

## Maryland Court Upholds Ban on Same-Sex Marriage

CULLED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

The Maryland Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, last month refused lesbians and gays the right to marry by a surprise 4-to-3 decision. The decision rejected the lower court's application of a 1970s law preventing discrimination based on sex, saying that that law applied only to women, not to sexual orientation.

The Court also said, "The State has a legitimate interest in encouraging... a union that is uniquely capable of producing offspring within the marital unit." This was its attempt to show that the Court had a rational basis for denying same-sex marriage, an argument *The Washington Post* editorial found illogical because it becomes the basis for leaving thousands of couples without certain benefits and "no legal avenues of appeal."

The decision cannot be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court because it relied solely on state law. The Maryland Court seemed to realize this quandary by further stating that "Our opinion should by no means be read to imply that the General Assembly may not grant and recognize for homosexual persons civil unions or the right to marry a person of the same sex."

In Annapolis, this statement has galvanized both sides. Liberal Democrats, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Equality Maryland are ready to fight for a same-sex marriage law when the legislature reconvenes in January and say they will not accept civil unions as a compromise. They will argue that same-sex couples lack benefits such as financial support when a marriage ends, entitlement to property acquired during a marriage, and recognition as a family in order to receive tax and health care benefits. "Eventually," said Dan Furmansky, executive director of Equality Maryland, "Maryland will have civil marriage equality for same-sex couples."

On the other side, social conservatives plan to preempt the passage of any law recognizing same-sex marriage with a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

What are the chances that the Maryland General Assembly will pass a same-sex marriage law? The Maryland assembly is controlled by Democrats, and the House of Delegates is more liberal than the Senate. In fact, the House has three openly gay members. The Maryland Senate is more conservative. Its president, Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., (D) says

*(see Same-Sex Marriage, page 3)*

## Message to School Board: Avert the Sexualization of Girls

BY MARY BAILEY

Dismayed by the sexualization of girls promoted by the media and others, we of MCNOW are urging the Montgomery County Board of Education to counter this toxic message. To this end, the Chapter has mailed the Board and Superintendent Weast the report, "The Sexualization of Girls," issued this year by the American Psychological Association (APA). The report comprehensively details how the sexualization process affects the development and well being of girls and what can be done about it. We included in the mailing our summary of the report, a list of 16 co-signing former presidents of MCNOW, and the following from our cover letter:

"We are all familiar with the problems the report describes: Toy stores carry dolls wearing black leather miniskirts, thigh-high boots, and feather boas aimed at 8- to 12-year old girls. Clothing stores sell things, some labeled "eye candy" or "wink wink" in sizes for 10-year-old girls. Child beauty pageants encourage 5-year-old girls wearing makeup and false eyelashes to "flirt" onstage.

"Girls and female teens receive a steady diet of sexualizing messages from the media, cultural products, and individuals. The report suggests approaches that schools can use to reduce the effects of these trends. Through media literacy training and sex education, schools can help students critically analyze and resist the sexualization of girls. Schools also can adopt new approaches to athletics, extracurricular activities, and other aspects of school life. Starting on page 36, the APA report describes existing programs and practices that counter sexualization and note others that, if implemented, have the potential to do so.

"We realize that the Montgomery County School Board has just resolved a complex crisis about sex education in middle school classes. Yet we would anticipate little resistance, from

*(see School Board Letter on page 3)*

### Who Said That?

"I hate discussions of feminism that end up with who does the dishes, she said. So do I. But at the end, there are always the damned dishes."

*(See answer page 6)*

**Montgomery County NOW**  
**P.O. Box 2301**  
**Rockville, MD 20847-**  
**2301**

**WEB SITE**

<http://www.mcmdnow.org>

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**MC NOW President's Message**

**MCNOW AT A CROSSROADS?**

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, women throughout the country were focusing on getting three of the 14 holdout states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, so succinctly authored by Alice Paul. She never saw its nationwide passage and, to the present time, neither have we. Nonetheless, this was on the top of our wish list, and we passionately fought to win this sociopolitical battle. Now there are rumors of the skirmishes and protests continuing, organized by groups devoted to passage of the ERA.

