers by keeping secrets.”

SEX ED (continued from page 1)

Jim Kennedy is a member of the newly-constituted citizens’ committee; he writes a blog for teachthefacts.org, a group of Montgomery parents and their supporters pushing for broader lessons. He says, “Sharon Cox and Pat O’Neill both made statements in the board meeting that if the law suit was inevitable, they were ready for it...Montgomery County has some of the best schools in the country at a time when public education is under attack in a wave of anti-intellectual provincialism. The Board needed to make a choice; it is clear they made the right choice....”

Upcoming Workshops by MC Commission for Women

The Montgomery County Commission for Women has a full slate of courses women can take for a small fee. It is located at 401 N. Washington St., Rockville. For details, contact the commission at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw or 240-777-8300 (voice) or 301-279-1034 (TTY). All workshops are \$16 and for one session unless otherwise noted.

FEBRUARY

- 6 (Tue) *Divorce Legal Seminar: Overview of Child-Related Issues* (2 sessions, Feb. 6 & 13. \$32)
- 7 (Wed) *Proposal Writing for Beginners*. 7-8:45 pm
Strong Interest Inventory (2 sessions, Feb. 7 & 28. \$48) 7-8:45 pm
Coping with Fear. 10 am-noon
- 13 (Tue) *Mentoring: Creating Relationships to Empower You for Success*. 6:30-8:30 pm
Communicating Between Men & Women. 7-8:45 pm
Women & Home Ownership. Two workshops:
A: *Selling Your Home*. 10 am-noon. \$16
B: *Buying Your Home*. 1-3 pm. \$16. Both: \$24
- 16 (Fri) *Making Career Choices at Midlife*. 10 am-noon
- 20 (Tue) *Resume Writing 101: A Basic Guide*. 7-8:45 pm
Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. 6-9 pm
- 21 (Mirc) In Spanish: *Sus Derechos Legales en el Divorcio, Un Resumen General*
Financial Security. 7-8:45 pm
- 24 (Thu) *How to Overcome Shyness & Enjoy Life*. 2:30-4:30 pm
- 23 (Fri) *The Verbally Abusive Relationship*. 9 am-noon. One session, \$24
- 27 (Tues) *Interviewing for Success*. 7-8:45 pm
Collaborative Divorce: A Better Way to Divorce. 6:30-8:30 pm

All Men Are Responsible

BY UTOPIA BOLD (ABRIDGED)

“All men, both violent and non-violent, must be held responsible for stopping male violence against women,” writes Utopia Bold. “Their inaction – or indifference – is passive male violence against women.” Violent men must stop assaulting women, she says. And non-violent men must not sit by and allow male violence against women to continue. Breaking the silence by naming an atrocity is the first step in ending it. Male violence against women must be named specifically.

Many popular arguments allow men to avoid responsibility for ending the “longest length of time of any oppressed group.” Such evasions include:

1. *Not all men are violent.* True, but since men as a group hold more power than women, nonviolent men must step up to the plate and oppose male violence.
2. *Women are violent too.* Two wrongs don’t make a right. Bold quotes feminist theologian Mary Daly to the effect that women have been attacked and divided against themselves and each other through the ages, resulting in millennia of fragmentation. Such broken women seem normal, but that appearance is viewed within a man-made milieu. In addition, Bold points out, “female violence pales in comparison to male violence. Women don’t build rape camps to torture and molest men to death. Women don’t control the U.S. government that spends half a trillion dollars a year on mass murder (war). Globally, a woman can’t walk alone without the possibility of men assaulting her. The reverse is not true.”
3. *Violence is a human problem affecting both sexes.* This debate tactic muddies the waters, making male violence against women into a universal, gender-neutral human issue.
4. *Naming the agent.* Terms such as “sexual violence,” “domestic violence,” “gender-based violence,” and “violence” don’t name men as the perpetrators. Even Amnesty International, which calls it a “global scourge,” uses the term “violence against women” instead of “male violence against women.”
5. *Men also rape boys and each other.* “When males rape males, contempt for women is the underlying issue. Men rape males to degrade them by treating them like raped women.” Even so, this doesn’t change the fact that, across continents and centuries, men rape women.
6. *Using the passive voice.* By saying “women were raped by the men” instead of “men raped the women,” the focus shifts from the rapists to their victims.
7. *Boys will be boys.* This supposes that men are naturally violent, an argument that legitimizes and perpetuates war and men’s abuse of women. Violent “manhood” is regarded as the norm. But, Bold counters, “men are naturally peaceful. Archaeological evidence shows men

