



# Gainesville NOWletter

**Gainesville Area NOW**

President - Lori Tinney

**UF/SFCC Campus NOW**

Co-Presidents - Jennifer Cook Joy

& Stefanie Lauria

Editor - Lisa Labbe

March/April 2003



The Alice Paul Memorial March, Washington, D.C. 1977.  
Photos by Jo Freeman –  
[www.jofreeman.com/photos/AlicePaul1977.html](http://www.jofreeman.com/photos/AlicePaul1977.html)

## **ERA - Simple Justice, Long Overdue**

**WHAT IS THE ERA?** The ERA, the Equal Rights Amendment, is an amendment to the U.S. Constitution first proposed in 1923, soon after the amendment providing for the right of American women to vote was adopted. Strong actions to achieve ratification of the ERA reached their height from 1972-1982, when 35 of the 38 required states had ratified in the time allotted. So, the ERA was not ratified, but it never died; just slept. Until now!

The text of the Equal Rights Amendment has remained the same all these years: "**Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.**"

**WHY IS RATIFYING THE ERA IMPORTANT NOW?** Three ERA Resolutions, perhaps soon to be four, have been introduced in Congress and are gaining sponsors. A new 3-state strategy has been proposed that is less costly, less time-consuming, quicker, and less risky politically. Only ratification of 3 more states is required. By past precedent, the ERA is still held timely or "contemporaneous", still reasonable, fair, and correct. Past objections are moot -- the dreaded unisex toilets and women in the military! Bills to ratify the ERA have already been introduced in the States of Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Virginia. Also still unratified, are the States of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Virginia.

Young women expect equality; older women demand it as unfinished business. A recent large professional survey showed that 96% of Americans believe in equality for men and women. 72% wrongly believe that equality is already guaranteed in our Constitution. There is a rising groundswell for the ERA across the nation as women demand equality.

**WHY DO WE STILL NEED THE ERA?** The majority of American citizens--women--still do not have any uncontested, constitutionally guaranteed rights to self-determination as whole, free persons, other than the right to vote. State statutes and constitutions supposedly assuring women's legal rights continue to be weakened and diluted, state by state. The 14th Amendment has been shown to be ineffective to support women's Constitutional equality. Every constitution in the world written after World War II includes a statement that men and women are persons of equal stature or similar words (per Supreme Court Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, May 2002, paraphrased interview). Benefits that could derive from an ERA include: Legal first-class citizenship status, rights to self-determination, and equal treatment under the law in all spheres of society.

Tell your U.S. Senators and Representatives that you expect them to cosponsor the ERA Resolutions in Washington if they mean it when

they say, "All Americans should be EQUAL!" Alert your State Representatives and Senators that you expect them to work for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment so that all Americans are equal, at long last!

SandyJOestreich@cs.com

For more information on the ERA, check out: <http://www.eracampaignfl.net/>

### **Get On the Bus!! - ERA Rally in Tallahassee!**

Let's tell our legislators what we really want! On Monday, April 28, Florida NOW will Rally to let our legislators know that women want the ERA now! The ERA is only part of the many things women want and need in order to have true equality.

We will also let our legislators know that we won't stand for any more rollbacks on our abortion rights, and we demand they implement the universal Pre-K program we voted for in the last elections!

Please join us in fighting for what women really want! There will be a bus going to Tallahassee on April 28, which will leave Gainesville at 5:00 AM, and return to Gainesville by 5:00 PM. Please call 377-2301 for details. Price is \$30.00 per person /round trip. Scholarships available.

Gainesville Area NOW presents

**The ERA:**

**Why should feminists fight for it now?**

**Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM,  
Millhopper Library  
(3145 NW 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, Gainesville)**

Join Gainesville Area NOW for a short film, discussion of why we should fight for the ERA now, & how to organize other supporters to the ERA RALLY in TALLAHASSEE on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Please call if you need childcare – 377-2301.

## **"From Zero"**

A Poem by *Wafaa' Al-Natheema*

So you think God chose you and only you to deliver  
God's message?  
You think women are too weak to be prophets,  
Incapable of keeping secrets,  
Or preaching God's messages?  
That God's words deserve for you to go to WAR,  
That land and other possessions are worth killing for,  
You think you are the only species that know it all,  
You are stronger, You are smarter, You are wiser,  
And everything on earth belongs to you,  
Water, land, vegetation, animals, oil, air and women,  
All are your possessions?