Other vital issues that occupied our thinking were "equal pay for equal work" or pay equity, protection of women and children against abuse and violence, and opposing the sexualization of female persons. We celebrated Susan B. Anthony Day, rallied in Washington, DC at Metro stops for various feminist causes, and gave anti-chauvinism a fight for its life! Over the years, however, too few feminists have chosen to pick up the gauntlet to pursue the still ever-present causes that would allow girls and women to enjoy safer, more equitable, harmonious lives.

Perhaps we have become complacent, resting on our past efforts and creative thinking, hoping that these will sustain us forever without much further effort. Some may even question if we need to be identified as "feminists" or "womanists," not to mention as warriors on the battlefield of women's rights. Make no mistake: No one, especially those who think power is theirs by divine bestowal of gender and birthright, is automatically going to give up a portion of that power or to share resources. The sexist agenda has a built-in need towards strong opposition to gender equality. At this point in our 35-year history, we could imply complacency (the roll-over-and-die position) OR we could choose to stand strongly and in unity for a cause worthy of our total attention and immersion.

One such cause is opposition to the sexualization of girls and women. We are making an effort in this extremely important and viable matter. Otherwise, we might just slump back into the anti-woman chauvinistic woods of oppression and become painfully entangled by overgrown weeds, briars, and thorns of patriarchal dominance.

The choice is still ours, but while we have the presence of 455 members strong, we can decide to do something worthwhile for still unfinished women's rights battles. Starting with this issue of *FROM NOW ON*, I am inviting any member to write one guest column in which she or he can express dreams, thoughts, fears, angers about feminist matters, MCNOW, anything concerning women's issues. Additionally, we will attempt to feature Montgomery County officials, legislators, and community leaders to write a guest column in our newsletter. We want and need your feedback, your continued involvement, and your focused feminism to keep us on track. We once meaningfully used the word and the concept of empowerment in a way that imbued us with powerful thoughts and actions. Are we still willing to take up the banner for womankind? Each of us must answer the question, with its implied call to service: Is MCNOW (and feminist causes and goals) moribund, dead, or alive and thriving?

Where are WE, where are YOU, and do we wish to IDLE AT THE CROSSROADS?

*Carole Rayburn*

## Same-Sex Marriage (continued from page 1)

that he will not support the bill, and certain key senators think the measure won't even reach the floor for a vote.

Passing a same-sex marriage law will be difficult because legislators expected to support the bill primarily come from the urban areas of Montgomery and Prince George's counties, while those from more rural areas probably will oppose it. Also, the Baltimore delegation, which usually supports progressive measures, is divided on the issue. However, according to 365gay.com, even Democratic legislators who are foes of gay marriage say they would oppose a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a male-female union.

If the bill does pass the legislature – by no means a sure thing — the next hurdle would be securing the governor's signature. Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) recently said he would back civil unions, but it is unclear whether he would champion the issue of full marriage rights and lead the fight. Politicians are already discussing compromises, one of which would create a domestic registry giving same-sex couples some of the rights of marriage.

"Such small but vocal minorities make legislating on this issue very difficult," wrote the *Baltimore Sun*. "But a progressive state such as Maryland, where voters have affirmed gay rights on referendum, should not falter in taking it on."



**Billie Jean King, left, and MC NOW's Nadine Mildice**

September 2007: "I had the most wonderful experience yesterday at the US Open tennis tournament," former MC NOW president Nadine Mildice writes us. "Billie Jean King was signing autographs. I explained that I was of that generation of women who remembered the Bobby Riggs romp. For those of you who lived through those years of fighting for equality for women in so many areas, you can imagine my feeling of honor. For those of you benefiting from her amazing contributions to women's progress, not just in the world of sports, but to women's equality in general, take my word for it, this photo will be treasured. She looks great, doesn't she? (Mildice was president of MC NOW in 1989-90 and 1991-92)

## School Board Letter (continued from page 1)

parents of any political point of view, to incorporating the APA's recommendations into the school curriculum. We respectfully ask you to review the report and consider making such changes for the wellbeing of all Montgomery County Public School students.

"We hope you will review the report and consider taking the steps recommended by the report to reduce the impact of these disturbing trends on the children of Montgomery County Public Schools."

