







proChoice

Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion-PAC

**Use the right to vote to
protect the right to choose**

2000 VOTING GUIDE

VOTE NOV. 7, 2000

-  Tear off this yellow Voting Guide.
-  Save it until Election Day.
-  Make copies for your friends.
-  Carry it openly into the voting booth.

**Our endorsed candidates are listed in
BLUE BOXES
VOTE ONLY FOR THEM**

FREEDOM OF CHOICE – VOTE FOR IT!

Please copy and distribute this page to other pro-choice Westchester County Voters.

2000 **PROChoice** Voting Guide

Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion-PAC

Candidates endorsed by WCLA are highlighted in boxes. Help keep abortion legal and accessible. Vote for endorsed candidates.

WCLA Endorsement Policy, 2000

WCLA's endorsements are determined case by case. To be considered for endorsement, candidates must return WCLA's questionnaire and participate in an interview if requested by WCLA.

Incumbents shall be endorsed over pro-choice challengers if they have consistent voting records and have established a reputation for strong leadership and extra effort in advancing access to abortion and contraception. Non-incumbents will be endorsed if they have demonstrated leadership in the community on the issue.

To be considered for endorsement, candidates must unequivocally support:

- access to abortion and contraception for all women, unimpeded by laws, restrictions, or regulations;
- strict confidentiality for all reproductive health care;
- coverage by public and private insurance of abortion and contraception.

Judicial candidates: To be eligible for endorsement, judicial candidates must participate in an interview if requested by WCLA, and neither seek nor accept the Right to Life Party nomination.

U.S. PRESIDENT/ VICE PRESIDENT

George W. Bush/Dick Cheney (R,C)
AL GORE/JOE LIEBERMAN (D,L,W)
 Patrick Buchanan/Ezola Foster (RTL)
 RALPH NADER (G)

U.S. SENATOR

Rick Lazio (R,C)
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON (D,L,W)
 John Adefope (RTL)

NYS SUPREME COURT

ANDREW O'ROURKE (R,I,C)
WILLIAM GIACOMO (D)
 Gabriel Kalik (RTL)

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

● District 17
 Parts of Yonkers, Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham, and Bronx
 Patrick McManus (R,C)
ELIOT ENGEL *(D,L)

● District 18
 Southeastern Westchester, part of Yonkers, parts of Bronx and Queens
 John Vonglis (R,C)
NITA LOWEY *(D)
 Florence O'Grady (RTL)

● District 19
 Westchester north of 287, part of White Plains, Putnam and Dutchess counties
 Sue W. Kelly *(R,C)
LARRY OTIS GRAHAM (D,L,W)
 Frank Lloyd (RTL)
 MARK JACOBS (G)

● District 20
 Greenburgh, part of Yonkers, parts of Rockland, Orange and Sullivan counties
BENJAMIN GILMAN *(R)
PAUL J. FEINER (D,L,G,W)
 Christine Tighe (RTL)

Parties:	
R: Republican	L: Liberal
D: Democrat	RTL: Right to Life
I: Independence	G: Green
C: Conservative	W: Working Families

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

● District 33
 Mt. Vernon, part of Bronx
 Martha Tuberman (R)
RUTH THOMPSON (D)
 George Rubin (C)

● District 34
 Parts of Mt. Vernon, Yonkers, Pelham, New Rochelle, and Bronx
 Guy J. Veella *(R,C)**
LORRAINE COYLE KOPPELL (D,G,W)
 Michael Daly (I)

● District 35
 Eastchester, Greenburgh, most of Yonkers, part of White Plains
NICHOLAS SPANO *(R,I,C)**
 THOMAS ABINANTI (D,L,G)
 John P. McGloine (RTL)

● District 36
 Harrison, Mamaroneck, Mt. Pleasant, North Castle, Ossining, Rye Town, Scarsdale, parts of New Rochelle, Rye, and White Plains
SUZI OPPENHEIMER *(D,W)
 Daniel Schweitzer (RTL)

● District 37
 Northern Westchester, parts of Putnam and Dutchess counties
 Vincent L. Leibell, III *(R,C)
 James Hamilton (RTL)

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

● District 84
 Parts of Yonkers, Mt. Vernon
JAMES GARY PRETLOW *(D,I,W)
 Rosaleen Tallon (RTL)

● District 85
 Mamaroneck, Rye Town, Rye, part of New Rochelle
 RONALD TOCCI *(D,I,C,W)▲
 Sheila Naughton (RTL)

● District 86
 Greenburgh, Mt. Pleasant
 Carol Reynolds (R,C)
RICHARD BRODSKY *(D,I)
 Ken Biegelesen (RTL)

● District 87

Part of Yonkers
MIKE SPANO *(R,I,C)
 Thomas Byrne (RTL)

● District 88
 Eastchester, Pelham, Scarsdale, most of White Plains, parts of Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle
 MAX DI FABIO (R,C,I)
AMY PAULIN (D,W)
 Janet Tener (RTL)

● District 89
 Northeastern Westchester, Harrison, part of White Plains
 Francis Corcoran (R,C)
NAOMI MATUSOW *(D,I,W)
 Joseph Giardina (RTL)

● District 90
 Cortlandt, Ossining, Yorktown, Peekskill
 John A. Sarcone, III (R,I,C)
SANDRA GALEF *(D,W)
 Patricia A. Vasta (RTL)

SURROGATE COURT

Albert Emanuelli *(R,I,C,RTL,G)
ANTHONY A. SCARPINO (D,W)
 Terrence Dwyer (RTL)

COUNTY COURT

AL NACLERIO (R,C)
LES ADLER (D,I,G)
 Terrence Dwyer (RTL)

FAMILY COURT

ANNETTE GUARINO (R,I,C,G)
 GERRY KLEIN (R,C)
 NILDA MORALES HOROWITZ (D,I)
DAVID KLEIN (D,G)
 Mary Clark (RTL)
 Brian Kennedy (RTL)

Key to ratings:
ENDORSED
 PRO-CHOICE, NOT ENDORSED
 Anti-choice
 * To left of party = incumbent
 ** Former RTL
 ▲ Mixed record



PROChoice

Newsletter of Westchester Coalition

for Legal Abortion, Inc.

Vol. 29, No. 3 Autumn, 2000

Reminder

Hillary Pro-choice, Lazio Anti-choice

The U.S. Senate election in New York presents an utterly clear choice for pro-choice voters. Hillary Rodham Clinton has stated her unequivocal support of abortion rights with no ifs, ands, or buts. Her opponent, Rep. Rick Lazio, has an eight-year voting record and campaign statements that are full of ifs, ands, or buts. She will not vote to confirm a



Supreme Court nominee who opposes Roe v. Wade; Lazio will. Clinton even hosted a fundraiser for WCLA along with Rep. Nita Lowey.

In Senate candidate Rick Lazio's own words: "I'm for a woman's right to choose, but I think it's not unlimited." His votes for legal barriers to abortion illustrate his view that government may arbitrarily obstruct a woman's autonomy regarding her own pregnancies.

To pass himself off as pro-choice, Lazio asserts that he wouldn't vote to overturn Roe v. Wade, but he couldn't anyway because Congress lacks the power to overrule the Supreme Court. But by repeatedly voting for a ban on a

method of abortion, Lazio has, actually, voted to kill Roe. If the Supreme Court upholds any such law, it will have overturned Roe and permitted states to declare abortions throughout pregnancy to be a crime.



New York Times Magazine, July 30.

Please see election on page 7

What's at Stake on Nov. 7

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of Election 2000. With the presidential choice between Al Gore and George W. Bush, and election of the entire House and one-third of the Senate, voters will be putting people into positions of such power that our personal lives will be directly affected in ways that we can't even imagine.

