

PROChoice





Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion-PAC



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

2003 VOTING GUIDE

VOTE NOV. 4, 2003

-  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.

2003 **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, 2003

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.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

• 9th Judicial District

Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess and Orange Counties (vote for 3)
 [list not final at press time]

- COLEEN DUFFY (D)**
- JO ANN FRIIA (D, I, W)**
- DEBRA KIEDAISCH (D)**
- LAWRENCE HOROWITZ (R,I,C)**

*Margaret Garvey** (R, C)*
Christine Sproat (R, I, C)

COUNTY COURT

(Vote for 3)

- SUSAN CACACE (D, I, C)**
- ROBERT DIBELLA (D, W)**

Joseph Alessandro (R, D, C)
Rory Bellantoni (R, I, W)
Robert Neary (R, I, C)
 JOHN O. NOEL (W)

FAMILY COURT

- ANNETTE GUARINO (R, C)**
- KATHIE DAVIDSON (D, I, W)**

WESTCHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATOR

• District 1

Peekskill, Buchanan, parts of Yorktown and Cortlandt

*George Oros *(R, I, C)*

• District 2

Mt. Kisco, Beford, North Salem, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge and part of Somers

- URSULA LAMOTTE *(R, I, C)**
- DAVID MENKEN (D, W)**

• District 3

North Castle, Pleasantville, and parts of Harrison, Mt. Pleasant and Briarcliff Manor

- Robert Astorino (R, I, C)*
- JOHN NONNA (D, W)**

• District 4

New Castle and parts of Yorktown, and Somers

- Mark Fang (R, I, C)*
- MICHAEL KAPLOWITZ *(D, I, W)**

• District 5

Scarsdale, parts of White Plains

- Frank Cantatore (R, I, C)*
- WILLIAM RYAN *(D, W)**

• District 6

Rye Brook, Port Chester and parts of Harrison and Rye Town

- Michael LaDore (R, C)*
- MARTIN ROGOWSKY *(D, I, W)**

• District 7

Rye City, Mamaroneck Town, Larchmont, and parts of Village of Mamaroneck, New Rochelle and Rye Town

- Virginia Waters (R)*
- GEORGE LATIMER *(D, I, W)**

• District 8

Elmsford, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown and parts of White Plains, Greenburgh and Mt. Pleasant

- LOIS BRONZ *(D, I, W)**

• District 9

Croton, Town and Village of Ossining, parts of Briarcliff Manor and Cortlandt

- RICHARD WISHNIE *(D, I, W)**

• District 10

Tuckahoe and parts of New Rochelle and Eastchester

- VITO PINTO *(D, I, W)**

• District 11

Pelham, Pelham Manor and parts of New Rochelle

- JAMES MAISANO *(R, I, C, W)**
- JACK SCARANGELLA (D)**

• District 12

Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington and parts of Greenburgh

- THOMAS ABINANTI *(R, D, I, W)**

• District 13

Parts of Mt. Vernon

- Woodrow Peeples (R, C)*
- CLINTON YOUNG, JR. *(D, I)**

• District 14

Parts of Yonkers and Mt. Vernon

- BERNICE SPRECKMAN *(R,I,C,W)**
- Eileen Justino (D)*

• District 15

Bronxville and parts of Yonkers and Eastchester
 Louis Mosiello *(R, I, C, W)

- HAL GREENWALD (D)**

• District 16

Parts of Yonkers

- Jeanne Vergari Martinelli (R, C)*
- ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS *(D,I,W)**

• District 17

Parts of Yonkers

- MARIA CHUILLI (R, C)**

Jose Alvarado *(D, I, W)

Parties:

- R: Republican
- D: Democrat
- I: Independence
- C: Conservative
- W: Working Families

Key to ratings:

- ENDORSED**
- PRO-CHOICE, NOT ENDORSED**
- Mixed
- Anti-choice*
- *Incumbent
- **Former RTL



PROChoice

Newsletter of

WCLA and WCLA-PAC

Vol. 32, No. 3 Autumn, 2003

It is a Westchester County Issue!

Over the years, the Westchester political community has come to see WCLA and pro-choice voters as a force with which to be reckoned. They know that WCLA and WCLA-PAC can accomplish a massive get-out-the-vote effort; last year WCLA-PAC made over 80,000 calls in support of Alan Hevesi, who won the NYS Comptroller race by a 3% margin. Choice was the deciding issue.

If candidates for whom WCLA makes a major effort are defeated, our side will lose the political strength we have gained, along with legislative support. It is critical, therefore, to keep the upper hand at the voting booths. A large turnout of our side is essential.

Remember, every election has a major impact on our collective and individual lives.

Stewart-Cousins A Leader

The election for Westchester County legislator for District 16 presents an absolutely clear choice for pro-choice voters. **Andrea Stewart-Cousins** has an unequivocal record supporting a woman's right to choose. Stewart-Cousins knows the issues, and has always been and will continue to be a strong proponent of reproductive freedom. (One cannot say the same about her opponent!)



Since winning the seat in her very first bid for public office in 1995, Democratic County Legislator Stewart-Cousins has been a coalition builder in her work to improve the lives of Westchester's women and children. She has worked tirelessly to keep women's issues at the forefront of the agenda for the County Board of Legislators.

When Stewart-Cousins was Chair of the Health Committee, she was instrumental in bringing the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program to Yonkers as a pilot project. SANE helps victims of sexual abuse by providing expert services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. It was such a success that SANE has now become a national program.