Sincerely,

Mary Bailey  
MCNOW Newsletter Co-Editor and  
President of Washington, DC NOW, 1973

Carole Rayburn  
President, MC NOW, 2007-08

### Rayburn to Address School Board

On Thursday, October 11, MCNOW President Carole Rayburn will address the Montgomery County Board of Education on the sexualization of girls. Rayburn's address will be a follow-up to our mailing of the American Psychological Association's report on the subject. She will be allotted three minutes to present MCNOW's views on how the Board can offset the sexualized messages girls receive from the culture. Let's be there to support our president and to hear the Board's response.

MC Board of Education Open Forum  
Thursday, Oct. 11, 7-9:30 pm  
Wheaton High School

### Submissions to Newsletter Welcome

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

**Call** 301-236-0069

**Email** Liz Callihan at [ecallihan@pubcomm.com](mailto:ecallihan@pubcomm.com)

**Write** P.O. Box 2301  
Rockville, MD  
20847-2301

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE:  
OCTOBER 20, 2007**

# Anne Spiegel Snyder

## July 2, 1930 – September 15, 2007

### FROM THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY GAZETTE

Anne Spiegel Snyder, 77, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., formerly of Silver Spring, died of heart complications Sept. 15, 2007, in Port St. Lucie. She was active in the National Organization for Women for more than two decades and was a former president of the organization.

Born July 2, 1930, in Philadelphia, she was the wife of Monroe Snyder.

Mrs. Snyder held an undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College and a master's degree in speech pathology from Pennsylvania State University. Her hobbies included music and arts. She was a breast cancer survivor.

Survivors in addition to her husband include a daughter, Tobi, a son, Todd, two brothers, Murray and Harold, and four grandchildren.

Services were private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund.

### FROM CAROLE RAYBURN MC NOW PRESIDENT

#### Anne Spiegel Snyder A Tribute to a Strong, Dedicated Woman

Last month was marked by the passing of my dear friend and longtime feminist, Anne Spiegel Snyder. For over 45 years, Anne had been suffering with the various devastating stages of spinal disease. Yet, she always managed to maintain an upbeat attitude. A fierce fighter for the women's movement, the ERA, and other feminist issues, her sharp, analytical mind was constantly on target with how to wage the battles for gender equality and non-violence.

Anne was one of the strongest women I have ever known. President of Montgomery County NOW in 1984-86, she fought valiantly and wisely for Montgomery County, Maryland State, and all women throughout the world. She deserves a moment of silence as we pause to think of her many contributions on our behalf. The world of women and humanity is a far better place for the presence of Anne Spiegel Snyder having been among us.

Thanks goes too to her husband, Monroe Snyder, who took such wonderful and continual care of Anne and who himself served as a highly able and informed Montgomery County liaison to Maryland State NOW. Anne will be sorely missed and her memories in the hearts and minds of all who knew her will be sweet. Her powerful deeds are a link in that which benefits all of us. For all this, we thank you, Anne!

### FROM LIZ JOYCE MC NOW PRESIDENT, 1995-1997

I knew Anne Snyder after she was MC NOW president. She was still sorting through the mountains of files that all our chapter presidents must "host." Off to a wobbly start as program chair, I welcomed Anne's calls when she'd found a name or resource she knew would help me. We'd start talking about her ideas and move on to just about everything - our lives, recent chapter history, and her rollicking accounts of local politics. She'd led the chapter through some bruising challenges, which she described with wry, salty humor. With her shrewd judgment and gift of attracting great activists, she'd clearly advanced the chapter and enhanced its impact in crucial times.

Yet what most impressed me about Anne was Anne. She was fascinating, energetic, hilarious, and fun - amazingly so for someone whose mobility was ebbing away. An illness she'd battled since her twenties was narrowing her freedom and increasing her pain. Yet with her husband Monroe's quietly powerful help, she climbed aboard her motorized chair and kept going, determined to make the most of life. And so she did for almost twenty years, until her death a few weeks ago.

She was realistic but hopeful, unsentimental but loving, determined but balanced in embracing life. Knowing her was a gift I will always treasure. Thank you, Anne.

