

Same-Sex Marriage Wins Equal Treatment in California

FROM NATIONAL NOW

California made history again. On May 15, 2008, in a 4-to-3 vote, the state's Supreme Court ruled that gay and lesbian couples should be granted legal rights to marriage. The case stems from a challenge in 2004, when history was first made by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Newsom had ordered the city to issue marriage licenses to thousands of same-sex couples, but the high court invalidated an estimated 4,000 marriages some six months later, because the legality of the underlying law had not been properly challenged. This case directly, and successfully, challenged the law that excluded same-sex couples from civil marriage.

"The California Supreme Court did what was right, and that is to give everyone – regardless of sexual orientation – the fundamental right to civil marriage," said National NOW President Kim Gandy. "This decision will allow thousands and thousands of couples to be legally married in the highest populated state in our country, joining ground-breaking couples in Massachusetts who are demonstrating every day that the dire predictions and fear-mongering of equal marriage opponents was just that," said Gandy.

NOW congratulates activists in California and all around the country who have fought tirelessly on behalf of equal marriage, as well as those who will be affected directly and indirectly by this decision. One of these couples is long-time NOW member and activist, Robin Tyler, and her partner Diane Olson, who were one of the original couples who filed the lawsuit on February 24, 2004 because they were denied a marriage license.

(see Marriage, page 3)

Who Said That?

"A moment I've been dreading. George brought his ne'er-do-well son around this morning and asked me to find the kid a job. Not the political one who lives in Florida. The one who hangs around here all the time looking shiftless. This so-called kid is already almost 40 and has never had a real job. Maybe I'll call Kinsley over at the New Republic and see if they'll hire him as a contributing editor or something. That looks like easy work." — From whose May 17, 1986 diaries???

(See answer, page 3)

Rape and War in the Congo

"In a 10-year-old conflict that has left some 5 million people dead, the tens of thousands of women and girls who have been raped and mutilated are the silent victims among the living," reports Washington Post writer DeNeen Brown. In her long piece in The Washington Post, Brown describes Lisa Jackson's documentary, "The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo," and the courageous woman who made it.

What makes the film so stunning, Brown writes, is that Jackson, 57 at the time, was led into the deep forest by 12 men and confronted the rapists directly. At first, she was fearful of going into the bush to film the fighters. But she soon discovered that her camera was her best defense. The men "wanted to be memorialized, bragging about what they did to women."

In the film, Jackson asks a rapist why he would rape a woman while her husband watches, tied to a tree. Why would 20 men take turns raping a girl until she passes out? And why insert a machete into a woman, leaving her organs dysfunctional?

The rapists answer Jackson's question with a swagger. "If she says no, I must take her by force. If she is strong, I'll call some of my friends to help me. All this is happening because of the war. We would live a normal life and treat women naturally if there was no war." Another rapist explains to Jackson, "Well, we were just abiding by the conditions of our magic potion. We had to rape women in order to make it work, and beat the enemy."

So it is not sexual desire that makes them rape and destroy women, the men say. Even though the surviving women suffer from mutilation, ruptured uteruses and impregnation, the fighters need to rape them in order to win.

Jackson visited the women in hospitals, churches, and mud-floored huts. In a later interview, Jackson tells of sharing with the women in the Congo that she herself was gang raped in DC's Georgetown neighborhood. "I explained to them that even in peacetime, women are not safe.... The idea to them that women, and white women, could be raped in peacetime, they could not imagine such things could happen." She found that by telling her own story, the connection between the experiences became clear to the women and they gave "incredibly honest interviews."