See District 16 on page 5

Reproductive Rights: A County Issue?

The county is the primary health services provider in Westchester. WCLA wants a county government that understands that reproductive health care is a powerful issue within the health services departments. WCLA works to elect county officials who are prepared to protect rights and access for all.

Budget issues: The departments that relate to women and families comprise a large portion of the county budget.

County Medical Center: The County Board of Legislators (CBL) confirms appointments to the hospital board and

See Vote on page 10

Kaplowitz Yes

In 1997, as a county legislator hopeful, **Michael Kaplowitz** said, "Generally, I seek consensus and compromise among different interests—that's my style. However, there are a few exceptions, and a woman's right to choose is definitely one of these. I strongly believe that this is not an area in which legislators should become involved."



Kaplowitz has stayed true to his word.

WCLA urges the voters of District 4 to reelect Michael Kaplowitz. In contrast to his opponent, Kaplowitz is an unwavering friend of the pro-choice community. He has distinguished himself in his support for the Westchester County Human Rights Commission and the Domestic Partners Registry.

In 1997, Kaplowitz won election by only 37 votes. This year, in his fourth bid for reelection, Kaplowitz is again being targeted. He is facing the same anti-choice opponent as in 2001; but this time his opponent has upped the *anti*. He has raised a substantial campaign war chest. His opponent is not only wrong on choice but wrong on many of the social issues important to Westchester residents.

It is imperative that WCLA's voters take this challenge seriously. As we saw in 1997, one vote can decide the winner in this district for the next two years. On November 4th, vote choice, vote Kaplowitz!

A Special Day

by Catherine Lederer-Plaskett
President/Chair of the Board

Sunday, September 21st was an amazing day. It was WCLA's first 4-Choice Awards — a formal occasion at which we expressed our gratitude to some of the many people who have volunteered their time, funds or efforts to choice, without asking for anything in return. These are truly WCLA's unsung heroes, those who have made our last 31 years possible.

On this premier occasion, we honored William (Bill) Gips, Lawrence (Larry) Gralla, Dolly Maass, Josephine Spano and Clare Stuart. Their friends and ours gathered to break some bread, drink a little wine, laugh, and salute these five individuals.

This inaugural event proved to be particularly poignant. Bill Gips' health had been failing but, as his wife said, he was determined to attend the brunch. With the support of his phenomenal family, he arrived by ambulance. In illness or in health, Bill was always an inspiration. Bill had been an escort at abortion clinics, a spy at Operation Rescue meetings, and a committed volunteer at our office and that of Planned Parenthood. No job was ever too small or too boring; Bill did everything that was asked of him.

Bill passed away on September 23rd, less than 48 hours after the 4-Choice Awards, just as his wife had predicted.

As I sat in Larchmont Temple attending Bill's funeral,



I found myself wondering, "What now? Who follows in the footsteps of Bill Gips, Larry Gralla, Dolly Maass, Josephine Spano and Clare Stuart? Where is the next generation of volunteers and supporters? Where are the people my age and younger who understand that without grassroots labor and financial support the battle cannot be waged, much less won?"

Every day, to the deafening applause of right-wing extremists, the Bush administration is gnawing away at our right to choose. This is not paranoia; this is fact.

Kate Michelman, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, said, as she announced her retirement, to commence on April 30, 2004, "Women face as grave a threat as ever to their Constitutional right to personal privacy and to a choice."

The New York Times, 9/29/03, reported that on Oct. 4th the campaign to reelect Bush would bring together 500 volunteers in Atlanta to train them in how to organize precincts, canvass voters and get out the vote. Similar events are scheduled to take place around the country until virtually every precinct around the nation has Bush organizers. They are also targeting the 4 million evangelical Christians who supposedly did not vote in 2000. A true grassroots effort that will penetrate precincts and neighborhoods across the country is how it is described, with all the money needed to do it. The Bush campaign's fundraising target is \$170 million; they already have \$80 million.

(If all that doesn't make you weak in the knees, and slightly nauseous, nothing will.)

Actually all that stands between them and the destruction of all that we hold constitutionally dear — the right to privacy, the right to vote, the right to choose, just to name a few—is us. But, as the saying goes, "where there is a will, there is a way," and we have both the will and the way.

Using Howard Beale in the film *Network* as our guide, together we will lean out of our figurative windows and scream, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." We—you and WCLA—have the grassroots know-how to fight back. (WCLA just needs help with the finances!)

Give voice to your ideals and, above all else, vote. Vote the issue!



This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Bill Gips who was a longtime friend to choice and WCLA. He passed away on September 23, 2003. He will be greatly missed.

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WCLA-PAC

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Founded in 1972

Your Vote Matters!!!

By Judith A. Kaufman
Executive Director



By the time you read this issue of ProChoice, the Westchester County primaries will be long over and, therefore, old news. What should not be forgotten, however, is the abysmal turnout from the voters of each and every party. This means that in contested races less than one-quarter of the registered voters decides who gets to run for office. Picking the candidate for your party is clearly an important and often decisive issue. To refuse to engage means that you have no say in the process.