# My Very Own Personal Experience

BY A MC NOW MEMBER  
KNOWN TO THE EDITORS

My baby sister got pregnant when she was 13 years old. By a 17-year-old guy. She was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, he was in high school. She did not know *HOW* you got pregnant yet – this was in the early 1970s. No one knew she was pregnant until one day I looked downstairs and saw her naked looking at herself in the mirror, perplexed. I ran to her and told her not to worry – and explained everything to her. My mother had a fit, of course!

I was married then and we volunteered to adopt the child since we could not have our own. My mother exploded and told me NO WAY! So I contacted a close friend in New York City and her mother arranged and paid for my sister to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> semester abortion there. It was devastating to all of us. Especially to me – because I knew what that meant – they did not.

My little sister barely survived. They sent her home hemorrhaging, blood pressure dropping. I packed her and called an ambulance. She only weighed about 70 pounds.

My 17-year-old sister got pregnant less than a year later and quit high school in her senior year. The father was a 28-year-old truck driver living next door with his brother's family. This same sister asked me, "what is a virgin?" that same year. I am not making this up – this is how uninformed women are when they get NO SEX ED! Thank goodness I was biology major!

I called my same friend and this time she sent me money, and I took my sister myself to a building in Mid-Town Manhattan to have the abortion. The taxi driver stopped in front of the building, looked at us, and said, "Which one is having the abortion?" The building was a 20-story office building! We could have been going there for anything! I guess a lot of women in the 1970s needed their services.

Then I got pregnant three times after my gynecologist said my husband was sterile because of the medicine he was taking for intestinal problems. One of the side effects was causing men's sperm production to drop to zero. Since it meant I did not have to be on the pill, we checked his sperm count regularly. It didn't work – three times the sperm count rose and I got pregnant.

The first time, I was living in Indiana and had just started a new manager's job. I drove to Indianapolis for the abortion. I was the sole support of my husband and an ALIVE adopted daughter, and I HAD TO WORK.

The second and third times were while I was in graduate school. Neither time could I take off work to raise a child. My husband was a househusband and took care of our daughter. He worked once in a while, but he was ill. I worked full-time at the University of Alabama while also going to school full-time.

Both times, I felt no remorse, no sadness, nothing. Just complete relief. Especially relief from vomiting day and night. The third time, my family doctor just said – go in,

have a therapeutic abortion (they still called it that) and have a tubal ligation. I had to go in the hospital a few days early because I became dehydrated from vomiting. After it was over, the doctor said he could not believe I was that sick. There was no more than a teaspoon of material in my uterus, as I was only about 10 days pregnant.

After my tubal ligation, my gynecologist told me I had a rare form of "pregnancy allergy" to HGH (Human Gonadotrophic Hormone). One sister also suffered from the same thing. He said I would never have been able to carry a baby to term anyway, so I should be glad I adopted.

After I married a second time – both my second husband and I worked weekends at an abortion clinic in Maryland – I never had to worry about where to get an abortion. You just walked into the nearest Planned Parenthood, listened when they asked, "are you sure? are you sure?" and that was it. At the clinic where we escorted women inside – the Right to Lie people were screaming and singing and yelling about baby killers – the police stood by making sure they did not approach us.

The only side effect I had was from abortion number 1. The doctor's fingernails were long and scratched my stomach very hard right through the gloves. The second time, I vomited in the parking lot afterward.

But NEVER, NOT ONCE, did I think back except to wonder, "what would I do with three more kids?" when I was having problems with my adopted daughter's drinking and drug use. I am thankful Planned Parenthood was there for me, and I am thankful my friends knew where to go in New York City.

The end result is that my sister who got pregnant at 13 finished her GED and had three children after marriage. My sister who got pregnant at 17 finished her GED and nursing school, and had one daughter after marriage.

