

CHOICES

Feminist Majority Foundation Campus Program E-Zine

April 23, 2007

www.feministcampus.org



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Helen Cho

Supreme Court Ruling in Abortion Ban Case Disastrous for Women's Health and Safety

"5-4, 4-5 these decisions change our lives!" Members of the Feminist Majority Foundation, NOW, NARAL, Planned Parenthood, EMILY's List and People for the American Way gathered in front of the Supreme Court on Wednesday, April 18 to chant this and other slogans after the high court upheld the nation's first abortion procedure ban in *Gonzalez v. Carhart*.



Justices Kennedy, Roberts, Thomas, Scalia and Alito joined in the majority ruling that the "Partial-Birth Abortion Act of 2003" does not infringe on a woman's constitutional right to abortion. The law criminalizes a specific method of abortion, known medically as "intact dilation and extraction."

Feminist Majority President Eleanor Smeal proclaimed, "In upholding the Bush Administration's abortion ban in *Gonzales v. Carhart*, the Bush-stacked majority of the U.S. Supreme Court showed its true colors: that it does not care about the health, well-being, and safety of American women."



Notably missing from the court is former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who was replaced by Bush appointee Samuel Alito in 2006. With O'Connor on the bench, attacks on abortion were staved off. Now the court is stacked against proponents of reproduc-

tive rights.

Smeal pointed out that, "In this first decision on abortion of the newly constituted majority, without Sandra Day O'Connor,



Bush appointees John Roberts and Samuel Alito did what they were put on the Court to do -- strike a blow against women's fundamental right to choose abortion."

This decision is a frightening advancement in attempts to deteriorate the right to a safe and legal abortion. Not only does it assume that



women are not capable of making healthy choices for themselves, the ruling provides no exceptions if the woman's health is in danger. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who wrote the dissenting opinion, stated that this ruling "tolerates, indeed applauds, federal intervention to ban nationwide a procedure found necessary and proper in certain cases by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists."

The ban is most damaging in regards to young and older



women. Smeal explains that, "Older women will be especially



affected, as amniocentesis results are released later in the pregnancy. The health and safety of adolescents and pre-teens will also be more at risk, as they are often forced to delay their decisions about whether to abort because of lack of control over their own lives or inadequate funds."

Smeal declared, "This propels women's right to abortion and birth control to the center of the 2008 presidential election. Elections matter: this ban is a direct consequence of a Republican, ideologically driven president and Congress."



"This case must serve as a wake-up call to American women that their right to a safe, legal abortion is not only being chipped away, but frontally assaulted. Principled supporters of women's health and safety in the Senate must stand up against any future Bush appointments to the Supreme Court who will not uphold *Roe v. Wade* and preserve women's fundamental rights, because women's lives are on the line," said Smeal.

Kate Nielson, campus organizer

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Does your FMLA or feminist group have an event coming up?

If so, now is the time to take advantage of the thousands of CDs that **Ani DiFranco** sent the FMF!

Ani is a huge supporter of the FMF and all of the wonderful work that you all do on your campuses, and she sent her Carnegie Hall album to us as a way to show her appreciation!



Don't procrastinate!

Let your campus organizer know immediately if you would like Ani CDs to distribute at your events (up to 50 per group) to give away, raffle off, or give in exchange for donations. Please keep in mind that we cannot permit the sale of the CDs.

Hurry while they last! This is a great way to raise money for your campus group!

Celebrating Asian Pacific Islander Heritage with Helen Cho



If you're familiar with the Feminist Majority Foundation's global reproductive rights campaign, *Standing With*

Our Sisters, you're familiar with Helen Cho's work.

For over 20 years, Helen has won national and international awards for radio and TV commercials for many major Fortune 500 companies. She counts her work for non-profit groups such as the Feminist Majority Foundation, MoveOn.org, the ACLU, and the Nuclear Peace Foundation as the work she's most proud of.

