

## ***Do you love what you see when you look in the mirror?***

Hollywood and the fashion, cosmetics and diet industries work hard to make each of us believe that our bodies are unacceptable and need constant improvement. Print ads and television commercials reduce us to body parts — lips, legs, breasts — airbrushed and touched up to meet impossible standards. TV shows tell women and teenage girls that cosmetic surgery is good for self-esteem. Is it any wonder that 80% of U.S. women are dissatisfied with their appearance?

Women and girls spend billions of dollars every year on cosmetics, fashion, magazines and diet aids. These industries can't use negative images to sell their products without our assistance.

***Join us on Love Your Body Day and together, we can fight back.***

## **Schedule of Events ↓**

10 AM to 3 PM: See our exhibit of positive advertisements at Sather Gate, find out about safe cosmetics, send comments to magazine companies, write on our message boards about why you love your body, get information about health, buy a NOW Love Your Body calendar for 2007, and eat free Luna bars!

4 PM: BNOW is teaming up with YWCA's violence against women events. Attend a FREE Self Defense Workshop. No pre-registration required, just show up at 4pm 2600 Bancroft Way. Also participate in the Clothesline Project, Raffle, and get Remembrance Ribbons for Breast Cancer and Domestic Abuse Month and whistles.



**Love Your Body** - Celebrate each corner of flesh covering warm thighs like a beautiful blanket, you own and you possess – Rejoice in the shape of your chest – do not define it - simply be what you are – make love to yourself – love your shoulders, strong back, erect with pride because you are a tree of life growing, stretching, hugging all you encounter – deep inside feel the movement of blood, muscles – that boom boom boom of your heart center, soul force – screaming defiance against the media image – singing your own song and dancing on tip toes because today and everyday is about me and my diversity! Do not compare me to fruits or numbers like 36-24-36 – My body will never be caged by your stereotypes – new inventions of technological enhancements, cosmetic surgery bullshit — 100% natural, that's what you get – because my body is alive, existing, breathing – not to be objectified by your gaze – but to be respected. Today is about men and women and all genders feeling comfortable in their own skin – today is about coming out of the closet and embracing yourself - today is our day, a day of true empowerment.

*-Lani Lee, 10.18.06*



## **Save the Date...**

Wed, October 25 – Consciousness Raising Event on Choice and Prop. 85. We will discuss the upcoming elections, review all propositions, and examine why we are pro-choice.

Mon, October 23 – Spread the word: Last day to register for the election! BNOW is registering voters and tabling No on Prop. 85 every Tuesday and Wednesday until the election.

Tues, November 7 – **VOTE TODAY!**

Sat, November 11 – Volunteer Day BNOW is participating in a community service events sponsored by the Berkeley Project.

Wed, November 15 – Guest Speaker from The Emancipation Network (TEN) We will discuss how BNOW is going sell products handmade by sex trafficking survivors.

Weekend, Nov 11-19 – CA NOW State Conference: Feminist Road Trip to LA Drive down with us to attend this awesome conference and board meeting – see how state NOW operates and meet new people.

## **Meetings:**

*Berkeley National Organization for Women welcomes new members! We meet every Wednesday at 5pm in GenEq.*

The Gender Equity Resource Center (GenEq) is located in 202 Cesar E Chavez Student Center which is in Lower Sproul, next to Zellerbach and across from Eshleman Hall. Meetings are ASUC sponsored and wheel chair accessible.

# News Briefs

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

## California: Sex Trafficking in San Francisco

Once limited to infamous locales such as Bombay and Bangkok, sex trafficking is now an \$8 billion international business, with San Francisco among its largest commercial centers.

San Francisco's liberal attitude toward sex, the city's history of arresting prostitutes instead of pimps, and its large immigrant population have made it one of the top American cities for international sex traffickers to do business undetected, according to Donna Hughes, a national expert on sex trafficking at the University of Rhode Island.

The most often cited numbers come from the U.S. State Department, which estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked for forced labor and sex worldwide each year -- and that 80 percent are women and girls. Most trafficked females, the department says, are exploited in commercial sex outlets.

Relying on research from the Central Intelligence Agency, the State Department estimates there are 14,500 to 17,500 human trafficking victims brought into the United States each year -- but does not quantify how many of those are sex victims. Some advocacy groups place the number of U.S. victims much higher, while others criticize the government for overstating the problem.

Women trafficked for the sex industry are predominantly from Southeast Asia, the former Soviet Union and South America -- lured to the United States by promises of lucrative jobs as models or hostesses, only to be sold to brothels, strip clubs and outcall services and extorted into working off thousands of dollars in surprise travel debts to their new "owners."

Traffickers fly the women to Canada or Mexico, and walk or drive them into California. In Canada, they slip through Indian reservations off-limits to the U.S. Border Patrol, often at night, and

sometimes along snow-packed trails.

Once in California, the women are taken most often to Los Angeles or San Francisco, where they are hidden inside homes, massage parlors, apartments and basements, only to learn that the job offer was just a ploy. Typically they are locked inside their place of business, forced to have sex with as many as a dozen men a day. Sometimes victims are forced to live in the brothel, too, where five or six "co-workers" are crammed into one room.

Their "owners" confiscate their travel documents until the women pay off exorbitant sums. Often captors will ensure the women never pay off their debts, by tacking on fees for food, clothing or rent. Some fine the women for displeasing customers, being late to work, fighting or a host of other possible transgressions.

Sex slaves who work in massage parlors and bars are often locked in their place of business by double security doors, monitored by surveillance cameras and only let outside under the guard of crooked taxi drivers who ferry them to their next sex appointment.

Source: *Meredith May, SF Chronicle*  
*San Francisco Is A Major Center For International Crime Networks That Smuggle And Enslave FIRST OF A FOUR PART SPECIAL REPORT- October 6, 2006*

## India: New Law Against Child Labor

In India, a new law barring child labor has gone into effect. The law bans children from working in restaurants, hotels, resorts and private homes. The official number of child laborers in India is twelve million but it's estimated to be as high as sixty million. Bihar State Deputy Sushil Modi: "The people need to be sensitized to the fact that the new law against child labour is in force now. This will raise awareness that employing a child under 14 years of age, whether it be as a domestic help or as a help in roadside eateries, is a punishable

offence and will attract penalties and other legal actions."

Critics of the law say it will not solve the problem of child labor and want the government to take a more active role in reducing poverty.

Source: *Democracy Now - October 11, 2006*  
*Headline*

## Uganda: DeCal Discovers the Unseen

Imagine...

A world where children are abducted  
A world where children are brainwashed  
A world where children become murderers  
A world where children sleep in the streets  
A world where children fear they are next

See the Invisible. See Uganda.

The time has come to act. Get involved in the Invisible Children Movement and help us put an end to the child abductions and atrocities going on in the war in Northern Uganda. The conflict is between the Ugandan Government and the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel group abducting children to train to kill as soldiers.

Fundraising Events:

Nov. 2: Poker Tournament @ 7pm at Alpha Sigma Phi

Nov. 10: Rock 4 Uganda Benefit Concert 9pm @ Blakes on Telegraph

Nov. 16: Film Screening and Candle Light Vigil @ 8pm in 2050 VLSB

