

## McCall: ProChoice All the Way

**C**arl McCall has been an advocate for choice for as long as WCLA can remember. His tenure in public office and the diversity of positions that he has held have given him the opportunity both to see the importance of a woman's right to choose and to be a vocal proponent of choice.

Most recently, as Comptroller, McCall has been responsible for all investments made or held by New York State's public pension fund. When the Christian Right orchestrated a campaign to halt corporate contributions to family planning services, McCall changed pension fund policy and used New York's shareholder power to vote against this obvious attack on reproductive freedom. The resolutions were defeated.

McCall has consistently spoken out against the health policies of the Pataki administration that force women to go to extraordinary lengths to access needed family planning services. He has protested the State's assignment of Medicaid patients to managed care plans that don't provide family planning services, and he has criticized the State's failure to contract with third-party family planning providers when Fidelis, a Catholic health insurer that refuses to provide reproductive services, was the only insurer available to participants in public health programs.

McCall has challenged government intervention in a woman's right to choose since he arrived in Albany in 1974. As a member of the New York State Senate, McCall participated in numerous debates over proposals that

younger pro-choice advocates today could not imagine – and that all of us must work hard to prevent from returning.

In 1975, the year after McCall was first elected to the New York State Senate, both the Assembly



H. Carl McCall

and the Senate both elected McCall to the Assembly.

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## WCLA Makes News with Bramson

**O**n June 18<sup>th</sup> WCLA announced its unanimous endorsement of Noam Bramson in the Democratic Party primary for Assembly District 91. Bramson is challenging incumbent Ron Tocci. The winner of the September 10<sup>th</sup> primary will be the party's nominee for the general election on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

"In contrast to his opponent Noam Bramson knows the issues, is strongly pro-choice and intends to be a vocal advocate for women's reproductive health and freedom in the Assembly," said Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, WCLA board chair.

Bramson, a member of the New Rochelle City Council, was formerly a key aide to Congresswoman Nita Lowey, the leader in the House for choice and a wide range of women's health issues. Her office is a superb training ground for a pro-choice leader.



Noam Bramson

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Alan Hevesi

## Alan Hevesi Was There Back When

**A**lan Hevesi, a champion of abortion rights and women's rights, is running for state comptroller. The position is being vacated by Carl McCall, who is running for governor. As an active proponent of choice Hevesi has an impressive track record.

In 1970 the NYS legislature legalized abortion. In 1972, legislators, intimidated by Right to Life threats of retribution, switched sides and voted to repeal the law. Gov. Rockefeller vetoed the repeal. Hevesi, then in his first term in the Assembly and barely into his 30s, took charge of the passionate conflict and has remained in the forefront of the abortion battles for 30 years.

Early on, during a strategy session on defeating the parental consent bill, Hevesi demonstrated his skills and commitment to the pro-choice community. He led a "head count," an assessment of each legislator's likely vote, to focus abortion rights advocates in the room on specific

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# Divided We Fall

by Catherine Lederer-Plaskett  
WCLA Board Chair



Today we face what is perhaps the greatest crisis of our time. Complacency.

My generation has relied on our mothers and fathers to carry the load of social responsibility. Our parents have been there to fight for choice, for gun control, and against the war in Vietnam. They marched with Martin Luther King Jr.; they worked as escorts at abortion clinics; they registered voters; they marched for gay and lesbian rights, for food for the hungry, and so much more.

And when they stopped protesting, they started giving. And they have given big! They have given the dollars that have protected our civil rights and promoted our welfare.

It is because of your parents and mine that the United Negro College Fund, Meals On Wheels, and Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion exist.

I find myself saying the same words to my children, and now to you, that my parents said to me, "How can I make you see?" You must care. No one else is going to do it for us anymore. Our parents are tired. Organizations all around us are closing their doors, not because the fight is won, or even over, but because there is no more money. If you don't step up to the plate financially, the game is over. The bad guys win.

In a conversation I had prior to the 2002 elections, an acquaintance said, "Oh, Bush wouldn't overturn Roe v. Wade. He just talks like that to appease the ultra-conservatives." That acquaintance was so sure that someone else would be there to protect choice; he

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# On the President Emerita's Mind

By Polly Rothstein



During the 30+ years I was in abortion politics, a myth grew around me that WCLA was my whole life and consumed me day and night. I remember one time I said that I had to leave a meeting because I was going to meet my husband. "You have a husband?" said one, astonished.

I did what it took to get things done my way, including evenings and weekends, especially newsletter, fund-raising, and lobbying. I didn't, however, miss out on all the other things that make a full and satisfying life. My husband Jesse and I have two superb adult children, Amy and Chester. I'm close to my sisters, mother, and cousins. We have lots of dear friends, with whom we dined, skied, dined, traveled, dined, went to the ballet, dined, and shared joys and sorrows.

In 1969, I was handed a dead bird, a life-altering experience. It was a White-breasted Nuthatch (It's beautiful! Mmmm, what else is out there?) It sparked my interest and turned me into an avid birder. What pleasure it's given me. I've made countless birding trips to find and watch birds in their habitats of savannas, jungles, mountains, tundra, and swamps and marshes. About five times in recent years I went with a small group, traveling by Land Rover, foot, and motorboat in the dense unexplored forests of southern Guyana. I was so happy bathing in the river, eating freshly caught fish and animals, and falling asleep in my hammock listening to night sounds. I enjoy birding locally almost as much as in exotic places. I never miss the Christmas and summer bird counts, no matter what the weather. And as true birders do, I often go out alone.

When a spinal cord injury cost me my ability to walk unassisted last year, I was relieved to think that if I had waited to take birding trips until I was retired and had time, I'd have missed out on the grand adventures. But, I've done it and I have many albums to bring me back there.

Roughing it in South American forests is in my past but birding is still in the present and future, modified. I drive with hand controls. I bought a minivan, which I had equipped with a lift so I could transport my three-wheeled scooter. A few weeks ago, I went birding for

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## 2002 New York State Primary and General Elections — Who Cares?

State elections are as important if not more so than federal elections for protecting choice.

Abortion became legal in New York State in 1970, three years before *Roe v. Wade* effectively changed the landscape of choice across the rest of this country. The same reality can occur in the reverse. The state is also the last line of defense. *Roe v. Wade* can be overturned by a Bush Supreme Court but if our state pro-choice community—and that includes you—continues to stand strong, New York State will continue to serve as a beacon of light by keeping abortion legal and safe.

The offices of governor, comptroller, all state senators and assembly representatives are up for election this year. Each office can serve as an effective vehicle for ensuring that a woman will be able to legally exercise her right to choose, or it can become a tool in the hands of anti-choice extremists.

The governor's responsibilities include signing or vetoing legislation, making appointments, nominating judicial candidates to fill vacancies, and proposing and accepting/rejecting budgets. Among the state comptroller's duties are decisions about where to invest money and what companies to reward with those investments. State Senators and Assembly representatives propose or oppose bills that, in turn, do or don't become law; they also accept/reject and negotiate budgets.

## A Little Bit Pro-Choice Is Like a Little Bit Pregnant

Life is full of shades of gray. For example: you can be not fat but not thin; not tall but not short; not old but not young. Choice, however, is not like that. A little bit pro-choice is like a little bit pregnant. Either you are or you're not. Either you believe that a woman has the right to choose, or you don't. Any qualifiers — such as parental notification, a waiting period, late term abortion or the crossing of state lines — place limits on a woman's right to control her own body and invite government intervention into the equation. There are many reasons that these qualifiers are irrational and destructive (e.g., should a pregnant female be required to ask a sexually abusive parent for permission or to escort her across state lines?). But, to refute the many proposed qualifiers is senseless and plays into the hands of anti-choice activists.