enjoyed and maintained 1,500 years of peace in ancient Crete. It’s proven today by many non-violent men. It takes traumatic conditioning to make men violent.” such as military training camps, police academies, and the like.

8. *Societies have always been patriarchal and men have always dominated women.* In “Goddesses and Gods of Old Europe,” archaeologist Marija Gimbutas describes relics she unearthed that prove men didn’t always dominate women. Riane Eisler’s book “The Chalice and the Bible” cites many more instances to prove this.

(Abridged from *SF Bay Area Independent Media Center*, www.indybay.org. See also Bold’s “Types of Male Violence Against Women” on the following page. Thanks to Linda Amendt for forwarding this article.)

Three Requests

The National Women’s Law Center is collecting stories about the impact of Title IX, passed by Congress 35 years ago, on the lives of women and girls. Visit www.titleix.info to share your story.

Maryland NARAL’s PAC is going to be working on the Baltimore City Council elections and would like some suggestions for candidate questionnaires. Questions can involve choice, sex ed, access to prescriptions, or anything related to NARAL’s broad mission of protecting and promoting reproductive freedom for all women. I met Ariana Kelly, MD NARAL President, at a campaign event and she’s super-motivated. Please send her any questions or ideas you may have. Her email address is akelly@prochoicemaryland.org.

–Allendra Letsome, MD NOW Co-President

What causes breast cancer? The Breast Cancer Sister Study must enroll 20,000 more women in 2007 to help find answers. You are eligible to join this national study, which looks at how environment and genes may affect the chances of getting breast cancer, if: 1) Your sister (living or deceased), related to you by blood, had breast cancer, 2) You are between the ages of 35 and 74, 3) You have never had breast cancer yourself, and 4) You live in the U.S. or Puerto Rico. The National Institute of Environmental Health Services is conducting this study. Call toll-free 1-877-474-7837 or visit www.sisterstudy.org.

Types of Male Violence Against Women

BY UTOPIA BOLD (ABRIDGED)

Patriarchal cultures are maintained by contempt for and abuse of women in many ways, as the following describes:

Male violence against women in the media. The requirement for emaciated super models and life threatening cosmetic surgery, and billions spent on violent degrading pornography confirm this. Feeling contempt for women makes it easier for violent men to abuse them.

Reproductive male violence against women. Male supremacist governments force women to have children they don't want or can't care for by denying them birth control or abortion.

Spiritual male violence against women. Male supremacist religions claim men have the right to control women. Men coerce women to have children by telling them birth control or abortion is "sinful" and that "children are sent from God." Men wrote all the scriptures of all the organized religions, so "God's" agenda is men's agenda. Since the "words of God" are actually the words of men, men don't "play God," they ARE "God."

Physical male violence against women. Being battered by men is the number one health problem of American women, according to the U.S. Surgeon General. Men batter 12 percent of pregnant women, causing 17 percent of birth defects (March of Dimes). Seventy-five percent of women murdered during domestic violence are killed by men after women leave them (U.S. Dept. of Justice – Bureau of Justice Statistics). Since 1993, men raped and murdered more than 320 women in Juarez, Mexico. Approximately 100 were sexual-torture killings; 450 more women are missing. Men travel to Juarez to hunt, rape and murder women (codepink4peace.org).

Economic male violence against women. In most parts of the world, women are paid less than men for the same work – if they are paid at all.

"Each man must look into his heart and ask himself what he can do to stop male violence against women. Speaking out is the first step".

