

Feminist Expo 2000 Growing

303 Organizations and Campuses Co-Sponsoring 63 Global Delegations and Counting

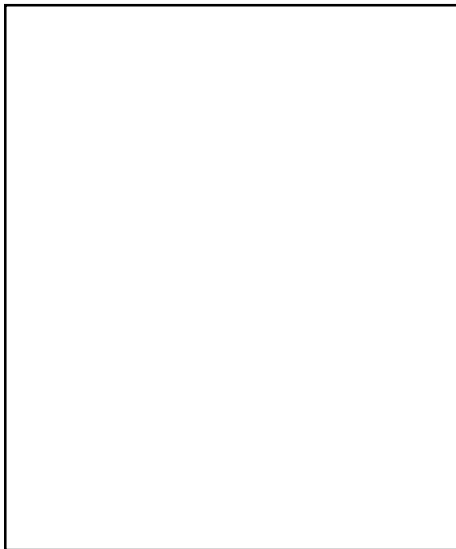
With three months to go, **Feminist Expo 2000 for Women's Empowerment: the Second Feminist Exposition Nationwide and Worldwide** — which will be held March 31-April 2 in Baltimore, Maryland — has already topped Expo '96's number of cosponsors. We are expecting more than 6000 participants, at least double the size of Feminist Expo '96.

Already **Feminist Expo 2000** has 292 national organizations co-sponsoring (Expo '96 had 260) and pledges of 52 organizational delegations of 20 or more participants, 58 campus delegations of 20 or more, 63 international delegations of 10 or more from 43 countries and 89 individual delegations of 20 or more — and the numbers are growing daily.

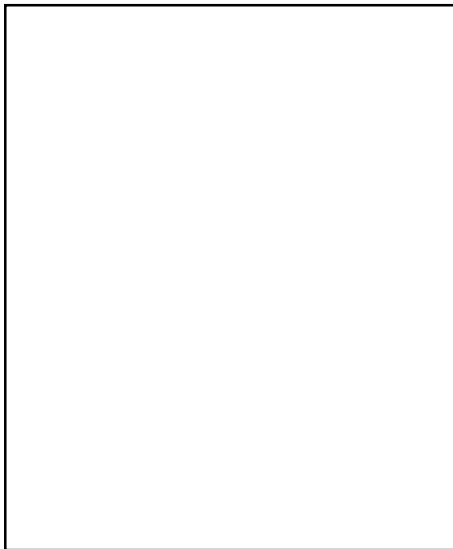
Among the organizations co-sponsoring are almost all the large and most of the small organizations with a women's rights agenda and a diversity of constituents such as: American Association of University Women, American Medical Women's Association, Business and Professional Women USA, Church Women United, Coalition of Labor Union Women, MANA — A National Latina Organization, Manavi — Organization for South Asian Women, National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, National Asian Women's Health Organization, National Association of Social Workers, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Council of Churches USA Justice for Women, National Council of Jewish Women,

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CELEBRITIES GATHER TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT GENDER APARTHEID



PHOTOS BY SHEKAIBA WAKILI



See story on page 5.

CONGRESSIONAL ROUND-UP

Anti-Woman Republican Congress Leaves Legacy of Attacks on Women's and Abortion Rights

On November 18, U.S. Senators and Representatives finally adjourned the first session of the 106th Congress, leaving behind significant damage to women's rights across the board. While there is some good news from their work this year — like anti-choice members' failure to ban funding for FDA approval of mifepristone — feminists everywhere can breathe a sigh of relief that this anti-women's rights Congress has adjourned.

In the first session of the 106th Congress, conservatives again blocked passage of the Violence

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I N S I D E

FM Board Member Huerta
Honored by President Clinton



Expo 2000 registration



Nationwide Injunction Against
Anti-Abortion Extremists

Newsbriefs

by Priscilla McChristian

Bush Reveals Preference for Anti-Choice Justices

Throughout his campaign, Governor George W. Bush has been muddling the issue of abortion and claiming he won't use any litmus tests for nominating Supreme Court justices. However, a recent interview with Tim Russert on NBC's Meet the Press proved very revealing.

During the interview, Bush stated that his two favorite Supreme Court justices are Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas. Both justices are vehemently opposed to abortion and have been consistent votes on the court for narrowing abortion rights. Additionally, both are opposed to affirmative action for women and minorities. In fact, Scalia has been the strongest vote on the court against minority rights.

"It is shocking that Gov. Bush's favorite Supreme Court justices are the two most anti-women's rights votes on the court," said Feminist Majority Foundation President Eleanor Smeal in response to Bush's comments on NBC's Meet the Press. "Has he not heard of the gender gap in voting, and does he not realize that the gender gap elected President Clinton?"

Cleveland Right to Life Tries to Close Ohio Clinics

Cleveland Right to Life recently filed complaints with Ohio's Health Department claiming that Ohio abortion clinics were not in compliance with a state law that requires a special license for outpatient surgical centers.

In response to the complaint, the Health Department inspected 19 Ohio abortion clinics, and gave 12 of the facilities 10 days to apply for the license, or be closed down.

Eight of the 12 clinics threatened with closure have appealed the Health Department's decision.

Alice Malin, director of the Founder's Women's Health Clinic in Columbus, Ohio said the clinics have operated as physician centers, and should not be required to go through the expensive application process for the outpatient surgical center license.

"We've always been considered a doctor's office," said Malin. "There isn't anything we do that you couldn't do in a doctor's office. We know there is a political agenda here, and we are being targeted. We just want to make sure that this is fair and aboveboard."

Rose Bird Dies at 63

Rose Bird, the first woman to serve as Chief Justice of California's Supreme Court, has died of breast cancer at the age of 63. Bird was appointed to the court in 1977 by then-Governor Jerry Brown and served until she and another Brown appointee were removed by voters through a confirmation election. Bird was targeted by right wing activists ostensibly because of her opposition to the death penalty. But her other feminist and liberal views also made her a target.

Bird helped strengthen environmental and consumer rights laws, was a staunch supporter of women's rights, and opposed the death penalty.

"Rose Bird was a feminist and a champion of human rights - a woman long ahead of her times," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Advocates For Life Ministries to Close

In a letter to his followers, Andrew Burnett, director of Advocates for Life Ministries, announced that AFLM and its publishing Life Advocate magazine was closing as of December 31, 1999. Burnett, publisher of Life Advocate, pointed to the lack of financial support from his followers as the primary cause for the group's failure.

"The decision to close AFLM is a major victory for pro-choice groups working to reduce anti-abortion violence. For 15 years Andrew Burnett has been terrorizing abortion providers. Let's hope AFLM's closing its doors is

not just a way to escape a legal judgment and does not mean the opening of the doors of yet another group to terrorize women's health clinics," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Burnett cited the lawsuit brought against AFLM by Planned Parenthood Federation of America, as a factor in the group's demise. In 1995, two clinics and four doctors sued Burnett and 14 other individuals for threatening doctors. In February 1999 a jury found the defendants liable for threats under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE) and the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). The jury awarded the plaintiffs \$107.5 million.