Women do not get abortions to fit into prom

All of them — the governor, the comptroller, the senators and assembly members — can and do affect a woman's right to choose. For example: Will family planning services receive adequate funding? Will hospitals receiving public funding be allowed to merge and then no longer provide reproductive services? Will the same individuals who took the Right to Life line be appointed as judges where they must enforce clinic access laws? Will the bill to distribute emergency contraception in the emergency room ever become law?

It's critical to participate in both the primary and general elections.

Primary elections are the battlefields of ideas and ideology espoused by different forces within a particular party structure. This is the place that party members — registered Democrats, Republicans, Liberals, Conservatives, etc. — get to choose who will represent their party in the general election, and who will influence the party direction for years to come. For pro-choice advocates, it's essential to participate; it's where we, as individuals, try to influence our party's selection of candidates.

In the greater picture of the general election, pro-choice advocates can carry the day only if our supporters understand the importance of New York State elections, no matter how seemingly uninvolved a particular electoral office may be. All politics is local. In the face of the Bush Administration's assault on reproductive rights, New York State elections become proportionately more important.

New York State is where we hold the line; New York State is where we live.

dresses. Nor do they consider it equivalent to returning a pair of shoes because they don't match the dress. They do it because, for whatever personal reason, having a child is not a viable option for them at that point in their lives.

Our elected officials must be reminded that qualifying a woman's right to choice is not acceptable. WCLA has endorsed Noam Bramson in the Democratic Primary against his opponent Ron Tocci who believes that the government should place qualifiers on the right to choose (page 1); Sue Kelly deceived WCLA and NARAL by claiming to be 100% pro-choice and then, once elected, voting repeatedly for limits to be placed on abortion rights (page 4). Elected officials describe themselves as pro-choice because they know the

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# John Faso, Poster Boy for the RTL Party

John Faso (Assembly Rep. 102 District) is the Republican candidate for New York State Comptroller and will face either Alan Hevesi or Bill Mulrow after the Democratic primary on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Hevesi and Mulrow are pro-choice. Faso, however, is not! Until June 2001, Faso had a perfect voting record in the eyes of the NYS Right to Life Party.

- He voted to support the so-called “partial birth abortion” ban in 1999.
- He voted against Medicaid funding of abortions in 1999, 2000 and 2001.
- He voted against legal protections for women entering family planning clinics in 1999.
- He voted against requiring coverage of contraceptives when insurance policies cover prescription drugs in 2001.

Then, in June 2001, Faso decided to

run for comptroller and, “miraculously,” his voting record changed. Faso voted to support a bill requiring hospitals to provide emergency contraception in the emergency room to rape survivors and, in 2002, he voted in favor of the Women’s Health and Wellness bill.

Faso’s need to change his stripes is a testament to the strength of the NY pro-choice movement and electorate. He will need the support of the pro-choice community to win. Abortion rights advocates must remember that Faso is simply “a wolf in sheep’s clothing.”

## Sue Kelly: No Friend to Choice

Republican Congresswoman Sue Kelly has betrayed the pro-choice movement. She solicited the support of women’s reproductive rights advocates in the 1994 and 1996 elections, and then turned against the movement. She

got in step with her party’s anti-choice platform on a myriad of votes both procedural and substantive.

A sampling of those votes:

- In 1995 she voted to defund UNFPA and to reestablish the global gag rule. The same year she voted against an amendment which would have allowed funds appropriated pursuant to a crime bill to be used to protect health clinics.
- In 1995, 1996 and 2000, she voted in favor of the so-called “partial birth abortion” ban.
- In 1998, 1999 and 2002 she voted in favor of the Child Custody Protection Act.
- In 2001 she voted in favor of a ban on cloning.

Kelly must be held accountable, because as the saying goes, “Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.”

## Hevesi from page 1

legislators to approach. That strategy session with Hevesi was the first of many.

Hevesi became even more involved as chair of the Health Committee, through which all abortion bills must pass. He conducted hearings on abortion rights in the late 70’s, and led the charge to preserve Medicaid funding of abortion, a battle so fierce that the state budget was stalled for months. His speeches on the floor of the Assembly in favor of Medicaid funding (year after year) were compelling, factual, and emotional.

For 21 years in the Assembly, Hevesi was the leader of legislators who sided with the pro-choice movement. His advocacy continued during the years he was NYC comptroller, as he was deeply involved in women’s issues on many levels in that position. If elected state comptroller, he says that he will use the office as a bully pulpit to continue to defend the issues he’s fought for since 1972.

In recognition of his past leadership and faith in his promises for the future, the board of NARAL/NY, by a unanimous vote, endorsed Hevesi in the Democratic primary. Barbara Shack, board chair, said in an email, “Hevesi was spectacular....his command of the substance, his commitment, and past history and his understanding of how he could use the pulpit of the office to advance the rights of women was stunning.”

**VOTE VOTE VOTE**

## McCall from page 1

and Senate passed legislation requiring parental notification before a minor could get an abortion. Despite the Governor’s veto that stopped the legislation from becoming law, the issue did not disappear. The debate over similar legislation continued then just as it does today. McCall never hesitated to speak out against this misguided proposal, and will continue to aggressively oppose it in the future.

In 1977, as a member of the Senate’s Social Services Committee, McCall fought against two separate attempts to deny coverage for abortion and related services to women receiving public assistance or those defined as “needy.” The harsh and divisive language spoken by those arguing to deny coverage then can still be heard today, just as their intent is reflected in the current governor’s limited family planning budget allocations and his support for hospital mergers. McCall has repeatedly called for all women, not a select group, to have equal access to all reproductive services.

As a pro-choice advocate, McCall has participated in countless rallies and meetings, made numerous speeches and watched in horror as groups claiming to be “pro-life” [sic] committed frequent senseless acts of violence against members of the choice community.

McCall recognizes that the current governor’s efforts to restrict women’s access to abortion and reproductive health care services are supported by the extreme anti-choice agenda of the Bush administration. McCall has promised that, if elected governor, he will continue to fight any attempt to weaken a woman’s right to choose in New York and in Washington.



# Come Out, Gov. Pataki Show Us Who You Are

Gov. George Pataki's position on abortion rights is what one might call "fluid." Prior to his run for the Assembly in 1984, he claimed he was pro-choice. In his candidate interview he was anything but and his voting record put him squarely in the Right to Life column.

Seeking his third term as governor, George Pataki again claims to be pro-choice.

Perhaps the reason he makes that assertion is because New York is a pro-choice state, thanks to a very strong grassroots movement. Many voters, especially women who outnumber men at the polls, feel so strongly about abortion rights that they will vote only for candidates who agree with them. As Sen. Chuck Schumer, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton will attest, pro-choice voters were a major factor in their elections, the flip side of which is their role in the defeat of Alfonse D'Amato, Dennis Vacco, and Rick Lazio.

New York Times reporter Adam Nagourney interviewed Pataki in April and said that Pataki went out of his way to raise the issue of abortion, volunteering, "I disagree with many in my party in supporting abortion rights. They would say government should make the decision about whether or not a woman can have an abortion. How is that consistent with the belief in the individual and limited government?"

Unfortunately, Pataki's words have not been reflected in his actions.

