

Actress backs women's issues

Promotes march for rights in April

BY ALLISON PARKER STAFF WRITER

Actress and comedienne Janeane Garofalo voiced concern to students across the nation about the lack of support for women's rights during a conference call Tuesday.

The conference was held primarily to promote "The March for Women's Lives," a nationwide march that will be held April 25 in Washington, D.C., to protest government intrusion on women's health and reproductive rights.

Garofalo, who is active in raising awareness for women's rights, said women are not in the forefront of national politics.

"Women's issues fall out of the frame of corporate America," she said. "My reason for getting involved is because women's rights are human rights."

The event is co-sponsored by seven organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the National Organization for Women.

"I believe it will be the largest march for women's rights in the nation and possibly the world," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the organization Feminist Majority.

Smeal said it's important to get as many organizations involved as possible.

"We now have well over one thousand organizations involved," she said. "It's a really broad coalition of groups."

On the local level, Planned Parenthood of Chapel Hill is trying to get people to participate in the march.

"We're engaging community activists and doing campus organizing across the state," said Natalie Fixmer, march coordinator for

Planned Parenthood. To mobilize students, Planned Parenthood is chartering eight buses to carry students and is holding march rallies at campuses across the state, she said. "This is an opportunity for a young generation to stand up for women's rights," Fixmer said.

A march awareness rally will be held at UNC on March 30, during which Kate Michelman, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, will speak.

Educating students on campus is key in raising awareness of important women's issues, said Crystal Lander, college coordinator of the March for Women's Lives.

"The education piece is so important," Lander said. "You have to make it real and affecting and about (students)."

Lander said one way to bring attention to women's issues on campus is through "Did You Know?" campaigns, which give students pertinent statistics, such as the number of unsafe abortions performed each year.

Commanding respect from authority figures in the community and building healthy relationships with them is also important in getting involved, Garofalo said.

"I would like to see students, in general, demand respect from leadership," she said. "I would ask each student why they don't demand the same type of respect with leaders that they do with their roommates."

Garofalo said it is important for men to take part in the rally.

"Women and men need to work together in raising each other up," she said. "It's a hostility towards women we've always had to grapple with."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

4 U.S. missionaries killed in Iraq

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — Four Baptist missionaries looking for a way to bring clean water to northern Iraq died after an attack, their employer said.

David E. McDonnell, 28, of Rowlett, Texas, died Tuesday morning while en route to a military support hospital in Baghdad. His wife, Carrie Taylor McDonnell, 26, is listed in critical condition, the mission board reported.

The other three victims were identified as Larry T. Elliott, 60,

and Jean Dover Elliott, 58, of Cary, N.C.; and Karen Denise Watson, 38, of Bakersfield, Calif.

The Elliots were scouting the best location in Iraq for a water purification project, said Michelle DeVoss of Cary, whose First Baptist Church in the Raleigh suburb was home when the Elliots returned from Honduras, where they had been missionaries since 1978.

U.S. Lt. Col. Joseph Piek, spokesman for U.S. forces in Mosul, said in an e-mail message

that the victims were traveling Monday in a car on the eastern side of Mosul when they were attacked. A Pentagon spokesman didn't immediately return calls Tuesday seeking additional comment. The four died from bullet and shell fragment wounds from automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades, according to the mission board's Web site.

The Elliots are survived by two sons, one in the Raleigh area, and a daughter in Texas, DeVoss said.

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