

Raise Awareness & End Violence, Attend The Vagina Monologues

The Vagina Monologues, a stage production created by Eve Ensler, is entering its eleventh year of nationwide performance. The production is part of the V-Day campaign, aimed at empowering women. The Vagina Monologues is performed around Valentine's Day across the nation to raise money to end violence against women, and promote self-love and acceptance.

Brockport participates in the V-Day Campaign by performing The Vagina Monologues every other year, with the performance coming back to campus this semester. The production consists of a series of monologues telling women's stories,

and striving to empower women through the sharing of common experience.

Director Kristi Faulkner comments that "through this collaborative effort, the student and faculty performers have breathed life into the stories of several women— universal stories about emotional struggle, sexual abuse, and awakening to the beauty that comes from accepting and loving oneself"

Faulkner adds that "Brockport's production of The Vagina Monologues is an empowering experience for the women involved". The performance will un-



Proceeds from ticket sales are put towards ending violence against women.

doubtedly leave the audience empowered as well.

The performance will be held in the **Hartwell Dance Theater at 7:30 PM, from February 12 through the 14th.** Tickets are \$7 student/senior, \$10 general admission, and can be purchased at the door or beforehand at the Women's Center.

Look for new issues of this newsletter online each month at :
brockport.edu/womensctr

Women's Center Semester Calendar

Welcome Back Pizza Party

February 5th, 5-7pm
in the Women's Center

The Vagina Monologues

Feb. 12, 13, 14; 7:30pm in
Hartwell Dance Theater

Women's Week

March 23-27

Clothesline Project

April 7, 8; 10am-7pm in the
Union Ballroom

Speaker: Ethel Long Scott

April 21; 7pm in the Union
West Ballroom

An up-to-date calendar can
be accessed at:

Brockport.edu/womensctr/

Brown Bag Luncheons

The Women's Center hosts brown bag luncheons throughout the semester to discuss pertinent women's issues. Everyone is welcome; see the sandwich board outside of the Women's Center for days and times.

Get Involved at Sojourner House



The Sojourner House is a Rochester organization that provides transitional living, programming and counseling for women overcoming substance abuse, violence, and homelessness. The Sojourner House has provided women and their children with the base they need to over-

come these social obstacles and continue with a strong, stable lifestyle for over 25 years.

A variety of volunteer positions are available at the Sojourner House, including childcare, helping with programming, food preparation, and special events preparation during the Spring and Holiday seasons. To find out more information, or express an interest in these volunteer positions, contact

the Sojourner House via their website at

sojournerhouse.org.

Besides volunteering, students can donate new, unused items needed by the Sojourner House. Sojourners "Wish List" is located on page 4, and any donations can be left with Sarah at the Women's Center, located in the lower level of the Student Union.

Lindsey Cain

WRITE FOR US!

Get published on campus.

Can be included in a
resume or article
portfolio.

All majors welcome.

The Women's Center is interested in writers who have original, feminist article suggestions, as well as people interested in commenting on popular culture and media, submitting relevant book reviews, profiling local feminist organizations, etc.

Contact Sarah @
Sevan1@brockport.edu

...And all American women have something to be thrilled about. During his 9th day in office President Obama has made a decision that seriously impacts women's lives for the better. The Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law on January 29th, 2009. The Ledbetter Act makes a significant stride toward pay equity among genders. Under this new law, women will be able to challenge pay discrimination up to 180 days after the pay check where they first notice the discrepancy. After nearly 20 years of getting paid less than her male counterparts, Lily herself will never directly benefit from the law that bears her name. However, this law ensures that future generations of women will no longer have to



tolerate being "worth less" than a man.

This massive step toward gender equality took place in the dawn of the Obama administration. Should we take this as merely a symbolic gesture of the political whiplash the majority of the country is rejoicing in? Or, can we as Americans come together and no longer treat over 50% of our population as second class citizens?

