

CHOICES

Feminist Majority Foundation Campus Program E-Zine

January 16, 2007

www.feministcampus.org

"Roe vs. Wade is based on a woman's fundamental right to privacy, a value that all Americans cherish. It established that decisions about whether to have a child do not and should not rest with the government. A woman – in consultation with her family, her physician, and her faith – is best qualified to make that decision."

Nancy Pelosi



Welcome Back to Campus; Roe v. Wade Celebrates 34 Years

The year has gotten off to an excellent start. On January 4, 2007 Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) made history when she became the first ever woman and feminist Speaker of the House of Representatives. Then on January 11, 2007 under the leadership of new Speaker Pelosi, the 110th Congress voted to raise the federal minimum wage from \$5.15-an-hour to \$7.25-an-hour by 2009. Women and minority workers make up the majority of minimum wage workers so this is a win for feminists across the country. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill in upcoming weeks.

The FMF Campus Team is excited to announce our plans and actions for the spring semester. Declaring we cannot, must not, lose the right to safe and accessible abortion or access to birth control – for U.S. women and the women of the world – student groups are launching "We Had Abortions" petition campaigns on college campuses nationwide leading up

to the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* on January 22nd. Petitions will be added to the thousands already collected by *Ms.* magazine and will be sent to the White House, members of Congress, and state legislators. You can download a petition or you can sign the petition online at www.feministcampus.org The petitions will continue through our **National Young Women's Leadership Conference: From Campus to Congress** (March 24-25, 2007). Register now at www.feministcampus.org/leadership/

Never Go Back, our domestic campaign, highlights the threats to safe, legal, and affordable abortion and access to Emergency Contraception and birth control. **Standing with Our Sisters (S.O.S.)**, our global campaign, focuses on how feminists in the United States can become better and more effective advocates for reproductive health services for our sisters around the world. On campus, feminists will advocate for the refunding of United

Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the elimination of the Global Gag Rule. We will also encourage campus groups to speak out against the war in Iraq and sending more troops. Instead, we will encourage the U.S. to use those funds for international family planning and educational services to help girls and women.

Remember, it's a new day in national leadership and a new opportunity to make change. What are you going to do in 2007 to make a difference?

—Campus Team



This Is What A Speaker Looks Like: Nancy Pelosi Takes the Gavel, Makes Feminist History



Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) made history January 4th when she became the first woman Speaker of the House. After a roll call on the floor of the House of Representatives, the new 110th Congress elected Pelosi, an Italian-American feminist and grandmother of six, as its Speaker. As Pelosi took the Speaker's gavel for the first time, she announced, "I accept this gavel in the spirit of

partnership, not partisanship."

Throughout the many speeches and events celebrating her new role, Speaker Pelosi, a self-identified feminist, emphasized the importance of her win for American women and working mothers. In her speech before Congress, Pelosi said, "It's an historic moment for the women of America. It is a moment for which we have waited over 200 years. Never losing faith, we waited through the many years of struggle to achieve our rights. But women weren't just waiting. Women were working. Never losing faith, we worked to redeem the promise of America, that all men and women are created

equal. For our daughters and our granddaughters, today we have broken the marble ceiling. For our daughters and our granddaughters now, the sky is the limit"

Feminist Majority President Eleanor Smeal said of Speaker Pelosi's win, "Feminists everywhere are celebrating. She gives hope to the dream of equality being realized in our lifetime."

For more feminist news, go to feminist.org



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Campus Group Corner

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health presents...

The Hyde Amendment:
An Attack on Reproductive Health within Communities of Color

Busboys and Poets
2021 14th Street NW
Washington, DC

January 23, 2007

End of Semester Discussions!!

Have you received your EOS?
We want to better serve you!

Send back your EOS as soon as possible and contact your campus organizer to schedule your debriefing!

The Campus Team is on Facebook & Myspace!!

Add us to your friend list and get up-to-date articles, blogs and posts from the campus team! Also meet people like you in your area through the networking features available. Don't miss out!!

The National Young Women's Leadership Conference:

From Campus to Congress

Saturday March 24 & Sunday March 25, 2007

On the campus of
University of the District of Columbia

Registration Only \$50
Includes lunch both days and a Ms. magazine reception

Special \$25 discount if you would like to also attend NCWO Equality Summit and Congressional Visit Day

Invited speakers include
Members of Congress
Dolores Huerta
Martha Burk
And many more...

You Don't Want to Miss A Minute!

Stay up to date at
www.feministcampus.org/leadership

New Year, New Attitude

January 4, 2007 was a historical day for women and girls everywhere. Nancy Pelosi, a self-identified feminist and friend of the Feminist Majority Foundation, was elected the first woman Speaker of the House. As Speaker of the House, Ms. Pelosi is third in line for the presidency.

Pelosi didn't become Speaker in a day, a week, or even a year, but she did do it without sacrificing her feminist values and maintaining a confidence and drive that should also become synonymous with feminism.

As young leaders, we need to take the lead on our campus and in our communities. Too often feminists are considered to be on the defensive when it comes to issues, but no more!! We have feminists on Capitol Hill who are not afraid to speak out for us! Realize that the elections on November 7, 2006 changed the political climate to one that most of us have never before witnessed.

We ARE the majority! There are multitudes JUST LIKE US waiting for someone to speak out for what they believe in. There is still work to be done, and we must persist and remember that we are not alone. Now young women's voices can be heard!



Campus organizers at the Nancy Pelosi brunch in the Library of Congress.



Sen. Hillary Clinton and the campus organizers with the newest issue of Ms. magazine.

Because Courage is Contagious

That Takes Ovaries!: Bold Females and Their Brazen Acts is a book, open-mike movement and play that presents brave, unabashed, fun-loving women and their true short stories of strength and audacity. *That Takes Ovaries!* rejects the notion of how females should behave and instead boldly declares, "look what I just did!" From courageous and smart to outrageous and foolhardy, from the seemingly frivolous to the obviously political, this culturally diverse group of women and girls models the range of what *real* femininity looks like today -- sassy, self-assured, and *estrogen-fueled*.

Since 2002, hundreds of *That Takes Ovaries* open mikes have been held around the U.S. and globe, either led by our *Ovaries* staff or organized locally by women in the community. It's a grassroots movement for women's and girls' empowerment! Many of the readings and open mikes held around the country are fundraisers for local girls' groups, and for groups working to end human rights abuses against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and sex trafficking.

Any woman or organization interested in organizing a *That Takes Ovaries* open mike can easily do it, or you can invite TTO to lead an event in your community, either as a stand-alone event or as an exciting audience-participatory component to an already scheduled conference.

This could be the tool to get you to the National Conference!

Guidelines and registration (required) are found at <http://www.thattakesovaries.org/>, or contact Rivka Soloman at rivka@thattakesovaries.org and request them.



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