

Mass Dissent

Massachusetts Chapter

National Lawyers Guild

14 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108

March 2012

www.nlgmass.org

Vol. 35, No. 2

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ANNUAL MEETING

March 20, 5:30 pm

**14 Beacon St., 1st Fl.
Boston**

International Women's Day

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. Established in Germany in 1911, the holiday spread across the world as a day to reflect on women's affairs and acknowledge women's achievements. International Women's Day is now recognized and celebrated around the world.

To join in the recognition, we devote our March issue of *Mass Dissent* to women in the contemporary world, their triumphs, obstacles, and goals in pursuit of equality. Admittedly, we've come a long way since 1911 - 21st century women do have rights that were not even envisioned 100 years ago. However, there are still social and political forces that do not rest in their attempts to subject women to differential treatment in public and private spheres. The never-ending obstacles put forth by men in power continue to inhibit the growth and progress of women everywhere. A recent example is Congress' attempt to pass two bills which would give health care providers an option to opt-out of providing health services, particularly those related to reproductive rights, on "moral" grounds. These kind of attempts should serve as a wake-up call and keep us alert to threats to the equality women have earned over the years.

Through this issue's articles, we strive to portray the struggles and accomplishments of today's women.

Heather Ward, a new attorney and Guild member, in "Overcoming Ourselves," gives us her perspective on what female attorneys encounter when they enter the lawyering profession and run their own law practice.

Kendra Williams, an activist with Occupy Boston (OB) opens the doors for us into OB Women's Caucus and how women work with and contribute to the movement.

In "Stand Against Teachers," **Jennifer Berkshire** tells us about the right-wings' push to eliminate existing protections for teachers, especially older female teachers.

Lydia Edwards's article gives us an update on a very successful campaign in support of rights for domestic workers.

Anna Siembor reports on steps local students are taking to fight chauvinists of the Barstool Sports phenomenon.

We end this issue with **Jennifer Doe's** report from a fight Verizon's women are leading against the corporation's attempts to cut benefits.

One thing is for sure - women of today are far from being idle.

- Editors -

**NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
Massachusetts Chapter, Inc.**

14 Beacon St., Suite 407
Boston, MA 02108
tel.: 617-227-7335 • fax: 617-227-5495
nlgmass@igc.org • nlgmass-director@igc.org
www.nlgmass.org

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Mass Dissent (ISSN 0887-8536) is published monthly except January, May, July and August by the National Lawyers Guild, Mass. Chapter, 14 Beacon St., Suite 407, Boston, MA 02108. Second-class postage paid at Boston, MA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Mass Dissent*, NLG, 14 Beacon St., Suite 407, Boston, MA 02108.

Join a Guild Committee

Street Law Clinic Project: The Street Law Clinic project provides workshops for Massachusetts organizations that address legal needs of various communities. Legal education workshops on 4th Amendment Rights (Stop & Search), Landlord/Tenant Disputes, Workers' Rights, Civil Disobedience Defense, Bankruptcy Law, Foreclosure Prevention Law, and Immigration Law are held at community organizations, youth centers, labor unions, shelters, and pre-release centers. If you are a Guild attorney, law student, or legal worker interested in leading a workshop, please contact the project at 617-723-4330 or nlgmass-slc@igc.org.

Lawyer Referral Service Panel (LRS): Members of the panel provide legal services at reasonable rates. Referral Service Administrative/Oversight Committee members: Neil Berman, Neil Burns, Joshua Goldstein, Jeremy Robin, and Azizah Yasin. For more information, contact the Referral Service Coordinator at 617-227-7008 or nlgmass@igc.org.

Foreclosure Prevention Task Force: Created in June 2008, the Task Force's goal is threefold: (1) advocate for policies that address issues that homeowners and tenants of foreclosed houses face, (2) to provide legal assistance to these homeowners and tenants, *and* (3) to conduct legal clinics for them. If you are interested in working with the Task Force, please call the office at 617-227-7335.

Mass Defense Committee: Consists of two sub-committees: (1) "Legal Observers" (students, lawyers, activists) who are trained to serve as legal observers at political demonstrations *and* (2) "Mass Defense Team" (criminal defense attorneys) who represent activists arrested for political activism. To get involved, please contact the office at 617-227-7335.