To compound the problem, the turnout for general elections has been below 50%. This is truly a sorry and dangerous state of affairs. Democracy works only if citizens participate. While every election is not as sexy, exciting or earthshattering as others, each is crucial in how our day-to-day lives play out. This November every seat on the Westchester County Board of Legislators is up for a vote. It is your turn to be heard. On the issue that matters most to those of you reading this newsletter, please make sure you vote for the candi-

dates endorsed by WCLA. It is a testament to the power of the pro-choice community and to WCLA, in particular, that the balance on the County Board has shifted so dramatically to the pro-choice side. We want to keep it this way. The anti-choice fanatics do not miss a chance to vote against pro-choice candidates. Do not be fooled by claims that this is an unimportant election. No election is unimportant. The majority of the current Board is pro-choice and has fought whenever necessary to protect a woman's right to choose. Let's make sure they are allowed to continue to do so.

Tell your family, your friends and your neighbors to go to the polls on November 4th. Take our yellow voting guide with you. We cannot afford to sit back, relax and rely on someone else to take care of this for us. It is unfortunately true that America gets the government it deserves. If you fail to exercise your right and privilege to vote for the candidate you like, you have forfeited the right to complain when issues of vital importance are decided by those who do not support your positions.

As they say, democracy is the worst system in the world except when compared to all the others. It takes time, it takes effort and it is often messy. If we learned nothing else from the 2000 election fiasco, it is that every vote matters and making sure our vote is cast and counted is all that stands between us and the right wing anti-choice fanatics.

WCLA Endorsements: Careful Process

WCLA's annual process of making candidate endorsements is deliberate and arduous.

A review of all of WCLA's voting guides shows no errors, though after endorsement there have been some switches to the other side of the issue. All candidates are given the opportunity to rethink their positions. Even strongly pro-choice or anti-choice incumbents are queried, just in case of a change of mind.

Except for candidates who in the past were endorsed by the Right to Life Party, or who otherwise are known to be unreceptive to abortion rights, WCLA mails each candidate a two-page questionnaire seeking his/her public

position on reproductive rights and timely delivery of reproductive health services.

The questionnaire is redrawn each year, as old issues disappear and new ones emerge.

If a candidate misses the deadline, WCLA follows up with phone calls, frequently another copy of the questionnaire, and then a letter. WCLA is more interested in ascertaining the candidate's position than in strict adherence to a due date.

Each questionnaire is reviewed as it is returned. If the questionnaire reveals inconsistencies in a generally pro-choice set of responses, the candidate is phoned to explain the intent of the question and discuss

the issue. Candidates are permitted to change an answer if they so wish. Occasionally a candidate is asked to meet with WCLA president and board chair Catherine Lederer-Plaskett to make sure that WCLA has a clear understanding of the candidate's position on choice.

All endorsements are made on a strictly non-partisan basis. WCLA's board of directors reviews the questionnaires and discusses incumbents' records, leadership, and helpfulness during the legislative session. The board also reviews the opponents' records. Each race is voted separately. This process can take hours, with most of the time spent on a few races.

Electing Judges: Pro-Choice vs. No-Choice

Unlike those running for other political office, candidates for judge are limited in terms of offering opinions on disputed legal and political issues. In its judicial endorsement process, WCLA sends no questionnaires, but does discuss with candidates their general philosophies regarding pregnant women and the law. To qualify for consideration by WCLA, candidates must agree to an interview and eschew the Right to Life Party.

This year, there are:

Three open seats for the State Supreme Court in the Ninth Judicial District, which includes Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland, and Orange Counties. Supreme Court justices serve a 14-year term.

Three open seats for Westchester County Court. These judges serve a 10-year term.

One open seat for Westchester County Family Court. These judges serve a 10-year term.

NYS Supreme Court

WCLA endorses: **3 Democrats and 1 Republican:** Mount Vernon City Court Judge **Colleen Duffy**, White Plains City Court Judge **Jo Ann Friia** and Orange County Family Court Judge **Debra**

Kiedaisch and Westchester County Court Judge **Lawrence Horowitz**. Duffy has been on the bench in Mount Vernon since 1998 and serving as an Acting Family Court Judge since March, 2003; Friia has been sitting on the bench in White Plains since 1993, since 1997 she has been the senior City Court Judge; Kiedaisch has been a Family Court Judge since 1996 and for three of those years she served as an Acting Supreme Court Justice. Horowitz has been sitting on the bench since June 2003.

Westchester County Court Judges

Two Democrats: Yes All others: No
County Court candidates former assistant district attorney **Susan Cacace** and Westchester County Surrogate's Court's principal court attorney **Robert DiBella** have earned WCLA's endorsement, each for a second time.

WCLA considers all three Republican candidates—Alessandro, Bellantoni and Neary—anti-choice. Bellantoni did not respond to WCLA's request for an interview; Alessandro refused to make himself available; and Neary said that he did not wish the endorsement of a one-issue organization like WCLA.

Voter Alert

In an unusual move, anti-choice Alessandro, a registered Republican, managed to get enough petition signatures to force a Democratic primary. He was not selected by the Westchester County Democratic Party for one of the three open seats. Alessandro produced voluminous campaign

literature and ran many ads but never let the voters know he was a Republican. Unfortunately, due in large part to the luck of the draw and to where his name appeared on the ballot, Alessandro managed to win one of the Democratic slots. He is, therefore, running as a Republican, a Democrat and a Conserva-



tive. No matter how many lines he runs on, he is still anti-choice.

Family Court Judge

WCLA endorses both Democratic candidate Deputy County Attorney **Kathie Davidson** and Republican candidate Westchester Family Court Judge **Annette Guarino**. Davidson has served as Deputy County attorney in Westchester since 1998. Guarino has been sitting on the bench since June 2003.