The science you contribute is to bring you privileges,  
To bring you money, protection and conveniences,  
Convenience, in that you make it serve you better.  
Most of your clothes are made of cotton,  
Most of women's clothes are not,  
They are made from petroleum products,  
They are exposing women as objects,  
They are uncomfortable and limiting,  
They are often insulting,  
Eight out of ten contraceptives are made for women,  
While MEN enjoy themselves with far fewer  
consequences!

Millions of MEN exploit, beat and/or rape women,  
Everyday, everywhere,  
What happens then? Nothing . . .  
Your laws and religions protect you,  
in return, you become the victims,  
women made you do the bad deeds, right?  
And you are the angels, God's chosen beings,  
everything you say goes,  
even when you rape or declare war on other nations.  
You know it all

From Prophets to criminals  
From illiterates to professionals  
You all told others to follow you,  
because you "knew it all"  
because yours was the best way.  
Directly or indirectly you've caused war and death.  
Many of you assigned yourselves as leaders,  
for others to follow your footsteps.  
Males with testosterone,  
you will continue to drive earth into death.  
Unless women learn to boycott you,  
Boycott your products,  
Boycott your religions and politics,  
Boycott working with and for you,  
Boycott sleeping with you and giving you offspring.  
Why do women go through pregnancy and delivery  
pain?  
So that they deliver the infant to take after your  
family name?  
Then grow up and get killed in some war?

### **Calendar at-a-glance:**

- 3/27 - General Meeting: Mill. Library  
"ERA - A Brief History & Future Actions"
- 4/8 - VOTE in the Local Elections!!!!
- 4/10 - Board Meeting: TBA

For Local Anti-War Actions, check out the  
Community Coalition Against  
War & Terrorism  
<http://www.geocities.com/ccawt2/>

So easy for men and readily made without any efforts,  
except for bed pleasures?  
Children take your family name and not the women's,  
so that yours keeps making history pages,  
and women keep being the Unknown Soldiers, taken  
for granted.  
It is time women unite in the boycott.  
Woman does not come from man's rib,  
man comes from woman's womb.

May women gather to diffuse your power.  
May on both sides women inject you with anesthesia,  
whenever you head to WAR,  
so there will be no bloodshed, winners or losers.  
May they put their arms around you,  
hug you and send you to Mama.  
As Algerian women did, In a successful bid,  
Right after Algeria's Independence,  
to prevent MEN from killing each other.

If a war is on, may women, by the thousands, act as a  
shield,  
by standing in the face of soldiers and force them to  
yield,  
to protect their sons, daughters and the field.  
If women in such a vast number die,  
MEN will suffer the ultimate pain.  
Men, may you never see your loved ones.  
May you end up alone and lonely.  
May you see everything ugly.  
You are dictators and unearthly.  
No other creatures on earth are as narcissistic as MEN.  
If you don't let women in the workplace or get equally  
paid,  
If you want women only for your pleasure,  
If you do not respect their opinion,  
If you think their work is only in the household,  
If you take advantage of them or take them for  
granted,  
If you insist on dictating alone without sharing or  
wisdom,  
If you keep raping them and get away with it,  
If you insist on going to war,  
may women disappear from your life completely,  
may forever you have no mates,  
may you go mad and converse with yourselves,  
may you end up doing it alone or with each other,  
May you be left with animals,  
to teach you better lessons,  
to start from below,  
from scratch, from ZERO.

*Wafaa' Salman was born and raised in Baghdad, Iraq. She came to the USA in 1980 to study Civil Engineering at Northeastern. In 1989, Wafaa' started Wafaa's Newsletter as a free directory of events, classes, and workshops on subjects related to the Middle East and the Islamic world. In 1993, Wafaa's Newsletter was renamed Al-Wafaa News. To learn more about Al-Wafaa News, visit its website at [www.INEAS.org/al-wafaanews](http://www.INEAS.org/al-wafaanews).*



**PRIDE COMMUNITY CENTER  
OF NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
PO BOX 5383  
GAINESVILLE, FL 32627  
(352) 377-8915**

**Gainesville Area NOW  
mourns the passing of  
Anne Hornberger.  
Our thoughts are with her family  
and friends.**

Check out Gainesville Area NOW's website! [www.phys.ufl.edu/~labbe/now](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/~labbe/now)

Judy Levy NOW asked the Alachua County Commission to pass a Resolution Advocating ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, and to write letters to the Speaker of the House and Senate President urging the Florida Legislature to ratify the ERA. They were scheduled to vote on the Resolution on Tuesday, March 11, at 10:00 AM. Kim Browne spoke to the issue, and the commission passed it in 10 minutes! Way to go!

