

Axis of Eve PantyWare Party Manual



How to throw a
pantabulous
PantyWare Party!

An Introduction

Who is the Axis of Eve?

The Axis of Eve is a coalition of women and men on a mission to EXPOSE and DEPOSE President Select George W. Bush and his deceitful administration. Convinced that effective political action can be irreverent and exciting, we have launched a campaign of truth-flashing coordinated around our provocative line of protest panties, well-placed political postcards b(e)aring messages of truth, accountability, and peace. In addition to our public presence at protests, street fairs and political conventions, we Eves are calling on women and men across the nation to lay bare the shameful tactics of the Bush administration and boldly demand an end to political cover-up. We encourage you to spread the panty word by joining our campaign for naked democracy and hosting a PantyWare Party at home.

What is a PantyWare party?

To mobilize the body politic, PantyWare Parties help women to gather in intimate groups where they can peddle panties, ponder politics, and set themselves on a course of political action. Based on the Tupperware model, the organizer brings together friends and family to invent new recipes for political insurgence and to distribute tools to can Bush. The PantyWare Party is a time for women to get fired up, get mobilized, and get going! We salute PantyWare Party hosts for your bravery, humor, and commitment to making a difference... have fun!

Planning your PantyWare Party: 6 Easy Steps

1. Time, Place and People

We suggest you gather a couple of feisty friends to co-host. Expect the party to last about 3 hours and plan accordingly. Think about making it a potluck event and consider devoting a meeting of your book club, mothers' group, or executive roundtable to your party.

2. Invite friends and family

Invite a small group of women over to spend an evening talking panties, politics, and plans of action. The political issues are serious, but the party is a time for laughter and discussion. On the following page, you will find a sample invitation letter. Make it your own!

3. Pre-order your panties

Before your lovely Eves come over, purchase panties in the colors, styles and sizes you think your guests will want from axisofeve.org. You can return any panties that go unsold and we will credit your card. Although each Eve is most certainly the mistress of her own undergarments, we can tell you that our most popular panties are "Give Bush the Finger" and "Weapon of Mass Seduction."

4. Prepare for Panty Bingo

A central activity at the event is *Panty Bingo: The Guessing Game of Political Exposure*. On the website, you will find the Panty Party Bingo game as a .pdf file. Print out as many bingo cards as guests. Then print out the questions and instructions. Remember to purchase an item to use as a bingo chip. M&M's or Hershey's Kisses (for a Kiss Bush Goodbye theme) do the trick. Finally, concoct your bingo prizes. We suggest Shrubs, a cookie named for our dear leader, or chocolate chip cookies, a nod to John Kerry's culinary appetites. The recipe for Shrubs is below.

5. Decide on an organization to feature

Use your PantyWare party to turn your guests into Eve-olutionary activists. We encourage you to feature an organization that is doing good work and that can use volunteers (and/or money). For instance, at a recent PantyWare Party in Oakland, CA, the host featured Women to Women, a local group working to register voters in the city. Call the organization for leaflets and other information about their work. Ask if they would send a speaker to your party. Before your party, prepare a clip board and sign up sheet for women interested in getting involved. Later, you can pass

this information, and any checks, along to the organization. Even better: coordinate a day when all of your Eves will start volunteering together.

6. Prepare your goody bags

Send guests home with some resources for fomenting discontent with the administration. We have placed several of these below, including follow up facts for *Panty Party Bingo* and a comparison of the Bush and Kerry platforms on women's issues (for a useful Women's Toolkit from the John Kerry campaign, visit <http://www.johnkerry.com/communities/women/>). Add some shrubs or extra cookies and the left over bingo pieces.

Sample Invitation

Come to our PantyWare Party!

Wednesday, October 20th 6:30-9:30
Eve's Garden
6242 Glenwood Ave
Chicago, IL

Please join Eve and Angel for a PantyWare Party.

Axis of Eve, a new feminist group devoted to creative political protest and organizing, has launched a campaign of PantyWare Parties. They are modeled on Tupperware parties, only with a political twist. The PantyWare Party helps networks of women to get educated, get organized, and oust Bush. We will be swapping tales of Bush's deceit and inventing political strategies rather than trading recipes and plastic containers. Guests will leave with a PantyWare Party favor bag that includes information about local politics and activist tools for exercising outrage. Come check out our protest panties emblazoned with anti-Bush slogans (our faves are: Expose Bush and Weapon of Mass Seduction), play *Panty Party Bingo: The Guessing Game of Political Exposure*, and prepare to do your part to depose the President Select.

For more info, check out the Axis of Eve website: www.axisofeve.org

Hosting your very own PantyWare Party!