Don't lose the right to choose!

County Legislator Endorsements

District 3

County legislator hopeful **John Nonna** is, without doubt, the superior candidate in this race to fill the District 3 open seat. Nonna, a former Mayor of Pleasantville for seven years, is a strong believer in choice. As a practicing attorney, Nonna recognizes the need to protect reproductive rights for all women.

In sharp contrast, his opponent — who refused to return WCLA's calls, answer our letter, or return our questionnaire — is clearly anti-choice.

WCLA is pleased to endorse John Nonna who "recognizes the need to stand up and fight for issues that are important to those [I] serve."

District 5



Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion once again endorses **William (Bill) Ryan**, who is running for his third term as the county legislator for District 5. Ryan, a pro-choice advocate, is a longtime friend and supporter of WCLA.

As a member of the New York State Assembly in the 1980s, Ryan was an active and vocal advocate for choice. In his first campaign for the County Board in 1997, he pledged to continue to

fight for a woman's right to choose if elected and he has done so without fail. Ryan has "more faith in women making the right decision for themselves than in government making it for them...A woman's right to choose is absolute and should not be subject to legislation."

Ryan is currently the Vice Chair of the Board of Legislators and serves on the Legislation, Public Works, Energy, Environment and Health, Officers and Departments, and Rules Committees. District 5 voters which now include all, not just part, of Scarsdale must get out to vote to ensure that our pro-choice legislators will continue to be a majority of the Board.

District 16, from page one

Stewart-Cousins, in collaboration with other County Board members, has focused attention on the difficult issue of domestic violence. One of their achievements is that the County now has a program which allows local police to use special camera equipment to gather "instant photographic evidence" at crime scenes of violence and abuse. These photos have frequently helped convict batterers.

WCLA is happy to endorse Stewart-Cousins. She is an important voice for women and for reproductive rights. The pro-choice community must vote. We can make the difference for Andrea Stewart-Cousins in this election.

District 6

Martin Rogowsky summed up his position on choice when he said, "I continue to believe that a woman's right to choose is a fundamental right that must be protected by elected officials. We must challenge and defeat the movement toward restricting access to abortions."

Rogowsky's commitment to choice and to WCLA dates back to 1974, just two years shy of the founding of WCLA! We are proud to endorse him.

Rogowsky was first elected to the County Legislature in 1990 and then again on May 14, 2002 when he regained his seat in a special election. As a member of the County Board of Legislators in the early 1990s Rogowsky's pro-choice record was unblemished. He helped pass a resolution asking Congress to abrogate the domestic 'gag rule' imposed by President Reagan. He was also a co-signatory of letters to U.S. Senators and Representatives urging support of the Freedom of Choice Act and letters to the NYS Legislature pressing for passage of the Health Care Facilities Access Bill.



District 11

WCLA is endorsing **Jim Maisano**, a pro-choice Republican county legislator, over a pro-choice Democrat, Jack Scarangella. WCLA recognizes the leadership role Maisano has played as an outspoken advocate for choice since becoming a proponent of reproductive rights in 2000.



District 17

WCLA endorses **Maria Chiulli**, the Republican candidate for District 17, in her bid for election to the Westchester County Board. Since first deciding to run for office, Chiulli has educated herself on abortion rights and has become a proponent of a woman's right to choose.

Chiulli is not a stranger to the residents of the Yonkers community. She has served on the Yonkers School Board and been actively involved in Republican political campaigns.

**Protect Your Rights!
VOTE!!!**





4-Choice Awards 2003

Photos by Mark Stephen Kornbluth

Partial Birth Abortion: The Facts

Advocates of a ban on so-called “Partial Birth Abortion” (PBA) describe it as a narrow exception to reproductive rights, intended to prevent a clearly-defined and particularly objectionable late-term procedure. Because the term “Partial Birth Abortion” is so graphic and inflammatory, some other-wise pro-choice Americans express support for a PBA ban.

Know the facts. The PBA bans about to be signed into law in Washington and under consideration in Albany are neither narrow nor clearly-defined. They criminalize a whole range of medically recommended abortion procedures, threaten women’s health, and insert government directly into the relationship between doctor and patient. The intent of such bans is not to carve out a small exception to reproductive rights, but rather to circumvent and undermine the Constitutional protections at the heart of Roe v. Wade.

Myth: PBA is a clearly-defined medical term.

Fact: PBA is not mentioned in any medical textbook or recognized by any doctor. There is a medical procedure called Intact D&E. It is employed very rarely and only when a doctor deems it to be the safest method of abortion for a particular patient. PBA bans are often assumed to be targeted at Intact D&E, but their legislative language is, in every case, much more sweeping.

Myth: A PBA ban would only prohibit abortions late in the third trimester.

Fact: Because PBA is defined so vaguely and broadly, a ban would prohibit abortions much earlier in pregnancy. Third trimester abortions are already illegal in every state except to save the woman’s health or life, so the proposed PBA bans clearly have a different and much more sweeping intent.

Myth: A PBA ban would not threaten women’s health.

Fact: Doctors employ the abortion method deemed safest for their patients. By prohibiting a range of procedures, a PBA ban would require doctors to employ methods that are less medically appropriate and, thereby, subject women to a series of health risks, including severe infection or sterility.

Myth: The medical community supports a PBA Ban.