Jackson found dozens of women anxious to talk to her. They would wait in line for hours to tell their stories to someone who would relay them to the world outside. One who was kidnapped and held in the forest with other women as sex slaves said, "We were raped by 20 men at a time. Our bodies are suffering. They have taken their guns and put them inside of us. They kill our children and then they tell us to eat those

(see Rape, page 3)

MCNOW OFFICERS SLATE FOR 2008-2009

Montgomery County NOW has found a few good members to serve on our Board. Below is the current slate of Officers:

President

Carole Rayburn

Action VP

Carolyn Pasti

Executive VP

Vanessa Ali

Recording Secretary

Vacant

Corresponding Secretary

Fran Porter

Treasurer

Holly Joseph

Membership

Jeannette Feldner

Liz Callihan

Newsletter Co-Editors

Mary Bailey

Liz Callihan

Community Relations

Niambi Powell

Terry O'Neill

As you can see, we almost have a full slate. We are still in need of a Recording Secretary. If you are interested in filling that position, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee below.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Carolyn Pasti

cpasti@kes-llc.com

Jeannette Feldner

lj_feldner@verizon.net

Amendt, Linda

linda.amendt@fda.hhs.gov

Amy Swann

aswann@arhp.org

Liz Joyce

melizabethjoyce@aol.com

Our Election Dinner will be held on June 9, 6:30 pm, at Bertucci's Italian Restaurant, White Flint, in Rockville. For more information, please see page 8.

WEB SITE

<http://www.mcmdnow.org>

MC NOW President's Message

THE SWEET, INVIGORATING SCENT OF FEMALE LEADERSHIP

This was a week to be remembered, even savored. In preparation for the National NOW Convention in Bethesda, MD, July 18-20, several MCNOW officers, the State NOW immediate past-president and current president, NOW officers from DC, MD, PA, VA, and National NOW gathered at the Hyatt Hotel for a walk-through tour of meeting rooms and other hotel facilities. The physical layout, the suggestions for conference offerings, and the excitement in the air were positively invigorating and inspiring. This alone would have given life to the phrase, "Sisterhood is indeed powerful!"

But, in addition, the next day, all of us were on a tremendous high while attending the Mid-Atlantic Region, NOW, and Virginia NOW Conference on Sexism and Politics. We could feel it in our heads, our bodies, our spiritual being! We heard unforgettable messages of encouragement, inspiration, and mission to go forward to ask women to run for office and to work diligently to win their place in our states and in our country. Kim Gandy, NOW President, Duchy Trachtenberg, Mid-Atlantic Region Director, Marjorie Signer, VA NOW President (elected the new Mid-Atlantic Region Director at this meeting) and MD State immediate Past-President Terry O'Neill (elected a new Mid-Atlantic Region Board member at this meeting) gave messages of hope and encouragement to and for women leaders. Besides past and current women politicians, all-time champions of female leadership Ellie Smeal (Feminist Majority) and Alice Cohn NOW national office) were there to remind us of our dedication to women's leadership in all spheres—including politics—and to never waiver in that resolve. Across cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic, religious, and sexual preference lines, the women banded together to renew their vows in staunchly supporting the leadership of women in politics and all other spheres of living. When the speakers related the hardships that they had to endure in achieving their political goals—including horribly biased misogynist media reporting, discounting of their political existence and chances of winning, mischaracterization of their accomplishments and personal lives, and other serious distortions—listeners were in awe of their strength and endurance, and their feisty spirit in the face of such discriminatory, vitriolic actions against women leaders. Women can breathe with a greater sense of hope, determination, and the promise and reality of success in the light of sisterhood that connects, inspires, and delivers positions of responsibility and power in leadership in our states and country to qualified women candidates. Women need to refuse to ever be demeaned, discounted, ignored, disrespected, and lied about again. Don't ever forget that it was a woman, Alice Paul (honored on May 15, 2008, by the U. S. House of Representatives bill with the Congressional Gold Medal) who fought so valiantly and successfully to get voting rights for women and who authored the Equal Rights Amendment.

Terry O'Neill spoke of our MCNOW opposition to the sexualization of girls and pointed Mid-Atlantic Region attendees to MCNOW Newsletter summaries of the articles on this project. I would strongly urge you, when reading Mary Bailey's column on this issue to imagine yourself, your young and vulnerable daughter or son, or relative, in the place of one being sexualized and objectified by society. What would you really think and feel about this serious and dangerous situation then? Our world needs, desperately needs, strong and able women and men. We must do all that we can to bring about such a world and SOON!!!