Litigation Committee: Established in 2010, the Committee brings civil lawsuits against large institutions (such as government agencies, law enforcement, banks, financial institutions, and/or large corporations) that engage in repressive or predatory actions that affect large numbers of people and that serve to perpetuate social, racial and/or economic injustice or inequality. To get involved, please contact the Guild office.

NLG National Immigration Project: Works to defend and extend the human and civil rights of all immigrants, both documented and undocumented. The Committee works in coalitions with community groups to organize support for immigrant rights in the face of right-wing political attacks. For more information contact the NLG National Immigration Project at 617-227-9727.

NLG Military Law Task Force: Provides legal advice and assistance to those in the military and to others, especially members of the GIRights Hotline, who are counseling military personnel on their rights. It also provides legal support and helps to find local legal referrals when needed. For advice and information, GI's can call 877-447-4487. To get involved, please contact Neil Berman (njberman2@juno.com) or Marguerite Helen (mugsm@mindspring.com).

GUILD NEWS

NLG HAPPY HOURS

We hope you will join us this month for our **monthly NLG Happy Hour**. On the second Wednesday of each month, we rotate "Mentorship" Happy Hour with *"NLG Presents..."*. Please see below for details about our next event. If you have an idea for a presentation topic or would like to be a speaker, please call the Guild office at 617-227-7335.

Chapter Board of Directors and Chapter Officers. We are accepting nominations for the Board until March 6th. If you would like to serve on the Board or nominate another Guild member, please call the Guild office (617-227-7335) or go to our website (www.nlgmass.org).

NLG ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 20, 5:30pm (14 Beacon St., Conference Room, 1st Fl.)**. At the meeting, we will conduct elections of the

GUILD GALA

This year's Annual Fundraiser will be held on **Friday, May 11, 6:00 pm**, at **Villa Victoria** in Boston. At the event we will celebrate achievements of **Carol Steinberg, David Grossman, Robert Sable, Occupy Boston Legal Working Group & NLG OB Mass Defense Committee, Lauren Marcous, and Marianne Tassone**. For more details, please see page 4.

Street Law Clinic Report

The following clinics and trainings were conducted for members of Boston area community organizations and agencies:

February 15: *Immigration Law* clinic at Cambridge Community Services, by **Anthony Keber**.

February 16: *Workers' Rights* training for Northeastern law students, by **Mark Stern**.

NLG INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

RETREAT

March 31–April 1, 2012
Northeastern Univ. School of Law

To register:
<http://nlginternational.eventbrite.com/>

For more information:
Charlotte Kates: international@nlg.org

"NLG Presents..." Happy Hour

Massachusetts' New "Three Strikes" Sentencing Laws

An evening with

**BARB DOUGAN, JAMARHL CROWFORD
& TATUM PRITCHARD**

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
6:00 – 8:00 pm
Red Hat Cafe
9 Bowdoin St., Boston

As many states are easing prison overcrowding with policies that promote treatment and re-entry, Massachusetts is set to move in the opposite direction with tougher "three strikes" legislation. **Barb Dougan** (Families Against Mandatory Minimums), **Jamarhl Crawford** (Blackstonian/ Occupy the Hood) and **Tatum Pritchard** (Prisoners Legal Services) will report on how we got to this point, how activists - led by communities of color - organized against the bills, and (perhaps by March) what a final bill says.

ARTICLES FOR MASS DISSENT

The April issue of *Mass Dissent* will focus on international issues.

If you are interested in submitting an article, essay, analysis, or art work (cartoons, pictures) related to the topic, please e-mail your work to nlgmass-director@igc.org.

The deadline for articles is March 15.

"Guild Gala" - NLG Annual Celebration

We are thrilled to announce that this year the NLG Massachusetts Chapter will honor a group of extraordinary legal professionals for their achievements and contributions to the struggle for a better world. The Lawyer Award will go to **Carol Steinberg** and **David Grossman**, Lifetime Achievement Award to **Robert Sable**, Legal Worker Award to **Occupy Boston Legal Working Group** and the **NLG Mass Defense Committee**, and Student Award to **Lauren Marcous** and **Marianne Tassone**.