Fact: PBA bans are opposed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Public Health Association, the American Nurses Association, and the American Medical Women’s Association.

Myth: PBA bans do not challenge the basic Constitutional protections of Roe v. Wade.

Fact: PBA is part of well-orchestrated strategy to chip away at fundamental reproductive rights. Anti-choice leaders know that most Americans are pro-choice, so they have chosen to repackage their agenda in a seemingly moderate wrapper. By prohibiting medically safe and appropriate abortion procedures, PBA bans directly challenge the Constitutional framework of Roe.

Eric Robert Rudolph Finally Caught

After one of the most exhaustive manhunts in history, Eric Robert Rudolph, a survivalist wanted for the bombing at the 1996 Olympics and attacks on abortion clinics, was arrested while “dumpster-diving” behind a supermarket in Murphy, North Carolina. Much to the surprise and probable embarrassment of the authorities, Rudolph was taken into custody by a rookie police officer who had been on the job for less than a year and did not know whom he was arresting. A colleague recognized Rudolph from FBI wanted posters which had been displayed all over town. The five-year search for Rudolph cost more than \$20 million and involved hundreds of agents.

Rudolph had been on the run since he was named as a suspect in the January 29, 1998 abortion clinic bombing in Birmingham, Alabama which killed an off-duty police officer and critically wounded a nurse. Officials added Rudolph to the FBI’s 10 most wanted list in May, 1998 after concluding that evidence linked the 1996 bombing at Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta, Georgia (killing one and injuring more than 100), the 1997 bombing of an abortion clinic in a suburb of Atlanta (injuring 7), the 1997 bombing outside an Atlanta gay nightclub (injuring 5) and the 1998 Birmingham bombing. In October, 1998, federal officials formally charged Rudolph with all three 1996 bombings in Atlanta.

Rudolph is known as a white supremacist and an avid skilled outdoorsman who apparently became a folk hero to people in western North Carolina. It is highly doubtful that he could have survived in the woods for the last five years without help from local townspeople. In fact, T-shirts and bumper stickers were printed that read, “Run, Rudolph, Run” and “Eric Rudolph the Hide and Seek Champion of the World”.

In June, 2003, authorities decided to try Rudolph first in Birmingham, Alabama for the clinic bombing. On June 2nd, Rudolph was flown to Birmingham where he is in the county jail awaiting his first trial. On June 26th, Federal prosecutors amended the indictment, originally issued in 2000, to add “aggravating circumstances” allowing them to seek the death penalty. In July, a motion was filed by the government seeking to postpone the trial date. The additional time was requested to allow for a full review of the evidence and to provide the Justice Department with sufficient time to conduct the required death penalty review and authorization. No decision has been made on whether the government will seek the death penalty, but the motion for additional time was granted.

Regardless of the outcome in Birmingham, Rudolph will still face trials on the other bombings in Atlanta.

PBA Again

By Rep. Nita M. Lowey



As we approach the end of the first session of the 108th Congress, we are reminded that the elections of the last eight years are having a profound effect on our right to choose. Since 1995, Congress has cast more than 160 votes on reproductive rights and family planning, and pro-choice advocates have been defeated in all but 29 of these. We have lost our majority in both the House and the Senate and this Administration is as determined as the anti-choice Congress to turn back the clock on thirty years of reproductive freedom.

With the change of a President, the loss of just one seat in the Senate, and a judicial system tilted to the far right, we are the closest we have ever been to having a federal ban on abortion enacted into law. Less than 6 months after commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*, the United States Congress for the third time, passed the so-called "partial-birth" abortion ban.

The bill contains no protection for the health of a woman, leaves no role for the physician treating a woman and never mentions fetal viability. Congress was wrong to pass this ban and the President would be wrong to sign it into law.

The enactment of this measure will mark the first time the federal government has criminalized a medical procedure, simply because the proponents of this bill do not agree with the Supreme Court. Sadly, this shouldn't surprise us. On the day *Roe* was decided, we witnessed a political movement take shape; a movement whose sole purpose is to outlaw

abortion and limit reproductive options for all women.

In reflecting on the long debate over abortion, I was struck by something that I heard Justice Sandra Day O'Connor say not long ago. Justice O'Connor said that she was drawn to the law because she saw the role it plays in shaping our society: "I don't think the law often leads society," she said. "It really is a statement of society's beliefs in a way." The anti-choice community and I would likely agree with Justice O'Connor—except I believe that *Roe v. Wade* continues to express our society's beliefs, and they don't. *Roe* said that the decision to terminate a pregnancy is private and personal, and should be made by a woman and her family without undue interference from the government. I-and the American people-still believe this. Opponents of a woman's right to choose do not.