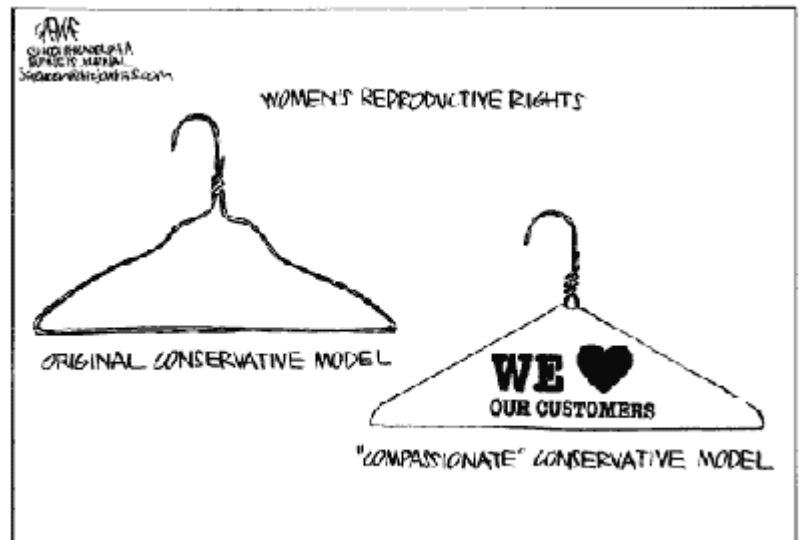
### *Reproductive Rights in Jeopardy*

The anti-abortion majority that controls the Senate, passed the falsely-titled Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 this month. "Partial-birth abortion" is not a medical term, and if the legislation becomes law, physicians will not know what procedure the ban covers and many will stop providing abortion services for fear of prosecution. Because the ban would be applied at any point in a pregnancy, not just in the third trimester, an abortion even in the first two trimesters would be affected, severely weakening women's ability to control when and if we have kids and what we do with our lives.

The bill doesn't even provide an exemption for women whose health condition warrants an abortion. Similar language in a Nebraska law was found unconstitutional by the Supreme Court (Stenberg v. Carhart) in 2000.

Timing is absolutely critical. Please call and email your Legislators as soon as possible. Senators must hear from outraged constituents. Call their Washington, D.C. office directly and avoid using the Capitol switchboard number as it

will be jammed by thousands of calls from our opponents. If you cannot get through to a senator's Washington office, call their district office and ask that your message be immediately forwarded to them in D.C. Then, you can back up your effort with an email. Thanks for any help you can provide. Women's lives are on the line! Please help us stop this war on women.



\*\*\*

### ***Victim Services Might Lose Funding -***

For 25 years, the Alachua County Office of Victim Services has been here, helping victims of rape and other violent crimes when they need it most. Did you know that under the current proposed budget for Alachua County, the entire Office of Victim Services would be eliminated?

Currently, the Alachua County Office of Victim Services is the only victim service provider that responds to adult sexual battery victims 24 hours a day, everyday. It is the only program that provides services to sexual battery victims who do not report to law enforcement and/or victims of crimes that occurred in another State/County, as well as the only program that will provide services to victims of violence in which an arrest is not made or a suspect identified. It is the only victim service provider to offer tutoring to child victims of sexual assault and to assist victims with repairing broken doors, windows, and locks. Moreover, it is the only provider of support groups for adult rape victims, child victims of sexual assault, and survivors of homicide.

The impact on our community, should this program be eliminated, would be profound. Adult victims of sexual battery or rape would be without support and services, in those desperate first hours when they need them the most. Homeless victims of sexual battery and partner violence would suffer dramatically, and the elimination of support groups would mean many other victims; children, teens, homicide and rape survivors, would be left to suffer in silence.

If you feel that the services offered by the Office of Victim Services are too vital to be eliminated, make your voice heard. Tell the Alachua County Commission. Write to Rodney Long, Commission Chair, PO Box 2877, Gainesville FL 32602-2877, and copy your letters to Commissioners Mike Byerly, Penny Wheat, Lee Pinkoson and Cynthia Moore Chestnut. You can call the Commission at 374-5210 to voice your concern. E-mail can be sent to [bocc@co.alachua.fl.us](mailto:bocc@co.alachua.fl.us). Their fax number is 338-7363. Opinions may also be expressed in the form of letters to the Gainesville Sun and the Independent Florida Alligator.

