

Gainesville  NOWletter

Fighting for Women's Rights Since 1982

**Gainesville Area NOW**

President - Lori Tinney

**UF/SFCC Campus NOW**

President - Kelly Mangan

Gainesville Area NOW Editor - Lisa Labbe

Campus NOW Editor - Adrienne Maxwell

Fall 2004

*NOW is a multi-issue political organization. Our self-defined role has been to initiate change for the benefit of the greatest number of people, to affect the legal and institutional structures of the society in a way that systematically expands the choices and possibilities available to all women. In this way, NOW takes action to bring women, as a class, into the mainstream of society, (rather than offering aid to individual women) in achieving personal solutions or temporary relief from oppression, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in true partnership with men.*

**Message from the President:**

With the work of many dedicated members, this chapter has strengthened over the past year. Under the leadership of Candi Churchill and Erika Gubrium, the "Get Women Out to Vote" Campaign has activated current members, and mobilized many others to join the chapter, register to vote, and canvass door-to-door on a weekly basis. In order to keep building our feminist base so that we can hold politicians, and the men in our lives accountable, we need to continue our work even after the presidential election. Come to the next meeting, or call me to get involved, to help us strategize during this critical time in our country and our lives.

For Women's Liberation, Lori Tinney



Pride Community Center  
of North Central Florida  
PO Box 5383  
Gainesville, FL 32627  
(352) 377-8915  
[pridecommunitycenter.org](http://pridecommunitycenter.org)

**Gainesville Area NOW Calendar**

**Oct 21** ..... **General Meeting**  
**Nov 2** ..... **Election Day**  
**Nov 4** ..... **Post-Election Meeting:**  
**Where Do We Go From Here? \***  
**Nov 18** ..... **Chapter Elections/Meeting**  
**Dec 3** ..... **Office Work Party**  
**Dec 11** ..... **NOW Holiday Pot-Luck**

Board meetings are at 7:30, NOW office, Vidal Building - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 14 E University Ave. #204. All members are welcome.

General meetings are at 7:30, Pride Community Center, 1107 NW 6 Street.

\* Meeting location: 1212 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.



**Get Women Out to Vote Campaign:**

Candi Churchill  
Gainesville Women's Liberation  
Gainesville Area NOW, Co-Chair -  
*Get Women Out to Vote*

After the 2000 elections - when our votes were not counted, and the Republicans got away with stealing the election, and the Democrats seemed to let them - the whole idea of the power of voting changed for me. I became less blasé about voting once they blatantly tried to take it away. Before, it seemed boring, not that important. I didn't think the women's movement needed to register voters, turn out voters, and make sure the votes get counted. I assumed that was well secured in someone else's hands.

Al Gore won the popular vote in 2000, and even won Florida, and yet is not our President today. Bush got 17% of the vote and Gore received 18%; Bush didn't win.

This awoke something in me regarding our democracy. **Gainesville Women's Liberation** started to look more closely at this issue – both what was going on in our country, and what we as feminists should do about it. After looking at my voting experience, and pooling it with other people's, I learned that it isn't just those *other* people who aren't voting, it's *me*. I admit, I didn't vote for several years when I was eligible, but felt in limbo here in Gainesville. I thought politicians were crooked, that they didn't listen to us, and that my vote really wasn't that significant. My friends and I didn't talk about politics. It seemed removed from my real life.

A research project by **Women's Voices-Women's Vote** found that there were 22 million women who were eligible to vote in the 2000 presidential election, but did not. 200,000 of them were right here in Florida! That would be way too many votes to steal! **Women's Voices-Women's Vote** found that these women are now angry about the direction the country is taking and that they are politically progressive; they sound like us! It's the job of the feminist movement to reach these women and to make sure they're voting.

We've been working very hard to do this. **Gainesville Area NOW's "Get Women Out to Vote"** campaign has over 38 trained canvassers taking the campaign to places where women work, shop, live, and take their kids. We've registered dozens of new voters, changed the minds of many undecided voters, and shaken up some solid feminists to get more involved in feminism. Across the nation, women are registering to vote in record-breaking numbers, and are determined to move the country in a more progressive direction.

Yes, our immediate goal is to make sure women vote George W. Bush out of office, but our long-term objective is to win more freedom for women. Not just to fight against those pushing us back, but to make real advances: like a real childcare system, health insurance that's not tied to marriage or a job, and equal pay.

While it is vital that these 22 million women vote this November, we must also make sure that their votes are counted justly and competently. A repeat of the fiasco in 2000 cannot be tolerated. Democratic candidate John Kerry may well have the votes to be our next President, but will they be counted? Having our rights abridged will not move this country any closer to justice. We must be able to elect our leaders, or we live in a dictatorship. The illegal tactics that Republicans use to intimidate black voters, and forcing the use of touch-screen voting machines that leave no paper evidence (the *New York Times* recently showed how touch-screen voting machines are even less regulated than slot machines!) diminishes every American's right to vote, threatening the elective franchise.