Cho began a career as an advertising copywriter shortly after graduating from the University of Notre Dame, and says that much like when she started out in the advertising industry, in the creative department, the business is still male-dominated.

"I don't think you can go into advertising as a woman and not be a feminist," says Cho.

As the creative force responsible for the stirring visuals and slogans at the forefront of many of the FMF's *Choices* Campus campaigns, Cho recently spoke to me from her home in Venice, California about how she develops an ad campaign for any advertising client.

"I ask a lot of questions. First, what is the main point we're trying to communicate? [...] it really helps to get the answer distilled down to one simple sentence, like: Bush's

Global Gag Rule hurts women," she said.

Often, says Cho, collaborating with feminist friends, some of whom are very talented artists, are how interesting visual ideas are made. Incorporating a call-to-action component within a creative campaign is also an all-important question for Cho.

"Typically, we're asking the audience to take immediate action, so we're trying to figure out how best to move someone. I feel like we're often trying to make someone mad enough to send an email, pick up the phone and call their congressperson, or write a check. Outrage is a powerful motivator," Cho concludes.

She notes that of her assignments, creating campaigns geared toward college students are some of her favorites because students appreciate edgier work and tend to have a subversive sense of humor.

When I ask about an inspiring feminist icon, Cho is quick to quote one-time presidential nominee and the first African-American congressperson, Shirley Chisholm: "The law cannot do the major part of the job of winning equality for women. Women must do it for themselves."

"I think a program that encourages and supports young feminists is the most critical for fighting injustice in the world and for the growth of the women's movement," said Cho about the *Choices* Campus Leadership Program.

Helen Cho serves on the board for the Feminist Majority Foundation and on the *Ms.* Magazine advisory board.

Renowned Labor Lawyer and Organizer Gives A Voice to the Voiceless



Discuss labor rights and sweatshops, and Julie Su is sure to come up in the conversation.

Over a decade ago she was distributing flyers outside the store of women's designer Jessica

McClintock to draw attention to sweatshop labor abuses in the U.S.

Su, a Los Angeles-based public interest lawyer at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), represents workers against corporations in the garment industry; she has also challenged UC Berkeley's admissions policy and Abercrombie & Fitch's hiring practices.

She first gained public attention in 1995, when she represented nearly 100 Thai and Latino factory workers in El Monte, CA who

were held captive and abused—forced to carry out 18 hour days behind barbed wire and under armed guard. Su successfully won this landmark federal lawsuit along with monetary compensation for her clients.

Recently, she has worked on cases involving Chinese workers against BeBe, and another for Latino workers against Forever 21.

Su is also co-founder of Sweatshop Watch, a group that monitors the global garment industry to eliminate sweatshop conditions. In 1996, she was awarded Reebok's International Human Rights Award, and in 2001, was awarded a MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Fellowship. The Daily Journal named her one of the "Top 75 Women Litigators" in California.

A self-identified feminist, Su joined the Feminist Majority Foundation's Regional

Global Women's Rights and Human Rights Conference in 2005 to urge students to take action to achieve sweatshop-free goods on their campus and work for equality.

In an interview with Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy in 2006, Su was asked about young, activist women in Los Angeles. She said, "I think women's activism in Los Angeles makes this city great. I am surrounded primarily by women who remind me each day that in fighting for what's right and good, we also give ourselves the gift of sisterhood, of solidarity. And at home, my mother, my sister, my daughters show me the great potential for love and generosity in a world run by women."

We salute Julie Su's feminist activism!

Harason Horowitz, guest writer

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Women's Rights and Leadership Conference Proves Successful in Colorado

Just two weeks after the National Young Women's Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. over 80 people from 12 campuses across the West came together in Boulder, Colorado for the Feminist Majority Foundation's Western Regional Collegiate Women's Rights and Leadership Conference. In large delegations, students came from as far away as Oregon and Texas to participate in discussions on topics ranging from international family planning to immigration, hate crimes to the importance of running for office.