In 1993 and 1994, Burnett signed petitions calling for justifiable homicide of abortion providers. Life Advocate magazine frequently discussed the theory of justifiable homicide. Also, Advocates for Life Publications published *A Time to Kill*, by convicted bomber Michael Bray, which provides a so-called theological basis for justifiable homicide for abortion providers.

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Feminist Majority Board Member Dolores Huerta Receives Human Rights Award

White House Ceremony Also Condemns Taliban's Gender Apartheid Policies

By Ossai Miazad

President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton honored Dolores Huerta, secretary/treasurer and a co-founder of United Farm Workers and Feminist Majority Foundation board member since its founding in 1987, at the 1999 Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award ceremony at the White House.

"[Huerta] worked the boardrooms and the statehouses, negotiating contracts and fighting for laws that lifted the lives of thousands and thousands of Americans," said President Clinton. Huerta has provided leadership for UFW, grape boycotts, immigration legislation and establishment of farmworker medical and credit plans. Huerta also has worked tirelessly for women's rights and women's political empowerment.

"This sends a message to the employers, when the president of the United States recognizes the farmworkers," Huerta said after the ceremony. "This means that the work of the United Farm Workers is being recognized, and the worth of the farmworkers who feed the nation is being recognized."

The ceremony also honored Charlotte Bunch, women's rights activist and founder of the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University for raising awareness of gay and lesbian issues.

At the White House event commemorating the 51st anniversary of the universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Clintons condemned the Taliban and voiced great concern for the plight of Afghan women and girls living under the gender apartheid policies of the Taliban militia. The President proclaimed, "The real genius of the Declaration of Human Rights is that it affirmed that basic human rights are not cultural, but universal."

The President announced that the United States will spend \$2 million to improve education and health for Af-



FM Board Member Dolores Huerta receives award from President Clinton and First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton

ghan women and children and an additional \$1.5 million for emergency aid for internally displaced by the recent Taliban offensives. He also committed to expanding the resettlement program for women and children. The Feminist Majority Foundation's Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid has continuously urged the United States to increase humanitarian aid directed towards Afghan women and children and to increase refugee admission of women and girls fleeing the Taliban militia.

"It is a violation of human rights when women are barred from working—their means of supporting their families stripped away, along with their dignity, it is a violation of human rights when girls are kept from classrooms, when their voices are silenced, and when their presence is erased from public life," said First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

A young Afghan woman, who recently fled the Taliban's injustice, testified to the brutality of the Taliban's rule, recounting the sight of a woman who died at the entrance of a hospital, who despite her suffering and the pleas

of her husband was not allowed into the medical facility because she was a woman. The brave young woman movingly recalled, "I asked myself if the world cared about Afghan women. Would the world community take action if all men in Afghanistan could not go to the hospital anymore?" She exposed the psychological depth of the Taliban's gender apartheid policy, recounting her younger brother's embarrassment and refusal to be his mother's Taliban-required escort because of the regime's disdain for women. She appealed to President Clinton and the people of the United States to do anything in their power to end the conflict in Afghanistan.

While the President honored Huerta's and Bunch's life-long work and triumphs in advancing human rights and women's rights, each wore a blue mesh swatch in remembrance of the women and girls in Afghanistan and as a symbol of the work that is left to be done.

Other award recipients included Sister Jean Marshall, Leon Sullivan and Burke Marshall. ■

Feminist Majority Foundation Sponsors Scholarship Program for Afghan Women

As part of the Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan, the Feminist Majority Foundation is launching an Afghan Women's Scholarship Program. The program will provide educational opportunities for young women who have fled Afghanistan and who are currently banned from attending school in Afghanistan by the Taliban militia and have no access to education in Pakistan, where the four universities established for Afghan refugees have been shut

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down. The Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) is asking U.S. colleges and universities to award at least two full scholarships to these very needy and deserving young Afghan women who are seeking educational opportunities.

When FMF leaders met with President Bill Clinton on gender apartheid in Afghanistan, he expressed support for the concept of creating a program to provide educational opportunities in the United States for some of these young women. The President pledged his Administration would work together with the Feminist Majority Foundation to bring young Afghan women to the US to get an education so that one day they could assist in the reconstruction of their country.

An Opportunity to Make a Difference

Already, several colleges and universities have pledged two scholarships each and other financial aid for Afghan women who are desperate to continue their education. And the JANA Foundation has also pledged a challenge grant to encourage colleges and universities to participate in the program. Leaders of participating institutions have said they are excited about the program.

Dr. Dave Gillespie, Vice President for Academic Affairs of Presbyterian College, in Clinton, SC, said he thinks the program will benefit both the schools and the women from Afghanistan.

"It will be such a rich experience for students to be able to talk to women who have experienced life in a situation that is authoritarian and totalitarian towards women, to learn about political oppression, as well as about different culture firsthand," he said. "Even though we are tucked away in a small town, we are aware of injustices of the Taliban and we think that two students from Afghanistan will benefit from being here and very much benefit us and what we hope to achieve here at Presbyterian College."

Gillespie and other academic leaders have also said that participating schools will benefit by increasing diversity on their campuses, and they are excited to be involved in an effort to open doors of opportunity for these young women to escape an otherwise brutal reality and help change the course of their lives.

How the Program Works

The Feminist Majority Foundation established the program in cooperation with the U.S. State Department, and scholarships will be awarded to eligible Afghan women who have been admitted to the United States as refugees. Candidates will be at least eighteen years old; have a high school certificate or equivalent; documentation of English language skills; and commitment to use higher education to promote women's rights and human rights.

The Feminist Majority Foundation's

Anyone associated with a college or university (administrators, students, alumni, Trustee board members, professors and other staff) can help with the Afghan Women's Scholarship Program. If you know of a college or university that might be interested or would like more information on how to get involved, please contact Ossai Miazad or Hawa Ghaus at the Feminist Majority Foundation at 703-522-2214.

Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid has successfully urged the United States and the UN not to recognize the Taliban until women's human rights are fully restored. The Campaign is imploring the United States and the UN to do everything in their power to help restore the rights of Afghan women and girls. FMF also continues pressing for more humanitarian aid for Afghan refugees and for an increase in the number of Afghan women and girls fleeing the Taliban regime to be admitted into the United States as refugees. ■

"It will be such a rich experience for students to be able to talk to women who have experienced life in a situation that is authoritarian and totalitarian towards women, to learn about political oppression, as well as about different culture firsthand"

Celebrities Raise Public Awareness About Gender Apartheid

Meryl Streep, Marlo Thomas, Melissa Etheridge, and Laura Dern Send Message of Hope

In a magnificent show of support for international women's human rights, entertainment headliners joined women's rights and human rights leaders on Oct. 18 in New York, NY to expose the brutal treatment of women and girls living under gender apartheid in Afghanistan.