The choice between the major parties is crystal clear. The parties' ideologies are unambiguous and opposite, and Gore and Bush are in sync with their own parties. The parties

offer contrasting positions on the role of government in social programs, abortion rights, gender equity, universal health care, managed care, Medicare's prescription drug benefits, Social Security, using the surplus, tax cuts, the military, gay rights, foreign policy, church-state separation, environmental protection, and the federal budget.

In addition, the makeup of the Supreme Court has at last become high and even top priority for voters. Issue

Please see Editorials on page 16

Party Pix

Turn to the centerfold and enjoy a photo montage of the benefit for WCLA hosted by Hillary and Nita on August 21. Of course, read the newsletter and voting guide first.

Before you view the photos, you'll find an envelope addressed to WCLA. We have made it easier for you to contribute to WCLA. Please put the envelope with your must-pay bills, and help WCLA publish ProChoice.

FDA Approves RU-486, At Last

After 12 years of delay after delay, women got their "moral property," the abortion pill known as RU-486. Not only did FDA approve the pill as safe and effective, it dropped proposed restrictions that would have severely limited its availability.

The abortion pill, marketed under

the name Mifeprex and also known as Early Option, is effective up to seven weeks of pregnancy, when an embryo is about one-fifth of an inch. While it is not expected to increase the demand for abortion, it will make pregnancy termination easier to get for women in

Please see RU486 on page 3

On the President's Mind

By Polly Rothstein

The benefit for WCLA hosted by Hillary and Nita on August 21st was so sensational that I want to share it with everyone involved with WCLA, thus the centerfold of photos and collection at www.wcla.org.

Our luminaries were magnets for WCLA's supporters. Cara Tannenbaum, our caterer (698-1382), and Nancy Montagnino planned every detail. The weather was perfect and the food was sensational and magnificently presented with gorgeous flowers (Lovin' Bloom). With over 500 guests in our back yard, under and beyond a huge tent, the party was perfect and glitch-free. I wished that all of you had been there.

For Nita, it was a reunion, as she greeted almost everyone by name. WCLA supporters simply adore her. She graciously introduced Hillary in our short, snappy program.

I wish that you all could experience Hillary and feel how warm and friendly she is, and how pleasantly unassuming. Surrounded by people seeking her attention, she signed programs and posed for countless photographs for people thrilled to have their pictures taken with her. Hillary gave a few moments to as many people as she could, listening attentively to what each said and responding thoughtfully. Our guests couldn't get enough of her. Though she must have been weary after a full day of campaigning in Westchester, she stayed and schmoozed for nearly three hours. In that short time, Hillary turned doubters into Hillary voters and turned lukewarm supporters into enthusiastic advocates for her election to the Senate.

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With New York tilting toward Gore-Lieberman, pro-choice advocates are well advised to focus on electing Hillary Rodham Clinton to fill Senator Moynihan's seat in the Senate.

I've accumulated a pile of fund-raising appeals from

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Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, Joseph Melhado, Polly Rothstein, Oren J.

Teicher, Eve Widdows

Editor: *Polly Rothstein*

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Deena Weintraub

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and for Lazio that offer no reason to vote for him. These nasty letters offer nothing more than paragraph after paragraph of Hillary-bashing, repeating right-wing rhetoric and scare tactics.

NYS Republican Party chair Bill Powers sought money to stop that "ambitious, ruthless, scheming, calculating, manipulating woman from fooling voters," adding for good measure that she's "an angry woman." He must have sneered when he spat out, "woman." Voters are also fed up with Lazio's obsession with Hillary's non-NY background, a fact they know is irrelevant when matched against the votes that each will cast as senator.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is rising in the polls among suburban pro-choice women. As they get serious about the issues that will directly affect them in the next six years, they realize that Hillary's on our side and will be a strong advocate in the Senate for our concerns. They may not be able to reel off the 150 House votes on abortion restrictions, but they know that Lazio is not their friend. And increasingly, voters are grasping the monumental impact of the Supreme Court on our lives, and the role of the senators in confirming the new justices who will decide the future of *Roe v. Wade* — and abortion as a constitutional right.

Most women who watched the first debate between Hillary and Lazio recoiled, as I did, when he left his podium and thrust the letter in her face. My reflex was, "Get back there!" I actually laughed because it was like the "Stay!" that (theoretically) stops my dogs in their tracks. I wonder why moderator Tim Russert let Lazio to get away with violating the rules banning props and leaving his podium. Lazio still doesn't get it. I'd have thought a guy who went to Vassar might have learned something about respecting women, but he whines that it's sexist to accuse him of bullying her. Well, this behavior dropped Lazio from +7 percent to -16 percent in the polls.

Also in the debate, Lazio accused Hillary of standing by and doing nothing as the Clinton administration did or didn't do something. Does Lazio think we don't realize that Hillary is not in Congress, and she was not in a position to take action. She'll have plenty of opportunity to take action as senator, however.

There are still women voters who dislike Hillary for

Please see Mind on page 3

Editorials

Gore Yes, Bush No

Vice President Al Gore has the intelligence, experience, knowledge of domestic and foreign policy, and verbal skills to be an able President of the United States. Plus, he'll protect abortion rights, from vetoing anti-abortion bills right down to refusing to nominate anyone anti-Roe v. Wade to the Supreme Court.

American voters must not put intellectually and linguistically challenged George W. Bush in the Oval Office. Bush's vast shortcomings by definition disqualify him to be president. He is close to ignorant of world history and therefore unable to apply the lessons of history to current foreign affairs, and hasn't read worth a damn. It's alarming that the news media has all but ignored his glaring deficiencies as they report on the presidential campaign. How can they take him seriously, when he can't explain his own programs, including tax cuts and health care, and goofs up every time he is distracted from his script?

Bush is unrelentingly against abortion rights. The Republican Party platform, at Bush's demand, retained the unequivocal anti-abortion language from the Reagan-Bush years, including a constitutional amendment banning abortions and appointing anti-Roe judges. It also supports "abstinence only" sex education, which omits contraception and safe-sex. In a revealing statement, Bush drew a blank on the Violence Against Women Act, which is up for reauthorization.

As president, he'll sign the restrictive abortion laws that Gore, like President Clinton, would veto. And if Bush is elected, gets to nominate Supreme Court justices (his favorites are Scalia and Thomas), and if he has a Republican Senate to confirm them, it's goodbye Roe v. Wade.

RU486, from page 1

much of the country, where abortion providers are few and distant and where states require waiting periods, as it will be available in doctors' offices closer to home.

The FDA ruling put the spotlight on the November election, given the Republican opposition to abortion and the Democrats' support. Republicans in Congress vowed to keep fighting the abortion pill, legislatively and politically. Their goal is a Bush administration that will reverse this Clinton-Gore decision.

George W. Bush, who supports a constitutional amendment banning abortions, said the FDA's approval was "wrong." Al Gore, who is fully pro-choice, said, "Today's decision is not about politics, but the health and safety of American women and a woman's fundamental right to choose."

Vote Hillary for New York Keep DPM's Seat Pro-choice

Women in New York know that Gore-Lieberman and Hillary Rodham Clinton are the firewall between an anti-choice Congress and Supreme Court that could take reproductive rights and choice away from them.

Hillary wrote on page 7, "When I think about Margaret Sanger and so many other women and men who worked so hard, and made real sacrifices, so that we would have reproductive choice, I know that we must do everything in our power to keep this hard-won right from slipping away. The fate of the Supreme Court rests on the outcome of this election, and a woman's right to choose hangs in the balance. The difference in this election is clear: I believe that the right to choose is a fundamental constitutional right, and therefore I will never vote to confirm a Supreme Court justice who would overturn *Roe v. Wade*."

