
Network News

Grassroots campaign to drop ABC's "Extreme Makeover"

Dads and Daughters, the national education and advocacy nonprofit organization that works to strengthen father-daughter relationships, has started a grassroots campaign demanding that ABC cancel its show, "Extreme Makeover." The television show, which pays for contestants to undergo radical plastic surgeries, is being blasted by Dads and Daughters (DADs) for playing on the American culture's obsession with physical appearance and underpinning potentially dangerous behaviors in young women, including eating disorders, depression, sexual promiscuity, and smoking. Those wishing to join DADs in their fight against ABC's programming can log onto the Dads and Daughters website at www.dadsanddaughters.org, where one can send an email to ABC chairpersons and physicians participating in the show. Those against "Extreme Makeover" may also voice their opinions by writing to ABC at 500 S. Buena Vista St., Burbank, California, 91521-4551.

Teresa Phillips coaches major basketball game

From the website of "The American Prospect": Teresa Phillips, athletics director of Tennessee State University, this year became the first female coach of a major college men's basketball team – for one night. Phillips filled in for the teams temporarily suspended male coach. Although it would seem victory could be in sight for female coaches across the country, David Hensel, a law student at George Washington University, isn't so sure. "This is only a minor victory," writes Hensel. "No woman will have yet won a permanent job running a men's basketball program." Hensel goes on to say that the antiquated idea that female coaches will not hit the court as "shrewdly" as their male counterparts is disproved by women such as Tara VanDerveer of Stanford University and Jody Conradt of the University of Texas. However, Hensel remarks that the problem will remain until more schools allow women to coach major men's basketball tournaments for a sustained amount of time.

Action Wisconsin sends Press Release on Domestic Partner Benefits

Action Wisconsin sent a new publication about domestic partner benefits to human resource managers at 340 companies in Columbia, Dane, Green, Iowa, Rock, and Sauk Counties. The new guide presents the case for domestic partner coverage, offers details about coverage available through area insurance companies, and provides a list of Wisconsin employers that currently offer domestic partner benefits. The publication is online at: www.actionwisconsin.org/dpbenefits.

"Wisconsin companies should offer domestic partner benefits because it's a smart business decision and it's the fair thing to do," said Christopher Ott, executive director of Action Wisconsin.

The new publication explains that domestic partner benefits are becoming a common feature of employee compensation packages at companies across the United States. "Thousands of companies have already realized that these benefits give them a competitive edge in recruiting the most qualified, talented workers," said Ott.

In Wisconsin, at least 60 private employers offer domestic partner benefits, including five of the ten largest employers in Dane County. Nationally, at least 4,000 companies offer these

benefits, including 182 of the Fortune 500 companies. Action Wisconsin also says it's discriminatory for companies to provide health coverage to spouses and children of heterosexual employees while barring coverage for partners of lesbian and gay employees. According to a 1998 article in *Benefits Quarterly*, benefits comprise nearly 40 % of overall employee compensation. "Equal pay for equal work is a fundamental American principle," said Ott. "Companies that deny domestic partner coverage discriminate against lesbian and gay employees by paying them less than heterosexual employees."

Last year, Action Wisconsin supported a bill that would allow domestic partner coverage for state employees, but legislative leaders refused to debate the issue. Action Wisconsin is expanding its educational efforts in part to pressure the state government to stop ignoring anti-LGBT discrimination.

"We may not yet be able to count on the state government to treat its employees equally, but we can count on the private sector," said Ott. "Eventually, as the number of private employers offering benefits grows, we believe the state will be simply too embarrassed to continue denying equal benefits to all of its hardworking employees."

Bake sale for peace

New York Teachers Against the War released an announcement that forty public school teachers and students held a bake sale in front of the offices of Senators Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer to protest excessive military spending. Some teachers dressed as military personnel held a banner that read, "It will be a great day when schools have all the money they need, and the military has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber". Other teachers handed out baked goods to passers-by decorated with flags that pointed out statistics such as "One cluster bomb = enrolling 2 children in Head Start (\$14,000)" and "1 hour of war on Iraq = Improve, repair and modernize 20 schools (\$46 million)" to highlight the disparity between funding for the war and funding for education.

The teachers chose to protest in front of the Senators' offices because they both voted to support Bush's war on Iraq and the additional military spending when the country is facing a budget crisis. "People's responses to us were overwhelmingly positive," said Sally Lee, an elementary school teacher from the Lower East Side. She added, "It doesn't take much effort to realize that our government's priorities are out of whack when they carry out an unnecessary and illegal war at the expense of the young people of this nation." The teachers and students met with the Senators' staffers when they ended the protest by presenting a cake to each of the Senators frosted with the slogan "Money for Schools, Not for War."