## As an anti-choice legislator

During the decade that Gov. Pataki was a state legislator, first in the Assembly and then the Senate, he voted against abortion rights every time. In 1990 he described himself as pro-choice although his record made a mockery of the statement,

In 1984, '86, and '88, NYS and Westchester Right to Life endorsed Pataki based on:

- his voting record to eliminate Medicaid funding even for rape and incest,
- support for a "Human Life Amendment" to the Constitution,
- support for mandatory parental involvement for minors.

In its 1992 voter guide, Westchester RTL explained that though Pataki claimed to be pro-choice, "he has a pro-life [sic] voting record" and even as he campaigned as pro-choice, he sought its help "behind the scenes."

Also in 1993, Pataki earned a 100 percent rating from the NYS Christian Coalition and New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedom, the leading religious right groups in the state.

## Anti-choice actions as governor

In Pataki's eight years as governor, not one anti-abortion bill landed on his desk, sparing him from signing or vetoing. He ought to thank the Assembly and Speaker Sheldon Silver, which made one-house bills of the Senate's attempts to limit abortion rights.

However, he has:

- named Dr. Antonia Novello, an abortion opponent, to be health commissioner.
- permitted the diocese-run Medicaid-only HMO Fidelis Health Care to buy another Medicaid-only HMO and absorb its 20,000 low-income clients. Roman Catholic Fidelis does not offer family planning, sterilization, or abortion.
- named Rev. John Bonnici to be a trustee of the City University of New York (April 2002). Rev. Bonnici, director of the NY Archdiocese Family Life/Respect Life Office, is dedicated to opposing abortion, contraception, and gay rights.

Pataki has stated that he would:

- permit mergers of Roman Catholic and nonsectarian hospitals where Catholic doctrine would prevail and eliminate reproductive healthcare.

- sign a ban on "partial-birth abortions."
- sign a parental consent or notification bill.

Pataki's positive actions:

- signed the clinic access bill in 2000, which increases penalties for illegally interfering with reproductive health services. This law protects clinic staff and patients from violent protesters, but it does not help women get abortions.
- permitted Medicaid waivers for contraceptive services for women whose income is at or below 200 percent of poverty.
- signed the long sought Women's Health and Wellness bill. For example, the law requires employers to offer insurance coverage for prescription contraceptives, infertility treatments, screening for cancers of the reproductive system, and mammograms for women over 40.

## Show Us 'The Choice'

Pataki now talks the talk. If he wants to be a credible pro-choice candidate in Election 2002, he must walk the walk. This means renounce his anti-abortion votes and statements and state clearly what he will do when an anti-abortion bill lands on his desk for his signature.

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did not need to concern himself. And, of course, since then have come the international gag order, the freeze on U.N. funding, the abstinence-only programs, the fetal homicide bill, the anti-stem cell research platform.....

Every Friday I take food and, sometimes, clothing to a homeless shelter. I do not do it because I believe I will single-handedly defeat hunger. I do it because I can and because, maybe, I will help someone a little. With deep commitment to the belief that lots of drops in a bucket eventually fill it, I challenge you to take out your checkbooks and write a check to WCLA, because you can. If you have written one in the past, make this one bigger.

Our parents did not just "talk the talk"; they have "walked the walk." The only thing that they did not do was demand that we follow. Well, the free ride is over.

# Assaults on Choice

Underscoring the power of the states to support or undermine a woman's right to choose, three states are making headlines by attempting to elevate a fetus to a status equal to that of a woman. To do so, each state must redefine the "beginning of life." The outcome is a proliferation of legislation and court cases relating to "protection of the unborn."

*The New York Times* and *Washington Post* editorial boards have described these state actions as a means to chip away at abortion rights. New York State is far from immune to these extremist pressures.

## Utah Legislature

The homicide trial of Roger MacGuire has triggered just such action. As *ProChoice* reported, MacGuire, who is facing murder charges resulting from the death of his ex-wife who was about three months pregnant, is also being charged with the death of the fetus under a provision in Utah law defining murder as causing "the death of another person, including an unborn child."

His attorneys argued that the fetal murder charge violates *Roe v. Wade*. The legislature thus became aware that the Courts would have to interpret legislative intent. To resolve future ambiguities, they unanimously passed a bill that one state representative said makes it possible to prosecute someone for homicide "even if a woman has been pregnant for 30 minutes." The Utah statute was amended to include the phrase "at any stage of its development" in its definition of unborn child. The new legislation was signed by the governor and went into effect immediately.

## New Jersey Courts

A New Jersey attorney seeks to establish legal precedent by contending that a woman should be able to sue her physician for the "wrongful death of a fetus" after voluntarily having an abortion. The anti-choice attorney who wishes to sue on behalf of the "unborn" contends doctors should be subject to legal action if they do not explain to their patients that abortion "involves the termination of life — of a living human being" [sic].

## New York State Senate

In May 2002, the NYS Senate passed a bill that would amend the penal law to define a fetus as a person in assault and homicide cases. Although the Republican majority claimed the legislation was a victims' rights measure, they rejected a Democratic amendment to increase penalties for attacks on pregnant women.

*The New York Times* reports the bill is not likely to come up for a vote in the Assembly "because abortion rights advocates charge that it is a back-door attack on a woman's right to an abortion."

While the measure passed the Senate on virtually a party line vote, Westchester's Nick Spano joined with Senators Ruth Hassell-Thompson and Suzi Oppenheimer in voting "nay" (pro-choice).



Photo by D. Weintraub ©1992

## WCLA Salutes the Dobbs Ferry Clinic

After more than 30 years of providing legal and safe abortions, the Dobbs Ferry Clinic closed its doors in May. From its beginning in 1971, the Dobbs Ferry Clinic stood by women, respecting their privacy and their right to choose, a right that the U.S. Supreme Court came to recognize as protected by the Constitution of the United States in 1973. The Clinic was a united front made up of doctors, staff, escorts, and pro-choice demonstrators, all of whom put their politics on the line and together kept this facility viable. They brought the issue home to Westchester, making each of us evaluate our own commitment to choice. WCLA offers a special note of thanks to the many members of N.O.W. who worked as escorts.

Protect your  
right to choose!

# Death Sentence for Third World Women

In early July, President Bush moved closer to eliminating funds allocated to UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund). In January, he had authorized the appropriation of \$34 million to UNFPA. However, Bush now claims that coercive programs allegedly supported by the agency in China are unacceptable and justify the cutting of US funding of UNFPA.

The Bush administration wants the public to perceive the cuts as a stand against forced abortions and involuntary sterilizations by the Chinese government. In truth that cannot be the reason because, as stated in *The New York Times* article "Devastated Women" (April 26, 2002), UNFPA does not — in China or elsewhere — use these funds for abortions or involuntary sterilizations. Women around the world rely upon these funds to survive. These monies provide the only access to reproductive health care — including family planning, testing for HIV/AIDS, medical intervention in problem pregnancies resulting from female genital mutilation, and care for women afflicted with obstetric fistula.

The U.S. Committee for U.N. Population Fund explains that withholding the U.S. contribution "will undermine the UN Population Fund's ability to prevent 2 million pregnancies, 800,000 induced abortions, 4,700 maternal deaths and 77,000 infant and child deaths."

By withholding funds in an attempt to force its own agenda, including abstinence-only programs (even for married women), on the world at large, the Bush administration is sentencing Third World women to death.

In search of justification for his agenda, Bush sent a

three-person investigatory team to China, none of whom was a recognized expert in Chinese culture and/or language nor an expert in family planning. Although this team returned from its mission in early June, no report of its findings was released prior to Bush's directive to the State Department to withhold the funds from UNFPA.