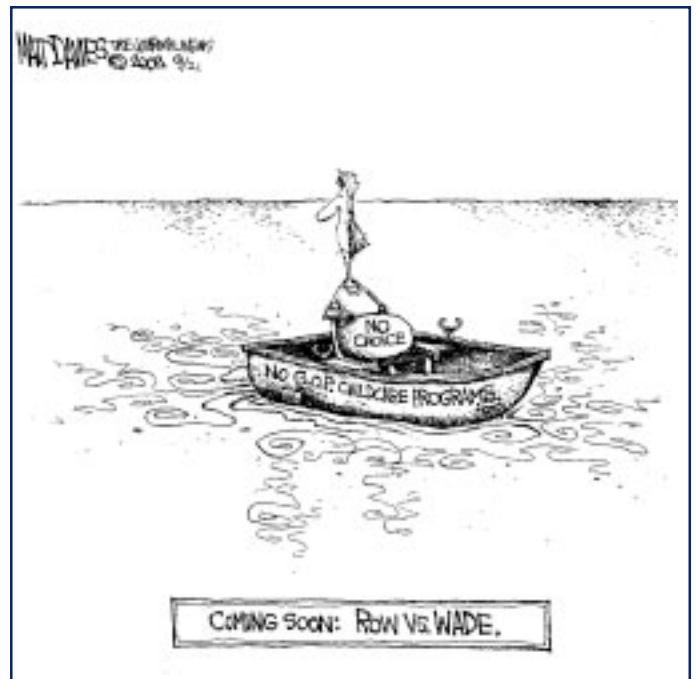
If more elected officials followed the lead of Justice O'Connor, I believe that the laws of this country would more accurately represent the beliefs of the American people. Rather than voting on a "partial-birth" abortion ban nine times in eight years, I would cast votes to fully fund family planning programs, or to include contraceptive coverage in all insurance plans, or to ensure that every dedicated doctor who wishes to provide abortion services to women has the training and security to do so.

If we safeguard every woman's fundamental right to manage her own fertility, then we empower her to take control of her future and invite her to be an integral part of the social, economic, and political life of this country.

We know that the majority of the American people support freedom of choice. Somehow, this has been lost on our elected officials. It is our job to remind them. The fight for choice isn't won or lost just in the halls of Congress or in the courts. It is also fought district by district, and state by state. The threat is real and it's immediate and we must make sure that pro-choice America is educated, mobilized, and ready to vote.

Why Are You Pro-Choice?

Please write or email WCLA at wcla@wcla.org to let us know why you are pro-choice. We are starting a new project and want to include as many views as possible. The reasons may be posted on our website and periodically appear in our newsletters. All identifying information will be kept confidential. PLEASE PARTICIPATE!!!



therefore return ultimately controls whether the hospital will continue to provide abortions. The CBL enters into contracts with the Medical Center to provide services to inmates of the county jail.

County Health Department: The county decides whether County Health Department clinics will provide reproductive health services, counseling, and referral for abortions.

Department of Social Services: The DSS administers the system by which pregnant women can get fast-track Medicaid eligibility for pregnancy-related conditions, including abortion. The CBL oversees the DSS to ensure a full range of reproductive services are provided by HMOs to those who are eligible for DSS assistance.

County Jail: The CBL decides whether inmates will get pregnancy tests, abortions, and prenatal care on request, and without delay.

Commissioners: The county executive appoints, and county legislators vote to confirm, commissioners. Commissioners important to the pro-choice issue are Health, Social Services, and Corrections.

Citizen Information Service: The county decides whether it will include referrals to clients for family planning and abortions.

Office for Women: The county executive and the CBL determine the budget and the number of positions in an office that provides a wide range of services and information for women.

Women's Advisory Board: The county executive and the CBL determine the make-up of the Women's Advisory Board.

Legislation on other levels of government: The county lobbies on state and federal issues that relate to reproductive health care. The CBL votes on resolutions supporting or opposing legislation passed and/or proposed by the higher levels of government.

Future office holders: County and local offices are springboards for politicians seeking higher office.

ATTENTION VOTERS!

Although every race is important, there are certain winnable races that are worthy of special attention: The WCLA's endorsed pro-choice candidates are:

Supreme Court: Judge Colleen Duffy, Judge Jo Ann Friia, Judge Debra Kiedaisch, and Judge Lawrence Horowitz.

County Court: Susan Cacace and Robert DiBella.

District 3: Open seat: John Nonna

District 4: Incumbent Michael Kaplowitz

District 5: Incumbent Bill Ryan

District 6: Incumbent Martin Rogowsky

District 16: Incumbent Andrea Stewart-Cousins

District 17: Challenger Maria Chiulli

Judicial Update

When we mailed out our last newsletter there had been serious opposition to many of the Bush nominees pending before the full Senate. Unfortunately, votes have now been held and four more right-wing, anti-choice, circuit court judicial candidates, described in the Spring Pro-Choice issue have been confirmed:

6 th Circuit:	Jeffrey Sutton
	Deborah L. Cook
8 th Circuit:	Lavenski Smith
D.C. Circuit:	John G. Roberts

In what passes for good news these days, three of the most egregious and fiercely protested appointments have not been voted on. Our pro-choice senators have stayed strong. The filibusters against Miguel A. Estrada (D.C. Circuit), Alabama Attorney General William Pryor (11th Circuit) and Priscilla Owen (5th Circuit) have held firm despite outrageous maneuvering by Senate Republicans to change long-standing rules governing the number of votes required to defeat a filibuster. A vote has not yet been scheduled on the nomination of Carolyn Kuhl (9th Circuit).

In an obvious slap at Senate Democrats, Bush renominated Charles Pickering, Sr. to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in January, 2003. Pickering's nomination had previously been rejected by the Senate Judiciary Committee. This time around, with the committee under Republican control, the vote was strictly on party lines (10-9) and on October 2d the nomination was approved and sent to the full Senate. Democrats have not yet announced whether they will filibuster this nominee as well. In a stunning development, Miguel Estrada gave up his fight to be appointed to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and withdrew from consideration on September 4, 2003. His withdrawal was a direct result of the united front presented by Senate Democrats.

