

When the body becomes 'something political'

By Madeline Cohen
 ■ The Miscellany News
 Vassar College

Women under the age of 25 represent the first generation of women who have never known life without the option of safe, legal abortion. Many wonder how this affects their views.

So, Wendy Wasserman, a senior at Vassar College, and Veena Cabreros-Sud, a recent Columbia U. graduate, are editing a book they call "a historic blueprint about what our generation feels about reproductive rights."

Wasserman became interested in compiling such a chronicle while working for Representative Pat Schroeder, D-Colo. She then began consulting for Students Organizing Students, a national reproductive-rights activist group.

SOS was formed by students from colleges around the country, including Columbia U. and Rutgers U., who realized that although college-age students statistically have more abortions than any other group, they



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOS

Wendy Wasserman and Veena Cabreros-Sud are co-editing a chronicle about this generation's views on reproductive rights.

are often ignored. The organization is now sponsoring the publication.

The book will consist of writings by college, high school and junior high school students. Wasserman and Cabreros-Sud have been meeting with publishers, generating funds and soliciting articles since last year. Submissions are due by the end of this month.

Wasserman said she is targeting not only average women, but also troubled and underprivileged women by posting requests for articles at homeless shelters and havens for runaways.

"We hope to take the project into the streets," she said, in an effort to create a "completely diverse" picture.

Response so far has been favorable, and the students have received assistance from as far away as Jerusalem, where an Israeli women's network is spreading news of the plans for publication.

The subject of reproductive rights does not just relate to abortion, Wasserman said. "It's a whole gamut of other things," including sex education, pre- and post-natal care, and birth control access.

Those rights, said Cabreros-Sud, include "not just the ability to control your own body, but the right to be able to feed, clothe, house and take care of your children without being penalized because you're a woman."

Along the way to reaching her goals, Wasserman said she hopes to open some eyes and educate the uninformed. "What reproductive rights means to me is that the body becomes something political," she said.

HEALTH BRIEF

Drug may cure bulimia... Students suffering from bulimia may be able to curb their self-destructive behaviors with the help of a U. of Tennessee graduate student conducting research on the eating disorder. Andrew Gotshald is collaborating with psychiatrist Marvin Weninger to test a prescription drug's effects on the physical symptoms of bulimia. The subjects are volunteers from the UT student body. "We're trying out a drug on them which has been out on the market for about 25 years, to see if it will decrease their urge to binge and purge... and see if there is a common psychological makeup of the so-called typical bulimic," Gotshald said. Subjects for the study, who have been bulimic for at least one year, may not receive the drug until the investigation is complete. "We want to see if the drug can help them stop bingeing and purging," Gotshald said. "Bulimia is a serious disorder."

Liability
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catch another football, help another youth, and most importantly, celebrate another holiday with Tashawnda.

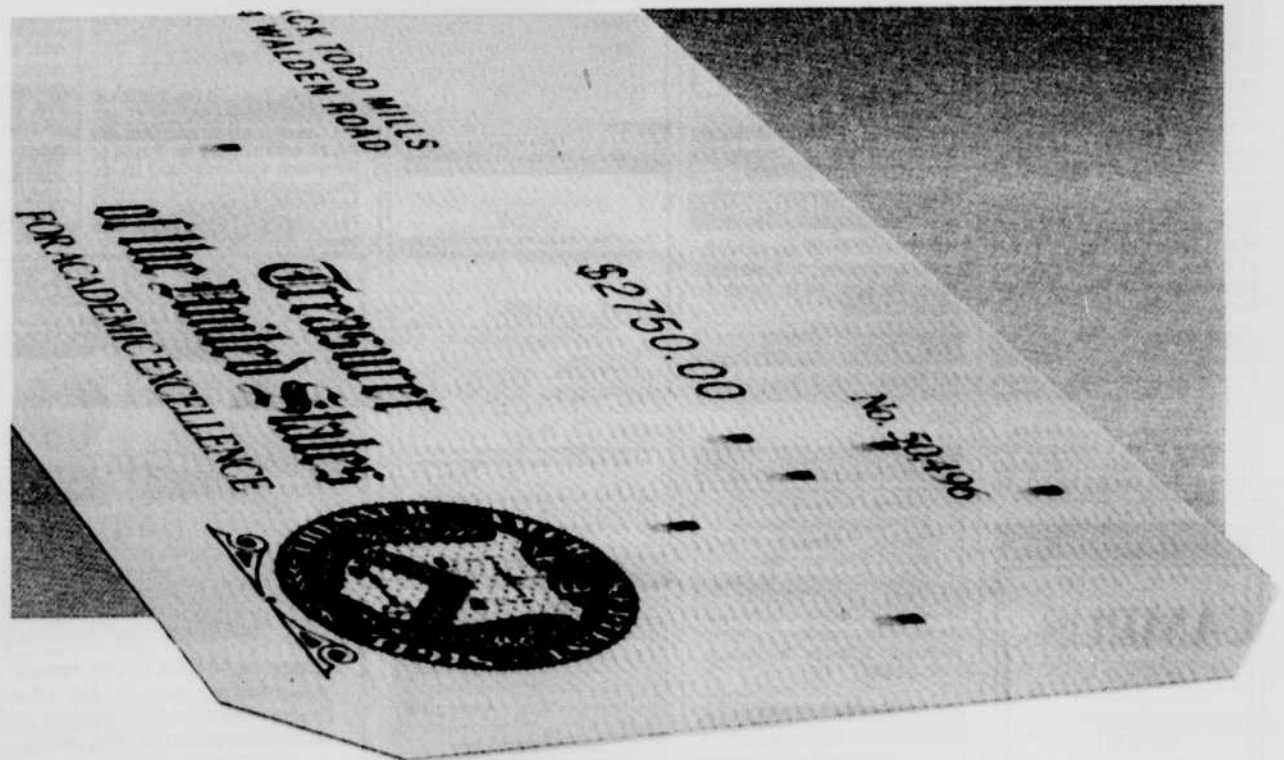
He was also lucky he went to a small school like Long Beach State — a school where winning on the football field doesn't translate into millions of dollars worth of revenue.

But there are others who haven't been so lucky. Loyola Marymount U. basketball player Hank Gathers collapsed on the court last spring and died of a massive heart attack shortly thereafter.

No one was, or probably ever will be, held legally responsible for his death. And maybe no one should be.

But looking back, one has to wonder if winning athletic games (and thus collecting millions of dollars) at larger, Division I universities, such as LMU, has become more important than the safety, and sometimes the lives, of the players themselves.

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