It was cagey for Rick Lazio to raise the soft money issue, a sure way to divert attention from his record on issues — his votes for many extremist restrictions to abortion rights, his limited support for gun control, and his future votes to confirm Bush nominees to the Supreme Court who oppose Roe v. Wade. He also shies away from discussing his aggressive in-her-face bullying in the first debate with Hillary.

Lazio's irrelevant mantra is that he's from New York. Mr. I Love New York, please explain exactly how the state benefits from your votes against Medicaid-funded abortions for poor women, preventing perhaps \$16 million in federal reimbursement from flowing to NY each year.

Lazio's first vote as senator will elect Trent Lott as majority leader. Lott will appoint the same conservative Republicans as chairs of powerful committees. Hillary Rodham Clinton's first vote would be to make Tom Daschle majority leader, and ensure at least moderates in charge of the Senate. Control of the Senate and pro-Roe Supreme Court justices is reason enough to elect Hillary Rodham Clinton to sit in pro-choice Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan's chair.

Mind, from page 2

whatever reasons, though the special prosecutor removed Whitewater as a reason. And I hear more women say they are disgusted by judgmental women who oppose Hillary because she stayed with her husband.

Hillary believes as I do on a multitude of concerns in addition to reproductive rights, about which she's passionate. She will represent me, and Lazio won't. Voting for her is voting for things most of us care about.

Good Examples

India: Hoping to stabilize India's population by 2020, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee pledged to set up a fund to promote family planning across the nation, especially the heavily populated northern India. The state-run Planning Commission will provide \$22.5 million to the fund, in addition to funds donated to the National Population Stabilization Fund. Only China has more than India's one billion people.

Jordan: Eighty-two percent of male Muslim religious leaders and 98 percent of female religious leaders in Jordan believe that family planning is in keeping with the tenets of Islam, according to a study published in the September 2000 issue of The Alan Guttmacher Institute's journal *International Family Planning Perspectives*. The author, Carol Underwood of Johns Hopkins University, finds that nearly 90 percent of religious leaders report having discussed family planning with their adherents or their peers, roughly 70 percent agree that the mosque is an appropriate venue for family planning lectures, and more than 90 percent say that they encourage couples to discuss contraception.

South Africa: Education Minister Kader Asmal said in September that better sex education in public schools is needed to prevent unwanted pregnancies and STDs including HIV. Teachers currently teach about safe sex, but teen pregnancy rates are "booming" and that those between 15 and 24 are the highest risk group for AIDS.

Canada: Canada's professional organization of OB-GYNs announced in June that it wants to make EC (emergency contraception) OTC (over-the-counter). In September, the Ontario Women's Health Council announced a pilot project to permit pharmacists to dispense EC without a prescription. Pharmacists in the Toronto area that are open 24 hours will be trained to provide information to women. The project will make the drug available to teens, hoping to cut the number of unwanted pregnancies.

California: Gov. Gray Davis signed a law requiring insurers and health care plans to inform women in writing that Catholic facilities may deny reproductive services. Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) sponsored the bill out



Women's Equality Day



Women's Equality Day is the annual celebration of Women's Suffrage. The Woman of the Year is Family Court Judge Joan Cooney, and the Project of the Year is Camp Viva for women and children afflicted with AIDS. Pictured are Judge Cooney (left) and a few of the anti-abortion protesters with their backs turned during the award to Camp Viva; and, despite being advised that the refreshments were for WED celebrants, scarfing down lunch ("Have all you want! It's FREEEEE!")



of concern that the trend of purchase of nonsectarian hospitals by Catholic institutions resulted in Catholic-owned health care groups who refused, on religious grounds, to provide abortions, infertility treatments, tubal ligation, contraception and emergency contraception for rape victims, based on religious grounds. Kuehl said of the new law. "I think it's an important first step, but I'm still very disturbed that a great number of Catholic hospitals in the state deny these services to women." A bill to force hospitals to make referrals for such services to other facilities was lobbied to death by Catholic Healthcare West, the largest California hospital owner.

**Don't forget to save
the Voting Guide
for Nov. 7.**

Veep Picks: Lieberman, Pro-choice; Cheney, No Choice

The presidential candidates' choices of running mates share their positions on reproductive rights and further confirm that the Gore-Lieberman team deserves the endorsement of every pro-choice organization in the nation.



Sen. Joseph Lieberman

Senator Joseph Lieberman, like Al Gore, is a champion of reproductive rights. Lieberman is finishing his second term in the Senate, where his voting record on abortion rights and family planning is solidly pro-choice in over 70 votes cast. The choice of Lieberman was considered to be a bold move, as Lieberman is

the first Jew named to run on a major party's national ticket. Gov. George W. Bush's pick of Dick Cheney to be his vice president reflects his own deep opposition to legal abortion. It also sent a message of reassurance to the Christian far-right, whose voters helped Bush win the primaries in conservative states like South Carolina. Cheney's voting record as the congressman from Wyoming is as anti-choice as Lieberman's is pro-choice.

Leaders of the extreme right were universally pleased by Bush's pick, which came after a period of high anxiety as Bush sent up trial balloons of pro-choice running mates. Such religious right favorites as Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Richard Viguerie, and Republican candidate Gary Bauer praised Cheney as one of their own. American Renewal, the Family Research Council's advocacy arm, declared that "The naming of Dick Cheney as Governor George W. Bush's running mate sends an unmistakable message: There has been no departure from the Republican Party's principled stand in defense of the sanctity of life."

Congress: WCLA Endorses All Incumbents But Kelly

Westchester County is represented by four members of Congress, all of whom are facing re-election this year. Only Sue Kelly failed to earn WCLA's support.

District 17 (parts of Yonkers, Mt. Vernon, and New Rochelle; Pelham and part of the Bronx): WCLA favors Eliot Engel for his perfect record on choice for twelve years in Congress and several years in the state assembly.

District 18 (southeastern Westchester, part of Yonkers, parts of Bronx and Queens): lucky pro-choice voters are represented by Nita Lowey, the effective and acknowledged leader for reproductive rights in the House of Representatives. She has earned the support and endorsement of WCLA against all challengers.



Nita Lowey

District 19 (Westchester north of 287, part of White Plains, Putnam and Dutchess counties): Rep. Sue Kelly has joined the anti-choice majority in the House in some key votes, and in doing so both baffled and alienated the pro-choice women who elected her. Challenger Lawrence Otis Graham will be a trusted advocate for choice, and is endorsed by WCLA.



Lawrence Otis Graham

District 20 (Greenburgh, part of Yonkers, parts of Rockland, Orange and Sullivan Counties): WCLA again endorses both incumbent Republican Benjamin Gilman and challenger Paul Feiner.

Three First-Tier Races For NYS Legislature

With most incumbents seeking re-election unopposed or with a weak opponent, there are four highly competitive races for the NYS Legislature. The election for Senate District 35, between incumbent Sen. Nick Spano and Tom Abinanti, is on page 6.

For the seat vacated by Larry Seabrook in Senate District 33, WCLA is behind Mt. Vernon councilwoman Ruth Hassell-Thompson. She earned the nomination by a large margin in a Democratic primary. Besides Mt. Vernon, the district includes part of the Bronx.



Lorraine Coyle Koppell

Pro-choice Lorraine Coyle Koppell, after a big win in the Democratic primary, is well positioned to oust state Senator Guy Velella, one of only two anti-choice legislators representing Westchester. Koppell, an attorney, is married to former assemblyman and NYS attorney general Oliver Koppell. Mt. Vernon, Yonkers, Pelham, New Rochelle make up the Westchester part of Senate District 34; the rest is in the Bronx.

