

YOUNG

PEOPLE

FOR

A PROGRAM OF



# (YP4) e-Update!

Volume 2, Issue 6

YP4 e-Update!

May 3, 2006

## Program Highlights

### It's been an exciting few weeks at Young People For...

Two of our Fellows, **Monique Gillum** and **Gabe Pendas**, were among the four leaders of a sit-in to demand justice for Martin Lee Anderson, a 14-year-old boy killed at a Florida boot camp. Additional information on this story can be found in the **Alumni News** section below. **Monique and Gabe, we're proud of your work!**

Our first YP4 Future Defender of Democracy is born! **Sarah Alvarez** and her husband **Ian** welcomed little **Marianna** into the world this weekend. Sarah is now on maternity leave and will come back to the team part time on June 1st. Congratulations Sarah!

Congratulations to **TJ Helmstetter**, who is the new Chair of the YP4 LBB Editorial Board! TJ will be leaving YP4 as an intern this summer to work on Senator Menendez's campaign team in New Jersey throughout the summer and possibly into the fall! We will miss you TJ—but we're excited you're staying connected through the Editorial Board and through the FLLA Class of 2007.

Prepare to welcome **Jessyca Dudley**, who will be joining our team June 15th as the Training and Research Associate. Jessyca is from Skidmore College and will be focused on developing partnerships to create the training curriculum for the Summit and Regional Conferences, working with the LBB Editorial Board Chair, TJ Helmstetter, to produce LBBs, as well as to develop trainings for the Fellowship Department as they manage the Blueprints for Social Justice.

### Stay tuned for more great things from Young People For!

#### —The Team at Young People For:

*Iara, Sarah, Shaunna, Rachel, Shawn, Jessie, Robert, TJ, Joanna, Katherine, Jennifer and Kelly*

**New & Improved  
YP4 Initiatives**

**The Front Lines Leadership Academy (FLLA)**

### Right Wing Watch On Campus

*From the YP4 research team, here are some highlights from the latest Right Wing Watch On Campus. ([view the complete Right Wing Watch](#))*

#### **Students for Academic**

**Freedom** reports that the Princeton undergraduate body has approved a "**Student Bill of Rights**"—loosely based on conservative author David Horowitz's **academic** and **student** "bills of rights", which actually seeks to censor professors' speech in the classroom. The bill, crafted by the College Republicans, passed with a slim majority of 51.8 percent of the student vote. The Daily Princetonian had **urged** students to vote "no" on the proposed measure, calling its wording "vague" and "confusing." **Read the full article.**

#### **College Republicans Gone Wild**

The College Republicans at Arizona State University have just wrapped up their second annual "Conservative Pride Week" at the school. Events included a "Conservative Coming-Out Day," an "Anti-United Nations Day" where students tossed water balloons at a picture of U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, and a "Border Security Si Se Puede" day to protest illegal immigration. "Academic Diversity and Political Incorrectness Day" featured a

Congratulations to the 20 young progressive leaders accepted to this brand new leadership development program! Students will learn from activists, young elected officials and professional trainers about the political process, running for office and working on political campaigns. Their first of four trainings will take place in Phoenix from May 12–13.

**Elizabeth Camuti, 2006 Fellow**  
**Adam Conner, 2006 Fellow**  
**Morgan Corr, 2006 Fellow**  
**Crystallee Crain, 2006 Fellow**  
**Alex Flores, 2006 Fellow**  
**Liz Fossett, 2006 Fellow**  
**Monique Gillum, Senior Fellow**  
**TJ Helmstetter, Senior Fellow**  
**Jon Hoadley, Senior Fellow**  
**Jake Holbrook, Senior Fellow**  
**Paul Kendrick, Senior Fellow**  
**Kevin Killer, 2006 Fellow**  
**Jenny Parker, Senior Fellow**  
**Robert Reyes, 2005 Fellowship Alum**  
**Michael Simmons, 2006 Fellow**  
**Ezra Temko, 2006 Fellow**  
**Stacy Tolos, 2006 Fellow**  
**Gigi Traore, Senior Fellow**  
**Jeremy Waechter, Senior Fellow**  
**Fred Wong, 2006 Fellow**

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### **Little Black Book Editorial Board**

**Reed Shuler, Paul Kendrick, Elizabeth Camuti, Alex Flores** and **TJ Helmstetter** have been selected to make up the Little Black Editorial Board. TJ has been appointed chair of that committee- an extension of his current position as a YP4 intern and LBB production manager. This talented team will be responsible for creating and editing content as well as graphic design and writer outreach. To contribute content or suggest a topic for a LBB, [email TJ](#).