Following the issuance of the directive, the White House Domestic Policy Council released a preliminary report admitting that "the U.N. agency had no direct knowledge or involvement in China's coercive policies but that these practices [abortions and involuntary sterilizations] did go on in some of the Chinese counties where the agency operated."

The freezing of the funds has raised the ire of congressional members on both sides of the aisle. Lawmakers said the administration's action did not reflect the intent of Congress. Four members of the House of Representatives, including Nita Lowey, wrote urging Bush to release the State Department report, "We are confident that this team, like over 60 diplomatic observers who have already visited the program, will affirm that the U.N. Population Fund is promoting human rights and volunteerism and pushing the Chinese government to respect the fundamental rights of their citizens."

Religious leaders also criticized Bush's failure to fund UNFPA. The International Committee of Religious Leaders for Voluntary Family Planning, with members from 31 countries, sent a letter to the White House requesting the release of the funds.

## Bramson from page 1

### Tocci pleases, then disappoints.

By contrast, Tocci tends to favor government restrictions. In 1996, 1997, and 1999, Tocci (who runs on the Conservative Party line and this year will also run on the Republican line) voted to ban so-called "partial-birth abortion." He was the only Westchester member to do so. Although Tocci likes to claim that the bill targeted only abortions late in pregnancy, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Nebraska's identical law. Justice Stephens wrote that the law is "*deceptively crafted, affected abortions throughout pregnancy, and was not limited to the post-viability procedure graphically described by supporters.*"

Tocci is also the only Westchester Assembly member, regardless of party affiliation, who has failed to sign on as a sponsor of The Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act, introduced by Amy Paulin (AD88), to make emergency contraception available without a prescription in New York.

Showing his true inclination, Tocci introduced a bill (A6768) which would allow wrongful death actions to be brought on behalf of a fetus in utero. The bill would give a family standing to sue for wrongful death upon "fertilization"; thereby, in effect, defining an embryo as a person from fertilization to birth. Lederer-Plaskett said, "This is a transparent step toward giving embryos and fetuses the status of persons." But the

NYS Pro-Life [sic] News said that Tocci "deserved accolades, because the Democratic Party in the northeast makes it very uncomfortable for its members to stand up for life."

To his credit, Tocci has kept his promise to vote to maintain the state's funding of abortions for low-income women under the Medicaid program.

### Why Bramson? Why now?

Roe v. Wade is hanging by a thread in Washington. The expected anti-choice appointments to the Supreme Court from the Republican White House could very well further weaken Roe and place a woman's right to choose back in the hands of state legislatures. It is essential that candidates for state offices are strongly committed to choice. "Noam gets it," said Lederer-Plaskett. "He understands that being pro-choice means trusting women and their doctors to make the right decisions. Ron Tocci doesn't."

"The Bramson-Tocci primary is the race to watch," said Lederer-Plaskett. "Noam Bramson is the only reliable pro-choice candidate in this race. Pro-choice voters can determine the outcome of this critical primary."

(Assembly District 91 now includes the Town of Mamaroneck, all of Rye and the southern part of the City of New Rochelle.)



# Meet Your New District

By Phillip Chonigman  
Partner—GeoPolitical Strategies

Once again the New York State Legislature has fought a contentious battle over an important new law that will greatly impact the direction of the state for many years to come. Although replete with last minute deals and secretive backroom negotiations, it was quite different from the budget battles on other significant pieces of legislation in that this directly impacts each and every incumbent legislator. It's called reapportionment and redistricting, and it's what determines the boundary lines of the districts that our representatives represent.

The State Senate lines and the Assembly lines have been completed. The maps and comments included here will not address the new Congressional districts other than to say that the changes in them are likely to put many Westchester residents with a new representative. More on that in a future newsletter.

It's also important to note that those districts with the greatest changes to their boundary lines are the ones most likely to have hotly contested races this year.

Be aware that many districts were renumbered. Therefore, I have indicated the old number – based on the incumbent in that district – in parentheses after the new district number. For example, "District 87 (84)" means the new district used to be known as 84, since 84's incumbent now resides in the new 87. (If that's too confusing, download both old and new maps from the NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR) website at <http://www.latfor.state.ny.us/> and zoom in to whatever level you need.)

Let's start with a look at the State Assembly, beginning at the south end of Westchester County:

- **District 87 (84)** now consists of the entire City of Mount Vernon, picking up the northeast corner of the city, along with a narrow corridor across the south end of Yonkers (along the Bronx border) to the west side of the city up to Ashburton Avenue, thereby losing the section north of Ashburton that it previously had. The incumbent Assembly member in this district is J. Gary Pretlow.

- **District 88 (88)** may retain its old number, but still sees some significant changes. Whereas Pelham, Eastchester and Scarsdale all remain wholly within the district, it loses any presence in Mount Vernon, nearly all except the west side in the City of White Plains – essentially keeping just the downtown area and the Battle Hill neighborhood – and does a near total flip in New Rochelle, where it picks up the entire north end, while dropping a few election districts in the southwest and downtown areas. The incumbent Assembly member in this district is Amy Paulin.

- **District 89 (89)** is another district that has changed a bit despite keeping its old number. Staying in the district are Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, Pound Ridge and the north end of

White Plains.

Joining the district is most of the rest of White Plains, except for that portion remaining in District 88

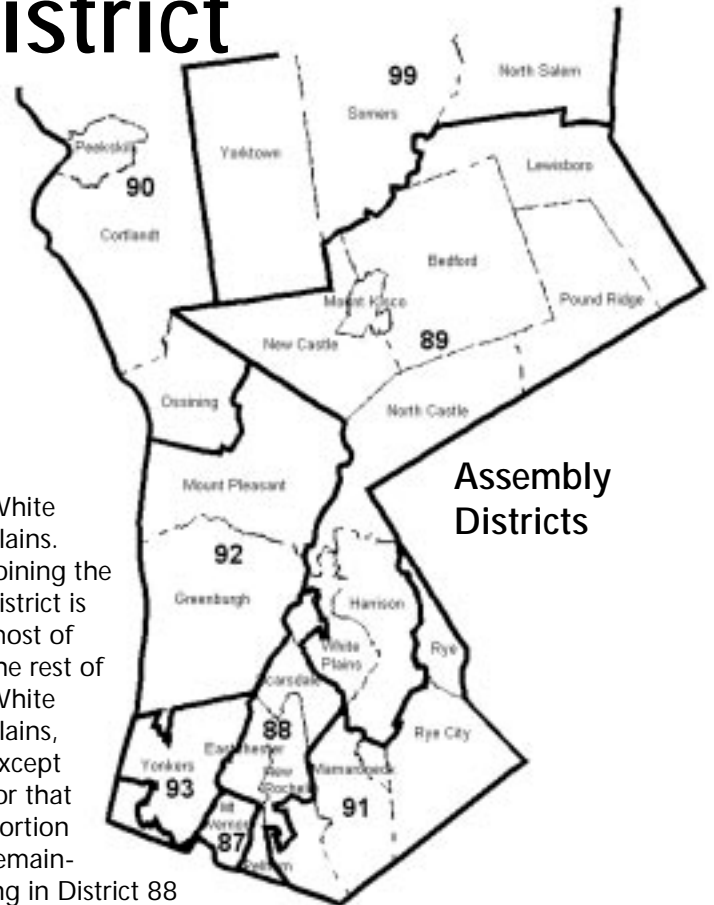
(see above); while Somers and North Salem have been dropped from the district. The incumbent Assembly member is Naomi Matusow.