Amy Paulin is the favorite to take the assembly seat in District 88 that is left open by the retirement of Audrey Hochberg. Paulin, who resigned from WCLA's board when

Please see Legislature on page 6

WCLA Backs Spano

Abortion Politics, Rule 1: Remember in November

Moments after Senator Nick Spano told WCLA in 1990 that he was switching to pro-choice, we asked if "pro-choice included supporting Medicaid funding and opposing parental consent." He replied smartly, "You can't be a little bit pro-choice."



Nick Spano

Spano immediately became a staunch ally. Using his leadership status in the Republican majority, he is the senate leader on family planning and abortion rights. He is not just a pro-choice vote; he is the strongest senator to keep the pressure on the Republican leadership to mitigate its rigid anti-abortion position.

Spano was a sponsor of the clinic access and anti-stalking bill, which became law last year — the first pro-choice bill passed by the Senate since legalization in 1970. He's the chief sponsor of a bill mandating that hospital emergency rooms provide EC (emergency contraception) for rape survivors. Spano is a leader in the annual legislative struggle to replace the funds for family planning that Gov. Pataki has

cut from the state budget, and he fights to increase the funds. He is a sponsor of a bill requiring coverage for prescription contraceptives under all health policies and a co-sponsor of the Women's Health and Wellness bill, which also includes prescription contraceptive coverage. He votes against the annual attempt to cut off funds for Medicaid abortions, parental notification requirements, and is one of only three Republicans to oppose the ban on so-called "partial birth abortions," which was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court last June. Family Planning Advocates of NYS relies on him. Twice, in 1993 and 2000, FPA awarded him the prestigious Margaret Sanger award.

Abortion politics not for faint-hearted

The essence of issue politics is rewarding legislators' outstanding efforts no matter who is the challenger. In 1990, Republicans darkly predicted that WCLA would drop Spano at election time. We proved their admonitions to be unfounded by endorsing Spano's bid for re-election, showing Republicans around the state know that we remember in November.

In a repeat of 1998, county legislator Tom Abinanti is seeking to unseat Spano. In keeping with our nonpartisanship and policy of supporting incumbents who play a leading role on reproductive rights issues, WCLA is endorsing Spano. WCLA has supported Abinanti against all challengers in his many elections to the County Board of Legislators, where he leads the charge on choice. But in Election 2000 he is a challenger.

Legislature, from page 5

she announced her candidacy, is one of the most able activists for women's issues on the scene today and is highly qualified to serve in the state legislature. Her résumé contains a long list of important positions, including Scarsdale trustee, county chair of the League of Women Voters, and founding chair of the Westchester Women's Agenda. She is endorsed by WCLA. Her opponent, Max DiFabio, is pro-choice, but is no match for Paulin when it comes to knowledge, leadership, and commitment to women's issues.

Other Democratic assemblymembers who are endorsed by WCLA face anti-choice opponents (excluding Right to Life Party). They are Richard Brodsky, Naomi Matusow, and Sandy Galef. WCLA endorses without opposition are Democrats Gary Pretlow and Republican Mike Spano.



Amy Paulin

Derek Photographers

Shhh! NRA Helps Bush By Not Endorsing Him

In an effort to help George W. Bush, the National Rifle Association chose not to issue a formal endorsement of him.

Knowing their endorsement would be viewed negatively by independent suburban women voters whom Bush is courting, the NRA has instead opted to broadcast its support of the Bush candidacy to its membership of 4 million via the web, mailings, and speeches.

The Bush/NRA courtship began in 1994 when Bush ran for Texas governor. He promised to sign a bill allowing Texans to carry concealed weapons, including into churches. After his election, he promptly signed that legislation — which had been vetoed by the previous governor, Ann Richards. Last year Bush was praised again by the NRA when he banned Texas cities from suing gun manufacturers.

Please see NRA on page 14

Election, from page 1

Lazio also voted to obstruct the reproductive choice of vast categories of women. By denying Medicaid funding, he rules out millions of low-income women. He shuts out military women and dependents by prohibiting abortions at overseas military hospitals, even if there is no other medical facility available and the woman will pay for the abortion. He denies funds for abortions for women in federal prisons. Lazio slams teenagers from several directions: he voted to mandate parental consent with no right to appeal to the courts and with no exception for rape, incest, or health emergencies. Lazio voted to make it a federal crime to take a minor across state lines for an abortion if her home state requires parental consent. Lazio would imprison grandma for driving her granddaughter to a doctor's office, but permit the pregnant girl to hitchhike all alone to find a clinic in another state. He votes to prohibit Washington, D.C. from providing abortions for low-income residents. He votes against funding medical research using embryonic stem cells. Lazio voted for the sneaky Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which regards



the fetus as a crime victim equal in legal rights to the pregnant woman. This bill could lead to a ban on abortions.

Exclusive for WCLA: Hillary Reflects on the Big Picture

By Hillary Rodham Clinton

Nita Lowey and I had the great pleasure of speaking at the WCLA fundraiser this August. This was a wonderful, motivated gathering of old and new friends committed to electing pro-choice candidates this November. And I got to see Polly's great collection of political photographs!

One week later, I commemorated the 80th anniversary of the women's vote by touring Susan B. Anthony's home in Rochester. Together, these events reminded me of New York's rich history as a leader in the struggle for women's rights. It was, after all, in the Brooklyn storefront where Margaret Sanger launched what became a worldwide movement on behalf of women's reproductive health care — and our right to choose.

When I think about Margaret Sanger and so many other women and men who worked so hard, and made real sacrifices, so that we would have reproductive choice, I know that we must do everything in our power to keep this hard-

won right from slipping away. The fate of the Supreme Court rests on the outcome of this election, and a woman's right to choose hangs in the balance.

The difference in this election is clear: I believe that the right to choose is a fundamental constitutional right, and therefore I will never vote to confirm a Supreme Court justice who would overturn *Roe v. Wade*. My opponent refuses to make this same commitment — even though *Roe* was just upheld in the court by a one-vote margin.

I believe in choice for *all* women, but my opponent has voted against funding for poor women's abortions,

and he voted to prohibit American women serving in the armed forces from getting abortions using their own money in military hospitals overseas.

We have a lot at stake in this election. We cannot afford to turn back the clock on choice. With your help, we can spread the word about what's at stake for women in this election, and make sure that we send a strong message this November.

On the next two pages is a collection of photos taken at the benefit for WCLA hosted by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Congresswoman Nita Lowey on August 21 at Polly and Jesse Rothstein's. The photos were taken by Chris Morabito and Peter Grobe. They and more are available for purchase from the photographers after viewing at WCLA in White Plains.





**ACTION
ALERT!
ACTION
ALERT!**

Vote on November 7, 2000. The most important action you can take to ensure the survival of Roe v. Wade and help stem the tide of restrictive laws is to vote for pro-choice candidates. Don't even THINK of not voting!

Your Elected Officials: Keep For Future Reference

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Key

+	Pro-choice	I	Independence
-	Anti-choice	L	Liberal
+/-	Mixed, qualified	RTL	Right to Life
D	Democrat	F	Freedom
R	Republican	G	Green
C	Conservative	◊	Has run on RTL

This list keeps improving because YOU elect pro-choice candidates.

*To write
letters to
the editor*

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e-mail: letters@westches.gannett.com

Weekly papers:
Check the mastheads
for addresses and fax
numbers.

Beware: Surrogate Emanuelli on Right to Life Line

Endorsements of judicial candidates is not as simple as evaluating legislative candidates, as they are not permitted to take positions on controversial issues, though some have previous records on the issue. WCLA interviews do not compromise candidates in any way.