In sisterhood,

Carole

Notice To All Readers

Whether joining MCNOW or renewing, please check the box on the membership form saying you'd like to affiliate with MCNOW (chapter # MD0200). All memberships go through National NOW to be verified. Checking the box means MCNOW receives its portion of your dues. It also means you are on the official rolls to receive this newsletter. So please don't forget!

Marriage (continued from page 1)

NOW also salutes pioneering lesbian rights activists and NOW members Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, who became the first same-sex couple in San Francisco and in the United States to have their marriage recognized by a government entity. Originally, Mayor Newsom married the couple, but their marriage was invalidated. The California Supreme Court decision is welcome news for Del and Phyllis, who have been together for 55 years. NOW presented the couple with a Women of Courage Award at NOW's Lesbian Rights Summit in 1999.

"The right to civil marriage for same-sex couples is an essential step on the road to full equality," Gandy said. "Every person, regardless of their sexual orientation, deserves access to the more than a thousand legal protections and benefits in state and federal law that legal marriage brings," said Gandy. (National NOW, 5-15-08)

Same-sex couples will have the right to marry and "form a family relationship" in 30 days from May 15. Couples, including Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi, announced their wedding plans on DeGeneres's TV talk show. Meanwhile, opponents have submitted a November ballot measure to amend the California constitution to prohibit the unions. (www.womensenews.org, 5-17-08)

Misogyny on a Platter

In "Misogyny I Won't Miss," Marie Cocco lists some of the offensive, outrageous, you-name-it, sexist ads and statements that have accompanied Hillary Clinton's campaign. Here are a few, in abridged form:

- "Bros before Hos" T-shirts sold on the Internet. [Guess who is the Bro and who the Ho.]
- Hillary Nutcrackers selling at airport concession stands. [Guess where the nut goes.]
- Liberal radio personality Randi Rhodes calling Clinton a "big [expletive] whore."
- Citizens United Not Timid, founded by Republican guru Roger Stone. [Get it? Heh heh, nudge, nudge.]
- Magician Penn Jillette on MSNBC asking, "Obama did great in February, and that's because it was Black History Month. And now Hillary's doing much better 'cause it's White Bitch Month, right?"
- Political commentators Ken Rudin and Andrew Sullivan comparing Clinton to the knife-wielding stalker played by Glenn Close in the film "Fatal Attraction."
- MSNBC's Chris Matthews calling Hillary a "she-devil."
- Mike Barnicle on MSNBC saying Clinton "looks like everyone's first wife standing outside a probate court."
- Jack Cafferty on CNN likening Hillary Clinton to "a scolding mother, talking down to a child."

"When all other images fail, there is one other I will not miss," writes Cocco. "That is, the down-to-the-basics, simplest one: 'White women are a problem, that — you know, we all live with that.' said William Kristol of Fox News." (Wash Post 5-15-08)

Rape (continued from page 1)

children. If a woman is pregnant, they make your children stand on your belly so that you will abort. They take the blood from your womb and put it in a bowl and tell you to drink it."

The film put "names and faces and grief on camera until the viewer is moved to feel, turn away, do something," Brown writes. "People are always asking Jackson, 'but what can I do?' Jackson replies, 'People have to find their own thing to do. There is just so much you can do. I made a film.'"

In April, Jackson, Denis Mukwege, director of Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, Congo, and other human rights activists appeared before the Senate subcommittee on human rights and the law. "This type of sexual terrorism is done in a methodical manner by armed groups," Mukwege told the senators. "The rapists are not seeking to satisfy some kind of sexual desire, but to destroy the woman, destroy her family and destroy her community."

Jackson asked the senate subcommittee: "Why is it that rape in conflict is so infrequently prosecuted in the world's courts? Where is the outrage?" She noted that one reason armies and factions in the Congo are killing civilians is to get at its riches: most recently, tin, cobalt and coltan — all three used to make electronics.

"Perhaps another hearing might more thoroughly explore the causes and ruinous consequences of this illegal plundering," Jackson said. "But everyone in this room should consider the fact that there is blood of Congolese women on their laptops and on their cell phones." (Adapted from DeNeed L. Brown, "The Brutal Truth," Wash Post, 4-08-08).