## Field Trip

### Woodyard Archaeological Site Woodyard Road, Clinton, Md.

Even though no house or picture remains to mark Ann Joice's existence, light a spiritual candle to her on Woodyard Road. Ann Joice was born about 1660 in the West Indies. She was a "mulatto" [terrible word] who was taken as a child to England and trained as a cook. She came to Maryland as an indentured servant and worked in The Woodyard, home of Henry Darnell, the richest man in Prince George's County. When her indenture was up, Darnell burned her papers. When she objected, he imprisoned her in a cellar for most of a year. He kept her as a slave to the end of her life in 1735. In 1799, her grandson was able to show that the records of the ship that brought Ann Joice to Maryland listed her as indentured, and therefore free. (Maryland Women's Heritage Trail)

## What's Really Important in This Race?

ANNE LEWIS  
SENIOR ADVISOR, HILLARY FOR PRESIDENT

Would you believe that *The Washington Post* wrote a 746-word article on Hillary's cleavage?

Apparently, it was showing when she gave a speech in the Senate about the skyrocketing cost of higher education. Now, I've seen some off-topic press coverage – but talking about body parts? That is grossly inappropriate.

Frankly, focusing on women's bodies instead of their ideas is insulting. It's insulting to every woman who has ever tried to be taken seriously in a business meeting. It's insulting to our daughters – and our sons – who are constantly pressured by the media to grow up too fast.

By now, the media should know better. But they don't. We need to keep attention focused on where it belongs: turning this country around after six long years of Dick Cheney, Alberto Gonzales, Karl Rove, and George Bush.

There will always be people who try to make a campaign about makeup, clothes, and now, even cleavage. In fact, if you watched the last debate, you remember that Hillary's jacket was the subject of some discussion among the candidates – because it was coral.

Debates should be serious business. We are, after all, picking our next commander in chief. This campaign should be about what the future will be for 47 million Americans who are living without health insurance, including 8.3 million children. It's about importing 1.46 million barrels of oil a day and dumping 5 billion tons of carbon into the air every year. It's about more than 3,600 American troops dying in Iraq in a war that has already cost more than \$400 billion.

Clothes? Makeup? Cleavage? What's really important in this race?

### Election Judges Needed for 2008 Elections

Montgomery County's Board of Elections is seeking individuals to serve as election judges at polling places on February 12, Primary Election Day. In accordance with the Election Code, judges must be registered to vote in the State of Maryland. They must also be able to speak, read, and write the English language, and while acting as a judge must not hold, or be a candidate for, public or party office.

In addition, election judges bilingual in Spanish and election judge alternates are needed throughout the county. Training will be provided and all judges will be compensated for Election Day. To apply, or for more information, call the Board of Elections at 240-777-8533 or email [electionjudge@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:electionjudge@montgomerycountymd.gov).

## A Message to Clinic Defenders

Yesterday we started the day at the center with the police escorting a pregnant 11-year-old girl for an abortion. She had an active sexual relationship with her 19-year-old brother who is now in custody. Another patient had a severe fetal abnormality – the fetus did not have an arm or leg on the right side and other developmental problems. A third had a dead fetus. Before the day was over, a 12-year-old girl was scheduled for an appointment on Saturday. She was impregnated by her father who raped her.

These are just a few cases on a typical day. There were other women yesterday too. Their stories, although unique to them, may not be quite so compelling. Their decisions to terminate their pregnancies were painful and anguishing, but ultimately necessary for their own personal reasons.

Nearly every day I have another reason to be committed to "our" cause. Many of you never have the opportunity to see or know how important your efforts are to preserve this important right.

Just thought I'd share.

~Anonymous Clinic Director  
(Reprinted with permission)



### Answer to Who Said That, page 1 MARILYN FRENCH *The Women's Room, 1977*

To those of us with dishwashing appliances, this Marilyn French quote may seem somewhat old-fashioned. But let us remember there are large numbers of women in Montgomery County who not only wash their own dishes but the dishes of the better off as well. Housework is one of the worst jobs there is. As author Mary McCarthy put it in 1958, "The labor of keeping house is labor in its most naked state, for labor is toil that never finishes, toil that has to begin again the moment it is completed, toil that is destroyed and consumed by the life process." And in 1974 British author Ann Oakley wrote it even more succinctly: "Housework is work directly opposed to the possibility of human self-actualization." So we ask ourselves, how can the county's cleaning women rise above their circumstances when they spend their days at work and evenings at home in such deadening work? Let us be mindful of this when we hire, donate, and vote.