If you have any further questions about the program or its future, I am certain Loretta Golden, Director of the Alachua County Office of Victim Services would be glad to hear from you. Her number is 264-6762. Thank you for your consideration. Jan Zak

## "Remember when we...."

### A Photo Gallery



Poet and Playwright **Ntozake Shange** gave the keynote address for the 2003 FL NOW State Conference, held in Gainesville in January, 2003. The conference was a great success, bringing NOW activists from around the state together to plan for the upcoming year and raising money for the local chapters. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make it happen! (Ntozake Shange also performed in the recent production of the *Vagina Monologues!*)

**Candi Churchill** and **Destry Taylor** of Gainesville Area NOW, presented a well-attended workshop titled: *"Myth-America and Winning Health Insurance for All in Florida,"* co-sponsored by the Women's Liberation Task Force for National Health Care, at January's state conference. Check out [www.justhealthcare.org](http://www.justhealthcare.org) to learn about the plan.



Stephanie Seguin (Gainesville Area NOW,) Jennifer Cook Joy (Campus NOW,) and Kimberly Brown (Judy Levy NOW) join forces at the State Conference.

#### Key Points of Universal Health Care

We want a system where women don't have to:

- struggle to pay for our children's and parent's healthcare and prescriptions.
- worry about losing insurance in a divorce.
- be married to have insurance
- give up insurance when we work part-time or in the home.

With universal health care, we are all covered for all our health care needs with:

- no deductibles.
- no co-payments.
- no denials for care because of pre-existing conditions.
- no insurance companies.



Gainesville Area NOW and Campus NOW's protest of Walmart in December, 2002. Kali Blount, Jennifer Cook Joy, Kelly Mangan, Lori Tinney, Jessica Powell, and many others presented Walmart with a *Merchant of Shame* certificate and a list of NOW's

#### NOW 2003 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Doubletree Hotel in Arlington, VA  
July 11-13, 2003.

Visit [www.NOW.org](http://www.NOW.org) for more info and to register.



Gainesville Area NOW's protest of the Gainesville Police Department In July, 2002.

#### Campus NOW Abortion & Reproductive Rights Speakout

Wednesday, April 16, 2003

12:00 - 2:00 PM, Plaza of the Americas

We have to constantly struggle for the right to decide if and when we have children. We have to fight with men to wear condoms, we have to fight with the Infirmary to get the morning after pill, and we have to fight with our government to get an abortion.

When we do have kids we still have to fight for reliable, affordable, and convenient childcare so that we can finish school or go to work.

Join us to fight for real reproductive freedom for all women!

Call Stefanie at 846-9617 for more information.

Gainesville NOWletter  
PO Box 2235  
Gainesville, FL 32602  
(352) 377-2301  
GA\_NOW@juno.com



PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #358  
GAINESVILLE FL

Inside this issue:

- \* ERA Support
- \* Pix from Local NOW protests, and Fla. Conference
- \* Abortion Rights under Attack
- \* "From Zero" a Poem
- \* Victim Services Funding
- \* Speakout for Abortion & Reproductive Rights

\*\*\*\*\*

Gainesville Area NOW is selling T-shirts! Call to place an order, or go to our online store.



Quote on back : "Because women'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 movement."

Anonymous - from the British Women's Liberation Movement



**T-shirts-**  
White with Royal Blue Lettering  
Small, Medium, Large, X-Large  
**\$15.00**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Membership Application

I wish to join NOW and commit myself to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising full rights and responsibilities in equal partnership with men.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

National, State, & Local dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

\$35.00 Regular I want to join:

\$15.00 - 34.00 Reduced Gainesville Area NOW \_\_\_\_\_ Campus NOW \_\_\_\_\_

Checks can be made out to: Gainesville Area NOW or Campus NOW and mailed to PO Box 2235, Gainesville, FL 32602

## UF/SFCC Campus NOW Report

Stefanie Lauria & Jennifer Cook Joy, Co-Presidents  
Camille West, Membership Director  
Jennifer Cook Joy, Lesbian/Bisexual Women's Rights  
Jennifer Cook Joy - Newsletter Editor

Kristin Hoyer, Historian & Flying Co-Chair  
Cara Taylor, Rape Action Committee Chair  
Jennifer Cook Joy, Lesbian/Bisexual Women's Rights  
Committee Chair  
Campus\_now@hotmail.com

Jessica Powell, Treasurer  
Kelly Morgan, Flying Co-Chair  
Meredith Meadows, Newsletter Chair

**TURLINGTON BULLIES** - Are you one of the many women who have been harassed and verbally assaulted by Turlington preachers on your way to class or work? One such preacher, Gary Birdsong, calls us whores and says that we deserve to be raped. Call UF's Office of Student Affairs at 392-1274 to demand that your university stop allowing these extremists to verbally abuse its students. Students can also report these incidents to UPD at 392-5447.