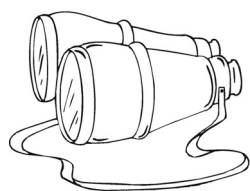
"The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo" won the 2008 Special Jury Prize for Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival. It was aired on HBO April 8, 2008.

Answer to Who Said That, page 1 Michael Kinsley Spoofing the "Ronald Reagan Diaries"

This paragraph has flown around the Internet and is flying still. The only problem is, it's not true. President Ronald Reagan never described George W. Bush as a "ne'er-do-well." The piece was written by New Republic columnist Michael Kinsley after being told that the Kinsley name appeared on page 400 of the real Reagan Diaries. Without checking to see what the President had actually said about him, Kinsley wrote the paragraph we quote as part of a longer tongue-in-cheek piece. The rest is history. As www.Snopes.com noted, "It is often the case that a piece of satire hits so close to home, (i.e., seemingly confirms something that people believe to be true) that it becomes difficult to distinguish from reality, especially when an excerpt is presented outside of its satirical context." Later, Kinsley looked up the reference to his name on page 400. Reagan had written that he lunched with Kinsley on May 17, 1986. That's not so either, Kinsley says. Reagan actually dined with conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer that day.

As I See It

BY HOLLY JOSEPH (joseph.holly@gmail.com)



In keeping with my belief that the exercise of our choosing the leadership of this country is of utmost importance, I'll continue to write about it – after others may have exhausted their patience with it! On a recent plane trip, I amused myself by charting out the elections in which I had voted to review the choices I had made and to assess how they fared. Although you might enjoy doing the same, I'll share mine for your perusal:

Year	Democrat	Republican
1972	McGovern	<i>Nixon*</i>
1976	<i>Carter</i>	Ford*
1980	Carter*	<i>Reagan</i>
1984	Mondale	<i>Reagan*</i>
1988	Dukakis	<i>GHW Bush</i>
1992	<i>Clinton</i>	GHW Bush*
1996	<i>Clinton*</i>	Dole
2000	Gore	<i>GW Bush</i>
2004	Kerry	<i>GW Bush*</i>
2008	?	McCain

*designates incumbent; italicized are those elected.

I confess that the name of Michael Dukakis came to me at the baggage claim – but before my bags! I was so riveted on the exercise that I considered going up to strangers to see if they could remember the 1988 election...

Displayed in the 36 years charted here is that Republicans held the White House for 2/3rds of them. In 3 of the 9 elections, incumbents were replaced by challengers. I leave it to you to opine on how many of those years were known for good governance and government, as that is unquestionably in the eye of the beholder. We all must be painfully aware that there are no women governing during this time. And we all hope the current campaign will advance the opportunities for women at the highest level in the future.

On the same subject of women in public office, I want us all to recognize an selection in the appointment of Rosalyn Pelles to the Montgomery County Board of Elections; she awaits appointment by Gov. O'Malley. She is the Chapter member we endorsed for the vacancy in Dist. 19 (encompassing parts of Chevy Chase, Silver Spring, and Kensington) which was filled instead by former Kensington Councilmember Al Carr. The Board of Elections is an important job in its responsibility for the registration of voters and for the oversight of elections – of which there were two unplanned ones recently. (For voting enthusiasts and others, this next presidential election is the last one with voting machines, as we are scheduled to return to paper ballots in 2010.) Her Chapter wishes her well in this new endeavor! Kudos!

Task Force Report

Girl is Not a Four-Letter Word

BY MARY BAILEY

Will Elder died last month. Do you recognize the name? Neither did I, but thousands of others, mainly men, read his cartoons in Playboy for 25 years. Elder was the creator of "Little Annie Fanny," a cartoon series sexually spoofing "Little Orphan Annie." The Wall Street Journal's obituary called the comic "smutty but gorgeous." This cartoon was but one of many in Playboy depicting little girls as objects of sexual desire who were happy to oblige. In fact, depicting girls as sex objects in cartoon form was a Playboy specialty. Its two mainstream competitors during the 1960s-1980s, Penthouse and Hustler, also depicted little girls in sexual situations, each with its own "take" on the subject. Unlike Playboy's cartoons, Penthouse provided photographs of actual females who appeared underage, sometimes way underage. And Hustler concentrated on the disgusting, such as running its cartoon series, "Chester the Molester." This top-selling trio set the stage, in our opinion, for the acceptance of girls as legitimate objects for sexual fantasy and, later, as quarry for Internet predators and child traffickers.