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### **Blueprints in Action**

Last week, YP4 Fellows **Christopher Evans, Joseph O’Shea,** and **Rebecca Young** of **Florida State University** participated in an anti-hate speech rally.

Congratulations to **Mallory Wells**, YP4 Fellow at **University of Central Florida**, for leading a successful march for LGBT equality on her campus. Over 200 students joined in the march, and afterward, the university president stated his support for changing UCF’s anti-discrimination policy to include protections for LGBT people. Check out Mallory’s press in the [Central Florida Future](#) student newspaper and the [Orlando Sentinel](#).

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### **Fellows in the News**

Many of our Fellows were busy making themselves and their causes known in the month of April. Check out the YP4 website for the full stories!

speech from "[Academic Bill of Rights](#)" proponent and author [David Horowitz](#). [read](#)

### **Leadership Institute - Campus Leadership Program**

April 12: At Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, a CLP sponsored group, "Citizens for Tight Borders" had its group status temporarily revoked after posting fliers addressing wage, health care, and open border issues related to illegal immigration. The group claims that the status revocation is unfair, sparking a free-speech debate on campus. On April 12, the group’s two leaders went on two radio shows in Des Moines to "fight the leftists" and defend conservative principles.

### **Events!**

**Regional Conferences Update** There has been a change of plans! In order to reach the greatest number of young leaders and facilitate the most social change in Arizona, our upcoming conference in Phoenix, scheduled for May 12–13, has been **postponed** until the fall. YP4 is expanding the fellowship program in the state of Arizona in 2007 and we look forward to making contacts and meeting the next generation of Arizona progressive leaders in September. Stay tuned for details about the Michigan conference set to occur in late summer.

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**The 2006 Campus Progress National Student Conference** will be held on July 12th in Washington, DC. Confirmed speakers include Senator Barack Obama, of Illinois, keynote speaker and Rev. James Forbes, Senior Minister, New York’s Riverside Church.

**Check out the details and apply to attend the conference at [Campus Progress' web site](#).**

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**April 10–14:** Read about Fellows **Colin Koffel** and **Ezra Temko's** efforts to make all housing on the Oberlin campus gender neutral. Fellow **Ben Wells** of **Southern Methodist University** describes his experience marching for immigrant's rights among an estimated 500,000 people in Dallas, Texas. [read more](#)

**April 17–21:** The 2005-2006 Student Senate of **Southern Methodist University** named Fellow **Lee Hinga** Senator of the Year! Also, Fellow **Matt Johnson** had a unique opportunity to ask Senator Barack Obama a question about the War in Iraq at **Loyola University Chicago**. [read more](#)

**April 24–28:** This week, Fellow **Amelia Din** was one of only three **Baylor University** undergraduates- and only about one thousand nationwide- to be awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship for the 2006–2007 school year. And Fellow Erik Green discusses his participation in a “bathroom crawl”—in which people handed out literature about gender identity issues in bathrooms around the **Michigan State University** campus. [read more](#)

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## Alumni News

### Alumni of the Month—Monique Gillum

Monique, a Young People For Senior Fellow, was recently elected student body vice president at Florida A&M University. Already an accomplished student organizer and activist, Monique demonstrated her deep commitment to social justice over the last few weeks. Monique was one of four organizers of the recent sit-in and rally that were staged to demand justice after the death of Martin Lee Anderson, a 14-year-old boy who had been kicked and punched by guards at a Florida juvenile boot camp. This week, Florida lawmakers decided to shut down the state's boot camps. **Senior Fellow Monique Gillum interviewed on Gainseville's WRUF AM850!**



[Click to hear Monique speak about the sit-in!](#)  
(9 MB MP3 file)

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### Alumni in the News

#### **Florida's Law Enforcement Commissioner Resigned after Student-Led Sit-In and Students' 40-Minute Meeting with Florida Governor Jeb Bush**