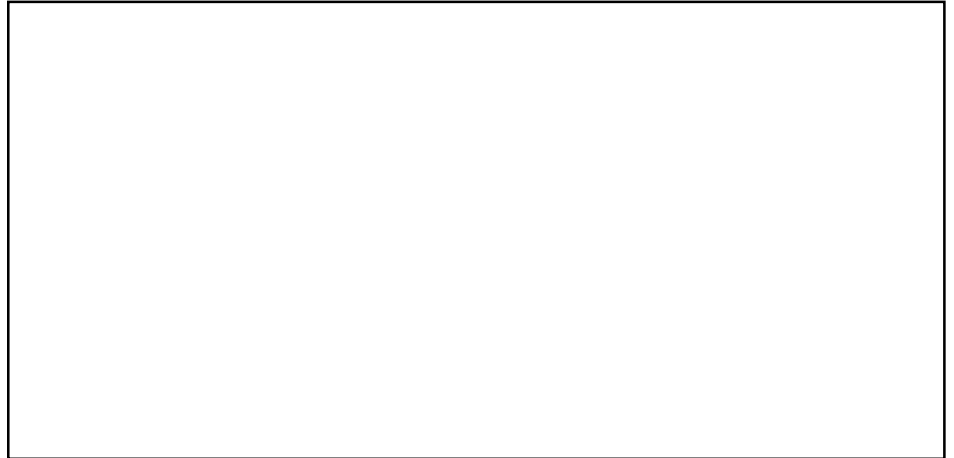
The Feminist Majority Foundation and GLAMOUR magazine sponsored the event, which took place at the W NEW YORK Hotel. The celebrity event, which was organized by the Los Angeles office of the Feminist Majority Foundation under the leadership of National Coordinator **Katherine Spillar**, again helped to raise crucially needed public awareness of the issue.

"The Feminist Majority sends this message of hope to all the women and girls in Afghanistan," said Spillar. "We are not simply supporting you in spirit, but we are working tirelessly on your behalf. For we believe it is a joy, not a crime, to be born female. And we will not rest until the dream of freedom has been realized for each and every one of you."

Keynote speaker **Meryl Streep** told the audience of her reaction to the Taliban's brutally enforced edicts.

"I'm here tonight because I don't think anybody's daughter should ever know how it feels to be entombed alive, like so many women and girls in the world today, just because they were born female. No one's daughter should have to live in a country where the girls are forbidden to learn how to read. No one's daughter should be denied the freedom of expression; the freedom to work; the right to feel the sun and air on their faces when they walk outside. These are the things that should never be taken away – not from anyone, not for any reason, not anywhere."

Spillar, Streep and Feminist Majority Foundation President **Eleanor Smeal** and Board Chair **Peg Yorkin** were joined at the event by the Chair of the Feminist Majority Foundation's Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid,



Feminist Majority Foundation Board Chair Peg Yorkin, President Eleanor Smeal, Board Member and Chair of the Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid Mavis Leno, National Coordinator Katherine Spillar, Board Member Lorraine Sheinberg at the October 18th event in New York.

Mavis Leno, and other notable performers and speakers, including **Marlo Thomas, Melissa Etheridge, Al Franken, Laura Dern, Jessica Tivens** and **Joan Osborne**.

Leno, who appeared on the TODAY Show the morning before the event to discuss the Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid, said she was glad to be able

Keynote speaker Meryl Streep told the audience of her reaction to the Taliban's brutally enforced edicts.

to educate people about the terrifying edicts the Taliban regime is forcing on Afghan women and girls. "We cannot remain silent while women and girls in Afghanistan cannot go to school, cannot work, cannot leave their houses without being covered from head to toe and without a close male relative escort," she said.

The program included a showing of the dramatic documentary "Shroud of Silence," produced by Feminist Majority Foundation Board Member Lorraine Sheinberg.

Afghan women leaders living in the United States joined the Feminist Majority Foundation in calling for an end to gender apartheid. "We call upon the world community to join us in our resistance and we call upon the American public to help us gain back our rights, status and dignity as human beings and as women," said Dr. Zeiba Shorish-Shamley, director of the Women's Alliance for Peace and Human Rights in Afghanistan.

Shorish-Shamley was accompanied by her niece, Maryam "Giti" Shams, who recently escaped the Taliban's brutal regime and with the help of the Feminist Majority Foundation won admission to the United States as a refugee. Giti spoke about her life in Herat, Afghanistan as a virtual prisoner under the Taliban's oppressive edicts for nearly four years (1995-1999). "The Taliban has taken away our dignity, our freedoms, our lives," she said. ■

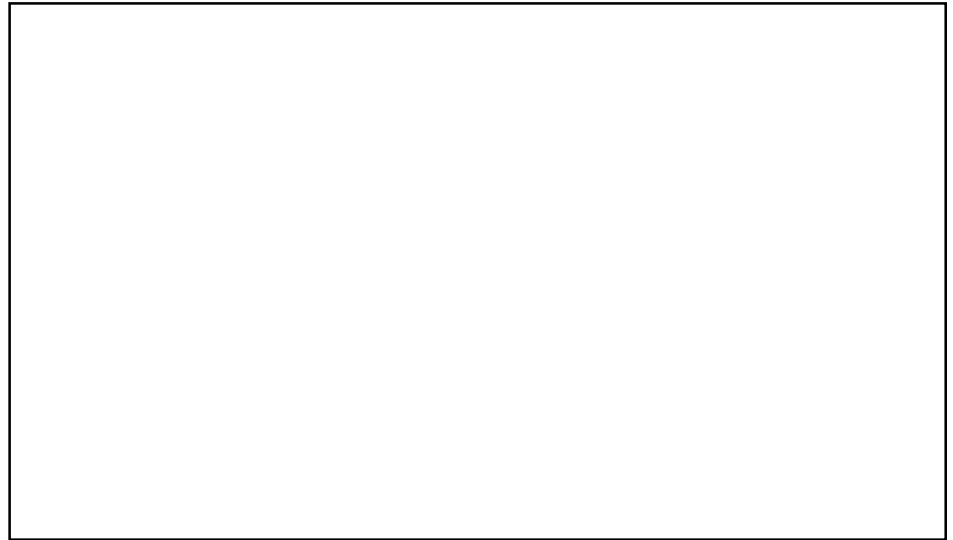
Federal Nationwide Injunction Issued Against Anti-Abortion Extremists, Operation Rescue, Pro-Life Action League in *NOW v. Scheidler*

Federal Court Judge David Coar has taken the bold step of issuing a nationwide injunction to protect women's health clinics from harassment, intimidation and anti-abortion violence. The unprecedented ruling stems from the *NOW v. Scheidler* case, which was brought by the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the National Women's Health Organization against Operation Rescue, Pro-Life Action League, and other anti-abortion extremists.

Thirteen years ago, Feminist Majority Foundation President Eleanor Smeal, then president of NOW, initiated the lawsuit, which resulted in the first-ever nationwide, permanent federal court injunction against Operation Rescue, the Pro-Life Action League (PLAN) and all individuals acting in concert with them.