Anthony Scarpino

Surrogate

Anthony Scarpino, a justice of the NYS Supreme Court, is seeking to replace Surrogate Albert Emanuelli, who has angered longtime friends by accepting the Right to Life Party ballot line. Scarpino, endorsed by WCLA in previous elections, is the clear choice for Surrogate. Prior to election for Supreme Court, Scarpino was in the FBI and a County Court judge.

NYS Supreme Court

William Giacomo, a Port Chester town justice, has received WCLA's endorsement, as he did when he ran for Supreme Court in 1998. This year, Giacomo is running against acting Supreme Court justice Andrew O'Rourke, the former Westchester County Executive. O'Rourke declined WCLA's invitation to speak with us.



Les Adler

County Court

WCLA is endorsing Les Adler for County Court.

This is Adler's second run for the County Court bench, having been narrowly defeated in 1998. Prior to becoming a judicial candidate, Adler had established himself as a pro-choice advocate, and has a keen knowledge of the twists and turns of the abortion rights issue since the early 1970s. Adler has been a Greenburgh Councilman since 1983. He has been both an assistant district attorney and a criminal defense attorney, which makes him well prepared for the criminal matters before County Court.

Adler is facing Republican Alphonse Naclerio, who was recently appointed to the County Court bench. Naclerio told WCLA he will not accept the Right to Life Party line, but he is unfamiliar with the choice issue and has no record on reproductive rights.

Family Court

Four candidates are vying for two openings on the Family Court. The Democratic candidates are Nilda Morales Horowitz and David Klein, while the Republicans have nominated Annette Guarino and Gerry Klein. All four candidates are endorsed by WCLA.

Up for Grabs: The Supreme Court and the Election

Introduction by Herman Schwartz for a special issue of The Nation, October 9, 2000

This election will determine whether the Supreme Court and the lower courts will be filled with right-wing radicals trying to tear down the gains for individual liberty and social justice of the past forty years or with judges trying to preserve and advance those gains.

Before the Republic was a half-century old, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote that "scarcely any political question arises...that is not resolved sooner or later into a judicial question." Never has this been more true than today. Since the New Deal, the Supreme Court and the lower courts have profoundly influenced almost every aspect of American life. Our contributors high-

light the conservative trend of the Rehnquist Court and the toll it has already taken on constitutional rights and social policy. The issues covered by this symposium do not even begin to exhaust the federal courts' impact, which also includes prisoners' rights, securities regulation, disability legislation, pensions, Medicare, freedom of information law, health issues like tobacco and the relation of the courts to the administrative agencies.

George W. Bush has made it clear that he admires judges like Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, two of the most reactionary Justices ever to sit on a federal court. The report by People for the American Way Foundation, described on page 14 [of *The Nation*] by its president, Ralph Neas, demonstrates just how radical their ideas are. Gore's choices, on the other hand, are

likely to be judges like Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer, who have consistently opposed the Rehnquist-Scalia-Thomas-O'Connor-Kennedy assaults on individual liberty and social justice.

The next President is likely to appoint replacements for Rehnquist and John Paul Stevens, possibly for Sandra Day O'Connor and perhaps for others. The loss of Stevens would seriously weaken the liberal cause. But the replacement of William Rehnquist, O'Connor or other conservatives by Bush would also be a serious blow, because the Reagan/Bush strategy, crafted by Edwin Meese, calls for appointing youthful judges like Thomas to all the federal courts. That will cement a reactionary judiciary into the

Please see Court on page 14

Wanted: Bushese-English Intepreter for Presidential Candidate

In a 1775 play, Mrs. Malaprop made statements such as "She's as headstrong as an allegory on the banks of the Nile." "Malapropism" has become a noun meaning confusion of a word with one with a similar sound.

In a hilarious yet benign example, Peter Grace, at a Knights of Malta dinner with President Reagan and 900 members of the Catholic hierarchy, said "Everybody who's for abortion was at one time themselves a feces. And that includes all of you out there. You were once a feces. . . ."

Gail Sheehy, in a Vanity Fair profile of George W., says she believes that he is dyslexic, and reports that experts and family friends suggest that he is "dyslexic to the point of near-illiteracy."

Affliction or not, gaffes by officials in high places invite ridicule. George W. Bush commits language abuse with regularity. Americans need a president who can speak clearly, if not eloquently, and won't need Bushese-to-English translators when meeting with foreign leaders who might not understand what he meant when he said "hold this nation hostile" instead of "hold this nation hostage."

Read 'em and weep

"The fundamental question is, 'Will I be a successful president when it comes to foreign policy?' I will be, but until I'm the president, it's going to be hard for me to verify that I think I'll be more effective."

"What I am against is quotas. I am against hard quotas, quotas they basically delineate based upon whatever. However they delineate. Quotas, I think, vulcanize [Balkanize] society. So, I don't know how that fits into what everybody else is saying, their relative positions, but that's my position."

"We want them [teachers] to know how to teach the science of reading. In order to make sure there's not this kind of federal—federal cufflink." [handcuff]

"The point is, this is a way to help inoculate me about what has come and is coming."

"Well, I think if you say you're going to do something and don't do it, that's trustworthiness."

"When I was coming up, it was a dangerous world, and you knew exactly who they were," he said. "It was us vs. them, and it was clear who them was. Today, we are not so sure who the they are, but we know they're there."

"We cannot let terrorists and rogue nations hold this nation hostile or hold our allies hostile."

On abortion: "States should have the right to enact reasonable laws and restrictions particularly to end the inhumane practice of ending a life that otherwise could live." "I'm gonna talk about the ideal world, Chris. I've read—I understand reality. If you're asking me as the president, would I understand reality, I do."

"I think it's important for those of us in a position of responsibility to be firm in sharing our experiences, to understand that

the babies out of wedlock is a very difficult chore for mom and baby alike. ... And, you know, hopefully, condoms will work, but it hasn't worked."

"When I'm talking about—when I'm talking about myself, and when he's talking about myself, all of us are talking about me."

"I think anybody who doesn't think I'm smart enough to handle the job is underestimating."

"Laura and I really don't realize how bright our children is sometimes until we get an objective analysis."

"I hope we get to the bottom of the answer."

"This case has had full analyzation and has been looked at a lot."

"I think we agree, the past is over."

I talked to my little brother, Jeb—I haven't told this to many people. But he's the governor of — I shouldn't call him my little brother—my brother, Jeb, the great governor of Texas.

"Reading is the basics for all learning."

"I understand small business growth. I was one."

"I thought how proud I am to be standing up beside my dad. Never did it occur to me that he would become the gist [grist] for cartoonists."

"If you're sick and tired of the politics of cynicism and polls and principles, come and join this campaign."

"I'm less — I pontificate less, although it may be hard to tell it from this show. And I'm more interacting with people."

Will the highways on the Internet become more few?"

This is Preservation [Perseverance] Month. I appreciate preservation. It's what you do when you run for president. You gotta preserve."

"I know how hard it is for you to put food on your family."

"The administration I'll bring is a group of men and women who...will not stain the house."

"This is still a dangerous world. It's a world of madmen and uncertainty and potential mental losses."

"Rarely is the question asked: Is our children learning?"

"Gov. Bush will not stand for the subsidation of failure."

"It is incredibly presumptive [presumptuous] for somebody who has not yet...."

"...How many hands have I shaken?"

"The only thing I know about Slovakia [Slovenia]...."

"Keep good relations with the Grecians"

"It was just inebriating [enthraling] what Midland was all about then."

"These young kids, who have become rich beyond their means [years]."

"Presumptive" for presumptuous, "getting pillared [pilloried] in the press," "subliminable" for subliminal, "tenants" for tenets.

Bishops Call for Pressure on Pro-Choice Candidates

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops recently approved a resolution calling for the application of political pressure on politicians, especially fellow Catholics who differ with the hierarchy's position on abortion.

