

First FMLA event emphasizes emergency contraceptive awareness

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Staff Writer

The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) is a new group on campus started by Tiffany Stokes. Her second in command is Kassidy Loy, a junior at Meredith, and the faculty advisor for the organization is Dr. Sherry Shapiro. The FMLA held their first on-campus event last Tuesday, March 22, 2005 in the Cate Center to support a new national campaign implemented by the Feminist Majority Foundation: Back Up Your Birth Control Day. Stokes said, "The goal of this event is to spread awareness about emergency contraception: what it means; when you need it; why you should have a prescription on hand; and to clear up some of the miscon-

ceptions about Emergency Contraception (EC)."

Loy added, "I think it's important for women to know about EC because not everyone is on regular birth control. I'm sure there are many women who are sexually active that don't always have condoms. It's important for women to know they have access to a form of birth control other than the traditional methods."

EC is a safe and effective way to prevent pregnancy after unprotected sex and can be taken up to 5 days after sexual intercourse. However, the sooner EC is used, the more effective it is. Stokes said, "there are all sorts of reasons why you would need EC -- the condom breaks; you don't plan to have sex; you're forced to have sex; you miss two or more birth control pills consecutively." EC con-



photo courtesy of Robin Gary

Tiffany Stokes, found of FMLA at Meredith, explains the goals of the Back Up Your Birth Control campaign to a student Tuesday

tains the same active ingredients as hormonal contraceptives and works in the same way. Stokes said, "A common misconception is that EC is the

abortion pill and that when you take it, it will terminate your pregnancy. But if you're already pregnant it will not make you lose the baby." EC cannot interrupt an established pregnancy.

Currently EC is available only by prescription, though there is a movement for making it available over-the-counter. Stokes and Loy planned the event in the hope that it would "start to raise discussion on campus and get people thinking about what our resources are as women on campus and in the community."

Loy added, "We want to get information out to Meredith students about EC, and get the word out that we're starting a feminist club and would like people to join us. This is one of the things that we represent and only one of the events that we'll be doing on campus."

For more information about the FMLA or Emergency Contraception you can contact Stokes at stokesti@meredith.edu.

FMLA sponsors:

BACK UP YOUR BIRTH CONTROL WITH EC



BE PREPARED

TO PROTECT YOURSELF IN CASE:

- ♥ THE CONDOM BREAKS
- ♥ YOU FORGOT TO TAKE YOUR PILL
- ♥ OR, YOU HAD SEX WHEN YOU DIDN'T WANT OR PLAN TO

Using Emergency Contraception Within 120 hours of unprotected sex can prevent pregnancy — but the sooner the better. Ask your healthcare provider about an advance supply of EC (Emergency Contraception).

1-888-NOT-2-LATE
backupyourbirthcontrol.org