**Gainesville Area NOW** is working with a national coalition, **Election Protection**, and locally with the **National Lawyers Guild** and the **Labor Party**, to make this election harder to steal. We will be defending the polls this November. If you want to help with this, contact us. There is something for each of us to do. Please vote early at the County Administration Building, downtown at 12 E 1<sup>st</sup> Street, starting Oct 18<sup>th</sup> (M-F 8:30-5, on weekends 1-5), so you can work at the polls on election day.

Call me at 352-377-9935, or email **Ga\_NOW@juno.com**. Together, we can take our country back and move the feminist agenda forward with an even stronger base after the election, than before it!

## **VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 1**

**Christie Bhageloe**

**On November 2, you have the opportunity to safeguard reproductive choices for all women by voting "No" on Amendment 1. This amendment is a deceptively worded proposal that would require parental notification for minors seeking abortions. We must remember that the ultimate goal of anti-choicers is to take all reproductive choices away**

from all women. Abortion for minors is just the first and easiest target.

This amendment will affect many young women because of the large number of teens who become sexually active before the age of 18. Ironically, this amendment will affect young women who cannot yet vote.

However, it should not be regarded simply as an invasion of young women's private lives. Also ironic is the fact that this amendment comes from the same conservatives who claim to oppose "big government." Nothing is more personal and important than a woman's right to choose whether or not she has a child.

From the Iguana voter guide: "If you're old enough to be pregnant, you're old enough to decide you don't want to be pregnant." We already have the highest teen pregnancy rate in the industrialized world; let's work to give young women more choices rather than more restrictions.

I'd like to share my own personal testimony. I have a 15-month-old boy and a 3-month-old boy. I also have a 13 year old stepdaughter. Now that I have children, I'm even more pro-choice than I was before. I know raising children is the biggest challenge a person can take on, and no woman should be forced into motherhood. If my step-daughter decides to have an abortion one day, I hope she will tell me about her decision, but I don't think the government has any right to force her to tell me. Making a decision about a pregnancy is stressful enough for a young woman, without her having to fear that the government will notify her parents about her decision to terminate the pregnancy. All women, no matter how young, deserve to control their lives.

Check out the Gainesville Area NOW  
new & improved website!  
[www.gainesvillenow.org](http://www.gainesvillenow.org)



Chapter Elections will be held at the November 18 meeting. Standing for Officer positions are:

President - Lori Tinney

Vice President - Stephanie Seguin

Treasurer - Pam Ellis

Secretary - (currently open)

All members are encouraged to attend and cast their votes.

*"It was we, the people, not we, the white male citizens, nor yet we, the male citizens, but we, the whole people, who formed this union."*

*Susan B. Anthony, 1873*

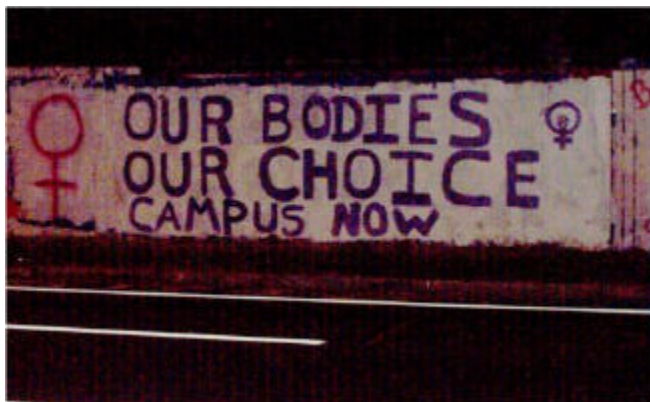


**NOW Holiday Pot-Luck**  
Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm  
6825 NW 43 Place  
*All Member's Welcome!*

## Gainesville Area NOW would like to extend a special "Thank You" to its Community Partners:

Alternatives  
Bly's School of Cosmetology  
Bread & Roses  
Carolyn's Beauty Salon  
Center for Balance  
Clock Restaurant  
Dept. of Children & Families, Food Stamp Office  
Beauty World Supply  
Community Action Agency  
Professional Hair Designs  
Earth Pets  
Elizabeth Labbe Interior Design  
Furmas' Wavelength Futon Corner  
Gregory Marshall Blonde Salon  
Peaceful Paths  
Roberta Giudice Teller, Podiatrist  
Salon La Di Da  
Technicolors  
Wild Iris Books

## UF/SFCC Campus NOW Report



Members of Campus NOW painted the 34th street wall, painting over an anti-abortion message with one advocating the right to choose.