3 Fun Activities

1. *Get Fired up!* Peddling panties and promoting pantification

A sure-fire way to get your party started right is to break out the panties! Pass around our protest panties – or better yet, flash ‘em! – and revel in the laughter and celebration. Encourage your guests to engage in the infectious wordplay we call “pantification.” Distribute your pre-ordered panties and gather additional orders: one pair of protest panties is never enough!

2. *Stoke the Flame!* Play *Panty BINGO: The Guessing Game of Political Exposure*

Rather than lecturing your guests on the many reasons why the Bush administration has got to go, introduce everyone to the new game that Eves and Adams everywhere are talking about: *Panty BINGO: The Guessing Game of Political Exposure*. Playing Panty BINGO is a fun way to uncover the Bush administration’s violations of the economy, healthcare, women’s rights, the environment, Iraq and more. Learn, laugh, and get mad.

3. *Get going!* Working for Democracy

Now your Eves are loose, laughing and alarmed. It’s time to get involved with the dirty work of politics. After your Eves have played Panty Bingo. They’ll be ready to take Eve-olutionary action. Introduce your featured organization and their work. Tell them what kinds of volunteers they need, and where they use donations. Remember, if you are enthusiastic about the organization, it will carry over. Pass around the sign-up sheet.

Goodies for your Gift Bags

Panty Actions: *The Eve-olutionary Agenda*

Together we can dump Bush in November, but we are going to have to work for it. Below is a range of tasks for you and your Eves to take on. Get your knickers in a twist!

1) Spread the PantyWare Party Fire! PantyWare parties are a fun tool for recruiting local Eves. Host a PantyWare Party and sign up at least two Eves to host their own PantyWare Party in the coming weeks. Encourage your Eves to contact their friends and family around

the country to join the PantyWare Party EVE-olution. Eves in battleground states (AR, AZ, FL, IA, ME, MI, MN, MO, NV, NH, NM, OH, OR, PA, TN, WA, WV, WI) and Republican strongholds make particularly pantabulous hosts!

2) Dress up! Or Don't... We Eves love to make a scene in attention-grabbing costumes coordinated around our protest panties: Wonder Woman, Miss Liberty, Political dEVA, Funky Fifties House Wife. Some of us wear our panties over bare-legs, some over tights, some pinned to clothing. But if you don't feel comfortable wearing your panties outside your pants, don't worry. Registering voters, distributing information on why Bush must go, and throwing UnderWare Parties are Eve actions no matter what you wear.

3) Register Eves and Adams everywhere to Vote! Call your local Democratic party office—they can give you the tools and training to do voter registration. Get together a group of Eves, pull on your protest gear, and spend some time recruiting voters at a park, a mall, a bus stop or subway entrance. While you're at it, recruit more Eves -- bring cards and print out lots of EVE-olutionary To-Do Lists (for cards contact us at info@axisofeve.org). To make sure everyone you know gets out and votes, sign your Eves up to a voting phone tree and have each person call ten friends to get out the vote on election day. On election day, put up a colorful sign in your lobby with your polling place information and hours.

4) Participate in a Rally or March! Scan your local paper for rallies, marches, or events that could use some political passion (concerts for Kerry, local screenings of Fahrenheit 9/11, street fairs). Get on your protest gear (see ideas on dressing up above) and take to the streets! We find that large colorful "panty signs" are effective – for examples consult our DC March website page. Multiple Eves might want to carry a "dirty laundry line" banner – all you need to make a scene are panties, rope, and clothespins. Consider flashing: remember that flashing gets attention and makes people laugh. Contact us (info@axisofeve.org) for cards to hand out. Chant Axis of Eve slogans like "The Panty Lines Have Been Drawn – Which Side are You On?" Be creative! Be sure to write and tell us of your EVE-olutionary actions, and send pictures for the website!

5) Voice your Opinions! Draft a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. The Letter to the Editor section is one of the most widely read parts of the newspaper. Eves can use it to comment on the way issues are covered in the media and to influence the topics local papers may choose to highlight. Elected officials read this section to monitor constituents' opinions. Let 'em hear yours: a true Eve never tires of revealing the truth!

6) Volunteer! Hook up with MoveOn.org and/or your local Dems -- get involved in Voter Registration drives, House Parties, envelope-stuffing!

7) Vote! Buy some protest panties, pull 'em on, and play cowboy the second Tuesday in November: wrangle up your neighborhood voters and drive them (in carpools or on foot) to the polls. We're all in this together!

Panty Press: Recent media (un)coverage

The New York Times (June 6, 2004)

"W.M.'s Seek S.F.'s for Fall Affair"

By JOHN TIERNEY

Forget the gender gap. This election there is a bigger and sexier divide on the minds of Democratic strategists: the marriage gap. They are determined to get single voters to the polls this November, no matter how much underwear they have to distribute to do it.