At 8 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday, April 19, 35 students fed up with the lack of accountability filed into the state Capitol and began a sit-in. Two Young People For Fellows, Monique Gillum and Gabe Pendas, were among the four leaders of the student sit-in. [read more](#)

[View Photos!](#)

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### Message from an Alumnus

### **Young People For Action Co-Sponsoring [Crashing the Gate Book Tour Event in NYC!](#)**

On Tuesday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m., Young People For Action, a program of People For the American Way, Drinking Liberally, and People For the American Way's Northeast Regional Office will host progressive Internet pioneers Jerome Armstrong, founder of the [MyDD](#) blog, and Markos Moulitsas, founder of the blog [DailyKos](#), for a lively discussion of their acclaimed new book *Crashing the Gate: Netroots, Grassroots, and the Rise of People-Powered Politics*.

### YP4 Blog

*An excerpt from the [April 26th entry](#), courtesy of the YP4 Blog Team:*

#### [Minutemen to build fences](#)

The radical right crazy group known as the Minutemen, who volunteer to “guard” the U.S.-Mexican border, sent a letter to President Bush saying that if he doesn't build a fence along the border, they will. Chris Simcox, leader of the Minutemen, says the fences will be built on the private property of agreeing landowners. Sounds like a full proof plan to me. After people trek hundreds of miles across the desert to reach the U.S., they will probably be unwilling to walk 10 feet to the left to get around Simcox's backyard fences.

### Reality Check

#### **The Politics of Students**

*(an excerpt from the Washington Post)*

A new poll by scholars at Harvard University found that religion and morality are playing important roles in shaping the politics of college students of all political leanings.

More than half of students interviewed at schools around the country said they are worried about the moral direction of the country. But the poll, conducted by the Institute of Politics at Harvard, also noted

**From Jake Holbrook, YP4 Class of '05**

*On April 21, Rodney asked Jake to marry him.  
Jake said yes.  
We are now engaged...*

*Last fall, Jake was very involved in trying to defeat the Texas Marriage Amendment here in Texas. Unfortunately, the measure passed by a wide margin, making a marriage for Jake and Rodney triply illegal (it was a bummer).*

*Even worse, there is a new push to put a ban on marriage for us into the US Constitution. Boy was that a blow! First Texas says "we don't like you" and then the US, our home country wants to do it too? Ugh. Double bummer.*

*A vote will be taken in the first week of June in the US Senate.*

*We're asking that you take a minute and call your Senators (and if you're in Texas, maybe call a friendly one? We can give you suggestions if you'd like). You can find their numbers [here](#).*

*It's a simple call to make. It goes something like this: "My name is <your name>. I'm calling to ask that Senator <their name> vote NO on the Marriage Protection Act when it comes to a vote in the Senate."*

*The person on the phone will probably take your name and address to confirm that you belong to the Senator. (If you're just calling a Senator that you like, just say you're not a constituent of that Senator, but you'd like to ask them to vote NO anyway).*

*That's it! Two minutes and you'll make yourself heard...*

*Thanks for your support!*

*Jake Holbrook. YP4 class of '05*

**Do you have Alumni News? Keep us up to date! Tell us what you've been up to. Email Jessie at [jgrenfell@pfaw.org](mailto:jgrenfell@pfaw.org).**

that students were sharply divided along party lines over whether religion ought to play a strong role in politics and government. [read more](#)

**Happy** (slightly belated) **Birthday** to all our **YP4 Fellows and Friends** born in **April!**  
[Check out the April birthdays](#)

**Job Opportunities**

The **United States Student Association Foundation** (USSAF) is the education and training wing of the nation's oldest and largest student organization. USSAF provides training, policy analysis, organizing manuals, and technical assistance to students to build the capacity of the national student movement. USSAF currently has the following positions available.

**Electoral Action Training (EAT) Trainer**— EAT (Electoral Action Training) trains student activists in the fundamentals of voter empowerment and electoral organizing. [download full description](#)

**GrassRoots Organizing Weekend Trainers**—GROW's mission is to teach students to understand and alter the relations of power within their communities, give students a sense of their own power on campus, and assure that students have the organizing skills necessary to create change in their own lives. [download full description](#)

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