**ALLEGED SEXUAL HARASSER WANTS TO COME TO UF** - Michael Mullan, former USF Alzheimer's researcher & head of the Roskamp Institute, has left USF, and is seeking a new state school to call home. The institute receives "millions of dollars in private donations and federal grants." According to Anita Kumar of the St. Petersburg Times, 3/6/03, "Mullan's resignation came as USF concluded a yearlong investigation of sexual harassment allegations. The report outlined allegations by three women who worked for Mullan. It remains sealed while Mullan appeals the internal investigation conducted by USF's equal opportunity office. Mullan has since sued one of the women for defamation, and insisted that his resignation had nothing to do with the inquiry, which he said exonerated him. He won't say what specifically he is appealing." In the last month, Mullan has begun working with, among others, William Luttge, executive director of UF's McKnight Brain Institute, Let Dr. Luttge, Dean Craig Tisher, and Vice President for Health Affairs Douglas Barrett. Know that UF women want less, not more sexual harassers on campus.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: CAMPUS NOW ELECTIONS** - Campus NOW elections will take place on April 14th in the Reitz Union, room B60, at 6:00 pm. All Campus NOW members are eligible to run for a board position and are encouraged to vote. If you would like to nominate someone or yourself, please contact Stefanie Lauria, 846-9617.

### **Campus NOW - MEETING SCHEDULE:**

- \* March 29: Speakout Planning Mtg.  
11:00 AM, Tur. 2336
- \* April 7: Board Meeting - All members welcome  
6:00 pm, Reitz 363
- \* April 14: General Meeting - ELECTIONS -  
6:00 pm, Reitz B60
- \* April 16: Speak Out for Abortion & Reproductive  
Rights, 12:00, Plaza of the Americas

**THE JUDITH BROWN WOMEN'S LIBERATION LEADERSHIP ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP** - This tuition scholarship is for graduate or undergraduate students at the University of Florida who are experienced & committed feminist activists. For more information about the scholarship and how to apply for it, visit the University of Florida Women's Studies Department online at <http://www.wst.ufl.edu/brown1.htm>.

### **THE WAR ON WHO? - Jennifer Cook Joy**

A few weeks ago, I received a letter from the Florida Department of Children & Families telling me that I would no longer be eligible for subsidized childcare. The letter was very apologetic, stating that DCF was "aware of the possible consequences of this action to many poor families" and blaming the "current budgetary crisis" for the withdrawal of our childcare subsidy. Right now, during the school year, the subsidy only saves me about \$20 a week, but summer will be here soon, and then the subsidy was to have saved me around \$90 each week.

I don't know how I'm going to do this. For any of you who don't know, I'm a single mama who leaves for work every morning at 6:30 a.m. and comes home at 6:30 p.m. I'm not sure where I could fit in another job; I already miss my kid so much some days that I have to hide in the stockroom at work and try not to cry. During the week, I feed her and put her to bed, then get her up to get ready for school. That's the extent of my time with Chloe during a regular work week. Someone else has to feed her breakfast and lunch, help her do her homework, and take care of her all day, and now the State of Florida is telling me it won't even help me pay for that anymore.

The only public assistance programs we qualified for were the childcare subsidy and Medicaid. I am terrified that the Medicaid will go next. It infuriates me that there's no money to help poor families with childcare, but Bush and his flying monkeys are throwing money at this war. Women like me and you are the ones who are really bearing the brunt of this "current budgetary crisis"--women like me, one step away from welfare, like the girls who attend the PACE Center for Girls which has lost its funding, like the teachers trying to cram one more desk in the room, like women agonizing over how to pay for an abortion that should be FREE, and like rape victims whose rape kits never even get sent to the lab to be tested because there isn't any money for it. Women pay.

I know exactly what the "possible consequences of this action to many poor families" are. The consequences are less fresh food and more soup with rice for my kid. Less sleep, more shame for me. Less time together. Less trips to the library for books for her to read. Less privilege for a little girl who ALREADY is NOT getting her fair share. Less time to make our house someplace you'd actually want to be. I am angry about Bush's war on women. I am angry about all of the things we're getting less and less of and it makes me want to fight harder, for MORE. Fight with me. Join Campus NOW if you're not a member, come to our meetings if you are.