Electioneering by all religions is prohibited by the IRS Code, which states that organizations granted 501(c)(3) tax-deductible status may not "participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office." On July 5, the IRS pointed out in a reminder that church voter forums and voter guides violate the standard if they show a preference for or against certain candidates.

The Albany Times Union recently praised Albany's bishop, Howard Hubbard, for opposing the resolution. Hubbard, nemesis of the pro-choice movement in New York, expressed the view that the public might accuse elected Catholics who switch to the Church's position opposing abortion or the death penalty, of "caving in to the dictates of the Church, a tool of the bishops office."

In July, Priests for Life, an organization that claims a membership of only 6,000 of 55,000 American priests despite nine years of organizing, announced a \$1 million ad campaign aimed at pro-choice politicians, especially Catholics. Their strategy includes "issue ads" in newspapers and on

television in an effort to pressure candidates to follow Catholic dogma.

PFL claims its campaign will be non-partisan, but Rev. Frank Pavone, the national director of PFL (formerly a vocal Westchesterite), has hinted that the contrary is true. Pavone has met and been photographed with George W. Bush, and is an outspoken critic of Al Gore. Pavone is reported as having told US News and World Report that Catholic candidates may be specifically targeted if they "don't come around to the church's teaching." Barry Lynn of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, warned that his organization will monitor the project closely and will report violations of federal tax law to the IRS.

Ralph Nader Uninformed on Women's Rights and Abortion Rights

Voting for Ralph Nader is risky business for pro-choice advocates. Each vote cast for Nader is one less for Al Gore. Gore can win the Presidency. Nader cannot.

Toby Moffett, a former member of Congress from Connecticut who served with Al Gore in Congress, was the only "Nader's Raider" elected to the House. He wrote in the Hartford Courant that he found it "painful to watch Ralph on this rash and dangerous course he calls a campaign for president." Moffett says he finds it "stunning" that the Nader candidacy is ignoring the shared positions and mutual fights he and Al Gore have had.

Nader has conceded that he has no chance of winning, and his battle is being waged primarily in an effort to get the Green Party federal matching funds. With Nader's poll numbers hovering in the single digits, pollster John Zogby reports that two out of three voters who are likely to vote for Nader would otherwise vote for Al Gore. The remaining third represents those who probably would not otherwise vote.

In a recent article, the Sierra Club urged its members not to siphon off votes from Gore, saying: "If Nader takes enough votes away from Gore in a few closely contested states, it's hail to the chief, George W. Bush."

The New Yorker's Hendrik Hertzberg in "Talk of the Town" on September 18, while arguing to keep minor party candidates out of the debates, said it well. "Nader, willy-nilly, is not a politician, and now, willy-nilly, he is acting like one: for political advantage, he says things he knows to be untrue. Notably, he says that there's no difference between the Democrats and the Republicans. This is a bigger whopper

than any uttered by the Vice-President or the Governor of Texas, as Nader, whose previous career has been marked as much by practical realism as by lofty idealism, must know. But it would cost him votes to say what he apparently believes: that the differences – on social-security privatization, progressive taxation, health care, gun control, abortion, conservation, and a host of other issues – are very important indeed. They're just not as important as hoisting the Greens over the five percent mark. Or maybe he doesn't even believe that. He has also been saying that he hopes his candidacy will help elect Democrats to the House and Senate. Why would he say a thing like that, unless it makes a difference after all? Maybe the most enlightening debate would be between Nader and Nader."

Moffett says, " 'Reckless' is not too strong a word to use when one watches Ralph shrug off suggestions that his candidacy might result in an Antonin Scalia/Clarence Thomas-dominated Supreme Court, though he must be aware that George W. Bush has said those two are his favorite justices."

What is Ralph Nader's position on abortion rights? What is his record? He's never said. While Nader has spoken out on other issues through the years, he has never enunciated his position on the issues that are central to women's lives and participation in society. He's not anti, he's just not there.

As Katha Pollitt wrote in *The Nation*, "When I asked one woman close to Nader why he didn't speak out more about women's rights, she said 'That's what I keep telling him, but Ralph only likes to speak on issues he's really well informed about.'"

Candidates' Abortion Stands Engender Gender Gap

The "Gender gap" is the differences in men and women's voting patterns regarding certain issues or candidates.

Many women simply will not vote for an anti-choice candidate for office. Polling for the 2000 campaign reveals that there is a clear gender gap, it is growing, and it favors

Court, from page 11

federal bench from top to bottom for decades to come.

And make no mistake about it—George W. Bush will make such appointments. The forces behind his campaign are like the solution to the famous Sherlock Holmes mystery—the dogs that aren't barking. As the Republican convention showed, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Tom DeLay, Trent Lott, Bob Barr and Jesse Helms are going to be muzzled throughout the campaign. But they are all still out there calling the shots, and they know why they are supporting their boy.

Nor should we be fooled by claims by some on the left that it makes no difference whether Bush or Gore does the appointing. Earl Warren, William Brennan, Harry Blackmun, John Paul Stevens and David Souter are routinely cited as examples of good Republican appointments. Conveniently forgotten are Rehnquist, Scalia, Thomas, Kennedy, O'Connor and Warren Burger, to say nothing of failed nominations like Clement Haynsworth and G. Harrold Carswell. Moreover, Warren and Brennan were not ideological appointments. Warren was chosen to insure Eisenhower's nomination in 1952 and Brennan because Eisenhower wanted to appoint a Northeastern Irish Catholic Democrat, preferably a state judge, for the 1956 election. Nixon expected Blackmun to be conservative on criminal justice—and he was.

As for Stevens and Souter, both were anomalies. Stevens was chosen by Gerald Ford on the recommendation of Edward Levi of the University of Chicago Law School, probably the most liberal attorney general since Ramsey Clark. Souter, dubbed the "stealth candidate," was a complete unknown whom Bush chose to avoid losing another fight like the one over Robert Bork. Souter's sponsor, John Sununu, knew so little about him that he reassured one nervous right-winger that the appointment was "a home run" for the right and not just a "blooper single." The Republicans won't make such mistakes again, and they won't have to—with a Senate that will probably remain in their hands, controlled by Trent Lott, they will have no trouble pushing through any nominee they want.

This election is between Gore and Bush, not Gore and Nader. Every vote for Nader that might have gone to Gore is in effect a vote for Bush, Robertson, DeLay and Helms. It reflects the kind of thinking that gave us Richard Nixon in 1968 instead of Hubert Humphrey. It's the kind of thinking that has backfired throughout history. We dare not forget that, unless we are willing to have the Supreme Court and the rest of the federal judiciary shaped by the likes of Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell for decades to come.

Herman Schwartz

Gore-Lieberman and Hillary Rodham Clinton, candidates who are pro-choice.

Women voters take the trouble to find out where candidates stand on issues that are important to them and make their political decisions accordingly. Nancy Montagnino, executive director of WCLA, commented, "This view is confirmed each year by the demand for WCLA's yellow voting guide."

Al Gore's surge in the national presidential polls has been powered by women. Gore has gained 13 points among women, but only 4 points among men. This trend was reflected in the late August USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll, which put Gore 22 points over Bush with female voters, 58-36 percent. Polls indicate that Gore has won women's votes over to his ticket by hitting hard on the issues they care about: abortion rights, gun control, patients' bill of rights and family and medical leave. David Nhyhan of the Boston Globe observed that early support for Bush is "bleeding away, like a river through a broken levee."

This trend applies to the New York senatorial campaign, where Clinton has drawn women voters from Lazio by stressing her commitment to abortion rights and casting doubt on Lazio's claim to be pro-choice. Clinton's lead over Lazio was largely secured by her significant gain among women statewide (52-34 percent) and suburban women in particular (54-38 percent).