## Elsewhere in the World

ABRIDGED FROM WWW.WOMENSENEWS.ORG

### September 1, 2007 Trafficked Women Auctioned in England

Police in Cambridgeshire, England, raided 73 suspected brothels and discovered that trafficked women were sold at auction in pubs before they were forced into sex work, the Guardian reported. Gang members bid on the women, some paying as little as \$2,000. So far, seven women have been rescued.

### September 4, 2007 Italians Battle Over Veils

Two bills regarding the Islamic veil pending in the Italian parliament are a symbol of the country's increasing focus on the assimilation of immigrants. The situation was not as dramatic as in France and Germany, but now fundamentalism has arrived in Italy. Daniela Santanche of the conservative Alleanza Nazionale party introduced a bill in parliament to prohibit girls under 16 from wearing Islamic veils in school. Santanche said it was not a religious battle, but a battle for equality, noting that younger girls are not able to decide for themselves. The bill has spurred widespread discussions about the status of Muslim women. Said Francesca Koch, head of the Italian Feminist Federation, "It is not for us Western women who can tell others what is right for them." A second bill, proposed by several female senators in the center-left majority, allows religious veils or clothing as long as the face is not covered. (In Catholic Italy, a woman in a veil is as likely to be a nun as a Muslim.) Meanwhile, a survey of 500 Muslim women in Italy published by a Rome-based Arabic newspaper found that 85 percent said they wore the veil "out of fear" and 95 percent did not believe the veil is mandated by the Quran.

### September 13, 2007 Burundians Say Peace Must Include Tough Rape Laws

After 13 years of civil war, 27 years of dictator rule, and violence between Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups, much of this small East African nation is suffering. The long war resulted in a lawless police and army force, and a judicial system in

shambles unprepared to process the huge number of legal battles piling up at its doors. The government, aided by the international community, is attempting to rebuild the nation. The World Bank has pledged more than \$130 million to finance education and community development. The UN has switched tactics in Burundi from peacekeeping to peace building, with the establishment of one of its first peace-building commissions. As part of its efforts, Burundi is hoping to stage tribunals for war criminals and a truth and reconciliation commission modeled on that of South Africa. But as Burundi struggles to maintain a delicate peace, women's rights advocates are calling for nationwide legal and social reforms to address the countless crimes of sexual violence committed during the war and to reform the country's legal treatment of rape. The biggest obstacle to justice lies in Burundi's historic laxity toward sexual violence. The laws on the books are vague, outdated and insufficient, and none specifically criminalizes rape.

### September 15, 2007 Jordan Combats Abuse

Jordan's Queen Rania launched a \$1 million project to fight violence against women. It aims to provide medical assistance and counseling to abused women and to raise public awareness. Eighty-seven percent of Jordanian women believe their husbands are justified in using physical or verbal abuse, according to a 2007 survey. "What's important now is that we're moving from theory to action," said Asma Khader, head of the Jordanian National Commission for Women. "The main obstacle is changing people's perceptions. But this is exactly what is needed to confront the practice."

### September 15, 2007 Bush Nixes Again

For the sixth year in a row, President Bush withheld funding from the UN Population Fund, which supports family planning and maternal health programs. Congress appropriated \$40 million for the fund this year; the Bush administration withheld it once again, claiming the agency supports China's one-child policy and coercive abortions.

## How It Was

- 1 Amalya Kearse becomes the first African American woman to be made a partner of a Wall Street law firm, Hughes, Hubbard and Reed, 1969.
- 10 Because they refused use of their bylines on stories about women whose only claims to fame were celebrity husbands, Lindsay Van Gelder and Bryna Taubman are fired from the New York Post, 1969.

## October (1950—1969)

- 14 Reporters Taubman and Van Gelder are rehired by the New York Post after American Newspaper Guild officials point out the clause in the contract allowing any writer to refuse use of her byline, 1969.
- 20 Bryna Taubman, back on the job, approves use of her byline on the New York Post's weeklong series, "The Swinging Singles," 1969.