"This injunction bars the defendants from interfering with the right of a woman to secure an abortion or a clinic to provide abortions," said Smeal. "I believed when I initiated the suit, and still believe today, that Operation Rescue and PLAN have been acting in concert with extremists nationwide to violate the rights of women and the rights of clinics. Finally, 13 years after the suit began, a federal court recognized this fact, by giving law enforcement more power and more clout to protect women and clinics."

"Until now, it has been case by case, jurisdiction by jurisdiction," Smeal said, explaining the importance of the injunction. "This is now an order that protects women's health clinics nationwide. Under the injunction, federal, state and local law enforcement can arrest the defendants immediately if the injunction is violated anywhere in the United States. With this opinion, a federal court is shutting down - for the first time - an unlawful enterprise operating nationwide to deny women abortion services."



The victors in NOW v. Scheidler. On the top, the legal team (left to right): Sara N. Love; Kerry Miller; Lowell Sachnoff; Fay Clayton, lead attorney; Judy Lamble. Bottom row, the plaintiffs (left of right): Susan Hill, owner of the Summit and Delaware clinics; Kim Gandy, NOW Executive Vice President; Karen Johnson, NOW Membership Vice President. Photo by Ann Rose.

This groundbreaking injunction differs from the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrance Act (FACE) and provides another avenue for women and clinics to pursue justice. Under FACE they must go to the U.S. Attorney in their jurisdiction who report to the U.S. Attorney General. If neither is interested in pursuing the case, the only option that remains federally for the women, or the clinic, is to take an independent civil action. Under this nationwide injunction they can go to law enforcement and then to the federal court where the violation occurred or this court which is already knowledgeable about anti-abortion violence, no matter who is the U.S. Attorney General or U.S. Attorney.

The Feminist Majority Foundation provided research assistance for this historic case and runs the largest nationwide clinic defense program which includes: monitoring anti-abortion violence, providing security services, legal assistance, direct assistance to embattled clinics, as well as aiding communities in countering anti-abortion violence.

Sara Love, Legal Defense Director for the Feminist Majority Foundation, participated in the litigation as an associate of the Chicago law firm Robinson, Curley and Clayton which litigated the *NOW v. Scheidler* for NOW. Faye Clayton brilliantly led the litigation team and won a Supreme Court decision in January 1994 permitting NOW to use the federal RICO statute in the case against anti-abortion extremists. Lowell Sarnoff, Clayton's husband, ably represented the named clinic plaintiffs, the National Women's Health Organization clinics in Delaware and Milwaukee. FMF's Clinic Defense Project annually issues the most comprehensive study of clinic violence. In 1998, some 22% of all abortion clinics in the United States suffered from severe clinic violence. Currently the FMF is conducting its 1999 survey of anti-abortion clinic violence which will be released in January. ■

Amicus Briefs

Feminist Majority Foundation Files Briefs To Fight Anti-Abortion Violence

The Feminist Majority Foundation's National Clinic Access Project recently coordinated and filed two *amicus curiae*, or "friend of the court," briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to combat anti-abortion violence.

Noted constitutional scholar Erwin Chemerinsky, a professor at the University of Southern California School of Law, wrote the first of the two briefs to express to the Supreme Court how the Drivers' Privacy Protection Act (DPPA) is vital to protecting women and reproductive choices.

Sixteen other organizations – including the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, National Abortion Federation, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Center for Victims of Crime and the National Women's Health Organization – signed the brief, which was coordinated by Feminist Majority Foundation's National Clinic Access Legal Director Sara N. Love.

Love explained that the brief addresses how the law protects reproductive health care providers who have been identified, stalked and even murdered by anti-abortion extremists who find personal information about their victims using license plate numbers.

"For example, in 1994 Paul Hill and others obtained Dr. Britton's identity after taking down his license plate number. Hill subsequently murdered Dr. Britton. The Drivers' Privacy Protection Act makes it impossible for extremists like Hill to find doctors using their license plate numbers," Love said.

Love added that the law is also needed to protect women who have been stalked, terrorized and murdered by ex-husbands, boyfriends and other stalkers who often trace women through states' Department of Motor Vehicles records.

Passed in 1994 with the leadership of Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), the DPPA prevents states from selling drivers' personal information that they must furnish to the state in order to obtain a driver's license. The sale of driv-

ers' personal information brings tremendous revenues to states. The state of South Carolina challenged the 1994 law, claiming the law usurps states' rights to oversee states' Departments of Motor Vehicles.

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case, *Reno v. Condon, Attorney General of South Carolina*, on Nov. 10, 1999. A week after the Supreme Court hearing, a New York Times editorial commended the Feminist Majority Foundation's brief, saying it provided a useful tool in underscoring Congress' authority to protect individual rights.

Love also coordinated the second brief, which was drafted by Susan Popick of Chapman, Popick & White in San Francisco, and filed with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in support of abortion providers who have been targeted and threatened by anti-abortion extremists.

Ten other pro-choice organizations signed onto the 9th Circuit brief: Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League and NARAL Foundation, National Abortion Federation, the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, National Organization for Women, NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, National Women's Health Foundation, Northwest Women's Law Center, Physicians for Reproductive Choice and the Women's Law Project.

"This brief was written to give the court a sense of the violent realities faced by abortion providers everyday," said Love. "The court needs to be aware of the long and bloody history of violence directed at abortion clinics and providers – including murders, bombings, arson fires and assaults."

Love said the brief became necessary when the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals announced it will review a groundbreaking case (*Planned Parenthood vs. American Coalition of Life Activists*) that resulted in a Portland, Oregon jury ordering the ACLA and Advocates for Life Ministries, along with 12 individual defendants, to pay

\$107.5 million in damages to a group of abortion providers who had been targeted and threatened by the defendants.

Along with providing insight into anti-abortion extremists' orchestrated campaign of terror against abortion providers for the attorneys in the Oregon case, Love also monitored the trial's testimony for the Feminist Majority Foundation's work towards a federal conspiracy case against anti-abortion extremists.

In the initial jury trial, the plaintiffs claimed that a "WANTED" poster targeting one of the plaintiff doctors, the "Deadly Dozen" poster targeting thirteen doctors including the other three plaintiff doctors and the "Nuremberg Files" web site constituted "true threats" and as such are not free speech protected by the First Amendment.

During the proceedings, the plaintiffs showed a pattern where, in three separate instances, a "WANTED" poster was circulated against a doctor and then the doctor was murdered. The jury found that the defendants' threats violated the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE) and the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).

Having been called to account under FACE for making illegal threats, the defendants are now seeking to convince the appeals court that their threats are merely political speech protected by the First Amendment. The Court of Appeals' decision will convey important implications for law enforcement's ability to use FACE and RICO to counter anti-abortion extremists' violence.