- **District 90 (90)** gets a fairly big makeover in that it sheds all of Yorktown, instead crossing into Putnam County to pick up the three Towns of Kent, Philipstown and Putnam Valley. The district retains the complete Towns of Cortlandt and Ossining as well as the City of Peekskill. The incumbent Assembly member is Sandra Galef.

- **District 91 (85)** looks to be the same on paper – the complete Towns of Mamaroneck and Rye, plus the City of Rye and part of the City of New Rochelle – but the map tells a different story. Nearly all of the north end of New Rochelle is exchanged with District 88 (see above) for more of the south and central downtown areas of the city. The incumbent Assembly member is Ron Tocci. (Tocci is being challenged in the September primary by the WCLA-endorsed candidate, pro-choice NOAM BRAMSON.)

- **District 92 (86)** has changed minimally. It still consists mainly of the complete Towns of Greenburgh and Mount Pleasant, but adds a small area of a couple of election districts from the northern Saw Mill / Executive Boulevard area of the City of Yonkers. The incumbent Assembly member is Richard Brodsky.

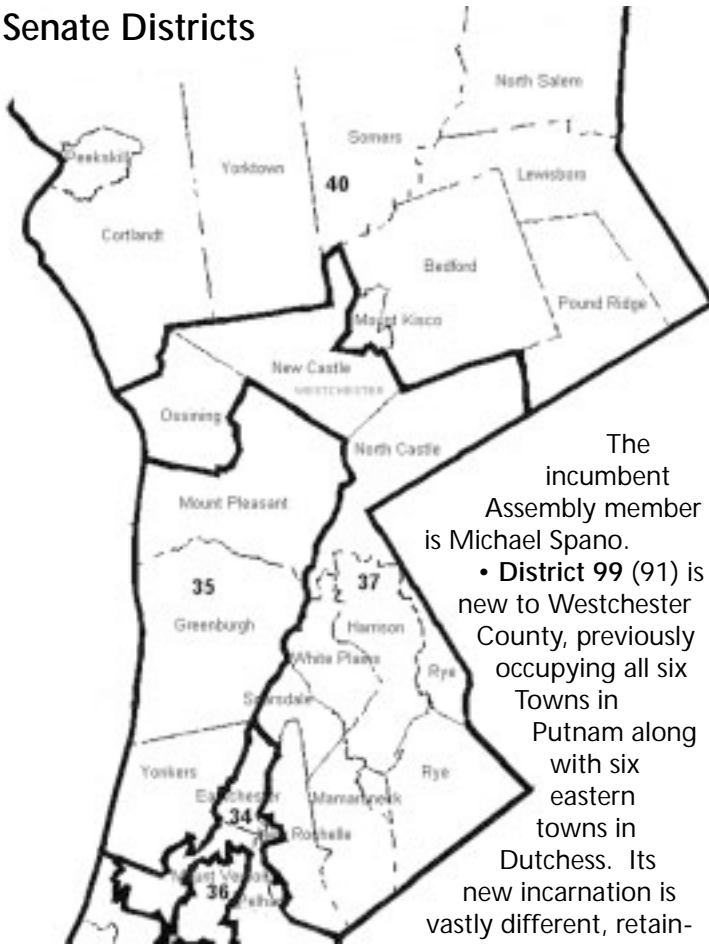
- **District 93 (87)** vies with District 92 for the title of least changed. Although still falling fully within the borders of the City of Yonkers, it lost some territory to 92 (see above) while picking up some western sections of the city, north of Ashburton Avenue, from District 87 (see above).



## Assembly Districts



## Senate Districts



The incumbent Assembly member is Michael Spano.

- **District 99 (91)** is new to Westchester County, previously occupying all six Towns in Putnam along with six eastern towns in Dutchess. Its new incarnation is vastly different, retaining only the Dutchess

Town of Pawling and the Putnam Towns of Carmel, Patterson and Southeast, while adding Yorktown (from District 90), North Salem and Somers (both from District 89). This new configuration has nearly half of its residents now from Westchester County. The incumbent Assembly member is Willis Stephens Jr.

Now let's turn to the creative State Senate lines:

- **District 34 (34)**, which is 70% in the Bronx and 30% in Westchester, has one of the more unusual shapes to be found in the state's redistricting plan. Looking something like a giant lobster, it has added the Town of Eastchester to its cadre of mostly non-minority areas from Mount Vernon,

New Rochelle, Pelham, Yonkers and the Bronx; basically circumnavigating the predominantly African American neighborhoods in Mount Vernon and the north Bronx. The incumbent Senate member is Guy Velella.

- **District 35 (35)** remains with the entire Town of Greenburgh and all but the southeast corner of the City of Yonkers (to allow a corridor for district 34), loses the Town of Eastchester, and instead moves north to pick up the Town of Mount Pleasant. The incumbent Senate member is Nick Spano.

- **District 36 (33)** is largely unchanged, consisting mostly of the African American sections of the north Bronx and of the City of Mount Vernon. The Westchester portion makes up less than 15% of the district. After taking in Co-op City, Baychester, Wakefield and Williamsbridge, the Bronx portion then follows a narrow corridor that goes along the width of the Bronx River Parkway from the Botanical Gardens to the Cross Bronx in order to pick up additional minorities in the Bathgate, Claremont Village and Concourse sections, coming within blocks of Yankee Stadium. The incumbent Senate member is Ruth Hassell-Thompson.

- **District 37 (36)** had only a minor change, replacing the Town of Mount Pleasant with the Town of New Castle. All other municipalities, including Harrison, Mamaroneck, North Castle, Ossining, Rye City, Rye Town, Scarsdale, White Plains and most of New Rochelle, remain in the district. The incumbent Senate member is Suzi Oppenheimer.

- **District 40 (37)** has seen little change other than to its number and from the loss of the Town of New Castle in Westchester and the gain of the Town of Milan in Dutchess. All else remains the same including: the six Harlem Valley towns of eastern Dutchess; the entire county of Putnam; and Bedford, Cortlandt, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, North Salem, Peekskill, Pound Ridge, Somers and Yorktown in northern Westchester. The incumbent Senate member is Vincent Leibell.

If after reviewing this list you're still unsure whose district you fall into, contact your local municipal clerk's office, the County Board of Elections, or, if you're a good map reader, the LATFOR website noted earlier.

## Anti-Choicers Have to Pay

Planned Parenthood Federation of America was awarded \$77,835 in legal fees incurred in unsuccessful litigation brought against the organization by an anti-choice legal group. Thomas More Law Center, located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, had filed a lawsuit against Planned Parenthood alleging a possible connection between abortion and breast cancer, and accusing Planned Parenthood of not informing abortion patients of this "risk." Superior Court Judge Ronald Prager

dismissed the case last March on the grounds that the lawsuit sought to interfere with Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties' right to free speech.

The issue of abortions providing a greater risk of breast cancer has been hotly debated in 18 states, according to the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League. Scientific research by the National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, and the National Breast Cancer Coalition,

however, has demonstrated that there is no linkage between abortions and a higher risk of breast cancer. Despite that fact, Kansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi require that information be given to women about abortion and the risk of breast cancer.

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to vote!**

**ACTION  
ALERT!  
ACTION  
ALERT!**

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

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CBL 2 Ursula LaMotte [+], R, C, I  
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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  
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the editor*

The New York Times  
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e-mail: [letters@nytimes.com](mailto:letters@nytimes.com)

The Journal News  
1 Gannett Drive  
White Plains, NY 10604  
Fax: 696-8396  
e-mail: [letters@westches.gannett.com](mailto:letters@westches.gannett.com)

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

# Finally, Women's Health Is Law

It has finally happened. On June 17, 2002, after four years of political wrangling, both houses of the NYS Legislature passed the comprehensive women's health bill. Governor Pataki, prior to the passage, promised to sign the legislation. Women's Health and Wellness (WH&W) will become the law on January 1, 2003.