The Guild Gala will be on **Friday, May 11**.

Carol Steinberg, a long-time Guild member, has been a civil trial attorney handling disability employment cases, plaintiff's personal injury, and toxic tort cases for over 30 years.

David Grossman is the Director of the Harvard legal Aid Bureau. For years, David has worked with local organizations to help prevent displacement of tenants and homeowners following foreclosure.

Robert Sable was Executive Director of Greater Boston Legal Services for 20 years. He freed GBLS from federal restrictions on the types of representation GBLS could undertake.

Occupy Boston Legal Working Group and NLG Mass Defense Committee have worked countless hours delivering essential legal assistance to the Occupy Movement: conducting trainings on *Know Your Rights*, providing legal observers, filing lawsuits, and representing activists arrested or harassed by the police.

Lauren Marcous is a 3rd year student at Western New England School of Law. She has played a significant role in the anti-foreclosure/anti-eviction movement in Western Massachusetts.

Marianne Tassone will graduate in May from Boston University School of Law. She has played a major role in building BU's NLG chapter and coalitions with other student groups.

Student Corner

BOSTON UNIVERSITY - Reported by Marianne Tassone

BU NLG is working with Knock Out Barstool, a student-led campaign against Blackout Barstool Sports, to provide legal support to curtail Barstool. Barstool hosts "blackout" themed parties and perpetuates rape-culture through its website. BU NLG is also spearheading an effort with other student organizations to implement gender neutral bathrooms, housing, and other accommodations throughout BU.

UMASS DARTMOUTH - Reported by Sky Swett

UMass Dartmouth NLG has been recognized by the Student Bar Association as an official registered student group. Also, there is a Stop & Search Clinic planned next month.

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - Reported by Lindsay Vick

In January, the RWU NLG Chapter co-sponsored a Tribute to John Hardiman and Community Oriented Defense.

In March, we are planning:

- Spelling Bee Fundraiser at Wood Street Café in Bristol.
- Student Day Against the Death Penalty (March 1), an event with photo journalist Scott Langley. Also, a protest will be held against the current legislation to reinstitute the death penalty.
- Sending nine NLG students to the Annual Robert M. Cover Public Interest Law Retreat in Peterborough, NH.
- Panel on Factory Farming.

NLG Mentorship Happy Hour



Happy Hour presenters (l.-r.) Laura Alfring, Hillary Farber, Susan Church, and Makis Antzoulatos.
(Photo by Urszula Masny-Latos)

The February Mentorship Happy Hour was led by four fabulous criminal defense attorneys, Laura Alfring, Makis Antzoulatos, Susan Church, and Hillary Farbar, who discussed various career options that law students have if they are interested in criminal law. The careers ranged from solo practitioner to public defender to youth attorney to law professor.

Overcoming Ourselves: Challenges Facing Females Entering the Legal Profession Today

by Heather M. Ward

I entered the legal profession in 2008. Like almost every other law graduate at the time, I struggled initially to find any job, let alone landing the job that I had dreamed of since I was a little kid. You see, I wanted to be a civil rights lawyer. In particular, I wanted to pursue gender and race discrimination cases.

But then, the economy tanked. Law firms in Boston that handled civil rights litigation were laying-off attorneys, not hiring them. State agencies such as the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination that were dedicated to “preventing and eradicating discrimination in the Commonwealth” were on a hiring freeze. Newly minted male and female attorneys alike found themselves in a position not many new attorneys experienced before: unemployment.

Of course, young female attorneys have faced employment quandaries in the past. When female lawyers entered the profession on a more mainstream basis several decades ago, even the best of us faced hardships with landing a job. I remember hearing Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor recounting her story of how, when she graduated law school, no one wanted to hire her as an attorney because of her gender. We all know how that story turns out. Back to the present, it was the economy that initially stunted my ability to find employment as a litigator, not my gender.