In addition to FMF's brief, two other *amicus* briefs were filed in support of the abortion providers: one by state Attorneys General and one by several religious groups. The other briefs supported the Oregon jury's decision and urged the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold the ruling that the defendants' speech and actions should be considered true threats. ■

Expo 2000

EXPO 2000

Continued from page 1

National Council of Negro Women, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, National Political Congress of Black Women, National Women's Studies Association, National Organization for Women (NOW), Planned Parenthood Federation of America and YWCA of the USA.

Along with organizational co-sponsors, college campus groups have also endorsed **Feminist Expo 2000**.

"Feminist Expo 2000 will showcase the power of the feminist Movement, its ideas and vision for the 21st Century," said Eleanor Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority Foundation, which is organizing Feminist Expo 2000. "We intend to ignite the Women's movement on the cutting-edge issues of our time."

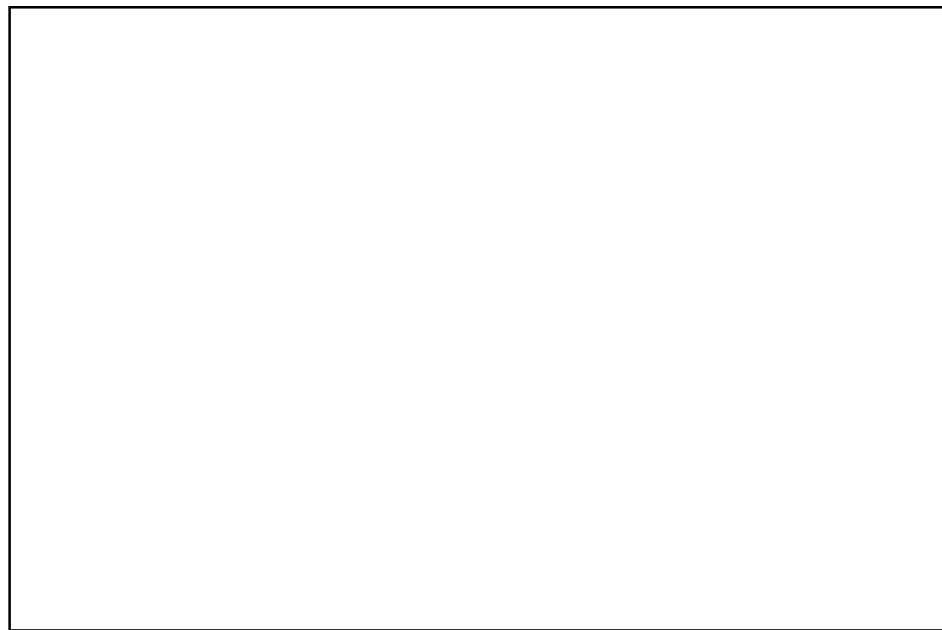
Feminist Expo 2000 will be held March 31 - April 2, 2000 at the new,

"Feminist Expo 2000 will showcase the power of the feminist movement, its ideas and vision for the 21st Century"

state-of-the-art Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Located on the beautiful Inner Harbor, the convention site is an easy-to-reach and inexpensive travel destination. Just one hour from Washington, DC and Philadelphia, Baltimore has the least expensive airfares of any East Coast destination and is also serviced by Amtrak trains and bus.

We are entering a very critical time in our nation's history. As we enter the national debate for the 2000 elections and plan for the dawning of the 21st Century, reactionary forces are seeking to scapegoat modern women for all of the ills of society.

Feminist Expo 2000 is timed to take place in the heart of the election season



Invited Expo guests Marlo Thomas and Laura Dern with FMF President Eleanor Smeal at October 18th event in New York City.

so the feminist movement as a whole can help frame the national debate. Feminist perspectives on everything from Social Security to family planning to foreign policy must not be left out.

"The need for a strong national and global feminist movement has never been greater. **Feminist Expo 2000**—like Expo '96 before it—will help us rise together as a whole, feel our strength and the strength of our ideas and galvanize the feminist movement," said Smeal.

At **Feminist Expo 2000 and Convention** there will be four major general assemblies as well as the choice of more than 107 roundtables, symposia and training seminars with more than 350 speakers, leaders, presenters and entertainers.

Feminist Expo 2000 will open with a "Salute to Feminist Firsts." As we enter the 21st century, we will honor the women who broke barriers for women in the twentieth century and led the way in politics, media, academia, business, government, science, sports and the arts. We will celebrate feminist landmarks and honor the organizations that made these gains possible.

Between sessions, participants will tour our innovative Exhibition Hall. Organized around the theme of "Visualizing a Feminist Future," the hall will unveil new interactive technologies for spreading women's rights. The hub of the hall will feature a Feminist Career

Center, with resources on finding a job in feminism and promoting women's rights in any career. Favorite feminist authors will also be on hand to sign copies of their latest books.

As a special feature, **Expo 2000** will include an Equal Rights Amendment Reunion, for all the activists who were a part of the historic 1972-1982 campaign for the ratification of the ERA—and those who wish they had been.

"Each and every participant in **Feminist Expo 2000** will benefit from experiencing the strength of the women's movement in its totality," said Smeal. "And the nation and the world will see on just how many fronts feminists are making a difference."

If you are not yet registered, or want more information on being a part of **Feminist Expo 2000**, please contact the Expo Team at the Feminist Majority Foundation (703-522-2214) or find more information on the web at www.feminist.org. ■

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST
OF COSPONSORS AND
HOTEL AND REGISTRATION
INFORMATION, SEE
WWW.FEMINIST.ORG.**

Feminist Expo 2000 Individual Registration Form

Early registration must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2000.
 (Please print or type your name as it should appear on your convention badge.)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Affiliation (if any) _____
 Day Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____
 Fax _____ E-mail Address _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES

Your one-time convention registration fee entitles you to attend all General Assemblies, Symposia, Roundtables, and Training Seminars as well as the Exhibit Hall.

	<i>Regular Rate</i>	<i>International Rate</i>	<i>Student Rate</i>
EARLY CONVENTION FEE <i>(Postmarked by January 31, 2000)</i>	\$195	\$145	\$95
CONVENTION FEE <i>(Postmarked after January 31, 2000)</i>	\$245	\$185	\$120

Register now and save money and time! February 1-March 10 you may still register via mail. After March 10, 2000 you must register on-site.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Yes! I'll be there! I am enclosing my Regular, International or Student Convention Fee of \$_____

SPECIAL EVENTS—*Limited Space Available*

- Equal Rights Amendment Reunion (Friday Evening) \$ 25
- Gala Celebrity Entertainment (Saturday Evening) *OR* \$ 50
- Student Price: Gala Celebrity Entertainment (Saturday Evening) \$ 24

A limited number of scholarship tickets will be available.

CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

I want Feminist Expo 2000 to be fully representative. I am enclosing a special tax-deductible convention contribution to help those who cannot afford the fee. \$_____

For those who can't afford full fee, payment may be on a sliding scale.

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I can't be there, but I want to help make this historic event successful. I am enclosing my special contribution for Feminist Expo 2000 for Women's Empowerment in the amount of \$_____

Check or money order should be made payable to the Feminist Majority Foundation.