The inclusion of contraceptive coverage had made the bill one of the most hotly contested. Finally, on February 5, the state Senate approved a version of the bill which contained only a narrow opt out clause, a radical departure from its previous version of the bill. The Assembly, which never had included a loophole in its version, compromised in April, accepting the Senate exemption. Now, only religious organizations with faith-based objections, which primarily employ and serve members of that faith, can be exempted. All others must provide birth control in their prescription drug plans. That provision was modeled after California's WH&W. The narrow California opt out has been interpreted to require

even organizations such as Catholic Charities to include birth control in their prescription drug package. According to Catholic Conference members, the bishops are considering a lawsuit to block enforcement. However, as reported on *timesunion.com*, a similar suit in California failed.

The other major obstacle to be overcome had been the issue of co-payments and deductibles. To ensure passage NY Assembly Democrats agreed to co-payments and deductibles for cancer screenings. With compromises reached on all major points, the Assembly approved the bill 138 to 10. Passage in the Senate was by 49 to 10.

"Today's passage of the landmark Women's Health and Wellness Act is the culmination of years of work by women's health advocates all over New York State," said JoAnn Smith, President and CEO of Family Planning Advocates. "This legislation is a recognition of women's rights and it is good public health policy for the state, as well."

## Anti-Choice Bonnici Appointed to CUNY Board

How can Gov. Pataki claim to be pro-choice and still have nominated anti-choice activist Rev. John Bonnici to the City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Trustees? Bonnici's only credential for the job seems to be as a vocal opponent of abortion, contraception and gay rights. He has no prior experience with higher education.

Since 1996 Bonnici has headed the Archdiocese of New York's Family Life/Respect Life Office. According to Anthony DeStefano, Executive Director

of Priests for Life, Bonnici's office is "one of the largest, busiest, and most successful diocesan pro-life [sic] offices in the world."

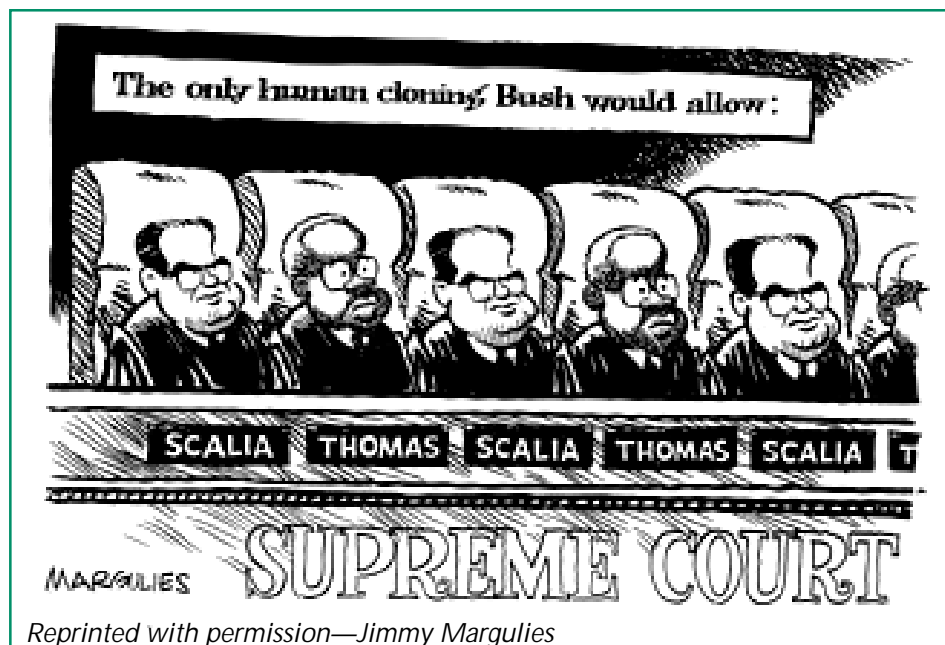
Pro-choice organizations, including WCLA and NARAL, opposed his nomination fearing that Bonnici would work to discontinue access to contraceptive services, including emergency contraception, at CUNY health centers. During the hearings Westchester's Senator Suzi Oppenheimer gave voice to these important issues.

Giving further credence to these

concerns, Bonnici said, during his hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, that providing comprehensive health services is not part of CUNY's mission, and women in need of reproductive health care can get these services elsewhere.

Professional Staff Congress (PSC), the union that represents faculty and professional staff at CUNY, adamantly opposed the appointment of Bonnici. In a press release PSC stated that they have long held that appointees need to have an established track record in public higher education. PSC President Barbara Bowen explained: "It does not serve CUNY well to appoint a trustee with no history in higher education. Father Bonnici's history of advocacy against women's reproductive rights and gay rights makes his appointment inappropriate as a trustee of this diverse institution." PSC asserts, further, that trustees need to be selected on the basis of their professional qualifications not their political allegiance.

Unfortunately, the New York State Senate Committee on Higher Education voted affirmatively on the appointment and Bonnici was confirmed by a voice vote by the full Senate. There was no record of how individual Senators voted but it appeared to have been on a straight party line vote.





# This Act Doesn't Protect Children

by Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman



Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have consistently supported a woman's right to choose and I have fought in

opposition to legislation that would infringe upon that right, including legislation concerning parental notification laws and the banning of specific abortion procedures.

The House of Representatives recently considered H.R. 476, the Child Custody Protection Act, which would prohibit any individual other than a parent, from transporting a woman under 18 years of age over state lines in order to obtain an abortion. I could not support that legislation. However, many of my colleagues disagreed with me and regrettably the bill passed by a vote of 260-161.

Parental involvement is ideal, and young women who have loving and understanding parents that they can talk to are quite fortunate, but not all teenagers are that fortunate. Those teenagers who feel that they cannot involve their parents are left with no one else to turn to, and thus are forced to make this difficult decision alone, for fear of putting a family member or trusted adult in danger of committing a Federal crime. We owe these young women the chance to involve someone they trust in making such an important decision. If they cannot go to a parent, and instead enlist the help of a step-parent, grandparent, or sibling in obtaining an abortion over state lines, the family member would be committing a Federal offense. This is unconscionable.

Those who support this bill claim that it will strengthen the lines of communication between young women and their parents, when in reality the opposite will result. A young woman may be forced to cross state lines alone, putting herself in a dangerous situation, and may even turn to an illegal back alley abortion, putting her life at unnecessary risk. This legislation is

dangerous in every aspect.

In addition to preserving the principles of *Roe v. Wade*, we need to continue to educate our nation's children about safe sex, encourage them to practice abstinence and help them mature into responsible young adults, thus making abortion an unnecessary procedure. This would be far better than passing legislation which holds concerned family members and trusted adults criminally responsible for helping these young women make a very difficult decision.

When a woman is confronted with an unexpected pregnancy, Congress and the Federal Government have no role in the decision-making process. Abortion is a very serious and personal issue and prior to viability, should be a decision made by the prospective mother, her family, religious counselor, and her doctor.

By pursuing restrictive legislation, we are destroying the balance between a woman's right to choose and the State's interest in protecting potential life after viability. Many of my colleagues in Congress support a woman's right to choose and as a Republican pro-choice member, I will continue to fight with them on behalf of all women.

## Mind from page 2

two weeks with a friend who gave me all the help I needed. We went all the way down to Delmarva and up to Boston, reveling in spring migration, which I completely missed last year.