Of great importance to the pro-choice community is that none of the US Supreme Court Justices decided to retire at the end of the past session, as was widely feared and/or anticipated. Conventional wisdom holds that a retirement would be unlikely in 2004 as it is a presidential election year. It is also believed that all current Court members wanted to participate in the special session which was held in September, 2003, and was devoted to arguing the legality of the campaign finance reform law.

Christian Coalition founder and TV preacher Rev. Pat Robertson, however, plans to chart his own course for the Supreme Court Justices. In his July 14, 2003 broadcast of the "700 Club," Robertson called for "miracles in regard to the Supreme Court." He launched a 21-day "prayer offensive" directed at the Supreme Court. Robertson asked his viewers to pray for the "retirement" of several of the high court's justices, noting that one justice is 83 years old (Justice John Paul Stevens), one has cancer (Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg) and another (unknown) has a heart condition. Happily, his prayers were not answered. Truth is, indeed, sometimes stranger than fiction.

Alan Hevesi: Comptroller for Choice



In more than 30 years of public service, both as a legislator and a fiduciary, Alan G. Hevesi has staunchly advocated

for choice and access to family planning services. In his new role as New York State Comptroller, a job that makes him the sole trustee of a \$105 billion pension fund, the nation's second largest, he will continue the fight for every woman's right to choose.

Mr. Hevesi said there are a number of ways, as State Comptroller, that he could influence debate on choice and family planning, and that he would seek out opportunities to do so.

First, as one of the nation's largest institutional investors, Mr. Hevesi has said he will support pro-choice and oppose anti-choice resolutions and encourage companies, expanding the market for family planning products and services.

Second, the State Comptroller approves contracts entered into by State agencies. Mr. Hevesi is committed to closely monitoring contracts issued by the Department of Health to ensure that they do not present unnecessary hurdles to accessing family planning services for women of child-bearing age. He also plans to conduct audits to measure the effectiveness and identify weaknesses of state programs intended to ensure the availability of family planning services.

Third, he has directed his staff to closely follow policy debates and proposed legislation that he has supported, such as a bill now awaiting the governor's consideration that would require hospital emergency rooms to provide rape victims with access to emergency contraception. Another bill currently before the Legislature in Albany would permit emergency

contraception as a standard option of treatment rather than require a specific prescription for every individual case. As State Comptroller, Mr. Hevesi said he would try to have a positive influence on debates by citing the relevant fiscal impact of proposals.

Finally, he intends to maintain open communications with advocates for choice to identify other opportunities where the Office of the State Comptroller can be helpful.

Mr. Hevesi's commitment to choice has been as clear in his previous roles as it promises to be while he serves as State Comptroller. During his 22 years in the New York State Assembly (1971-1994), he held several high-ranking positions that allowed him to be an effective supporter of choice. In addition to serving as Deputy Majority Leader and Assistant Majority Leader, Mr. Hevesi chaired several key committees during his tenure, including the Assembly Health Committee, the Assembly Subcommittee on Health Care and the Assembly Task Force on the Disabled. He led the fight in the State Legislature against the annual effort to stop Medicaid funding for abortions. He was the "conscience of the Assembly" on abortion rights and successfully fought for the right of poor women to receive government assistance for the procedure.

However, he was not a one-issue legislator. Mr. Hevesi championed other health issues and was responsible for the enactment of a number of health-related laws, including:

- The prohibition of medical experiments on people without their voluntary, informed consent
- The nursing home reform act
- The nation's first hospice law
- The creation of the State Health and Hypertension Institute (for research on treatments for high blood pressure)
- The requirement for hospitals to treat all emergency patients regardless of their ability to pay.

Mr. Hevesi authored a two-part series of articles on abortion in the *Empire*

State Report: "Never an Easy Answer" (May, 1988) and "A Lawmaker's Dilemma" (June, 1988).

Meanwhile, Comptroller Hevesi continues to carefully monitor health issues on both the state and national levels. Another bill currently being considered by the State Assembly would enact the "Public University Emergency Contraception Act" to require every college and university of the State University of New York and the City University of New York to provide emergency contraception to any student requesting it. The bill would also require the widespread provision of information at such colleges and universities on the safety and availability of emergency contraception on campus.

Looking at abortion rights from a national perspective, Comptroller Hevesi stated that the election of George W. Bush to the White House was "the most direct challenge to a woman's right to choose".

Save The Date

March
For Freedom
Of Choice
Washington, DC
Sunday,
April 25, 2004

Join us for the
largest pro-choice
rally ever!

**ACTION
ALERT!
ACTION
ALERT!**

**These elected officials represent you.
Contact them and let them know how
YOU want them to vote.**

Your Elected Officials: Keep For Future Reference

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Switchboard 995-2800
CBL 1 George Oros [-] R,C ◇
CBL 2 Ursula LaMotte [+] R,C, I
CBL 3 Suzanne Swanson [+] R,C
CBL 4 Michael Kaplowitz [+] D, I, W
CBL 5 William Ryan [+] D, I, W
CBL 6 Martin Rogowsky [+] D,I,W
CBL 7 George Latimer [+] D, W
CBL 8 Lois Bronz [+] D, W
CBL 9 Richard Wishnie [+] D, I, W
CBL 10 Vito Pinto [+] D, W
CBL 11 Jim Maisano [+] R, I, C
CBL 12 Thomas Abinanti [+] D, W
CBL 13 Clinton Young, Jr. [+] D
CBL 14 Bernice Spreckman [+] R,C,I, W
CBL 15 Louis Mosiello [+] R,C,I,W
CBL 16 Andrea Stewart-Cousins [+] D,W
CBL 17 Jose Alvarado [-] D, W