We of the Sexualization of Girls Task Force are building an argument against the commodifying of girls' bodies in our culture. It will consist of three phases. The first phase is beginning now. We will spread our summary of the American Psychological Association study of "The Sexualization of Girls" as far and wide as we can. As part of this campaign, we recently sent you the summary via email. You can also download it at www.mcmdnow.org. This not only will refresh your memory, it will give you a chance to join our effort by passing it on to as many friends as you can. Your accompanying note might ask recipients to forward it to their friends in turn. Let's do our best to spread the APA study around the country.

The second phase will develop a progressive argument for opposing the sexualization of girls, of which the APA study is one component. Phase three will be devoted to action. By then, we hope, there will be a strong group of people eager to educate the general public, demonstrate against the purveyors and shame the users of materials and "services" that sexualize children. Please think on it.

How It Was

June 1970

Now, didn't we tell you that all "HE double-tooth picks" would break loose in June 1970? But why June? We think the dam burst after Betty Friedan warned Congress that women across the nation would go on strike ("Don't iron while the strike is hot") on August 26 unless they pass the Equal Rights Amendment. Can a reader confirm this?

June 1970

- 3 The Washington Post vows to eliminate sexism from its news columns, and reporters are instructed to watch their language when talking about women, according to a staff memo posted by Managing Editor Ben Bradlee.
- 3 A group of artists, including many women, confront Gov. Nelson Rockefeller after his address to a museum group

(continued on the next page)

**Field Trip
Anna Ella Carroll Grave
6206 Sunburst Hwy, Cambridge, MD**



On your way to the shore this summer, visit the gravesite of President Lincoln's strategist and public relations counsel, Anna Ella Carroll. In the Old Trinity Churchyard, near Church Creek, lies "Maryland's Most Distinguished Lady, a great humanitarian and a close friend of

Abraham Lincoln," as is inscribed on her marble headstone. Lincoln acknowledged his debt to her for her persuasive pamphlet "War Powers of the General Government," setting forth his constitutional powers in time of war. But no one gave Carroll, a brilliant military strategist, the credit she deserved for her part in winning the Civil War. She devised and plotted the Tennessee Campaign, which resulted in the fall of Fort Henry, attacks on Southern railroad connections, and a string of victories along the Tennessee River. But Carroll was not honored for her strategy. That glory belonged to the generals. Noted Secretary of War Stanton, "She did the great work that made the others famous." And even though Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase and others wanted to make her contribution known, Lincoln didn't want to antagonize the generals, explaining to his old friend Anna, "Could I dare let it be known that the armies of the U.S. are moving under the directing hand of a woman?" Congress did not name Anna Carroll a hero after the war. Women's rights leaders spent a frustrating quarter of a century arguing that she was denied due honor because of her sex. Often referred to as Abraham Lincoln's Female Lieutenant, Carroll, a Maryland southerner, focused on the preservation of the Union with freedom for all. (Maryland Women's Heritage Trail resource kit and David Wallenchinsky and Irving Wallace in "The Peoples Almanac")

Once Again: Judge Thompson

Dear NOW:

I am a family member of Lindsay Harvey who was murdered on April 13 in Gaithersburg, MD by a man who was released on parole after serving only seven of a 10-year sentence for armed robbery. The court's documents show that Shawn Henderson had a history of violent robberies, yet Judge Durke Thompson has again shown no regard for human life just as Shawn Henderson displayed when he robbed and killed this vibrant young woman!

I do not understand how the residents of Maryland can REPEATEDY elect Judge Thompson to office, given the history of the cases, which he has mishandled, and the poor judgment which has been shown in each case. Is there something that we can do to lobby against him being elected again? I understand that his term is not up until 2011. How many more mistakes will he be allowed to make?

