



October 25, 2005

Friends:

Here at YP4, late October is the time of year when we switch gears from fellow recruitment and begin serious planning for the 2006 Fellows Summit. It's also when activity has hit full swing on many of our campuses and in Washington.

The theme of this newsletter is **actions** and **opportunities**. We've been collecting reports from many of our campuses about what YP4 fellows, mentors, and friends have been achieving in our communities.

As always, please contact us should you have any questions or concerns about the program. If you have just applied, thanks for your application and we look forward to reviewing it.

Best,

-- The Young People For Team

(Iara, Andrew, Sarah, Alisha, Shaunna, Rachel, Rob, TJ, David, Shawn, Maiko, Sarah, Brian)

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ACTIONS

Fellows Put Spotlight on Wages

YP4 Fellows at Baylor University found in a survey that their school paid the housekeeping staff an average of \$5.65 an hour, just 50 cents above the federal minimum wage. The fellows have organized a music festival, panel discussions, and other events to build support for better wages and benefits for university employees. They have named their campaign 1 John 3 after a Bible verse that reads, "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

Would you like to see your activism featured here? Just send us a report for the next newsletter!

- > Baylor *Lariat*: " [BearStock organized to spotlight staff wages](#) "
- > Baylor *Lariat* Editorial: " [University should keep staff above poverty line](#) "

Fellows Participate in Millions More March

YP4 Fellows from the University of Houston participated in the Millions More Movement - the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March held on October 15 in Washington D.C. The fellows attended the event and will be making a documentary film with footage they shot that weekend.

YP4 Staff In the News in Tallahassee

The leadership of YP4 Deputy Director Andrew Gillum was highlighted recently in an article in the *Tallahassee Democrat* for his work engaging students in local government titled "[Activism among college students on the upswing.](#)" When he was elected to the Tallahassee City Commission in February 2003, at the age of 23, he was the youngest person ever elected to that office. Congratulations, Andrew!

Students Speak Up in Tallahassee

Florida State University students, including YP4 fellow Gabe Pendas, organized a protest last week over proposals currently before the U.S. House of Representatives that would reduce levels of student aid. Read more about the protest in the *Tallahassee Democrat*: " [Marchers clamor for aid](#) "

Fellows Organize in Texas

Campus Alliance Against Inequality, which includes YP4 fellow Jake Holbrook, staged a protest and other events as part of their goal to "educate and turn out a student vote against [Texas'] Proposition 2." For more information, see their website www.againstequality.org.

OPPORTUNITIES

Take Affirmative Action

National "Take Affirmative Action Day" is **October 27**. The U.S. Student Association, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, and the NAACP Youth & College Division have put together an excellent toolkit with ideas for action, tips for working with media, and questions to ask about your campus. [Click here to download a kit!](#) YP4 Fellows at Eastern Michigan University have organized a panel discussion on the future of Affirmative Action in Michigan - is there anything going on at your campus?

Hear John Edwards On Your Campus

Senator John Edwards is in the middle of a campus tour called "Project Opportunity" to spark a dialogue about poverty in America. Here's his schedule this week:

Oct 24 - University of Texas - Austin
 Oct 25 - University of California - Berkeley
 Oct 26 - University of Wisconsin - Madison
 Oct 27 - Florida A&M University
 Oct 28 - University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Do you need further assistance to achieve your goals? We can help - drop us a line.

For tickets or more information about the tour, check out their website at:
www.opportunityrocks.org

Get Money For Your Idea ...

Two organizations, Youth Venture and MTV, are offering [Hope Venture Grants](#) of up to \$1,000 to support young people who want to launch a venture - an organization, club, or business - that will aid those affected by Hurricane Katrina. First priority will be given to proposals that support the creation of sustainable ventures that aid the citizens and communities who have lost so much from this disaster. A second priority will be proposals to start organizations solely for the purpose of raising and distributing funds for those in need. Hope Venture Grants will be offered every week for the next six months to groups of two or more young people (ages 13-20) with the most compelling venture ideas to assist the people and communities affected. Applications for one-time projects will not be considered.

[Visit their website for more information](#)

... Or a Two-Year Fellowship

Echoing Green is looking for the world's best emerging social-change entrepreneurs to receive two-year fellowships. Fellowships are awarded to individuals and partnerships comprised of two individuals with innovative ideas for tackling intractable social challenges in education, health, housing, civil rights, economic development, the environment, and the arts. Echoing Green Fellowships offer social-change visionaries an opportunity to develop and test their ideas. Fellows will **receive up to \$90,000 in seed funding**, as well as health insurance and technical assistance to help them build organizations addressing root causes of problems. Application deadline is December 1, 2005. Find out more or make a nomination at www.echoinggreen.org.

Attend an Event in Washington, D.C.

People For the American Way is sponsoring a briefing on the Legislative Exchange Council's Annual Meeting in Grapevine, TX, on Friday, October 28, to be held in downtown D.C. If you are interested in attending, contact Erin O'Neill at 202-467-2391 or by email at honeill@pfaw.org. ALEC coordinates the Right Wing's corporate, economic, and social agenda in state legislatures.

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