Although I do not currently practice civil rights law, I have found my niche in family law. I realized that in this economy, in order to practice law professionally and not be a

“slave to the man,” I needed to go out and hang my own shingle, as they say. I tired of waiting for the perfect dream job to fall in my lap. That was just not realistic. I needed to get out there and create my own dream job. I have never relied on a man for anything in the past, so why should employment be any different? It is this mental hurdle as a young female lawyer that was the hardest to overcome to get to where I am today.

Being your own boss is incredibly liberating and rewarding. I soon befriended a handful of other female litigators. I found that more experienced female lawyers enjoy mentoring younger women and become a resource. Moreover, I find that female lawyers do not play the same games as male lawyers when it comes to seeking guidance. For example, when a female colleague offers me legal advice, I know she is doing it for genuine reasons. Unless I have a pre-existing professional relationship with my male colleagues, when one offers me his “help,” he is often just trying to score a date and pass it off as professional assistance.

Today the courtroom is still primarily filled with male attorneys. I am happy to report, however, that in Probate & Family Court, female attorneys are more common to see than in other courts where I practice. Unlike my female predecessors, I believe that the overt sexism that existed in the courtroom decades ago is rare to find in the Commonwealth. Generally speaking, I receive the same respect in court from male judges and opposing counsel as I do from my sisters. Although women have had the ability to practice law for decades now, many choose not to for one reason or another. Even in 2012, many

female attorneys choose to practice for several years and then go on a hiatus from the field to raise children or tend to their family. Of course, many women leave the practice after becoming burnt out from the profession. Many mid- and large-sized firms expect their associates to work hours on end. One colleague of mine, a young female second-year associate at a large Boston law firm, has told me that she considers herself burnt out. And rightly so. She works 80 hours a week. I am inclined to believe that this expectation of “job performance” also existed in the 1960's and 1970's. The difference now is that, if one loses her job at a firm, it may be months before she becomes employed elsewhere. As we all know, employment for attorneys is far from guaranteed today.

The only way we women are going to be able to increase our presence in the legal profession is to encourage and mentor one another. Women have the reputation: that we compete with one another. However, the only way we will succeed in a profession still dominated by men is to support one another as we move forward and cheer on everyone's success. The legal profession has forever changed recently. No longer can one's alma mater or prestigious internship guarantee success as an attorney. You will find that your network of female attorney colleagues and friends will be an invaluable asset to your success in the future.

Heather Ward is a solo practitioner in Boston. She joined the Guild in 2011 and now serves on the Lawyer Referral Service Committee.

Women in Occupy Boston

by Kendra Williams

One of the most starkly disturbing images early in the Occupy Wall Street uprising was a short YouTube video documenting several young women being corralled by NYPD police. The women were compliant with the officers' requests and did not resist their detainment when they were suddenly and unexpectedly attacked with pepper spray. The image made its unintended impact as it was broadcast throughout the world, and within hours the woman's role in the OWS movement was firmly cemented in the minds of the public eye.

Women had proven that they were ready and willing to wage the class struggle and take the most serious of hits right alongside their male comrades. The subsequent public outcry only served to strengthen and broaden the focus of the ranks of the unemployed and dispossessed. The rapid and disgusting dismantling of civil liberties under an increasingly brutal police state was once again on the front pages. Law enforcement's clear role was again firmly established as protecting the rights of the untaxed 1% at the expense of the taxed-to-death, unprotected and underserved 99%. These peaceful and heroic women would become leaders of a rallying cry against the growing oppressiveness of the unethical and brutal protectors of the rich and undeterred minions of the new and improved police state.

The role of women at the Occupy Boston encampment was complete with many of the same triumphs and trials experienced in the New York movement. While women have actively participated

on the front lines of OB and OWS, they have struggled at times to have their voices respected. Many women and men arrived at Dewey Square with pastoral motives of helping the poor while shaming the rich. Simple acts such as feeding the local activists and finding clothing for the homeless were attended to by both women and men of all creeds, races and classes. However, early on, when members of the camp were asked where the

women at OB was that no slight of gender went unchallenged.