Nothing will bring back Lindsay Harvey, but there must be something that can be done to help another family from having to endure this tragedy.... Judge Thompson has destroyed the lives of the Harvey family and everyone who knew and loved Lindsay Harvey. Lindsay was a wonderful, accomplished, humble, gentle and kind person who had just begun to live her life. Her family will never be the same again. I wish you could witness what has happened to these poor people and their daily struggle to just get through the day.

Thank you for your time,
Ellen E. Shufelt, Oneonta, NY

Note: Montgomery County NOW sent Ms. Shufelt our condolences and told her that MCNOW has a history of protesting Judge Thompson's leniency toward violent and abusive offenders. We have held demonstrations outside and press conferences inside the courthouse, and have brought our grievance before the Maryland Judicial Commission. The commission reprimanded Thompson and, for awhile, Thompson was removed to a courtroom that handles civil cases. Now, however, he is back adjudicating criminal trials.

How It Was

and asks him to have museums deal with racism, sexism and repression. The Governor asks, "What's sexism? And what does it have to do with art?"

- 9 Rep. Martha Griffiths (D-Mich) sends an historic motion of discharge to the clerk of the House of Representatives clearing the way for voting on the Equal Rights Amendment.
- 15 Sixty members of the Vancouver Women's Caucus meet with Prime Minister Trudeau to talk about abortions, telling him it is the poor women who suffer most. Trudeau replies, "So?"
- 24 McSorley's Old Ale House in New York City must serve women, rules a judge. But the owner's son swears he'll appeal.
- 27 Fifty members of Men Against Cool picket Chicago's Playboy Club carrying signs reading, "Women are sisters, not Playmates."
- 28 In a letter, Rep. Patsy Mink of Hawaii asks that Dr. Edgar Berman be removed from his high Democratic Party post because of his "indefensible" April 30 remarks using "the

June - July 1970

menstrual cycle and menopause to ridicule all women and to caricature [them]...as neurotic and emotionally unbalanced."

- 29 Feminists agree to wait for their 35-cent glasses of dark ale after the judge says that McSorley's can continue to bar female patrons until its appeal is decided.

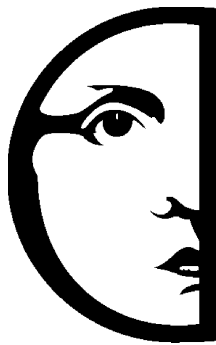
July 1970

- 1 New York State's abortion law - the nation's most liberal - goes into effect.
- 6 Five woman aquanauts spend their first full day underwater in the Tektite 2 program to study fish and plant life in Great Lameshur Bay, St. John, Virgin Islands.
- 20 When the woman's first team of female aquanauts surfaces after two weeks of underwater living, Dr. Sylvia Mead triumphantly reports, "The only thing men could do down there that we couldn't was grow beards."

(continued on the next page)

The Watchful Eye

BY MARY BAILEY



“Once you have the information, if you do nothing, it’s like allowing it to happen,” said Latin singer Ricky Martin on fighting human trafficking. His Ricky Martin Foundation has joined with community-based Ayuda to launch “Llama y Viv” (“Call and Live”), a campaign and hotline aimed at the prevention and protection of children and adults from sexual trafficking (1-888-NO-TRATA, short for “no trafficking” in Spanish). The DC area is considered one of the top

10 trafficking locations in the country. Ayuda, a Spanish-speaking agency based in Adams-Morgan, aims to reach 100,000 immigrants in DC, Maryland and Virginia with prevention messages and provide access to legal and social services. In 2004, the Ricky Martin Foundation began its People for Children initiative to support efforts such as Ayuda’s to eliminate trafficking, especially of children. (Wash Post, 4-30-08 and www.rickymartinfoundation.org)

No problem, gentlemen. While “D.C. Madam” Deborah Jeane Palfrey committed suicide rather than return to prison, her clients still go freely about their lives. And while 13 former Palfrey employees were embarrassed witnesses at her trial, not one of her male customers had to climb into the witness box: Not Elliot Spitzer, former New York prosecutor and governor. Not Harlan K. Ullman, Center for Strategic and International Studies senior advisor and author of the military doctrine he called “shock and awe.” Not Randall L. Tobias, deputy secretary of state at the time. Not Rockville lawyer Paul Huang. And ` U.S. Senate ethics committee cleared Sen. Vitter of any ethical misconduct because, as columnist Dana Milbank put it, “the prostitution occurred when he was in the House – and the House can’t punish him because he left for the Senate.” (Wash Post, 5-09-08)