The teachers were all members of the New York Collective of Radical Educators, a group comprised of teachers who work within the New York public school system.

Challenges to negative advertising images

The third annual Turn Beauty Inside Out Day was held on May 21. The annual event allows girls, boys, women and men an opportunity to focus on who they are rather than how they look. The event, created by *New Moon: The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams*, offered a wide array of events, including a no-holds barred roundtable discussion between advertising professionals and girls which was designed to allow girls to have a say in how they are portrayed in advertising. Organizers for TBIO encourage people to celebrate their inner beauty – a beauty comprised of conviction, caring and action.

All-girl elementary school basketball team forced to prove gender in 1995

In June of 2000 it was revealed that in 1995, a Pine Ridge Reservation basketball team comprised of 10 to 12 year old Oglala Sioux girls were forced to "prove their gender" when an opposing coach, angered at a loss on the court, insisted that the Loneman School team was harboring a male player. Before the championship game, the girls were taken into a restroom by a YMCA volunteer and were told to show their bra straps and to roll down the tops of their gym shorts so that the volunteer could see they were wearing female underwear.

A 1997 lawsuit brought against the YMCA, Loneman School and the Custer School District was dismissed based upon the grounds that the girls and their mothers had failed to prove racial or sexual bias in the incident, although no other teams were subjected to the search.

Former New Moon editors write feature essay

Ana Grossman and Emma Peters-Axtell, former editors of the magazine, *New Moon*, are authors of the only feature essay in Robin Morgan's new anthology, *Sisterhood is Forever: The Women's Anthology for a New Millennium*, the third installment of Morgan's "Sisterhood" anthology series about the Women's Movement in the twenty-first century. The essay, titled "Girls: We Are the Ones Who Can Make a Change," explores the Girls Movement as Grossman and Peters-Axtell merge their own beliefs with those of *New Moon* readers.

"The Fence" offers a new place for the voices of bisexual women

"The Fence: a new place of power for bisexual women" is now accepting submissions for its 3rd issue. Please send your short fiction or non-fiction (under 2000 words), poetry and/or artwork to: Cheryl Dobinson/The Fence, 705-88 Isabella Street, Toronto, ON, Canada, M4Y 1N5. The deadline is September 1, 2003. For more information on contributing or subscribing please email Cheryl at cjdobins@yorku.ca

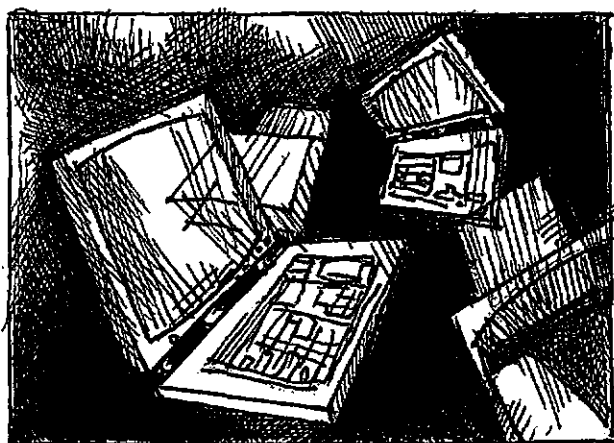
New resource for women's history and culture

In 2001 the Library of Congress created the print publication, "American Women: A Library of Congress Guide for the Study of Women's History and Culture in the United States." The guide was recently redesigned for online use with the addition of illustrations and links to existing digitized material in order to provide a small sample of the Library's vast holdings in this area. As such, the site is not a collection of digital items, but rather an introduction (and a very thorough one) to those researchers working in the area of American women's history. Along with the guide, the home page provides information that will help researchers planning to do on-site research at the Library of Congress, tips on searching for women's history resources in the catalogs, and information about Web broadcasts from events sponsored by the Library that are available through different Web sites. Some of the more recent broadcasts that are available include Amy Shapiro's discussion of her biography of the New Jersey Congresswoman, Millicent Fenwick, and a talk with Ann Hoog (a folk life specialist at the Library of Congress) about the "man-on-the-street" interviews conducted after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. (Abstract from the *Scout Report* from July 4, 2003)

Dating ban in University of California system

University of California regents have placed a ban on professors having relationships with students they oversee or are likely to oversee. Although this ban does not forbid professors from dating students generally, they are no longer allowed to date students they supervise.

Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources



Miriam Greenwald

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