– Utopia Bold

Increasing numbers of men are opposing male violence against women in various ways. Here are a few men's web sites: Menagainstsexualviolence.org; Borderlands.org.au/masa; Uwlax.edu/muasa; and Interactivetheatre.org/mav. If any men are interested in forming a group to oppose male violence against women, please contact Mary Bailey at braveneworld@starpower.net. She will put you in touch with each other. Also, you may contact her if you wish to write a follow-up article for this newsletter.

Educational male violence against women. Men in Afghanistan kill women who teach girls to read (Feminist Majority Foundation), and most of the world's illiterate are women.

Medical and psychological male violence against women. The male dominated medical profession has prescribed shock treatment, psychoactive drugs, lobotomies, life-threatening diets, dangerous cosmetic surgery and other "therapies" to tame women and make them acceptable to men. (*See also All Men Are Responsible, page 4*)

Sexual Assault Lobby Day Annapolis

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2007

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: Prince George's County Delegation Room
Lowe Office Building, Room 150

When a child is born as a result of rape, Maryland law gives the rapists the same rights as any other biological parent. Help pass a law to protect rape victims and end parental rights, custody, and visitation for rapists when the rape led to the birth of a child.

Thank you, Delegate Kathleen Dumais (D-Mont. Co., District 15) and Senator Jamie Raskin (D-Mont. Co., District 20) for sponsoring this important bill and to Delegate James Hubbard (D-P/G. Co., District 23A), for arranging the meeting place. Their support and leadership is appreciated.

This demonstration was organized by MCASA (MD Coalition Against Sexual Assault) and MD NOW. Please email or call MCASA to let them know you'll be there and who your legislators are. Can't make it? Calls and letters are also needed.

Contact MCASA's Sexual Assault Legal Institute at 301-565-2277 or policy@mcasa.org.



**Get involved—escorts
needed in Rockville!**

For information and to
volunteer, contact
WACDTF at 202-797-6577
or wacdtf@wacdtf.org



Elsewhere in the World

ABRIDGED FROM WWW.WOMENSENEWS.ORG

December 23, 2006 Indian Sex Workers Learn About Condoms

Sex workers in the Indian state of West Bengal are being shown how to use female condoms in efforts to stem the spread of HIV-AIDS, a first in India. A three-day training program has already started in Kolkata, and the program will be launched in another eight states in 2007. A condom normally costs about one dollar, but will be made available to sex workers for seven cents.

January 6, 2007 Charges Dropped, Mexican Journalist Fights On

Charges against Lydia Chacho, the Cancun journalist accused of defamation last year, were quietly dropped after a Mexican court rules that the accusations by a prominent businessman were moot. Chaco was arrested in May 2005 and had been awaiting trial after her book, "Demons of Eden," accused powerful businessmen of participating in a pedophile ring that preyed on girls in Cancun. The judge ruled that criminal libel was not a crime in Mexico City, where her book was published. Chaco's attorney said that although the judicial battle was won, the "war against the power of pedophilia that operates in Mexico" would continue.

January 6, 2007 Woman Named to High UN Office

Tanzania's foreign minister, Asha-Rose Migiro, was named deputy secretary-general of the United Nations by UN chief Ban Ki-Moon. Migiro is the second woman to hold a deputy's post at the international agency and is now the highest-ranking woman there.



Nancy Pelosi elected first woman Speaker of the House

January 13, 2007 Zimbabwe Criminalizes Domestic Violence

Zimbabwe's House of Assembly has passed the country's first law to criminalize domestic violence. Sixty percent of all murder cases in Zimbabwe last year were linked to domestic violence, according to the Gender and Current Affairs Minister, and one in four Zimbabwean women are currently victims of domestic violence.

January 13, 2007 Australian Catholic Hospital Group Bans EC

Catholic Health Australia, the health arm of the Catholic Church, has written an 80-page policy that prohibits Catholic hospitals from administering emergency contraception to women who have been sexually assaulted. The policy also bans Catholic hospitals from referring rape victims to crisis centers that supply emergency contraception. Catholic Health Australia controls more than 680 hospitals, about 70 percent of the health facilities in the nation. The Australian Medical Association, an organization of doctors, said it would oppose state contracts paid with public tax funds to Catholic hospitals that refuse to provide full medical services, including abortion, rape counseling, sterilization and fertility treatments.