Key

+	Pro-choice	I	Independence
-	Anti-choice	L	Liberal
+/-	Mixed, qualified	RTL	Right to Life
D	Democrat	W	Working
R	Republican	◇	Has run on RTL
C	Conservative		

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

*To write
letters to
the editor*

The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036
Fax: 212/556-3622
e-mail: letters@nytimes.com

The Journal News
1 Gannett Drive
White Plains, NY 10604
Fax: 696-8396
e-mail: letters@thejournalnews.com

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

Lest We Forget

A doctor brought her in. He called me and said, "Will you admit her on your service? She's got a strangulated hernia." I said, "Well, why don't you send her to general surgery?" He said, "I think it's in your field." She came in and she had a loop of bowel hanging out of her vagina wrapped in newspaper and that was the "strangulated hernia". And what he [the abortionist] did was perforate the uterus. He pulled out the bowel with his aborting instruments and he thought it was fetal bowel. She had literally over thirty inches of bowel hanging out of her vagina. And the poor woman should have died from several causes – bowel obstruction, septicemia, and everything else. I operated and did a bowel resection, pulled this damn dirty bowel out of the uterus and vagina, and she lived. But many others died.

(Taylor Buckley, former chief resident in a big city general hospital in the early 1940's, in *Doctors of Conscience*, by Carol Joffe, Beacon Press, 1995)

Spring's Story: Nightmares of Today

In Fruitland, Idaho, Spring Adams, a 13-year-old girl, found herself pregnant, a result of repeated sexual abuse by her father. Spring was unable to obtain Medicaid funding for her abortion because the state refuses to pay for abortions that are a result of rape or incest. She notified her father, who shot her to death with a .30 caliber rifle while she lay sleeping. More than a year later he had not been

sentenced but incest victims across the country are still forced to notify their abusers of their abortion decisions, risking consequences as deadly as Spring Adams'.

(From *Shattering the Dreams of Young Women: The Tragic Consequences of Parental Involvement Laws*, Reproductive Freedom Project of the ACLU, 1991)

Truth is Stranger Than Fiction

A man decided to fly a Paralite Sky Cruiser over a high school campus in southern California so that he could drop leaflets on the students. The leaflets said, among other things: "You are in the Matrix. Truth is evil. Abortion is good. There are people in front of the school with signs and pictures that you must not look at. They will show you things you must not see." After dropping the leaflets, this man accidentally stuck his hand in the plane's propeller, severing two fingers. Immediately thereafter, he crashed the plane into a tree. Unfortunately, only one finger was recovered. There is no word on whether doctors were able to reattach the digit.

The police later learned the pilot was a "Christian activist". His intent: to generate an audience for the local anti-choice demonstration being held in front of the school. No one knows if his attempt at reverse psychology had the intended effect.

E-mail users: We would like to contact you. We won't inundate you, but we send interesting items from time to time and it saves us money on thank-you notes for contributions. Please e-mail us at WCLA@WCLA.org. Include your name and, if you can, the 5- or 6-digit code on the left of the line above your name on the mailing label.

Please return this coupon with your contribution to Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion.

I will help WCLA keep New York pro-choice.

Enclosed is my contribution to WCLA: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$150 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$_____

Visa, MC, AmEx _____ Expires _____ Signed _____

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Political Party _____ Phone _____

- I will volunteer for WCLA. Send me a form.
- I will contact my legislators when notified. By e-mail.
- I will do phoning.
- I won't vote for candidates who would restrict abortion.

Checks are payable to WCLA. Mail with this coupon to 237 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10605.

Contributions to WCLA are not tax deductible. To phone in a charge, please call (914) 946-5363.

REMEMBER
Walk For Choice

Sunday, October 26, 2003
 10 am sign-in/registration

at Westchester County Center (Rt 119 and Central Avenue).

The walk begins at 11 am.

Bring your friends, your children, your spouses and partners.
 This will be a family/children friendly event with speakers,
 activities, t-shirts.

Numbers do matter. We need a large turn-out !

The march starts near the County Center and goes to Tibbits
 Park (at the end of Main St.), White Plains

Partial List of Co-Sponsors: All Women's Health & Medical Services
 P.C., Hanee Designs, ICAN Realty Corp., Miano Viel Salon & Spa,
 NARAL Pro-Choice NY, NOW-NYS, Planned Parenthood
 Hudson Peconic Inc., Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice,
 Republican Pro-Choice Coalition-New York Chapter, Ridge
 Historical Society, Westchester Coalition for Democracy, Westchester
 County Office for Women,
 Westchester NOW, WESPAC Foundation

For pledge sheets and additional information contact:
 Catherine or Judith, (914) 946-5363,
 WalkForChoice@wcla.org

Silent Auction
Items Needed

WCLA plans to add a silent auction to our next big event in the late spring. Your contributions are very much welcome and needed. Perhaps you'd like to contribute tickets to a sports event or to the circus, dinner at a restaurant, a weekend house, flowers, gardening expertise, etc. We would appreciate your help. Please call, write or email with ideas, suggestions, sources or actual items/services which could be used. (914) 946-5363/ wcla@wcla.org

Vote
Nov. 4!
Don't
Forget!

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