Occupy Boston has been characterized as one of the most disciplined and organized of the Occupy sites across the country and has served as a model to other encampments pre- and post-removal by law enforcement. With women occupying every area of the camp from Facilitation, Direct Action, Media, Legal Support and Legal Observers, Medics, Mental Health, Food,



Occupy Boston activists join Occupy Boston Women's Caucus in a march in November 2011, under a watchful eyes of NLG legal observers (*right*).

women were at OB, the problematic answer was given, that they were ALL working at the Food Tent. This became an early incident detailing wider society's sexist presence within the movement. While the more mature women understood the dynamics of Glass Ceiling politics, there was clear surprise that blatant chauvinism was fostered at the soundly de-establishmentarian camp.

Attempts to pigeonhole women to the side-lines were not taken lying down. The less enlightened men of Occupy Boston quickly understood that they had surely taken tigers by the tail. The unspoken and unbroken rule of the

Information, Education, Safety and so forth, the true message of a progressive camp and inclusive movement was firmly established and practiced early on. Recognizing a clear lack of ethnic diversity, women worked as philosophical and ethical guides in establishing the much needed Anti-Oppression group to detail specific remedies for racism, sexism and homophobia within the camp and wider society.

As reported at the OWS site, several sexual predators openly roamed Zuccotti Park, and not surprisingly several men and women were raped at the hands

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Stand Against Teachers: How a Misleading Ballot Question Targets Outspoken Teachers

by Jennifer C. Berkshire

In November, Massachusetts residents will be asked to vote on a ballot question backed by a group called, deceptively, Stand for Children. But critics of the organization, which is bankrolled by Bain Capital and the Walmart family foundation, say that a more accurate name might be Stand Against Teachers. If it wins the backing of voters—and polls indicate that passage is likely—the controversial measure would gut workplace protections for educators and open the door to school personnel decisions that are economically—and politically—motivated.

What does a complex ballot initiative on school hiring and firing have to do with women's issues? Plenty, it turns out. In Massachusetts, as in most other states, the teaching force is overwhelmingly female. Three out of four teachers in the Commonwealth are women. The state's teaching force is also experienced; nearly 40 percent of educators here are 49 years old or older. Should voters approve the initiative, school administrators would no longer have to use a teacher's experience as a determining factor when deciding who to keep and who to let go. And that opens the door to age discrimination, argues Haidee Morris, who serves as general counsel for American Federation of Teachers, Massachusetts, which represents some 20,000 educators, primarily in the urban public schools.

Morris warns that the language of the Stand for Children initiative provides subtle encouragement for administrators to

replace more experienced teachers with younger, cheaper educators. Says Morris: "If experience is no longer considered a measure of merit and ability, then decisions regarding who to hire and who to let go can easily be clouded by self-interest, prejudice against older workers, and economic factors which make less experienced teachers cheaper to employ than more experienced teachers."

Morris maintains that the Stand for Children initiative reflects a distorted—but increasingly widespread view—that in teaching, experience is a detriment rather than an asset. A recent Boston Globe editorial lamented that, in an age of layoffs, "young, talented teachers" could lose their positions to "veteran teachers." In fact, in the hotly-charged debate over the best way to turn struggling schools around, experienced teachers are routinely characterized as "burnt out," "lazy," and "out of touch," as compared to their younger colleagues, who are depicted as eager, tireless and selflessly dedicated to closing the achievement gap. According to this argument, the best way to improve the public education system is to eliminate the rights of its teachers.

Morris argues that by minimizing the role of relevant experience in good teaching, the teaching profession as a whole is being diminished. "Are lawyers and doctors with less relevant experience more valuable than those with years of practice to draw upon? In what other profession does relevant experience make one a less valuable professional?"

Educators warn that that Stand for Children initiative would

also place a target on the backs of outspoken teachers, including union activists, critics of corporate education reform, and those who are willing to challenge authority in order to advocate for their students.

Ann O'Halloran taught in Boston and Newton for more than three decades and was named Massachusetts History Teacher of the Year in 2007. In the latter years of her career, O'Halloran became an outspoken critic of the increasing emphasis on MCAS within the public schools. She fears that by stripping teachers of workplace protections, the Stand for Children initiative punishes educators who are willing to criticize education policies they believe are harmful.