The underwear - panties and boxer shorts with slogans like "Kiss Bush Good-Bye" - was selling briskly Thursday night at the Reef, a nightclub in Washington packed with hundreds of people looking for both romantic and political fulfillment. This "Singles Against Bush" mixer, the precursor to more than a dozen other mixers across the country this week, is part of a larger campaign to turn out voters who could have put Al Gore in the White House if they had found time in their social schedules to get to the polls.

For all the talk about the gender gap last election, the 11-point edge that Mr. Gore had among female voters was actually smaller than the 13-point gap between married and unmarried voters. Married men favored George W. Bush by 20 points, and their wives favored him by one point. Single men favored Mr. Gore by 2 points, and single women gave him an enormous 31-point advantage, 63 percent to 32 percent.

That partisan gap remains this year, with single women favoring Senator John Kerry by 21 points over Mr. Bush in the latest New York Times/CBS News poll. But the problem for Democrats is that single women don't vote as consistently as married women do. More than 20 million of them sat out the last election.

"Women on their own have the largest potential for growth in both registration and turnout of any demographic group," said Page Gardner, co-director of a nonpartisan group, "Women's Voices. Women's Vote," which is working to register single women in a dozen states.

Meanwhile, more partisan groups are using less traditional methods to get out what has been called the "Sex and the City" vote. Besides the mixers, there are new versions of Tupperware parties being promoted by another

group, Axis of Eve. It calls them PantyWare parties, in honor of its own line of lingerie adorned with political slogans.

"We will be swapping tales of Bush deceit and inventing political strategies rather than trading recipes and plastic containers," explains the invitation to a party in Chicago this Wednesday. "Guests will leave with a PantyWare party favor that includes information about both local and national politics and activist tools for exercising outrage."

Republicans seem disinclined to respond to these new tactics. "I can't comment on the panty thing," said Terry Holt, a spokesman for the Bush campaign, but he did offer to explain the marriage gap. "Married people have high rates of home ownership and often have children in school," he said. "As people's stake in the economy grows and as they become more established in their community, they tend to become more Republican." They also, perhaps, become less interested in underwear.

***New York Newsday* (May 25, 2004)**

Women Plan 'Pom Pom' Protest

By DIONNE SEARCEY

Women arriving in New York this summer will bring pom-poms and panties along with their political posters when they protest the Republican National Convention.

Hoping to add wit and femininity to the traditionally male-dominated protest scene will be Axis of Eve, whose members flash their underwear as a form of protest and the Radical Cheerleaders, a short-skirt-clad political pep club that practices "activism with pom-poms and middle fingers extended."

The women's groups from across the country that are spending the summer organizing political Pantyware, rather than Tupperware, parties and fashioning pom-poms from tablecloths in preparation for RNC rabble-rousing have come a long way from their less choreographed bra-waving forbears of the 1960s women's rights movement. Besides skirts, songs and role-playing, some of the groups use their sexuality to deliver political messages.

Axis of Eve members, for example, with their skimpy panties emblazoned with racy political logos such as "Weapon of Mass Seduction," are a far cry from stereotypical burly union and bearded hippy protesters.

"As women, our bodies can often be used against us to objectify us ... but we're trying to be fun and disarm people through humor and get women involved," said a 33-year-old women's studies professor from Brooklyn who calls herself "Eden Eve."

Many of the groups will gather tonight at White Box, a gallery at 525 W. 26th St. in Manhattan, for "Majority Whipped," a dress rehearsal for the convention.

While the groups, which all welcome men, promote a feminist agenda, such as supporting abortion rights and fighting sexism, they also protest everything from the GOP's environmental policy and members' refusal to fund stem-cell therapy.

It's all a part of what they call "creative resistance," a tactic they say is more appealing than waving posters and chanting.

One Manhattan band dons oversized bras and red-white-and-blue wigs and straps toy missiles to their bodies. Songs include "Show us the Way to the Next Oil Field" and "Shop in the Name of War."

Women performers, some of whom use slogans laden with sexual innuendos, said they know they risk not being taken seriously or turning off observers.

"This is sort of the level that our frustration has led to," said a band member who identifies herself as Dolly Daily Bombing. "We're at the end of being able to be respected in society as activists."

Charlotte Koons, an organizer of Code Pink's Long Island chapter, said her group uses gimmicks that won't overwhelm its audience.

To protest sales of gas-guzzling Hummers, for example, the group held a "hum-in," where members hummed outside congressional offices.

"You have to break through to people's apathy and have to engage them," said Koons, of Northport, "because this culture has made us demonically short attention-spanned."