Sound familiar? Catholic activists want the church hierar-

chy to retire, suspend, or remove those bishops who for years covered up their priests’ sexual abuse of children. There’s Cardinal Francis George, president of the U.S. Conference of Bishops, who waited months before removing a priest in Chicago who sexually abused five boys ages 8 to 12. There’s Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles, accused of moving abusive priests from parish to parish in over 500 claimed cases. And there’s Bishop Carlos Sevilla of Yakima, recently accused of concealing sexual abuse by his priests and employees. Like the senators above, the bishops say that only the Pope can punish bishops — which he so far has declined to do, expressing instead only remorse and shame. All the U.S. bishops are able to do, they say, is offer each other “fraternal correction,” a private matter that is “brother to brother.” (Wash Post 5-10-08)

Miley’s silent spring. Miley Cyrus, the 15-year-old star of the popular TV ‘tween show “Hannah Montana,” is posed semi-nude by Annie Leibovitz in a Vanity Fair photo shoot. Miley, according to the Wall Street Journal, is “draped in a sheet, bare backed, hair tousled, with a come-hither smile.” In another picture, she is described by Washington Post’s Teresa Wiltz as “baring her midriff while sprawled across her father’s lap.” Shades of Britney Spears! Once again a teen role model, a girl of course, is cynically being segued into a sex symbol before she’s even old enough to vote. Her youth doesn’t stop the parents, the photographer, the Vanity Fair editors, and the Disney PR people – all over 15 – from ushering Miley up front to say it was her decision and that she thought the photo shoot was “artistic.” And it didn’t stop journalist Wiltz – also over 15 – from saying that, despite her youth, “we can’t help but feel that Cyrus, a budding billionaire who’s got an upcoming CD to peddle, knows a thing or two about manipulating the media.” (WP 4-29-08 and WSJ 4-30-08)

It’s now the law: cyber-bullying is part of the legal definition of bullying in Maryland. Introduced by Del. Craig L. Rice (D-Montgomery County), it requires school boards to write anti-bullying policies by July 2009. The law was inspired by the experience of a student from Winston Churchill High School in Potomac who came out as a lesbian and was tormented by classmates in person and on MySpace. (Wash Post 4-27-08) Also, starting this fall Virginia public schools must provide Internet safety lessons from kindergarten through 12th grade. This makes Virginia the first in the nation, as other states only recommend schools teach online safety. The state plans to integrate safety skills into the curriculum, rather than teach them in one lesson. For instance, children in kindergarten can be told that a virus can make you sick, middle school students can talk about Trojan horses, and a high school English class’s lesson on truth and fiction could require a paper on what online information can be trusted. (Wash Post 5-03-08)

One reason to elect more women. Domestic violence cases are consistently blocked by the 22-member House Judiciary Committee, headed by Joseph Vallario, Jr. (D-Prince George’s). Why so? Vallario and 10 members on his committee are defense attorneys apparently taking care of business, while several other members favor gun rights. Meanwhile, last year alone, domestic violence claimed the lives of 52 women and children in the state. (Wash Post 5-11-08)

How It Was

July 1970

- 20 By a vote of 34-1, the New York City Council passes a bill to ban discrimination against women in bars and other public places.
- 23 When President Nixon attends a stag luncheon at the Washington Evening Star, 13 uninvited women employees telegraph the Chief Executive that the party was “an affront to all women staffers.”
- 24 Secretary of Labor James Hodgson announces that discrimination against women is “subtle and more pervasive than against any other minority group,” but delays Labor Department reparations indefinitely.
- 30 Dr. Edgar Berman spends his last day as a high official in the Democratic Party and, finally yielding to feminist pressure, resigns the following day.

(Selections from *The Liberated Woman’s Appointment Calendar, 1972-74*)

MC NOW Calendar of Events

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

JUNE

9 (Mon) 6:30. MCNOW ANNUAL ELECTION DINNER. See back page.