Adjusting to my new life as a physically disabled person is a complex process. Birding helps, in that I still can do something that has been such a big part of my life, such a delight, such a pleasure, albeit in a limited fashion. When I was at WCLA, I was happiest when I had a birding jaunt on my calendar, assuring me that there was a bright spot ahead that would take me away from the political horrors in Albany and Washington.

Birding is my hobby. The most sustaining element of emotional recovery from a trauma like mine is friends, of which I have many, apart from my family and our friends. They are from my subcultures: WCLA and the wider abortion rights family, the Westchester Civil Liberties Union, the environmentalists, and the birders. Without these steadfast friends bolstering me up, caring about me, being with me, I don't know if I could hold up.

Something else could help me and others like me: a **stem cell transplant**. It'll take many more years of research and is a long way off, to be sure, and probably too late for me, but it's the only hope for millions of people.

I am incensed with the politicians, religions, and pseudo-moralists that are revved up to a fever pitch over embryos.

How dare they stand in the way of the research that could cure so many illnesses and injuries.

These moral absolutists have turned their backs on all the people who could lead a healthy life from the stem cells created in the process known as "therapeutic cloning." It's up to the grassroots activists *and the voters* to change the political climate so that research money flows and scientists have the wherewithal to go to their labs and do the extensive testing that will be required. We built a grassroots base on abortion rights; we can do it with medical research that will benefit humanity.



Photo by Robert A. Behrstock

# The Lowey-Hyde Bill

By Nita M. Lowey

In early March, the Administration took one more misguided step on the issue of a woman's right to choose. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a proposed rule



Rep. Nita M. Lowey

extending coverage under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to "unborn children" — embryos and fetuses. While the Administration claims that it is trying to improve the health of financially disadvantaged women and provide them with better access to prenatal care, this is just another charade in the game to make abortion illegal.

Under the rule, the pregnant woman herself would not be eligible for health care services and is not considered the patient. Why did the Administration adorn "unborn children" with this benefit rather than directly providing it to pregnant women? They did it because a long-sought goal of the anti-choice movement is to grant fetuses the same legal standing as a person.

Not only has the Administration's proposed SCHIP rule wrongly involved the issue of reproductive rights, but it would leave glaring holes in health care coverage and could potentially endanger the health of pregnant women. As I told the HHS Secretary, Tommy Thompson, the Administration's approach just does not make sense. There are circumstances when the woman's health could be at issue, but because that health problem may not immediately affect the fetus, the woman would not be eligible for care. This rule will force

physicians to pick and choose between what affects the fetus and what affects the woman. Clearly, a woman's overall health is vitally important to the health of her baby.

For years, I have been working in a bipartisan way to pass the Mothers and Newborns Health Insurance Act, which would give states the option of covering low-income pregnant women in SCHIP. My legislation was endorsed by Secretary Thompson and is sponsored by Senator Bond and Rep. Hyde — vocal anti-choice members of Congress. It is a straightforward way to ensure that women receive the care they need for a healthy pregnancy.

Nearly one in five women of child-bearing age were uninsured in 1999, and more than half had family incomes below 200% of poverty. These numbers are likely to increase due to the economic downturn. Women who lack insurance are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care. The related problems of low birth weight and pre-term births are among the three most expensive reasons for a hospital stay in the United States.

The good news is access to prenatal care can prevent these problems — infants born to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care are twice as likely to be low birth weight than those born to mothers who received prenatal care. The Administration should not respond to the need to provide more women with access to prenatal care and medical benefits by enacting divisive and potentially flawed SCHIP policy.

Although the public comment period on the draft regulations closed in early May, the Administration has not issued final regulations and has indicated that it would support the enactment of legislation addressing the issue if passed by Congress. The time to act is now. We must work together to let Congress know that the Lowey-Hyde bill is the appropriate solution, and must be passed in the coming weeks. My bill would allow approximately 41,000 additional women to be covered for prenatal care and ensure that children receive the care they need to be healthy.

## Putting Money Ahead of Safety

Abortion politics has become a powder keg in the debate over the bankruptcy reform bill. Thanks to NY Senator Charles Schumer, an amendment included in the Senate version prevents anti-choice activists from declaring bankruptcy to avoid payment of civil and criminal damages resulting from the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE). Schumer's amendment only affects violent offenders of FACE, not people protesting in a legal manner. The anti-choice House bill does not contain that provision.

Because the bill would be a major plus for credit card companies, big business interests want Schumer to drop the amendment. To that end, and with total disregard for women's health and welfare, credit card companies and other big business interests have launched an aggressive radio campaign, in New York, discrediting Schumer's amendment.

The following companies and organizations are behind the effort to intimidate Senator Schumer: American Bankers Association, American Financial Services, America's Community Bankers, Consumer Bankers Association, Credit Union National Association, DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Independent Community Bankers of America, MasterCard International, National Retail Federation, and Visa USA. Is a boycott in order?

### Pregnant from page 3

majority of the electorate favors a woman's right to choose. However, some officials renege on their commitment to reproductive rights, hoping that the public will listen to what they say rather than watch what they do.

Choice is not a single vote. It is a philosophy that must be applied by our legislators whenever they cast a vote. Choice must be considered whether the vote is for an appointment to the CUNY Board, a judicial nomination, budget allocations to family planning, UNFPA, or on legislation entitled "Unborn Victims."

# Stem Cell Therapy: Pro and Con

By Polly Rothstein

Everyone, with no exceptions, is at risk of the diseases that terrify us most. At this time, the road to a cure or preventive measures for many diseases is stem cell therapy, which uses stem cells instead of drugs.

Scientists believe that unspecialized cells, grown in a laboratory, can be coaxed into becoming any of the body's cell types, such as bone, skin, pancreas, liver, or nerves. For example, they could become tissues or organs for patients with Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes, heart disease, kidney failure, and spinal cord injuries. The possibilities give hope to all of us — but nothing will happen without years of costly research.

Throughout the nation, there is remarkable comprehension of the big picture, if not the medical details. The people's grasp of the issue has given rise to anger because of political battles that delay stem cell research. They know that religious anti-abortion absolutists have wormed their way into science and medicine with special emphasis on curtailing embryonic stem cell research.

Embryonic stem cells come primarily from excess frozen embryos in fertility clinics and from abortions. Like the Shmoo in Al Capp's *Li'l Abner* comic strip, the lovable creature shaped like a bowling pin became what was needed. They laid eggs and gave milk, became chicken when fried, and steak when broiled. They multiplied so fast you could never run out of them.

Dragging the abortion controversy into the stem cell issue, the Roman Catholic bishops and the conservative evangelical Christians oppose embryonic stem cell research because they maintain that the human embryo is a person and that "embryonic children" must be protected. These religious conservatives enact their agenda through the Bush White House and anti-abortion members of Congress. It is up to advocates for abortion rights, medical research, and specific diseases to insist that crucial research into embryonic stem cells goes forth with

adequate government funding and no restrictions.

## Cloning

Cloning is the current focus of legislative attention.

"Reproductive cloning" could lead to installing an exact genetic copy of a person into a woman's uterus. There is no support for reproductive cloning in Congress and little anywhere else.

There is, however, enormous public support for "therapeutic cloning," in which stem cells that do not have the potential to become fetuses are created to cure diseases. Researchers have created kidney and heart tissue from cloned cow embryos, then implanted the genetically identical tissue into the cow it came from. The cows' immune systems did not reject the tissue and the new organs functioned properly. The scientists believe that this shows the "enormous medical potential" of therapeutic cloning in large mammals, including humans.

