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June 22, 1992

For Immediate Release

FREEDOM SUMMER 1992:

TREATMENT OF ANITA HILL AND RODNEY KING GALVANIZES YOUNG PEOPLE TO REGISTER HALF A MILLION NEW VOTERS THIS SUMMER

New York, New York -- A new generation of activists, THE THIRD WAVE, is the driving force behind FREEDOM SUMMER 1992, a 20 city emergency voter registration effort. The young activists believe that it is a myth that people do not vote because they are apathetic or uninterested.

"New voters will have tremendous impact," said Shannon Liss, co-founder of THE THIRD WAVE, a new national organization led by young women from diverse races and communities. "There is an unprecedented number of incumbents not seeking re-election and women of all backgrounds are looking to fill their seats."

Freedom Summer 1992 will kick off from New York City on August 1st. Women and men will travel in a coast-to-coast caravan of buses, making strategic stops in 20 cities to register and inform voters. If each of these Freedom Riders helps register 100 voters a day, the group will reach its goal of one half million new turned-on voters.

"There is a lot of anger and distrust of the political system, especially in communities of color," said co-founder Rebecca Walker, daughter of novelist Alice Walker. "The administration just vetoed a bill that would enable people to register to vote at welfare offices and the Department of Motor Vehicles. It's obvious they don't want us to vote. So voting becomes an act of rebellion."

With the strategies and strengths of the civil rights and women's movements combined, THE THIRD WAVE has earned endorsements from such well-known leaders as Gloria Steinem, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and best-selling authors Susan Faludi and Naomi Wolf.

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"I'm proud to see these young women courageously set out to change their own lives," said Gloria Steinem, founder of the Ms. Foundation for Women. "Recent events like the rebellion in Los Angeles, voter apathy in Presidential primaries, the Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas hearings, and the Supreme Court's threat to Roe v. Wade have all helped educate and inspire a new generation of leaders."

The Freedom Summer Riders will serve as a mobile task force working with local organizers. The caravan will roll into Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Albuquerque, Houston, Little Rock, Birmingham, and Washington, DC, among other cities. The National YWCA has agreed to lodge the riders at each stop.

"This project is a tremendous opportunity for members of diverse communities to represent ourselves directly," said Crystal Morales, Outreach Director, who is still accepting applications from riders. "We encourage individuals to bring their stories and activism on board this historic caravan."

THE THIRD WAVE will politicize and organize young women from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds into a visible national information and support network. Men are also organizing and participating in this new feminist vision.

"Our most formidable challenge is to create an organization which focuses primarily on women's issues," said Walker, "but which pushes traditional boundaries to build a coalition among women who have not identified themselves as feminists."

Individuals and organizations are invited to sponsor Freedom Riders for \$500 per person. Tax-deductible contributions should be made payable to the Ms. Foundation/Third Wave and sent to THE THIRD WAVE, 308 West 46th Street, New York, NY 10036.

For more information about Freedom Summer 1992 or THE THIRD WAVE, please contact Kristen Golden at (212) 582-2091.

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