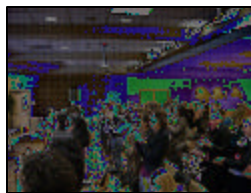


Keynote speaker and legendary women's rights leader, labor leader, and FMF Board Member Dolores Huerta (pictured above), kicked off the conference, discussing how U.S. immigration and economic policies harm immigrant women and their families in this country and around the world. Huerta called for students to demand just immigration reform and put an end to U.S. economic colonization of other nations through trade agreements such as NAFTA and CAFTA. Huerta also emphasized the need for young women's leadership on campus and beyond for creating change.

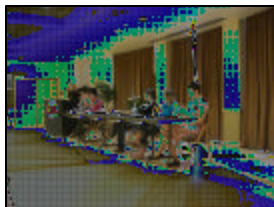
Students from Colorado State University in Fort Collins described their alternative Spring Break trip to Juarez and reported firsthand on the number of women murdered in the region as well as the status of women

maquilladora workers and their families.

Driving home the harmful impact of U.S. foreign policies on women worldwide, Deni Robey of Americans for the United Nations Population Fund addressed the lethal consequences of restrictive international family planning policies and inadequate funding on women around the world. Over 600,000 women die each year from entirely preventable maternal deaths and unsafe back-alley abortions. In addition, each day 14,000 people are newly infected with HIV and in some places women are six times more likely to be infected than men.



Students were encouraged to take action on these issues by using Feminist Majority Foundation's hard-hitting ads to raise awareness of these dangerous policies and collecting signatures with our Standing with Our Sisters petition to restore funding for the UNFPA, increase international family planning, and lift the Global Gag Rule.



In addition, Dorothy Rupert, former Colorado state legislator, and Heather Lurie of the White House Project drove home the importance of young feminist women and men running for office and discussed the

role that women's equal representation plays in passing feminist legislation and protecting women's rights, especially access to reproductive healthcare. Additional speakers included Regina Barry Cowles, Boulder NOW Chapter President; Stephanie Wilencheck; Director of the CU GLBT Resource Center; and various student leaders.

Campus Organizers Olivia Ortiz and Sandi Lyman and West Coast Campus Director duVergne Gaines, along with feminist leaders from University of Denver, UCLA, and Loyola Marymount University, led a skills-building workshop to strengthen activism and feminist leadership on campus.

Organizers unveiled FMF's newest reproductive rights petition campaign that calls on Congress to restore affordable and accessible birth control for students and low-income women across the country.



In the end, students left empowered with both knowledge of these key issues and the resources to take action. If you missed this conference and would like more information about getting involved in campus activism, please contact the campus team at campus-team@feminist.org.

Sandi Lyman, campus organizer

Upcoming Events!

-Visions in Feminism:

April 28, 2007
American University
Janel Quarless and Cassidy Johnson presenting
www.au.edu

-National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)

June 28-July 1, 2007
St. Charles, IL
Kathy Spillar, Crystal Lander, Sam Sewell and Olivia Ortiz presenting
www.nwsa.org

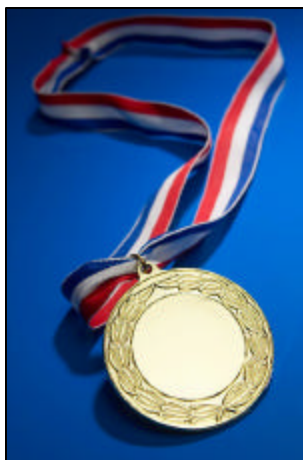
-SisterSong: Let's Talk About Sex

May 31-June 3
Chicago
Janel Quarless, Cassidy Johnson, and Olivia Ortiz presenting
www.sistersong.net

-NOW Conference:

July 13-15, 2007
Detroit
Cassidy Johnson and Sam Sewell presenting
www.now.org

ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET!



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

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

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

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

All nominations are due April 28, 2007.

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

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