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HOTEL INFORMATION

For more information on specially priced hotel rooms for Expo 2000 please call the Feminist Majority Foundation (703) 522-2214 or find information on our website www.feminist.org.

CONGRESSIONAL ROUND-UP

Continued from page 1

Against Women Act II, which would have reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act and would its protections.

Congress also blocked passing a pay equity bill for women – and the Senate, led by the reactionary Jesse Helms, Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, blocked passage of the UN Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW, which would provide U.S. women the strongest weapon or legal tool to combat sex discrimination, has been pending ratification since 1979.

First, it was held up by the Reagan/Bush Administrations, now, since 1994, by Congress. The Clinton Administration has approved passage, however, with some reservations...notably a reservation on its pay equity provision. It is a disgrace that the U.S. has not ratified CEDAW – the only industrialized nation in the world that has blocked ratification.

The efforts to pass CEDAW turned confrontational this year. In an attempt to force Republican leadership to consider CEDAW, nine Congresswomen walked into a final meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and attempted to present the committee's chair, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), a poster-sized letter, signed by more than 100 House members, in support of the U. N. Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The action followed nearly three months of requesting a meeting on CEDAW with Helms, according to Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA). "The women of the House will no longer tolerate his delay tactics," Woolsey said. In response to the Congresswomen's actions, Helms insisted they "act like ladies," then called Capitol Police to escort the Congresswomen from the hearing room.

This anti-choice Congress inflicted further damage as it adjourned. Sen. Helms and Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) insisted on attaching the Mexico City policy, which prohibits agencies in under developed nations from advising

women about abortion, to the bill granting partial payment of UN dues. Essentially these reactionary members of Congress held the Clinton Administration up – and won. Helms, Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had held up U.S. payment of UN dues for years.

Now, with the UN threatening to expel the U.S. from the UN General Assembly by the end of December, the Clinton Administration felt it had no choice but to accept this heinous rider. The Clinton Administration negotiated that the president could wave this gag rule if the agency accepts a 3% cut in family planning funding, resulting in a further cut to family planning funding. Since the Republicans took control of Congress in 1994, Congress has cut international family planning funds (including this last cut) by a whopping 33%.

Clinton immediately took the option and waived the gag rule, but the reactionary restrictions also implemented a frightening a frightening mechanism that will allow Congress to monitor how international family planning groups use their money. This intrusive mechanism will intensify the harassment of international family planning groups and will result in the further limiting of services.

There is some good news from the year's congressional action. Despite House anti-abortion extremists' three-vote victory on the Coburn amendment (a proposal to restrict the Food and Drug Administration's ability to approve any drug that may induce abortion, which would include mifepristone, the drug previously known as RU-486), pro-choice forces won in the Senate, and the provision was dropped before the bill was sent to President Clinton for his signature.

This means that (for now) the FDA is still free to research and approve mifepristone, a drug that has proven to be a safe, effective form of early abortion and emergency contraception, and may also treat some forms of cancer. On the other hand, there is no indication that the opponents will give up, and pro-choice activists are expecting a similar battle next year. The Feminist Majority Foundation, which has conducted the largest public education campaign on mifepristone (RU-486) in the United States, will continue efforts

to ensure that congressional anti-choice forces do not try to restrict or spread further misinformation about this potentially life-saving drug.

There was one other major victory for women in the Congress' first session. Earlier this year, former U.S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL), was nominated as the U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand. President Clinton nominated Moseley-Braun, but her nomination required Senate confirmation.

When the nomination first went to the Senate, Sen. Jesse Helms was doing everything he could to make sure the Senate never had an opportunity to vote on Moseley-Braun's nomination. His initial reason for blocking the nomination was his fight with Moseley-Braun over the renewal of the United Daughters of the Confederacy patent. Moseley-Braun objected to the United Daughters' use of the old Confederate flag in its emblem. Helms also said "at the very minimum she has got to apologize for the display that she provoked over a little symbol for a wonderful group of little old ladies."

Despite Helms' best efforts to the contrary, the Senate voted overwhelmingly, 96-2, to confirm Moseley-Braun. The two negative votes were cast by none other than Jesse Helms and Senator Peter Fitzgerald (R-IL), defeated Moseley-Braun in her 1998 reelection bid. ■

NATIONAL AND LOCAL

TAKE

ACTIONS FEMINISTS CAN

FEMINIST

TAKE TO MAKE OUR BELIEF

ACTION!

IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS COUNT

To urge the U.S. Senate to ratify CEDAW, call your Senator's legislative assistants working on foreign affairs. Call the Senate switchboard at 202-224-3121.

FEMINIST MAJORITY'S CAMPAIGN TO STOP GENDER APARTHEID IN AFGHANISTAN SPURS RESCUE MISSION

WASHINGTON, DC—With the situation for women and girls in Afghanistan dire and the number of people who are fleeing the Taliban increasing, the Feminist Majority recently succeeded in rescuing 17 Afghan refugees and expediting their admission in the United States. Before the Feminist Majority's intervention, their repeated pleas for refugee status had been denied despite the compelling need.

Although Afghans are the largest refugee population in the world, the U.S. has admitted very few Afghan refugees since the Taliban seized control of Kabul in 1996. In 1996 and 1997, no Afghan refugees were admitted; only 88 Afghan refugees were admitted in 1998. As a result of the Feminist Majority's Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan, the number of refugees admitted in 1999 is expected to grow to almost 600. Refugees who have escaped the Taliban have made clear what life is like in Afghanistan for women and girls. Because the Feminist Majority Foundation was able to help rescue several Afghans from Taliban persecution, two of these Afghan women have been willing to share their amazing escape stories.

The Karimi Family: Rescued from Taliban Fatwa

As a result of the Feminist Majority Foundation's work, sixteen members of Afghan journalist Nazira Karimi's family were able to escape Taliban death warrants, or "fatwas."

Karimi, a prominent woman Afghan journalist, fled the Taliban last year because of her support for women's rights and her refusal to follow Taliban dictates. After Ms. Karimi spoke out against the Taliban's appalling abuse of women and girls, the extremist militant regime issued a fatwa, or a death warrant against her and anyone related to



FM President Eleanor Smeal speaks at press conference with Afghan women rescued from the Taliban.

her. Even after Ms. Karimi was able to flee to the United States last year, the Taliban attacked her family, forcing them to flee Afghanistan and into hiding in Pakistan.

Despite the Taliban's death threats against the family, UNHCR initially denied the Karimis' application for refugee status. Ms. Karimi called the Feminist Majority after hearing of the organization's Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan. The Feminist Majority retained the Tahirih Justice Center to provide assistance in the case. After winning the UNHCR appeal for several of the Karimi family in July, the Tahirih Justice Center was told that the family could not be processed until October. When the Taliban issued a second fatwa against the family and the Taliban kidnapped and tortured friends of the Karimi family in order to ascertain their location, Ms. Karimi, the Feminist Majority, and the Tahirih Justice Center launched an

emergency campaign to bring the family to safety in the U.S.