The Obama administration demonstrates that change is clearly in the air. Not only with championing the cause of fair pay, but other evidence is also mounting. Women's health and family planning

matters are likely to be given proper care, consideration, and funding, as well as face less religious and moral scrutiny. The repealing of the military's Don't Ask Don't Tell policy is reportedly high on the agenda.

With the election of the nation's first African American President, tolerance is finally on the menu for America. As a young woman, women's studies major, women's rights and gender equity advocate, I await change with bated breath.

For more information regarding the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, please visit the National Women's Law Center at www.nwlc.org/fairpay. And, for up to date information on the Obama administration, visit www.whitehouse.gov.

Women's Health in the Obama Administration

January 22 marked the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, an occasion President Obama observed by overturning the Global Gag Rule reinstated during the Bush Administration. The Global Gag Rule, also known as the Mexico City Policy, prohibits agencies with U.S. funding to support family planning services in other nations if funds are used for abortion services, including counseling and right-to-choose advocacy.

NARAL Pro-Choice America published a statement on their website, citing that "Reversing this Bush-era policy means that the world's poorest women may now have access to

vital health services, from prenatal care to contraception."

Despite this huge success for women's health advocates, family planning services and women's health care are still endangered.

Former legislation is still on the table from the Bush Administration— specifically, a rule that was proposed during Bush's final days in office that would allow health care providers to withhold health care information based on their personal morals. This rule would keep many women from obtaining birth control and other family planning services based on the personal val-

ues and biases of their doctors and pharmacists. Additionally, the family planning budget was dropped from President Obama's economic stimulus package.

NARAL Pro-choice is offering easily accessed, editable letter templates for the public to send to President Obama, thanking him for overturning the Gag Rule, urging him to take action against Bush's proposed bill, and ultimately reminding Washington that women's health matters. This opportunity to write to President Obama can be found on the homepage of NARAL Pro-Choice's website at: www.naral.org.

Celebrating Black History Month

Alfred Cotton

Every year during the month of February in America we celebrate Black History Month.

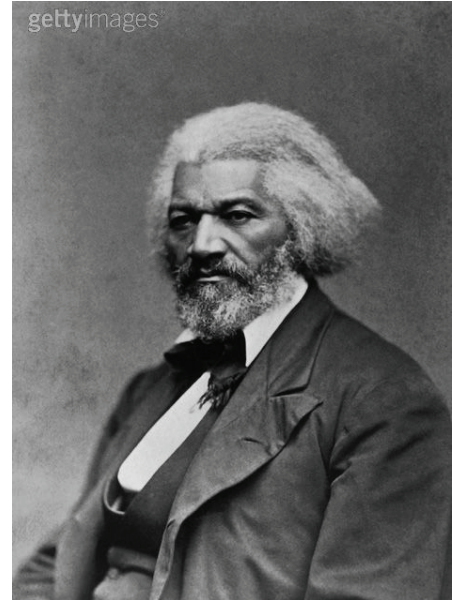
Black History Month is a time of remembrance. It is a time to be mindful of sacrifices made by men and women, sacrifices from which they knew they may not even benefit themselves but they felt the necessity of the struggle. They knew that their situation would not be the situation of their descendants. The struggle was long and arduous; resulting in tragedy and hardship for those who dared stand up to established institutions of subjugation and discrimination that told them they were not worthy of reaping the benefits of a country that was built on their backs.

Rochester plays a significant role in Black History Month due to its role as one of the last stops on the Underground Railroad, and being home to ex-slave and

abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. Because of this history, Rochester encompasses the spirit of Black History Month.

From the Atlantic Passage to Election Day 2008, black history has encompassed the lives and experiences of a variety of courageous individuals striving to bring to fruition the words and ideals upon which this country was founded. These ideals that made and continues to make this country the greatest country in the world were outlined in the founding documents and even when those same documents told them they were not much more than 3/5 of a human, they continued to work to make those words reality.