January 20, 2007 Spanish Minister Protests Saudi Ban

Spain's justice minister, Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, cancelled his speech at a Saudi university after authorities refused to admit four female journalists accompanying him to attend. The minister was invited to speak about terrorism at Riyadh's Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University, where women are banned from the all-male campus.

January 23, 2007 Portugal Tests European Stance on Abortion

Portugal, one of four European nations where most abortions are illegal, will vote February 11 on a referendum to legalize abortions during the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. Pro-choice groups have been fighting to modernize the country's laws for two decades. The legal fight in Portugal may move to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, where three Irish women already have filed a case for abortion rights. The court has established substantial case law on abortion. To date, it has not ruled that the "right to life" extends to the unborn. However, the European court has ruled that the unborn are not included yet as people whose rights are guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights and that women who are denied abortions can be acknowledged as "victims" for not being allowed "the right to private and family life." Besides Portugal and Ireland, the controversy is building in Poland and Malta.

The Watchful Eye

BY MARY BAILEY



The beginning of something? Milan, the center of the fashion universe, is drafting a weight “manifesto” for models. The guide, developed by the Italian government and the country’s fashion-trade organization, would pressure fashion houses to drop their penchant for gaunt models. Based on a World Health Organization calculation defining what is underweight, the guide says models must have a body-

mass index of 18 or higher, meaning a 5’-11” model must weigh at least 130 lbs. The manifesto cannot be legally enforced, but fashion houses refusing to follow the guidelines could be banned from Milan’s official fashion shows, a stiff punishment for international brands. (Wall St Jnl 12-6-06)

A new video game. “Super Columbine Massacre RPG,” depicts the lives of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold as they plan and carry out the shooting spree at Columbine High School in 1999. It is being praised by game makers for exploring the boundaries of what a game can do, and deplored by others who see it as the beginning of a trend allowing users to imagine themselves in real events through the perspective of violence. Columnist Mike Musgrove downloaded the game to see what the fuss was about. He was impressed by the research that went into the game, including flashbacks and reliance on actual transcripts and witness reports. “But when it came time to start creating mayhem in the school’s halls, I couldn’t bring myself to push the buttons to continue,” he wrote. “Odd, I suppose, because I have ‘killed’ thousands of video game characters over the years.... [but] no game has ever made me feel nearly as queasy. I didn’t want to be responsible for the real-world violence that happened that day.” (Wash Post 1-18-07)

A new horror film. Until recently, killers in horror movies were “demonic, inhuman.” But no more. Successful horror films these days are crueler and stealthier than before. In the new films, the killer is some ordinary-looking guy who kills out of moral disgust with humanity. He lures people who have committed some misdemeanor into his trap. Then he makes them “prisoners in a gruesome game to save their own lives. Hack through your ankle bone to free yourself from shackles and impending death, or kill your fellow victim to save your own skin.” There is something of the video game in these movies, in that you have to use cunning and recognize clues to stay alive. “What disturbs us,” writes journalist Desson Thomson, “isn’t the outright horror, bad as it is, but the inherent sadism.... This is just the beginning, as long as studios such as Lionsgate and Fox Atomic (the fledgling division of 20th Century Fox for whom ‘Turistas’ is its first proud product) can lure ticket buyers into their entertainment traps.” (Wash Post 12-31-06)

“Big corporations have been mistrusted since the heyday of steel and rails. The wariness of large corporations continued through the oil and telephone industries. Media companies are the modern-day standard,” wrote the Seattle Times. The National Council for Media Reform is becoming an important wedge in the struggle for media reform. NCMR’s strength has grown with the Democratic Party’s recent election victories and the public’s awareness that something is wrong with our media. Its conference in Memphis last month attracted over 3,000 activists and speakers such as Bill Moyers, Sen. Bernie Sanders, Helen Thomas, Jesse Jackson, Democrat FCC Commissioners Michael Copps and Jonathon Adelstein, David Brancaccio, Geena Davis, Danny Glover, Rep. Ed Markey, and NOW President Kim Gandy. The star issues were media consolidation, the lack of diversity, female and minority ownership, and the FCC’s further relaxation of rules governing how many news outlets one company can own in one locality. There were other issues as well. One that intrigues: Rep. Dennis Kucinich, appointed chair of the newly formed Domestic Policy Subcommittee of the House’s Government Reform Committee, told attendees he will hold hearings to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. Until demolished by the Republicans in the 1980s, the Fairness Doctrine required radio and TV stations to provide a right to respond to allegations made in controversial broadcasts. The legislation had helped feminists and other liberals to correct misleading and harmful allegations.