# The Watchful Eye

BY MARY BAILEY



**MySpace: 29,000 offenders.** After eight state attorneys general demanded information from MySpace about registered sex offenders on its site, the social network announced it had found and banned 7,000 registered offenders. Apparently unconvinced, the attorneys general then subpoenaed MySpace's records and discovered it had 29,000 registered offender accounts — four times the announced number. “Each of these 29,000 separate profiles reflects

a potential predator willing and able to exploit a child,” said Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. Furthermore, the 29,000 figure only represents offenders who use their real names to sign up, noted North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper (technewsworld.com 7-25-07).

**A teacher faults MySpace.** On a sunny August day, Arlington middle school teacher Cheryl MacPherson dropped in at the new Shirlington library. To her surprise, she wrote the Washington Post, she saw “two banks of computers that stretch nearly the entire length of the building” packed with teenagers. What were they doing on such a lovely day? They were socializing on MySpace — away from parents' watchful eyes. Young students know how to maneuver around MySpace, MacPherson noted. “Are you too young to have a profile page? Just say you're 99 years old! Are you nervous that your mom or dad will find your page? Set it to 'private' — then only your MySpace friends can access it.” Instead of having librarians monitor young people's use of the computers, the teacher said, MySpace “should take responsibility for what has become a popular portal for youngsters.” (Wash Post 8-26-07).

**Food for thought.** Sen. Larry Craig has been the butt of jokes since he was arrested in a Minneapolis restroom. A press discussion has followed: If Craig is gay, said one columnist, then realize that he grew up at a time of extreme hostility toward gays. While still a boy forming his identity, he learned that safety was based on secrecy. Over the decades, secrecy became woven into his life as he married and built a political career. Even though society is now becoming more open, it is not easy for older men to ac-

knowledge to the people in their life that they have been faking their identity all these years. A letter to the editor came next, from a mother fearful about sending her youthful son to a men's restroom. Then, a Washington Post editorial argued that “none of these gestures,” — the foot tapping and swiping a hand under the stall divider — “in and of themselves, constitutes a crime.” Craig “did not expose himself or do anything else” — that might have threatened or frightened a young boy.

**Stop the stereotypes.** Protesting the demeaning and offensive portrayals of African Americans, the Enough is Enough Campaign demonstrated last month outside the Woodley Park gated home of Black Entertainment Television's chief executive, Debra Lee. Five hundred people showed up, including Md. Del. Justin Ross (D-Prince George's) and representatives from NOW, the Feminist Majority and National Congress of Black Women. Addressing his “deep concern about the increasing coarseness of American popular culture,” campaign organizer Rev. Delman Coates of Mount Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton said, “At some point we have to ask ourselves what kind of world we want to leave to our children.” BET, founded in 1980 by African American Robert Johnson, has long been criticized for promoting negative stereotypes of its own people. The network is now owned by Viacom. (Wash Post 9-16-07)

**Gangsta rap takes a hit.** Sales of rap albums have fallen 43.6 percent since 2000, according to Nielsen SoundScan. That's faster than the decrease in sales of the music industry as a whole, reports columnist Courtland Milloy. He also cites a University of Chicago survey of black, white, and Hispanic youths ages 15 to 25 nationwide. According to the study headed by political science professor Cathy Cohen, 1) 72 percent of black youths believe that rap videos contain too many sexual references; 2) 41 percent of black youths say rap music videos should be more political; and 3) majorities of all youths agree that rap music videos portray black women and men “in bad and offensive ways.” At 58 percent, black youth are top consumers of rap music, listening to it daily, as opposed to 45 percent of Hispanics and 23 percent of whites (Wash Post 9-19-07). But we've always heard that white suburban teens are the major consumers of rap! Who started that rumor? The music industry? Naww.

## How It Was

- 24 Reverend Margaret Towner becomes the first woman ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church, 1956.
- 26 Naomi Weisstein, psychologist, first presents her classic paper, “Kinder, Küche, Kirche as Scientific Law: Psychology Constructs the Female” at the University of California American Studies Association meeting at Davis, 1969.
- 28 Mary Roebing becomes the first woman director of a stock exchange (American Stock Exchange), 1958

## October (1950—1969)

- 29 NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN announces its formal incorporation in Washington, D.C., “to gain true equality for all women...fully equal partnership of the sexes,” 1966.