Women know their issues and they vote on their issues. Yes, the choice issue engenders a gender gap.

Bush Proclaims Jesus Day, Month of Prayer to End Abortion

Gov. George W. Bush declared January 1998 to be "A Month of Prayer to End Abortion" in Texas.

In May, at the request of an Atlanta group called "March for Jesus," Gov. Bush signed a proclamation declaring June 10, 2000, to be Jesus Day. The phrase "people of all religions recognize Jesus" infuriated people. It was seen as a blatant violation of the First Amendment. "It's not the same as declaring National Dairy Week," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "Any time government embraces a particular religious viewpoint it violates the spirit of the Constitution."

NRA, from page 6

To remind voters of the NRA's support of Bush, Handgun Control, Inc. Ran an advertisement featuring Kayne Robinson, an NRA vice-president and the expected successor to Charlton Heston, boasting that if Bush is elected: "We'll have a president where we work out of their office."

The Gore campaign has described the NRA as "the Bush gun policy team" and says Bush works with the NRA "hip holster to hip holster."

Supreme Court to Decide if Constitution Protects Pregnant Women From Search and Arrest

The Supreme Court will soon decide whether or not a woman seeking prenatal care from a private doctor can be searched for evidence of drug use, without her knowledge and consent, and have her results given to law enforcement for the purpose of prosecuting her. At issue is a sting operation conducted by the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

The hospital targeted women for testing if they had “inadequate” prenatal care or a history of drug or alcohol abuse. The search and arrest policy was implemented in October, 1989, at MUSC, which is the only hospital in Charleston that serves mostly low-income and African-American patients. Women who tested positive for illegal drug use were arrested, charged with possession, child neglect or distributing drugs to a minor, depending on the fetus’s age.

One patient was arrested while dressed only in a hospital gown and still bleeding from giving birth. Another patient was arrested the morning after giving birth; another was shackled to a hospital bed for two days while undergoing labor and delivery.

Few drug programs for pregnant women

Ironically, until the spring of 1990, none of the women with positive drug tests were given the opportunity to enter a drug treatment program. Once the treatment alternative was offered, those who opted for it found it often to be unavailable. There were few treatment spaces, and pregnant women were seldom accepted. The hospital’s own program initially turned the women away. None offered child care.

The Supreme Court is expected to address the Fourth Amendment, which protects Americans against unreasonable searches and seizures in their decision. The Center for Reproductive Law and Policy’s Deputy Director of Litigation, Priscilla Smith, framed the issue as follows: “The question before the Supreme Court is whether pregnant women have lesser constitutional rights than other Americans, and, as a result, can be searched for evidence of a crime in their private doctor’s offices without Fourth Amendment protection.”

The hospital gave the police a copy of the patient’s discharge summary, which contained confidential medical information. Among the organizations filing amicus curiae briefs before the Supreme Court, condemning the hospital’s policy, is the American Medical Association. The AMA in its brief said: “By eroding patients’ faith in the confidentiality of their medical care, the drug-testing plan discourages pregnant mothers [sic] from seeking adequate care...[and it] eliminates a window of opportunity for the physician to encourage sufficient postnatal care as well.”

In September, another fetal rights case made headlines. A federal district court judge in Massachusetts ordered a pregnant woman, Rebecca Corneau, to be locked in a state facility during the final weeks of her pregnancy. Corneau is

part of a religious sect that eschews modern medicine. The sect is currently the subject of a grand jury probe into two 1999 deaths, including the death of Jeremiah Corneau, who is alleged to have died during or shortly after birth. Judge Kenneth Nasif, who has appointed an attorney to represent “Unborn Child Corneau,” as the fetus is described in court papers, has claimed to have heard the voice of the fetus begging not to die like his brother. The prosecutor in the matter has contended that the legal technicalities (such as the rights of the pregnant woman) are outweighed by need to protect the fetus.

Reproductive rights advocates following the case have expressed alarm over the implications of this case. Pregnant women still have a right to make their own health care choices. The Supreme Court has already said that employers may not bar pregnant or potentially pregnant women from workplaces with toxins or other known hazards to fetal development. The cases now in the courts deal with drugs and alcohol and failure to have prenatal medical care.

There is a slippery slope here — prosecutors could argue that there should be protective forced hospitalization for pregnant women skiing or riding horses, smoking, drinking, and having sex.

Kansas Voters Oust Creationists, Return Schools to 21st Century

On August 1, Kansas voters rejoined the 21st century by defeating two fundamentalist state Board of Education members who voted for the schools to favor creationism over evolution, opening the door to overtuning the disputed policy.

The mindset that instituted this new policy was exhibited by one board member who told the New York Times a few days prior to the recent election: “I don’t believe that humans descended from apes, no. How come there’s still apes running around loose and there are humans? Why did some of them decide to evolve and some did not?”

The vote which introduced the creationist language was considered a victory for religious fundamentalists who wanted other theories, usually the biblical account found in the Old Testament book of Genesis, presented as a credible alternative. This move brought derision onto Kansas.

By defeating the religious right school board, voters made it clear that they want hard science to be front and center. In a New York Times editorial appearing August 4, 2000, after the vote, the Kansas Board of Education was excoriated for their “reckless attempts...to deprive its children of modern scientific thinking.” The Times further praised the balloting as “a triumph for common sense, and a resounding defeat for creationists whose religious zeal threatened to imperil their schoolchildren’s education.”

advocates for all points of view have long tried to interest voters in the Supreme Court, warning that the president will appoint justices and tip the balance of power. At the unremitting urging of organizations on both ends of the ideological spectrum, such as WCLA, NOW, NARAL, the Christian Coalition, Right to Life, Sierra Club, People for the American Way, and the National Rifle Association, voters are beginning to see the point.

Drawing new political district boundaries, which occurs every decade after the federal census, is of enormous impact, but is too esoteric to interest many voters. Controlled by the parties in power, Congress and the New York State Legislature will draw new lines for the House, the New York Senate and Assembly, and the Westchester County Board of Legislators. These lines will be drawn in a highly partisan manner, with nothing more in mind than ensuring that the majority party keeps control.

Ultimately, redistricting determines the legislative leadership, the ideological makeup of the committees, and the legislative agenda through the next decade. It determines who will be confirmed for positions that directly affect reproductive rights, for example, high-level judges and commissioners of departments such as Health and Education. It determines which bills move and become law.

We the People, aware of what's at stake, decide whom to give this extraordinary power to.

Empathy Belly?

They've got to be kidding! In a misguided effort to deter teen pregnancy, a Pennsylvania group has begun taking "Empathy Belly" to health fairs and high schools.

Empathy Belly is a 32-lb vest with a large, 7-lb water-filled abdominal pocket, which puts pressure on the bladder and simulates fetal turns and kicks. A binder squeezes the rib cage to create abdominal pressure. It will probably work as well as prior deterrents, such as giving girls dolls that relentlessly cry, vomit, urinate, and defecate, and asking them to keep them for a week.

EC for Teenagers: Not in This House

As the school year was getting underway, the House of Representatives voted 250 to 170 to accept a Senate provision barring the use of federal funds to distribute EC (emergency contraception) to minors in elementary and secondary schools.

The motion was introduced by Rep. Tom Coburn (R-OK), who labeled the pills "frightening" and "an outrageous violation of the rights of parents." Coburn doesn't find unwanted teenage pregnancy frightening.

Emergency contraception — if taken within 72 hours after unprotected intercourse — can decrease a woman's chances of getting pregnant by more than 75 percent.

