

Berkeley Newsletter

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News and Resources for UC Berkeley Feminists

April 22, 2006

Because woman's work is never done

and is underpaid or unpaid or boring or repetitious and we're the first to get fired and what we look like is more important than what we do and if we get raped it's our fault and if we get beaten we must have provoked it and if we raise our voices we're nagging bitches and if we enjoy sex we're nymphos and if we don't we're frigid and if we love women it's because we can't get a "real" man and if we ask our doctor too many questions we're neurotic and/or pushy and if we expect childcare we're selfish and if we stand up for our rights we're aggressive and "unfeminine" and if we don't we're typical weak females and if we want to get married we're out to trap a man and if we don't we're unnatural and because we still can't get an adequate safe contraceptive but men can walk on the moon and if we can't cope or don't want a pregnancy we're made to feel guilty about abortion and...for lots and lots of other reasons we are part of the women's liberation



Happy Day!

The Berkeley National Organization for Women would like to welcome incoming students, parents, and all visitors to the University of California, Berkeley's annual open house, also known as, Cal Day!

If you are interested in women's issues, politics, leadership, cultural diversity, community service, or a safe space to discuss progressive issues, BNOW might be the right place for you.

This year BNOW was active in many different events on campus including Love Your Body Day, International Women's Day, the NO on Proposition 73 campaign, and many others.

As a group we organize social events, marches, rallies, and teach-ins to educate ourselves on issues of reproductive rights, pay equity, health, transnational feminism, and LGBTIQ issues. Our last consciousness raising event focused on Eco-feminism. By the way, Happy Earth Day!

Interested in joining or learning more about BNOW? Just ask!

Email:

ucbnow@yahoogroups.com
commit2peace@gmail.com

UC Berkeley website:
ocf.berkeley.edu/~berknow

NOW websites:
canow.org & now.org

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT! April 28, 2006

Take Back the Night is a March, Rally, and Vigil to honor rape and sexual assault survivors.

Every two and a half minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted. Rape and sexual assault affects us all. Join us in solidarity along with Queer Alliance, Gender Equity Center, Sexual Harassment/ Assault Advocacy & Peer Education (SHAPE) and FemAction, by participating in this event dedicated to having fun, empowering ourselves, our campus, and our community and honoring survivors.

- Upper Sproul from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, there will be an information fair with groups like, BNOW, Bear Walk, Tang Center, and SHAPE (Sexual Harassment/Assault Advocacy & Peer Education).
- Poster/Sign making, Clothing decorating 5-5:30 pm
- Cal Band from 5:30-6 pm
- Open Mic poetry, songs, and speakers from 5pm-7pm
- A march around faculty glade and other places on campus which are not well-lit, followed by a vigil and flower dedication, on the steps of Sproul, to victims of sexual violence. Activities will end at 9:00 pm.

Violence against women, men, and queer folks is a reality, but we have the ability to make change!

Current Events

Activist News Briefs from around the State, Nation, and World

Meetings:

*Berkeley NOW meets
Wednesdays at 7pm in
215 Dwinelle.*

Mission Statement:

The National Organization for Women is the largest organization of feminists, both men and women, in the United States.

Established in 1966, we represent thousands of committed women in chapters throughout the state. California NOW (CA NOW) is the state branch of the National Organization for Women and works on issues that affect women and girls throughout California.

As a local chapter of California NOW, we are part of the history of the Women's Movement in America and thus have a responsibility to talk about feminist issues on a collective cultural and sociological level.

Berkeley NOW strives to raise awareness about issues like abortion and equal representation in the national political arena, as well as to provide a safe space on campus where women and their allies feel empowered to reach out to their fellow sisters.

Upcoming Events:

**4/25- Vote Taylor Allbright
#109 for a feminist voice in
ASUC Senate!**

**4/26 – Meeting (New
leadership)**

**4/28 - Take Back the Night
Rally as well as A Night of
Cultural Resistance**

**4/29 - 4/30 – State
conference in Orange
County**

**5/10 – Closing picnic/potluck
11 am Memorial Glade!**

Love Mom, Not Wal-Mart

This mother's day (May 14) think about this:

- Women comprised 72% of all hourly workers, but only 15% of store managers.
- Wal-Mart women earned from 5-15% less than men for the same work (Hourly women earned 40 cents less an hour than men, and women managers earned \$5,000 less per year).

(source: 1998-2002 Wal-Mart reported data)

And remember, right now Wal-Mart is America's largest private employer of women, many of them mothers! Sign the "Love Mom, Not Wal-Mart" pledge online at www.wakeupwalmart.com.

Pledges will be delivered to Wal-Mart executives telling them that Wal-Mart hurts women!

Feminist Activist Murdered in Philippines (April 5)

Women's rights activist Inday Estorba, 31, was shot and killed and her husband was seriously wounded in their home in the Philippines last week. Estorba was a member of the Gabriela Women's Party and an employee of the Women's Development Center. According to activists, Estorba is the sixty-eighth woman activist to be murdered under the administration of President Gloria Arroyo, who they say is trying to impose martial law by silencing critics and progressives. They say Estorba has been identified as a target of Arroyo's military for her work for women's rights.

Guatemala government fails to protect women



*The following article is from
Amnesty International's
newsletter "The Wire."*

The boc
sometimes naked or semi-naked, are
often abandoned in public places, on

wasteland, down gullies or in city centers. Some of the murders are exceptionally brutal. Seventeen-year-old Sandra Janet Palma Godoy's body was discovered next to a football pitch on 5 July 2004. Her right arm, breasts, left hand, eyes and heart had reportedly been mutilated. It is thought that she had been a witness to a murder a few weeks earlier.

The precise number of women who have been murdered is unknown and disputed but the Guatemalan authorities have confirmed that between 2001 and August 2004 they had registered the deaths of 1,188 women. Most killings have occurred in urban areas which have also witnessed a dramatic rise in violent crime in recent years often linked to organized crime, or to the activities of street youth gangs known as maras. Students, housewives and professional women are among those who have been killed in the wave of murders.

The suffering of many of the relatives of murdered women is compounded by the government's failure to properly investigate the murders and by the knowledge that they will almost certainly never have access to truth and justice. The Guatemalan government's failure to prevent an escalation in the number of killings or to ensure effective prosecutions means that those responsible continue to commit these crimes knowing that they will not be held to account.

¡Ni Una Mas! Not One More!

Yesterday, April 21, 2006, there was a demonstration at the Guatemalan consulate in San Francisco to protest the lack of government action to prosecute these murders.

✂ <http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/guatemala/index.do>

✂ <http://getonthebustonyc.blogspot.com/2006/04/resources-on-femicide-in-guatemala.html>