JULY

7 (Mon) 7-9 pm. MCNOW BOARD MEETING. Chapter members welcome. Mid-county Regional Center, 2424 Reddie Drive, Wheaton.

9 (Wed) REGISTER for July 18-20 NOW Annual Conference by midnight. www.now.org/registration.

17 (Thu) NOW 2008 INTREPID AWARDS GALA. The evening before the opening of the 2008 National NOW Conference. Place TBA. www.now.org/intrepid.

18-20 (Fri-Sun) 2008 NATIONAL NOW ANNUAL CONFERENCE. The first national conference ever held in Maryland in NOW's 42-year history! Hyatt Regency, Bethesda. Right at the Bethesda Metro stop. Information: www.now.org/conference/2008 for information. Registration: www.now.org/registration

AUGUST

4 (Mon) 7-9 pm. MCNOW BOARD MEETING. See July 7, above.

Submissions to Newsletter Welcome

From NOW On reserves the right to edit submissions. Ads are accepted for nominal fees.

Call 301-236-0069

Email Mary Bailey: bravenewworld@starpower.net

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Rockville, MD
20847-2301

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE:
MAY JULY, 2008



NOW NATIONAL CONFERENCE: 2008

July 18-20, 2008

Hyatt Regency Bethesda
Bethesda Metro Stop
7400 Wisconsin Avenue

Speakers and Honorees: Dr. Yakin Ertürk, Jehmu Greene, Barbara Hillary, Patricia Ireland, Carol Jenkins, Lilly Ledbetter, Irshad Manji, Nancy Redd

Register online by midnight, Monday July 9.
NOW member: \$125. Special fees available.
Accommodations, child care, alternative housing
and volunteer forms available online.

www.now.org/registration

Call for Delegates

Chapter members can represent Montgomery County NOW at the National Conference, conveniently located in our home state and county! To register as a delegate for the MCNOW chapter, call us at 301-263-0069 or info@mcmdnow.org. See above for information about the conference. Could you help with housing attendees? Please call Holly Joseph at 301-530-9594.



Give a gift of membership to your Friends, Family, and Yourself.



MCNOW NEW OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, sign me up for _____ years of NOW membership @ \$35/1 yr, \$65/2 yrs, \$95/3 yrs

I am a New Member

I am a Renewing Member

Member # _____

(Please fill in if you know your number. If not, MCNOW Membership Chair can find and fill in.)

Yes, I would like to join/renew, but have limited resources. I am enclosing \$ _____ (\$15-\$34/year sliding scale: what you can afford)

Yes, I would like to affiliate with MCNOW (chapter # MD0200)

I am enclosing an additional contribution to MCNOW in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email* _____

* By giving us your email address, you will receive a periodic MCNOW Feminist Calendar, keeping you up to date on local news and events of interest to women.

Please make your check payable to **Montgomery County NOW** and mail along with this application to: **MCNOW**, P.O. Box 2301, Rockville, MD 20847-2301 (To renew online with credit card, visit www.mcmdnow.org)



**Montgomery County Chapter of the
National Organization for Women**

MCNOW (Chapter #MD0200)
P.O. Box 2301
Rockville, MD 20847-2301
301-236-0069
info@mcmdnow

Visit us at
www.mcmdnow.org

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TO PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE MEMBERS & FRIENDS:
**PLEASE JOIN MCNOW FOR OUR
ANNUAL ELECTION DINNER**



**Meet and elect our new Officers for 2008-2009, and
celebrate another year of good work on behalf of
and together with women of Montgomery County!**

**MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008
6:30-7 PM Gather for Dinner
7 PM Dinner Meeting**

**Bertucci's Italian Restaurant, White Flint
11301 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD 20895**

Cost: Your Dinner and Drinks (dinner and/or drinks optional) * Metro pickup if needed

SPECIAL REQUEST: Please bring any hotel or drug store sample toiletries you'd like to donate to the Betty Ann Krahnke Center, a local shelter for domestic violence victims.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact MCNOW at 301-263-0069 or info@mcmdnow.org.