In response to the efforts of the Feminist Majority, the Tahirih Justice Center and the offices of Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) and Representative Sam Gejdenson (D-CT), the Immigration and Naturalization Service and Department of State responded quickly and took immediate action to find a safe haven for the family, to expedite the processing of all 16 members of the Karimi family, and to make arrangements for them to leave Pakistan.

"As a journalist, I felt I had just one duty: to tell the outside world about the situation of women under Taliban rule. The Taliban tried to make my family suffer because of the truth I told about the treatment of women by the Taliban. The immediate actions of the Feminist Majority, the Tahirih Justice Center, and the U.S. government have without question saved the lives of my family," said Nazira Karimi.

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AFGHANISTAN

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“Not Without My Niece:” Feminist Majority Helps Young Afghan Woman Escape Gender Apartheid

In August, Maryam “Giti” Shams, a 21 year old Afghan woman, entered the United States with her aunt, Dr. Zieba Shorish-Shamley, President of the Women’s Alliance for Peace and Human Rights in Afghanistan, after a six month harrowing experience.

When the Taliban took control of the city of Herat in 1995, Giti was forced to end her education during her 10th grade. After the death of her father, Giti’s mother, who was dying of cancer, was in fear that her daughter would be taken by the Taliban, which abducts young women by force in conquered areas. To save her daughter’s life, Giti’s mother arranged for her to marry an Afghan-German doctor whom she did not know and to leave the country six months ago. However, rather than providing a safe haven, the Afghan-German doctor subjected her to brutal physical and mental abuse.

Giti described the conditions to which she and her family were subjected under the Taliban. “To leave the house to go to see a doctor, my dying mother had to have my brother get a letter of permission from the doctor. My mother had to pin the note on her burqa (chadari), and could only go to the doctor with my brother accompany-

ing her. I was not allowed to go. To go to the market, women have to have the written permission of the mayor and to wear this pinned to their burqa (chadari) when they leave their homes with a male relative. The Taliban has taken away our dignity, our freedoms, and our lives.”

Giti’s aunt, Dr. Zieba Shorish-Shamley, arrived in Germany, found her niece, took her niece into hiding, and refused to leave Germany until her niece’s admission to the U.S. as a refugee could be secured. Responding to Dr. Shorish-Shamley’s pleas for help, the Feminist Majority stepped forward to assist in finding the pair safe housing in Germany and with the Tahiri Justice Center began a relentless three and a half month campaign to win Giti’s admission to the United States as a refugee.

Policy Shift

During the struggle to rescue Giti Shams and the Karimi family from Afghanistan, the Feminist Majority was told that the U.S. will increase in the number of refugees allowed into the United States, projecting 1500 in 1999.

“Until recently, the US had basically closed the door to Afghan women and girls. While we are pleased that the U.S. has opened the door a crack, we urge the admission of far greater numbers of refugees,” said Smeal. “The United States and

the rest of the world must raise even further the number of refugees allowed into the U.S. from Afghanistan, especially widows and their children and female students, and must adopt new procedures to admit women and girls who cannot return to Afghanistan because of the severe and life-threatening gender-based restrictions they would face.”

Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan

Since 1996, when the Taliban militia took control of Kabul, women in areas under Taliban rule have been oppressed by a strict system of gender apartheid, under which they have been stripped of their visibility, voice and mobility. The edicts imposed by the Taliban, which have been brutally enforced, banished most women from the work force, closed schools to girls in cities and expelled women from universities, and prohibited women from leaving their homes unless accompanied by a close male relative.

Chaired by Mavis Leno, the Feminist Majority’s Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan has mobilized over 150 organizations to oppose recognition of the Taliban by the U.S. government or by the United Nations. The Feminist Majority’s website (www.feminist.org) provides extensive information on our Campaign and the plight of women in Afghanistan.

FMF Launches Online Campus Community

The Feminist Majority Foundation recently launched the Choices Campus Community online at www.feministcampus.org. The site uses cutting-edge technology to strengthen progressive organizing by enabling intercampus communication and online training and support for thousands of feminist campus activists, as well as providing public chat rooms to exchange ideas and information with feminists around the world. The community embodies the online hub of the Choices Campaign and the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliances.

The site’s features include:

- The Peg Yorkin Auditorium and the Global Café, which house live chats with major figures in the feminist movement, such as Eleanor Smeal, the President of FMF. The Global Café offers chats and discussions with feminists around the globe.
- “Virtual Offices” for student offices, alumni, faculty and staff and community members equipped with chat and bulletin boards, an interactive events calendar, and an “instant message” utility.
- Leaders’ Institute, where students

learn how to more effectively engage in feminist campus activism. Professional field organizers teach Alliance members step by step how to: increase their membership, draw faculty port, write a budget, and more...

- Choices Central, a feminist “study hall” where students (and faculty) can access FMF’s vast research resources and chat with experts on such topics as, “Current Anti-Choice Legislation,” “Career Choices: Women & Policing,” and “RU486: The Struggle for Medical Abortion.”

Author Q & A

Feminist Mystery Writer

Annette Meyers' most recent book, *Free Love*, debuted in October 1999. The first in a new series set in 1920 in Greenwich Village, *Free Love* features as a protagonist the newly published poet, bohemian, and sometimes detective Olivia Brown. The next in the series, *Murder Me Now*, is scheduled for release in January 2001.

Meyers spent 16 years on Wall Street as an executive search consultant, and is currently an arbitrator with the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD). She is the past president of Sisters in Crime and is on the Executive Committee of the International Association of Crime Writers. She was formerly assistant to Broadway director-producer Hal Prince (for sixteen years), working with him on such productions as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cabaret*, *A Little Night Music*, *Company*, and *Follies*.

An active feminist, Meyers first joined the Feminist Majority in 1996 after participating in a panel of feminist mystery authors at Expo '96.

Meyers is the author of seven Smith and Wetson mysteries. With her husband Martin Meyers, using the pseudonym Maan Meyers, she writes historical mysteries set in New York in the 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries.

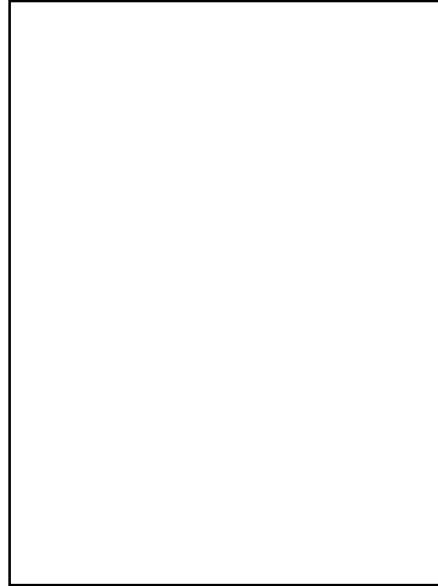
Q. Why are you a feminist?

Meyers. Why would I not be a feminist? Every woman must be a feminist! No woman can be alive today and not be a feminist, and saying you are not a feminist is denying the nature of things.