*(As we approach the 1970s, we can feel things warming up! Selections from The Liberated Woman's Appointment Calendar, 1972-74 and the National Women's History Project newsletter.)*

# MC NOW Calendar of Events

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

## OCTOBER

- 1 (Mon) 7-9 PM. MC NOW CHAPTER MEETING. Mid-County Regional Center, first floor conference room, 2424 Reedie Drive, Wheaton.
- 6-7 (Fri-Sun) National Women's Hall of Fame Induction Weekend, Seneca Falls, NY. For more info, call 315-568-8060.
- 11 (Thu) Carole Rayburn addresses the Board of Education at its Community Forum at Wheaton High School (on Randolph Road just east of Connecticut Avenue) at its Community Forum, 7pm. Please support her with good attendance.
- 16 (Tues) BPW Woman of Achievement Gala. The Hilton, 620 Perry Pkwy, Gaithersburg. 6:30 pm networking, 7:30 pm dinner. Hosted by MC Business & Professional Women and MC Commission for Women. Info at 301-466-8291 or [pcornishpat@aol.com](mailto:pcornishpat@aol.com). RSVP to 301-907-0025 or [cmvitarelli@comcast.net](mailto:cmvitarelli@comcast.net).
- 17 (Wed) Justice for All Forum, Gaithersburg HS, 214 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, Sponsored by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. Free. For more info, call Jeanne Carlson, 240-777-7034.
- 23 (Tue) Cultural Community Summit for the Asian Community, Montgomery County Government, Office of Community Partnerships, Time and Location TBA. For more info, contact the Office of Community Partnerships at 240-777-2500 and ask for the specific staff liaison for your community.
- 25 (Thu) Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV)'S Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner, Registration, Cash Bar & Networking; 6:30 Buffet Dinner; 7:30 DoubleTree Hotel Annapolis, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis. Keynote speaker Phyllis Armstrong, W\*USA 9 TV reporter. For more info or reservations, call 301-352-4574 or [info@mnadv.org](mailto:info@mnadv.org).
- 25 (Thu) Learn More about Local Activities Promoting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, Including Global Health, co-Sponsored by Montgomery College Alumni Association and the Montgomery County League of Women Voters at Montgomery College Theatre Arts building, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. RSVP: Ms. Bernice Grossman 240-567-5378 or [alumni@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:alumni@montgomerycollege.edu).
- 27 (Sat) Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) Annual Fall Conference: Women Have A Voice. American Federation of Teachers, 5800 Metro Drive, Baltimore. Continental breakfast and lunch included. Advance registration fee due by Oct 22: \$30; after Oct 22: \$40; student fee: \$15. For more info and for a registration form, call 443-519-1005 or e-mail [admin@mdlegagenda4women.org](mailto:admin@mdlegagenda4women.org).
- 27 (Sat) 8 PM. NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland's 18th Annual Evening of Chocolate Gala. The Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Keynote Speaker: Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown; Choice Advocate Honoree: Sharon Grosfeld. Black tie optional. RSVP by October 16. Tickets: \$65 for members; \$75 for non-members. For more information please call 301.565.4154 or email Erin at [erin@prochoicemd.org](mailto:erin@prochoicemd.org).
- 30 (Tue) *Feminists Who Changed America*, VFA Book Release. Co-sponsored by Veteran Feminists of America and The Sewall-Belmont House & Museum, 144 Constitution Avenue, NE, Washington, DC. More than 150 Washington-area women who are featured in the directory. RSVP by calling 202-463-0180 or e-mailing [Karen@dc.vetfems.org](mailto:Karen@dc.vetfems.org) or visit [www.dc.vetfems.org](http://www.dc.vetfems.org).



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



## MC NOW New and Renewal Membership Form

- \$35 **ONE YEAR, FULL NOW MEMBERSHIP** (newsletter subscription free)
- \$17-34 Sliding scale; what you can afford
- FREE I am a Maryland or National NOW member and wish to affiliate with Montgomery County NOW (chapter 0200)
- Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Address \_\_\_\_\_
- City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_
- Email \_\_\_\_\_
- I got this newsletter from: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to MC NOW of \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Please make your check payable to **Montgomery County NOW** and mail along with the application to:

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY NOW**

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