A study published in 1998 reported that three out of four American adolescents have never heard of the "morning after" pill. In an editorial reported at that time, Dr. Carol Ford of the University of North Carolina said, "Many sexually active adolescents use condoms inconsistently or experience problems with condom usage...We need to make sure these adolescents know about the option and have access to emergency post-coital contraception." This perception of teenage difficulty with contraception still holds true despite recent trends toward the practice of safe sex, according to recent surveys.

All Westchester legislators voted against the anti-choice bill.

Vanity Bricks Violate Church-State Separation

Advised by the Mexico, NY Academy High School Class of 1999 to raise funds for their school has taken some unanticipated dramatic turns. First, three residents sued the local school district because their "vanity bricks" were installed in obscure locations. These residents accused the school of trying to hide their bricks, which were inscribed with phrases like "Jesus Saves" and "Jesus Christ Is the Lord of this School."

These complaints evoked a new barrage of complaints from others who were duly disturbed by the violation of the separation of church and state that the disputed bricks represented. They

asked that all bricks emblazoned with religious slogans be removed on the basis that they put the school in the apparent situation of promoting a specific religion, Christianity. School officials retorted: "Messages on this walk are the personal expressions and contributions of the individuals of this community."

When another resident proceeded to inscribe his brick: "Keep Abortion Legal," the district easily decided to remove all bricks containing any political or religious message. Religious zealots expressed dismay that this decision put Jesus in the same category as politics.

Lest We Forget...

We are frequently reminded by that all too many of young women and men are essentially clueless about the dire conditions faced by families with unwanted pregnancies before Roe v. Wade in 1973 legalized abortion. Most who became adults before 1970 have sad personal memories of their own or of friends or family members who suffered harshly from the laws that made abortion a crime in nearly every state. Young women are disbelieving when told that the Supreme Court legalized birth control in 1965, for married women only, for unmarried women in 1972, followed by abortion the next year.

A school project we learned about from Women Leaders Online merits imitation.

The teacher who spearheaded the project said that, faced with a group of students who took it upon themselves to do a community project promoting anti-abortion laws, asked them one simple question: "What was it like before Roe v. Wade?"

The students took up the challenge. They researched the answer thoroughly and were stunned at what they learned. Historical research could take on a whole new meaning for students who are obligated by their study of the past to think about its relevance in their own lives. We congratulate in advance all teachers and individuals who give this a try.

Global Gag Rule: Death Sentence for Third-World Women

After 25+ years, pro-choice advocates rarely express outrage about the global gag rule.

But they should. The gag rule in all its versions is invidious, a horrific piece of congressional legislation that is a clear violation of international human rights. Moreover, it deflects sorely needed funds from provision of family planning care in developing countries.

Currently at stake is the attempt to attach the "global gag rule" to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. This rule effectively muzzles foreign non-governmental organizations (NGO), private charities that accept U.S. foreign aid for family planning. The global gag rule bars them from using *their own* money to provide abortions and from engaging in any public advocacy or public education about the abortion issue in their own country.

This is the reincarnation of the evil rider crafted last year by the anti-choice zealot Chris Smith (R-NJ). Allying himself with like-minded ideologues, he managed to hold the omnibus spending bill hostage until the Clinton administration succumbed to pressure and accepted a "compromise": The spending bill was passed with the anti-choice global gag rule attached to it, but for one year only.

Currently, Congress is debating renewal of the global gag rule. The House narrowly voted in July to renew, as an attachment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, the legislation that determines the level of funding for family

Mexican States Move Slowly On Decriminalizing Abortion

Many women in Central Mexico have been saved by their elected officials from death by illegal abortion.

In August the state legislature of Morelos approved a law decriminalizing abortion in specific cases, including rape, birth defects, or danger to the woman's life – or if the pregnancy is the result of "an accident." Now there's a loophole for women to walk through. At the same time, the governor of the neighboring state of Guanajuato refused to sign a bill which would have made abortion illegal in that state.

It is possible that we are seeing a trend towards choice in Mexico, since these actions at the state level follow legislation passed earlier in the year in Mexico City making abortion more accessible to women in need.

However, there is a danger that the trend will be curtailed by National Action Party of President-elect Vicente Fox, which unfortunately has shown an anti-choice bias.

The legal status of abortion in Mexico is significant for Americans. A great number of American women fled before *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 to seek abortions south of the border. Even today, many impoverished women cross the Rio Grande from Texas, because that state refuses to fund the procedure for poor women.

planning and other US AID-supported programs in developing countries. The House version caps the funding for family planning at last year's \$385 million. The Senate has taken the opposite tack. They have explicitly removed all gag rule language from the spending bill and have increased support for family planning to \$425 million.

The bill now goes to the House-Senate Conference Committee, of which Nita Lowey is a member. Nita is committed to helping to work out a compromise which would remove the gag rule restrictions and provide strong funding support for family planning efforts overseas. Her role is extremely important. The language in Smith's global gag rule is not only offensive but also

- would be unconstitutional if applied to programs in this country.
- is contrary to the key premise of United States foreign policy, which purports to seek to share the beneficence of our democratic principles along as well as our material wealth.
- represents cultural imperialism at its worst.

In real world terms, listen to what Pablo Rodriguez, M.D., medical director for Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island, learned as a visiting practitioner 'high in the Andes' of Peru: It is...a fact that, for women in the Andes and in much of the developing world, the vote taken by the House to restrict funding for international family planning represented a death sentence for thousands who found themselves without contraceptives and facing the uncertainties of unsafe abortion practices....

As a result, many clinics ran out of supplies and the Angel of Death fell upon the small villages and towns dependent on the American money. Anyone characterizing this vote as 'pro-life' needs a serious dose of reality."

Iranian Doctors Fear Prosecution for Providing Legal Abortions

Iran's religious leaders have implicitly acknowledged the danger of the genetic blood disorder thalassemia by pronouncing that abortion is acceptable in cases where the condition has been diagnosed early in pregnancy. However, Iranian doctors, continuing to fear retribution if they perform abortions even in these circumstances, seem united in their refusal to carry out the operation.

In effect, the "fatwa" from Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamanei compares the sin of delivering or raising a child who has been definitely diagnosed with the blood disorder with the sin of abortion, and comes out in favor of abortion on thalassemic fetuses under 10 weeks old.

But doctors in state hospitals say that until this 'fatwa' is codified by parliament, they will not risk prosecution by terminating pregnancies even of fetuses which clearly carry the disease. Their continued avoidance of performing abortions leaves in limbo the three million Iranians who have thalassemia and the potential to pass the disease to their children.

Freedom of Choice! Vote!

Dear reader,

Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion continues to build on the strength of ProChoice IDEA, the action plan for that has made us the most effective countywide abortion rights organization in the state, if not the nation. By effective, I mean electing pro-choice candidates to office. ProChoice IDEA means ID for identification, E for education, and A for activation of pro-choice voters. This newsletter is part of the E, educating readers about the issues and the elected officials.

The familiar yellow voting guide, listing WCLA's endorsements for the November election, comes with the autumn issue of ProChoice. The pages provide information on abortion rights and the elections, endorsed candidates, specific races, as well as current information about the choice issue.

WCLA mails its newsletter *free of charge* to over 80,000 pro-choice households in Westchester and Putnam. Each issue of ProChoice costs WCLA around \$25,000 to produce and mail. It's expensive, but we believe it is extremely important to explain complex issues in clear and understandable language. Much of the information we report is not covered in the mainstream press or is buried deep in long articles. Of course, writing and editing are done in the WCLA office.

Have you been doing your part to support Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion and ensure publication of ProChoice three times each year? (Your mailing label shows the date of your last donation.) We hope you have, and will.

Please make a donation today to Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion, using the envelope inside. It will help expedite our recording of your donation if you copy onto the envelope the five or six digit number over your name on the mailing label.

With appreciation,

Polly Rothstein
President
Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion, Inc.

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