What we need to take from this month is that we, as Americans are all rooted in this history. Black History is American History in the truest sense of



that statement. From the patriotism of Frederick Douglass to the tragic story of Emmitt Till, Black History tells the triumphs and trials of individuals who are, above all, American.

The Little Theater, located in downtown Rochester, is highlighting February with a “Spotlight on Black History” Series, featuring both fiction and non-fiction based movies that celebrate African American history and experience. The series runs February 13-19, and will feature movie discussions after the films are played. The schedule of movies is posted at: thelittle.org.

Bringing Sex Ed. Back

Students and professional advocates gathered in Albany on January 12th to participate in “Women’s Health Matters: A Day of Action”. Advocates from across the state met at the Legislative Building to meet with state legislators and lobby for family planning funds, with an emphasis on the Healthy Teens Act.

The bill is aimed at establishing age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education funding for schools. This effort would provide grants to districts in need of improved sex education policies due to high pregnancy and STD rates. The bill is

expected to be brought to the floor in the Senate this year.

Family Planning Advocates of New York were responsible for organizing the Day of Action at Albany, and up-to-date information about the HTA can be found on their website, fpaofnys.org.

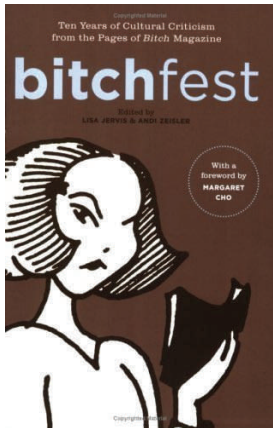
To make your voice heard on the issue of sex ed. without trekking to Albany, visit amplifyyourvoice.org to find the elected official representing your hometown and send him or her a letter requesting an end to abstinence-only funding incentives.

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Following issues of FemEnlist will be primarily online. Look for new issues the first week of each month at the Women's Center's website: www.brockport.edu/womensctr

Chronicling a Decade of Feminist Work: Bitchfest



Bitchfest: Ten Years of Cultural Criticism from the Pages of Bitch Magazine is an unapologetic resource of feminist responses to contemporary issues over the past decade. Often times feisty, introspective, and always culturally critical, Bitchfest presents a collection of some of the most important and provocative articles published in *Bitch* magazine.

Using media and popular culture analysis as the base of most of the articles, the book presents readers with dis-

cussions of sexuality, gender in television, language, and taboos (to name a few), to expose what it means to be a feminist and believe in feminist ideals today.

Bitchfest, edited by Lisa Jervis and Andi Zeisler, can be read in its entirety, or is the perfect book to pick up sporadically to read an article here or there. Either way, the book grapples with the issues facing contemporary feminism, and gives a portrait of third-wave feminist ideals.

Sojourner House Wish List

The Following Items are needed by the Sojourner House, must be new/unused, and can be dropped off with Sarah in the Women's Center:

Household Items:

Extra-long twin sheets
bath towels
wash cloths
standard pillows
first aid supplies

powdered laundry detergent
toilet paper

Personal Items:

Deodorant
tampons and pads
bath soap
disposable razors,
shampoo/conditioner,
Lotion

toothpaste/toothbrushes,
baby lotion
baby soap
baby shampoo, baby wipes

Office Items:

Copy paper,
light bulbs
stamps

The College at Brockport Women's Center

Seymour Student Union
Lower Level 124

Phone: 585-395-5584

E-mail: womensctr@brockport.edu



Educate. Empower. Inform.

The Women's Center advocates for political and social change while providing a safe, welcoming and educational space for members of the College at Brockport community. The Women's Center offers student programming and workshops that are open to all on campus, as well as a wealth of knowledge inside the Center itself. Stop inside to browse the Center's extensive library on topics such as women's history, relationships, careers and health. Internships and volunteer positions are also available at the Women's Center.

For more information, or to get involved, visit the Women's Center, located in the lower level of the Student Union, between 10am and 4pm, Monday through Thursday.

Or, email the Center at womensctr@brockport.edu