"Experienced teachers are less compliant than those who are just starting out. They're not afraid to speak up about what's happening in our schools even if they have to be a thorn in the side of an administrator," says O'Halloran, who now works with the advocacy group Citizens for Public Schools. And with nearly two thirds of new teachers leaving the profession within the first five years of their careers, O'Halloran argues that the mentoring role of experienced teachers is more essential than ever. "If I hadn't been guided by veteran teachers early on in my own career, I would have been out the door," says O'Halloran.

In recent months, opposition to the Stand for Children measure has grown steadily. The Massachusetts Teachers Association has filed a lawsuit on behalf of seven plaintiffs, including three former teachers of the year, urging the Supreme

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The Help is on the Move in Massachusetts

by Lydia Edwards

Women's month is a celebration of all things that women have done internationally to make this world a better place. Essentially, it's a time to celebrate "women's work." It is also a time to reflect on how far we have to go to assure that there is true gender equality in the world. Today, domestic workers are still seen as "the help" doing "women's work," and as a result are not respected or protected like "real" workers, deserving of bargaining rights, anti-discrimination protection, overtime or minimum wage.

In Massachusetts, one of the first states to have anti-discrimination laws adopted in 1945, domestic workers were excluded from the very start. Today, there are many instances of underpayment due to the state's lack of definition of a working hour for those living in the homes of their employers. All of this stems from the view that taking care of children, cleaning houses or attending to the needs of adults in someone's home is not really "working." This not only affects American born domestic worker but also leaves many immigrant women exposed to exploitation. For example, wide spread exploitation of domestic workers in the Brazilian community is a result of older Brazilian women with English skills, using "helpers" to clean 8-10 houses a day. The women, also known as "schedule owners," refuse to pay by the hour, do not pay overtime, and fire helpers who become pregnant. However, few people outside (including those who have Brazilian

house cleaners) are aware this is happening

The Massachusetts Coalition of Domestic Workers (McDW) has been busy, building bases in several communities to debunk the myth that "women's work" is not real work. McDW's goal is to bring about a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights in Massachusetts. The movement is growing on a daily basis. The Brazilian Immigrant Center, for example, regularly holds workshops at churches in the Brazilian immi-



Participants of "Sol Training" - quarterly training sessions for domestic workers and organizers from around the country.

grant community to help inform workers of their rights. McDW representatives from the Brazilian Immigrant Center and Matahari have given talks at the Chinese Progressive Association and with the Boston New Sanctuary Movement.

On June 2, 2012, over one hundred domestic workers will host a Domestic Worker Convention wherein they will make a list of the basic rights and protections domestic workers should have in Massachusetts. This list will ultimately become a guide for the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights. This convention will be the first of its kind and will partner with the Caring Across Generations national campaign that will provide a pathway to citizenship, train domestic workers in

home health care, and provide a tax credit for families, all with the goal of filling the care gap while helping to create good quality jobs.

In addition to the Convention, the Brazilian Immigrant Center, a leading member of McDW, formed the nation's first Domestic Worker Law and Policy Clinic. The Clinic provides free legal representation for domestic workers who were exploited, sexually harassed or injured on the job. The Clinic also writes sample contracts for workers and helps train them in negotiation. In addition, the Clinic will take on precedent-setting cases that will challenge the current laws or provide much needed definition from the courts whenever possible. Along with direct legal representation, the Clinic created and is spearheading a mediation project that will train domestic workers and employ-

ers of domestic workers in the co-mediation model. After receiving training, they will work together to help resolve workplace disputes for other domestic workers and their families or employers. This is intended to bring employers into the movement right away to support a domestic worker bill of rights. Many of the participants will learn about the law for the first time and will be able to disseminate vital information to other employers. This project is intended to meet the unique needs of the work place of domestic workers that often includes their living space and close relationships (almost familial) with their clients or their clients' children or parents. Mediation provides a method for resolution of legal and contractual

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Knock out Barstool!

by Anna Siembor

It's not always easy to be a feminist student activist. Sexism is rampant within university culture, and opposition to feminist causes can easily veer off into the personal and the threatening. However, this does not mean that feminist causes are ineffective within a college sphere.