An advance recently reported shows that embryonic stem cells can be switched over into significant amounts of exactly the kind of brain cell that is lost in Parkinson's disease, a technique that might have possible use in therapy.

## Congress weighs in

A bill introduced by Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA.) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) (S 2439), would allow therapeutic cloning but would impose criminal penalties for engaging in reproductive cloning. Opponents, including Mr. Bush, have warned that the therapeutic cloning studies will inevitably lead to "embryo farms" and the manufacture of babies for "spare parts."

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), long opposed to abortion, announced his support of the Kennedy-Feinstein bill. He wrote, "Therapeutic cloning could benefit millions of Americans. I analyzed this issue from a pro-life, pro-family perspective, with the conviction that being pro-life demands helping the living." He also said, "Therapeutic cloning, if conducted with appropriate

safeguards, may yield cures for many serious illnesses. And why would anyone oppose that?"

The Senate has also been choking on a bill (S 1899) sponsored by Senators Sam Brownback (R-KS.) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA.) that would ban both reproductive and therapeutic cloning, a measure passed by the GOP-anti-choice controlled House. Partisan politics stalled both bills, at least for now.

Cure-by-stem cell isn't imminent. It will take years of pure science and experimentation before a single spinal cord is repaired or stem cells become the pancreatic islet cells that secrete insulin. But the excitement is there, the hope is there — and it will happen.

Strategically, we must personalize the stem cell issue. Christopher Reeve, a quadriplegic, is a headline-making advocate, as is Michael Fox for Parkinson's. I'm up-front about being disabled from a spinal cord injury. The more we all speak out, the quicker we'll get lawmakers like Sen. Hatch to understand that the world exists beyond the anti-choice agenda.

Michael Kinsley (Washington Post, 8/29/01) said, "Opposition to stem cell research is the *reductio ad absurdum* of the right-to-life argument. A goldfish resembles a human being more than an embryo does. An embryo feels nothing, thinks nothing, cannot suffer, is not aware of its own existence. ... Yet opponents of stem cell research would allow real people, who can suffer, to do so in service of the abstract principle that embryos are people too. If faith takes you there, fine. Reason can't."

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web site  
at  
[www.wcla.org](http://www.wcla.org)



# WCLA Scores Again

Dear Catherine:

Please express to your Board my deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks for your strong and significant support for my candidacy in my recent Special Election to the County Board of Legislators. I am particularly appreciative for the postcard that WCLA-PAC mailed out which was received the day before election day. I was not expecting it. The postcard was a most welcomed surprise.

For a Democrat to win in an off-year election in the 6th District is a real accomplishment. To win the seat in an off-off-year as on May 14th was a real challenge and WCLA's support and ability to energize the pro-choice constituency was particularly important. Please advise your Board that on Election night, I gave WCLA a strong endorsement in my victory speech that I delivered on Cablevision 12.

Once again, my thanks to you and WCLA for a job well done.

Very truly yours,



MARTIN ROGOWSKY  
County Legislator

# Lest We Forget...

"Women came in on the GYN wards with all sorts of conditions and you suspected – even though they would maybe never admit it – that there had been an illegal abortion. There were a lot of kidney problems, bladder problems, and infections from incomplete abortions... Many women died from peritonitis, an infection in the abdomen, and septicemia, an infection in the bloodstream.

"Absolutely, all the time, women were pressured to give the names of the abortionists, but it was the best-kept secret in the world. There was a bond there. The women would either die or go home without telling. In those days, the authorities reported an abortion just like it was a major crime...."

*Registered nurse in "The Choices we Made," edited by Angela Bonavoglia, Random House, 1991.*

# It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Intimidation

The single-engine plane cruising over Santa Monica Beach in June towed a different sort of banner: the 100-foot-long and 30-foot-high image of an aborted first-trimester fetus. Responsible for this advertising is the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, a Los Angeles organization. The cost of the exercise was \$2500/per day to rent the plane. The anti-choice group hopes to

raise additional funds for aerial banner campaigns over professional sporting events and college campuses.

The group, which started its airborne campaign on Memorial Day weekend in the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale area and also flew it over Cape Cod, plans to repeat the action over Coney Island, the Hamptons, and the Jersey shore during the summer.

CBR's website ([www.cbinfo.org](http://www.cbinfo.org)) shows an active anti-choice agenda, including large signs on trucks, their Genocide Awareness Project, which carries graphic displays of aborted fetuses and acts of historical genocide, and likens abortion to racial cleansing. CBR's traveling display visits college campuses around the country.

**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](mailto: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-PAC.

**I will help WCLA-PAC pay for the Voting Guide and get-out-the-vote effort.**

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

Visa, MC, AmEx \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  I will volunteer for WCLA. Send me a form.

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  I will contact my legislators when notified.  By e-mail.

Political Party \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  I will do phoning.

I won't vote for candidates who would restrict abortion.

Checks are payable to WCLA-PAC. Mail with this coupon to 237 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10605. Contributions to WCLA-PAC are not tax deductible. To phone in a charge, please call (914) 946-5363.

## Great Gifts and No Shopping

Stumped for an innovative gift? There's a perfect solution that has never failed to please: a donation in the recipient's name to a cause. Donations to WCLA to honor birthdays, anniversaries, bat/bar mitzvahs, confirmations, and for memorials, are a wonderful idea. Please consider WCLA when you make your next special contribution. We will graciously thank not only you but also the recipient or their family.

## Reliable Listing of Abortion Providers

A listing of bona fide clinic-based abortion providers may now be found online at a new site run by the National Coalition of Abortion Providers. Point your browser to: [www.abortionclinicdirectory.com](http://www.abortionclinicdirectory.com) or <http://www.ru486.com> to see a list by state or by services provided. This Abortion Clinic Directory is a product of the Foundation to Preserve Access to Abortion, a non-profit organization which is the educational arm of the National Coalition.

## WCLA Seeks Office Manager

WCLA needs an office manager/coordinator. This is an excellent job opportunity for the right person. The ideal candidate should be pro-choice, efficient, organized, careful with details, good with people, flexible and computer literate. The position involves a lot of computer work as well as managing a small office, some secretarial work, research, writing, bookkeeping, and managing volunteers. It would be a plus to be interested in politics and familiar with Westchester's elected officials. To apply, send a letter and resume to WCLA, 237 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10605, or e-mail to [WCLA@WCLA.org](mailto:WCLA@WCLA.org). Please do not call.

## Remember to Register to Vote!

To vote you must be registered! If you register for the primary, you do not need to register again for the general election. The primary is on Sept. 10. The deadline to register is Aug. 16. The general election is on Nov. 5. The deadline to register is Oct. 11. You can do it in person or by mail. The mailing address is: Westchester Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas St., White Plains, NY, 10601. For more information, call the Board of Elections, (914) 995-5700.

## NYS to Require Coverage of Some Infertility Treatments

The Albany budget wrangling provided an unexpected benefit for infertile couples. Legislative leaders agreed to insert into a budget bill the requirement that insurance companies cover most infertility treatments as of Sept. 1. While some drug therapies will be covered, in vitro fertilization and vasectomy reversal will not be.

Many New Yorkers, however, will be unaffected by the change. Medicaid recipients, the uninsured, individual policyholders and those covered by self-insured plans (subject to federal regulation) will not benefit. NYS will institute a pilot project with \$10 million in funding for those who would not benefit. The criteria for inclusion is to be formulated.

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For up-to-date information, please point your browser to WCLA's website, [www.wcla.org](http://www.wcla.org).

Westchester Coalition  
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