## **BUSH ADMINISTRATION ANTI-BIRTH CONTROL**

There is a movement gathering steam in the United States against birth control. Of the 39 million fertile women who have sex with men, 95% use a form of contraception. Obviously, the growing anti-birth control movement in this country doesn't represent the vast majority of women. So why is it gaining ground so

fast? Well, unfortunately the movement *does* have the support of the White House.

In George W. Bush's first budget to Congress, he scrapped the provision that required insurance companies to cover contraceptives for 9 million federal employees (something House democrats later reinstated). Bush also blocked U.S. grants to family-planning groups that provide contraceptive and abortion services/counseling abroad.

In addition, Bush is an ardent supporter of abstinence-only education programs, which prohibit discussion of contraception, and keep sexually active teens from knowing how to protect themselves from pregnancy and STDs/STIs.

According to a study released by the Sexuality Information & Education Council of the U.S. on June 22, 2004, abstinence-only education programs don't keep teens from having sex. Another study commissioned by the Minnesota Department of Health last January said that sexual activity among junior high students in the state actually *doubled* in the first year abstinence-only programs were taught!

Despite this, Bush continues to push abstinence-only education, and tow the anti-birth control line via his executive appointments.

In 2002, Bush appointed Tom Coburn and Joe McIlhaney to lead the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Both have spoken out against condom use, and have worked to push abstinence as the only means to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Dr. David Hager— whom Bush appointed to the FDA's Advisory Committee for Reproductive Health Drugs— refuses to prescribe contraception to unmarried women. Bush also appointed Dr. Joseph Stanford to the same committee. In his family practice, Dr. Sanford refuses to prescribe birth control *at all*.

At the 2002 U.N. Population Conference, Assistant Secretary of State Arthur Dewey— another right-wing Bush appointee— promised that the U.S. would block any U.N. policies that contain the words "reproductive health" or "consistent condom use." Delegates from all over the world said America's position at this conference put women's health at risk, and even the delegate from Iran said that the U.S. Government had been overrun by religious extremists.

Bush also appointed acting FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford and Acting Drug Chief Stephen Galson, who decided *not* to approve the Morning-After Pill for over-the-counter sales. When Crawford and Galson voted against easier access to the Morning-After Pill (MAP), they went against the American Medical Association, the New England Journal of Medicine, the FDA's own expert medical advisory committees, and the women who need it. But

they *didn't* go against the White House. Were it not for the rabid, anti-birth control politics of the Bush Administration, women would be able to buy MAP without a prescription today (just like women in 38 other countries).

This growing anti-birth movement is the culmination of years of lobbying by anti-abortion groups, some of which are honest about their opposition to contraception, and others that conveniently plead the fifth on the issue.

In Mississippi and Michigan, the anti-birth control movement recently succeeded in passing a "refusal clauses", which allow pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions for birth control on religious grounds. As of August 2004, 12 states have bills pending in their legislatures that allow healthcare providers to refuse women contraceptive services.

While Bush tries to be covert about his opposition to contraception— choosing instead to impede women's access to it via his executive appointments— it's no secret that W. is against abortion. He has done more to undermine women's abortion rights than any other president in history. Abortion is just the most obvious example of the Bush administration's four-year campaign to criminalize birth control.

The bottom line is that the Bush Administration wants to punish women for having sex, and to keep us from having control over our lives.

Why would they bother doing this?

Because when women can't control how many children we have, we don't have as much money, power, time, or freedom as men. This often forces us into lower-paying jobs, or else keeps us in the home where we work for free. Basically, it forces us to struggle more to get by, and the more tired we are from struggling, the less inclined we will be to fight for the things that will make our lives better.

This is why Bush and his lackeys are against birth control— this is why Bush poses a serious threat to our equality as women.

I encourage all women to help us protect our access to contraception and abortion by making the right choice on election day (Nov. 2). Single women are the largest demographic of progressive people that don't vote. We can decide this election if you vote!

The other way to win greater access to birth control is to join a feminist group that fights to hold politicians accountable to women. We *can* win greater freedom if we unite and fight for the things we want!

*Kelly Mangan is the President of UF Campus National Organization for Women. For more information about Campus NOW, email campus\_now@hotmail.com or call 372-2361.*

**Campus NOW - Dates to Remember:**

- October 12 -- General Meeting @ 7:00 pm in Turlington 2306
- October 16 -- Women of Color CR at 12:00 pm in Turlington 2306
- October 23 -- Board Meeting @ 1:00 pm, location TBA
- October 28 -- Women's Rights/Anti-Bush Speakout @ 4:00 pm in the Plaza of the Americas
- November 9 -- Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm in Turlington 2306
- November 15 -- General Meeting @ 7:00 pm in Turlington 2306
- November 30 -- Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm in Turlington 2306
- December 9 -- Board Meeting/Holiday Social @ 6:00 pm at Kelly Mangan's house

NOW is funded solely by its members' fund-raising and the contributions of supporters. In order to bring women's rights to the forefront of the minds in Washington, we need your support. Please be generous.