Barstool Sports is a popular sports blog that operates on a simple model: sports/smut. It covers local sports and news in cities like Boston, Philly and NYC, with an emphasis on sarcasm and attractive women. Reoccurring features like "Guess that Ass" and "Grading the Newest Sex Scandal Teacher" show a dedication to portraying women as objects instead of people. The main audience for Barstool is young twenty-something men, especially those in college.

The "Barstool Blackout Tour" is a traveling blacklight party hosted by Dave Portnoy (El Presidente), the founder of Barstool Sports. The Blackout Tour stops at college campuses throughout the northeast. One of these parties was hosted for Northeastern University students at the House of Blues. Barstool Sports touts these parties as the ultimate college bash, stating "we don't condone rape of any kind at our Blackout Parties in mid-January. However, if a chick passes out that's a grey area though."

As students, we vehemently disagreed with Barstool's attitude towards women and sexual assault. We wanted our school to disaffiliate with Barstool in any way possible to prove that Northeastern was willing to take a strong stand against rape and sexual assault. Three students

got together to discuss what could be done to bring attention to this issue. It was at that meeting that the name "Knockout Barstool" was conceived. That evening, an editorial for the school newspaper was written and a Tumblr was made. The next afternoon, the Tumblr was posted on the Barstool Sports website with the express purpose of making fun of us and attempting to shut down our movement before it had a chance to begin. We refused to back down; instead, we were vocal about the insults and threats we had received. Knockout Barstool grew quickly (both in support and opposition) after being posted on Barstool Sports.

Much of the growth was due to our use of social media; many people contacted us through Twitter, Tumblr, and Facebook asking how they could be involved. A Twitter movement pairing the hashtags "#northeastern" and "#rape" was extremely successful in gaining the attention of the university. Most of our organizing was done through deliberation of tasks on our hidden facebook group, where we were able to reach a wider audience and garner support not just from Northeastern students, but also from students at BU, BC, Emerson, Tufts, UMass, Simmons, and from members of Occupy Boston.

The rally and speak out were held on February 2nd, the day of the Northeastern Blackout Party. Over two hundred people attended, representing universities all over Boston and the greater New England area, as well as high school-aged supporters. Survivors of rape and sexual assault talked about their personal experiences and reaffirmed the

power of Knockout Barstool. Because of the movement, these survivors no longer felt alone. Instead, they were empowered by the movement to combat the attitude that rape is a joke.

We marched to House of Blues (the site of the Blackout party), with the help of the National Lawyers Guild. Walking through the streets, yelling chants like "Whose bodies? Our bodies!" we became one powerful voice. We chanted outside the House of Blues for an hour and a half, making our opinion heard.

Since the night of the rally, support has only grown. There are now anti-Barstool protests forming at Boston College and Boston University, and an anti-Barstool editorial was recently posted in the University of New Hampshire student newspaper. Our next steps as Northeastern students will be to move away from Barstool Sports and tackle the greater issue of rape culture. We've already hosted a teach-in on rape culture that featured a panel of professors, students and volunteers from community organizations. We want to raise awareness of the issue of sexual assault on our campus and move towards a culture wherein these issues are not silenced.

Since Knockout Barstool began, there has been a greater emphasis on direct action as an activist tactic at Northeastern. We've created a community of dedicated, passionate students who now see that their work can create real change. We're going to continue fighting for what we believe in: a safe and equal university culture for all.

Anna Siembor is an English/Linguistics student in her junior year at Northeastern University.

Fighting Verizon's Attack on Working Women

by Jennifer Doe

Women make up a large portion of the workforce at phone companies, like Verizon, previously Bell Telephone. It was through collective bargaining with the company that many women earned their own pensions, health care, and paychecks. These advances over the past 50 years allowed women to have independence from their families and demand equality in their workplaces and homes. Women workers also negotiated antidiscrimination policies, childcare stipends, affordable health care, protections for domestic violence survivors' sick days, and flexibility. As a result, Verizon has been named the #1 workplace for working women two years in a row.