Quote to note. “When those of us who grew up with rap saw signs that it was turning ugly, we turned away. We premised our denial on a sort of good-black-girl exceptionalism: They came for the skeezers but I didn’t speak up because I’m no skeezer, they came for the freaks, but I said nothing because I’m not a freak. They came for the bitches and the hos and the tricks. And by the time we realized they were talking about bitches from 8 to 80, our daughters and our mommas and their own damn mommas, rap music had earned the imprimatur of MTV and Martha Stewart and even the Pillsbury Doughboy. And sometimes it can seem like now, there is nobody left who is willing to speak up.” — Lonnie O’Neal Parker, Wash Post writer and author of “I’m Every Woman.” (Wash Post 10-15-06)

How It Was FEB (1950 – 1969)

- 5 Gretchen Fraser becomes the first American to win a gold medal in skiing at any winter Olympics, at St. Moritz, 1948.
- 9 EEOC finds that Alison Palmer, who’d earlier filed suit, was discriminated against by the State Department and denied certain assignments in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda, because she was a woman, 1969.

(Selections from The Liberated Woman’s Appointment Calendar, 1972-74. Yet another skimpy month during that dismal period between World War II and the launching of the women’s movement in 1970)

MC NOW Calendar of Events

Chapter Meetings generally take place on the first or second Monday of each month. All members welcome.

FEBRUARY

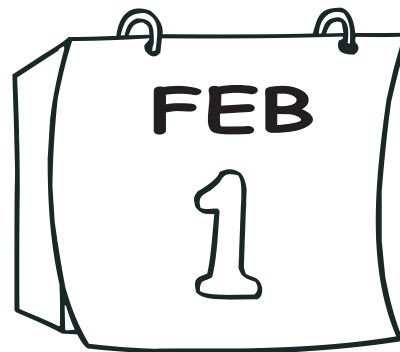
(See also page 3 for schedule of MC Commission for Women classes)

- 2 (Fri) MD General Assembly, Annapolis: Senate Bill Introduction Date. Bills after this date are referred to the Senate Rules Committee.
- 5 (Mon) 7-9 pm. MC NOW ALL CHAPTER DINNER MEETING. Hollywood East restaurant, University Blvd, Wheaton. RSVP and directions: lj.feldner@verizon.net or 301-942-0938.
- 5 (Mon) 7-8 pm. MD Network Against Domestic Violence 19th Annual Memorial Service. Joint Hearing Room, Legislative Services Bldg., Annapolis. Contact mcohen@mnadv.org.
- 8 (Thurs) National Capital Older Women's League Speaker Meeting. Send email to nccowl@aol.com.
- 9 (Fri) MD General Assembly, Annapolis: House Bill Introduction Date. Bills introduced after this date are referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.
- 20 (Tue) 10 am. Sexual Assault Lobby Day, Annapolis. Meet at Prince George's County Delegation Room, Lowe Office Bldg, Room 150 (see page 5)

- 21 (Wed) 6 pm. "Sisters in Suffrage? Understanding the Relationship between Black and White Women in the Woman Suffrage Movement." Sewall-Belmont House, 144 Constitution Ave., NE. Free. Contact sewall-belmont.org or 202-546-1210.

MARCH

- 5 (Mon) 7-9 pm. MC NOW ALL CHAPTER DINNER MEETING. See details Jan. 5.
- 5 (Mon) MD General Assembly, Annapolis: Final date for introduction of bills without suspension of Rules.



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