I would like to donate:  
 \_\_\_\$15 \_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_other

Send contributions to: NOW  
 P.O. Box 2235  
 Gainesville, FL 32602-2235

**Contact Info**

**Gainesville Area NOW**

**Ga\_now@juno.com  
 377-2301**

**President ..... Lori Tinney  
 Vice-President ..... Stephanie Seguin**

**UF/SFCC Campus NOW**

**Campus\_now@hotmail.com  
 336-1699**

**President ..... Kelly Mangan  
 Vice-President ..... Adrienne Maxwell**

Gainesville Area NOW and Campus NOW operate exclusively through members' contributions and fund-raising. Every time we put out a newsletter, it costs us hundreds of dollars, due to printing and postage costs. This comes out of our limited treasury. In keeping with the times, we would like to send as many newsletters as possible via email. There are added benefits this way. You will receive your newsletter faster, it will be in color, with better graphics, and you can either print it out, or save it on your computer. Don't worry, those of you who do not have a computer, or cannot receive attachments, will still be able to get your NOWletter sent snail-mail. We don't want anyone to miss out, we're just trying to keep our overhead to a minimum. If you know that you would like to receive your newsletter through email, please send a note to [Lisa@gainesvillenow.org](mailto:Lisa@gainesvillenow.org). Thank you.

## Who Stands with Working Women?

**John F. Kerry:**

- Will protect the 40-hour workweek.
- Opposes taking away workers' right to overtime pay and offering compensatory time instead, which will encourage employers to demand *more* overtime and give working women *less* control over their hours.
- Supports expanding Family and Medical Leave Act. Co-sponsored a bill to extend FMLA coverage and allow parents time off to attend their child's school meetings, such as parent-teacher conferences.
- Supports funding No Child Left Behind mandates. "My first priority as president will be to live up to funding commitments made in the No Child Left Behind Act and fully fund the law."

**George W. Bush:**

- Will weaken the 40-hour workweek.
- Supports taking away workers' right to overtime pay and offering compensatory time instead, encouraging employers to demand *more* overtime hours from workers.
- Weakened family and medical leave provisions. Repealed a rule allowing states to use unemployment funds to provide for paid family or medical leave.
- Will not fully fund No Child Left Behind mandates. Provided \$9.4 billion *less* for the law in his 2005 proposed budget than Congress authorized.

Find out where the candidates stand. Talk to your friends and neighbors about the issues that matter to working women. VOTE NOV. 2





**Bush and his white, male cronies cheer as they sign away our reproductive rights.**

## **Bush Wants...**

### **No Reproductive Rights**

Bush signed into law the most significant restrictions on abortion in 30 years, which has since been deemed unconstitutional. Ashcroft has been suing to obtain the medical records of women who have had abortions. Roe vs. Wade is supported by a narrow majority in the Supreme Court today. Bush favors taking away abortion rights and is even against condom usage. If re-elected, he would replace a judge with an anti-abortion appointee, as he's done in lower courts.

### **No Morning-After Pill**

Bush pressured the FDA to ignore conclusive scientific evidence from their own advisory panels and the medical establishment by blocking over-the-counter access to this safe, effective form of birth control, which is most effective when taken within 24 hours of unprotected sex.

### **More Profits, Less Health Care**

Bush pushed for Medicare and prescription drug legislation that put insurance company profits ahead of people. Our current and previous administrations have created a health care system that is the most expensive in the world and provides the least.

### **Cuts to Childcare**

Bush proposed turning Head Start—the national non-profit organization that works to meet the educational and health needs of one million at-risk American children—over to individual states, which are already cutting much-needed services due to inadequate finances, and are not equipped to fill Head Start's role.

## **We Want...**

### **Full Reproductive Rights**

A woman should be able to control when and if she has a child. Abortion should be accessible and affordable without restriction, as should all reproductive options. Men should take an equal part in birth control and raising children.

### **Morning-After Pill Over-The-Counter**

Women should be able to have sex without risking pregnancy, childbirth, and 18+ years of childrearing. The Morning-After Pill is available without a prescription in over 38 other countries. It should be fully accessible in our country too.

### **Just Health Care**

Every person should have the right to health care, regardless of economic or marital status. Women shouldn't have to bear the economic brunt of family care. We support the development of a national health care system - specifically the Labor Party's Just Health Care plan - that covers long-term care and women's reproductive health. This is already the case in most other industrialized nations!

### **Shared Childcare**

"The responsibility for family care - particularly the care of children - should be shared more equally between men and women -- and between the individual, family, and society as a whole." We need to fund childcare like we fund the military. To begin this, we support fully funding Head Start and Florida's Universal Pre-K amendment.