Unfortunately Verizon wants to change that, demanding deep cuts in many of the benefits and protections that made the workplace so great. As a result, 45,000 CWA and IBEW members struck Verizon Communications and Verizon Wireless on August 6th, 2011. They ended their 2-week strike and returned to work when Verizon agreed to respect a meaningful collective bargaining process. However, Verizon is still seeking extraordinary concessions from its workers, especially women.

Women are fighting back and will be holding actions across the



Verizon workers and their supporters outside a speaking engagement by the Verizon CFO Fran Shammo in August 2011.

state at Verizon Wireless stores on Thursday, March 8th in honor of International Women's Day. We hope that you will check in with your local Jobs with Justice chapter on how you can help.

Jennifer Doe is an organizer with Massachusetts Jobs with Justice.

Women in Occupy Boston

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of fellow "activists." It was the call to action of women within the encampment to demand justice in the camp, including women only tents, to assure the beginnings of protection for some of the female occupants. Later, harassment incidents and on-going problems with sexist mentalities towards women led to the funding of a "Women's Only" tent at Occupy Boston.

Only three percent of CEO's in American corporations are women. The 1% definitely continues to hold the reins of power in terms of economic and social control, despite the many levels of progress made within the Women's Movement. Many OB participants found themselves facing the same struggles with offering time, resources and energy to

the movement. Women were also largely responsible for the upkeep of the home and the raising of children, leaving less time to actively engage in the myriad of on-going OB activist activities.

In spite of many serious and petty squabbles and in the face of faltering ranks, the women are actively engaged in representing the whole of the 99%. They continue to fight the good fight of the everyday struggles and triumphs associated with the rumblings of this new era in American politics. The OWS and OB message will include the input of many strong and determined women and men who are dedicating their lives to addressing the ongoing income disparity and the ramped up attacks on the civil rights of peaceful protestors and fed up Americans.

Despite the merry-go-round of drama, action, and intrigue within the Occupy Movement, one thing is visibly clear. There is strength in numbers and the people united can never be defeated. A Sleeping Giant has been awakened. The notion that a small group of people, those four brave women in NYC's Financial District, would arouse sleepwalking America, was beyond the scope of anyone's imagination. The women of Occupy Boston will persist in addressing the needs of the 99% and working as an authentically evolving and inclusive community, of the people, by the people and for the people.

Kendra Williams is a native of Detroit and an active participant in Occupy Boston.

NLG Massachusetts Chapter Sustainers

In the spring of 2003, the Massachusetts Chapter of the NLG initiated the Chapter Sustainer Program. Since its inception, the Program has been very successful and has been enthusiastically joined by the following Guild members:

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- join the "Guild Circle" and pay \$50/month minimum.

Please mail to: NLG, Massachusetts Chapter
14 Beacon St., Suite 407, Boston, MA 02108

Stand Against Teachers

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Judicial Court to bar the measure from the November ballot on the grounds that it violates the state constitution. Education leaders in the Deval Patrick administration have also gone on record opposing the ballot question, along with school committee members and PTA leaders from across the state.

But Stand has the budget to wage a major fight—the group is said to have amassed more than \$20 million from its corporate and foundation backers for just this purpose—and already, misleading ads demanding “A Great Teacher in Every Classroom” carpet Facebook and other social media sites. Stand for Children also has political momentum on its side. Ironically the group got its start in Massachusetts as an advocate for improved funding for the state’s public schools. Today, though, Stand for Children embraces a corporate vision of education reform, one that undermines the contribution of experienced teachers and shreds the rights of all educators.

Jennifer C. Berkshire edits the Advocate for American Federation of Teachers, Massachusetts. Send comments or questions to jberkshire@aftma.net.

The Help is on the Move

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issues, and has proven to be an ideal setting for many families and domestic workers.

This spring, the Clinic, along with Northeastern University School of Law, will be producing the state’s first manual for domestic workers and their employers. Along with explaining the basic legal rights of the workers and legal obligations of employers, such as paying overtime and having workers’ compensation insurance for domestic workers working at least 16 hours in their homes, the manual will provide sample contracts and will be translated into several languages to assure its accessibility.

Lydia Edwards heads the Domestic Worker Law and Policy Clinic at the Brazilian Immigrant Center in Allston.

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