Q. What can you tell me about feminist mystery writing as a genre?

Well, I have to tell you this: when Jennifer [Feminist Majority Director of Policy and Research Jennifer Jackman] called me about Expo '96, I said, "I didn't know I was a feminist mystery writer!"

I could not get published until I wrote a book about two very successful strong women on Wall Street. I sold it because publishers were looking for strong female protagonists. Women who were buying



Annette Meyers

the books were tired of reading about men. I came along at a good time for feminist mystery writers. I didn't know it at the time, but looking back, it's easy to see that's what happened.

Q. How do you create feminist protagonists in your books?

Leslie Wetson, who is my Wall Street headhunter, is really my alter ego — only she's 20 years younger, and I gave her my sensibilities. Wall Street is a jungle where women are working in a man's world and that's what I found when I worked in Wall Street...I saw that women were tokens. The woman and I who were headhunters were told many times, "You girls don't really belong in this business!" Some of the older brokers used to say, "Why don't you get married and have kids?" Even though the veneer is a little different these days, it's no different underneath.

Q. As a panelist at Expo '96, what did you think of the event?

It was wonderful, and I had a chance to meet feminists from all fields...I had my consciousness raised to see a lot of women in different fields. It was exhilarating.

Q. And I understand you will be back for Expo 2000. Why?

Because I love all the women. I think it's wonderful, and I think that we have to keep reaching out to the generations coming along behind us. And we have to keep reminding people that we're all feminists and what feminism is and that we're all in it together. What is good for women is good for all of us.

Q. What would you like readers to know about your new book, *Free Love*?

Well, *Free Love* is set in 1920 in Greenwich Village and the women were bohemian feminists. They left their lives and some of them left their families and they came to New York to Greenwich village to be free.

It was immorality for the sake of morality. A woman could take a lover or a series of lovers. Or actually a girl, that's what they called themselves, "girls" and "boys." A girl could take a lover or a series of lovers and not be shunned by her neighbors.

It was time when there was an amazing amount of out gay people. People accepted people for who they were. You could get a meal for 30 cents, I mean a full meal, pot roast and potatoes and pie...it was prohibition but booze flowed freely. There were no boundaries, which is what they would have had in the small towns they came from.

The village attracted an enormous amount of creative people. And [a woman] knew what she wanted and where she was going and what she did was reverse the traditional male female roles.

For information on purchasing *Free Love*, and other feminist mysteries, contact the Feminist Majority Foundation at 703-522-2214 or on the web at <http://www.feminist.org/arts/linkauthor.html>.

For more information about Annette Meyers, her books and characters, go to <http://www.meyersmysteries.com/home.html>. ■

Feminist Focus

Dr. Anita Borg

Closing the Gender Gap on the Internet

Dr. Anita Borg, President and Founding Director of the Institute for Women and Technology (IWT) was recently described by FastCompany Magazine as “a living legend among computer scientists” and a leader of the “worldwide movement to redesign the relationship between women and technology.”

This is an apt description, according to Borg’s colleagues and associates.

Barbara Simons, president of the Association for Computing Machinery, told FastCompany that Borg is a leader of unparalleled stature. “She is a leader and a heroine to many women in the field. I’ve seen younger women at conferences who were just thrilled to meet her.”

Borg will be a featured speaker at Feminist Expo 2000 precisely because she inspires feminists— young and old—to bridge the gender gap in technology in this Internet age.

A woman who has never been afraid to take a stand (one of her favorite T-shirts says “Well-behaved Women Rarely Make History”), Borg is also often described as being slightly disruptive herself. According to one report of her career “war stories,” she once discarded a prewritten speech about microprocessors right before coming to the podium at a conference. Instead, she spoke off the cuff on a topic close to her heart: why there were so few women in her field.

The topic is still close to her heart, and she does a lot more than talk about problems for women in computing. She finds solutions.

In 1997, Borg founded the Institute for Women and Technology (IWT) to bridge the gender gap in technology, and support the development of tech-

nology products focused on women’s interests and needs.

Working towards those goals, IWT recently launched the Virtual Development Center (VDC). Sponsored by industry giants including Hewlett-Packard Company, Sun Microsystems, Xerox Corporation and Compaq Corporation, IWT describes the center as an innovative and explorative educational and technology product development effort to engage women to describe what they want and to define solutions that match their needs.

The VDC will allow large numbers of students at four initial VDC sites—MIT, Purdue University, Texas A&M, and Santa Clara University—to brainstorm ideas for new technology products together with diverse groups of women from local communities. All of the sites will involve high school girls in the

innovation process, to inspire young women to become interested in technology and innovation.

The IWT directed brainstorming sessions will use a “Thinking Environment” model to engage women to describe what they want and then to define solutions that match their needs. Students, at least half of who are female, faculty, and engineers from sponsoring companies will spend the year fleshing out designs and working toward prototypes based on these events. Team based projects and cross-site collaboration intend to build relationships and enable idea and resource sharing.

Borg said the program will help attract women to technology, and help developing technology to become more woman-focused.

“Recent studies show that many young women do not believe that a career

in engineering or computing will allow them to have a positive impact on the world and is irrelevant to their lives,” said Borg. “Nothing could be further from the truth. These fields will impact our personal, social, economic and political lives in the near and long term future.”

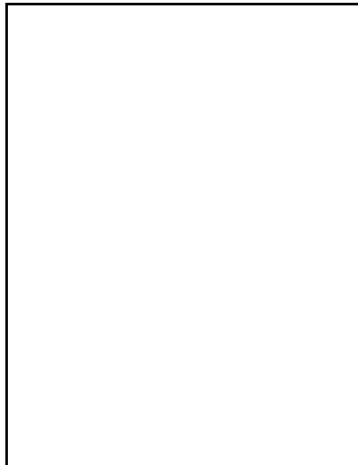
The program is just one of IWT’s efforts to increase both the impact of women on technology and the positive impact of technology on the lives of all women.

Another IWT project offered a workshop series to bring together diverse groups of women (technical and non-technical) to brainstorm about technology that they would like to have in the future. Their sessions resulted in ideas ranging from smart plumbing to on-line flea markets to virtual walls and home inventory systems.

Participants described the virtual walls as new technology that would allow users the “ability to visit distant family members of friends without the expense or disruption of travel. The visiting wall is a wall on which the view into another room or of another place can be projected or otherwise represented in real time. It would allow distant family members or friends to virtually connect their living spaces. The wall might even allow dining tables to abut so participants could experience chatting across the dinner table. Grandparents or distant parents could see their kids grow up.”

Even before IWT, Borg was helping women get connected to technology and to each other. In 1987 she started a small Internet mailing list for women in computing, that she called “Systers.” Today, Systers is a virtual community of more than 3000 technical women in the computing field in 25 countries.

In July 1999, Dr. Borg was appointed by President Clinton to the congressionally mandated Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology, and is the founder of the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing (1994, 1997). ■



Dr. Anita Borg