



## Million4Roe.com Launched to Save Legal Abortion

*Dolores Huerta and Gillian Anderson Featured*

By Nikki DeBlosi

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion. In 2001, Bush wants a recount.

The Feminist Majority has launched Million4Roe.com, a new online effort to save legal abortion. With one or more Supreme Court resignations looming during the Bush presidency, Million4Roe is harnessing the power of the Internet to build the will in the Senate to filibuster against any Supreme Court nominee who refuses to support *Roe v. Wade*.

The site's simple design encourages users to sign a petition, take weekly actions, and alert

their friends and colleagues to the threat to abortion in the U.S. In just two months, more than 35,000 women and men have signed the petition and e-mailed more than 91,000 friends, family, and co-workers.

### Filibuster Strategy Highlighted

While the overwhelming majority of Americans are pro-choice, there is no clear pro-choice majority in the U.S. Senate. In fact, only 37 Senators are solidly pro-choice, while an additional 17 Senators have mixed voting records. The vote on U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft highlighted these numbers, with just 42 Senators voting against the anti-women's and civil rights nominee. A filibuster — requiring just 41

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## Young Feminist Activists Attend Leadership Training

By Beth Raboin

Fifty-eight of the most promising feminist leaders converged in Washington, DC recently for FMF's 4th Annual and largest ever Feminist Leadership Institute. Held June 21-26, 2001, young feminist activists from a wide range of two and four year, public and private colleges and universities gathered for a five-day training designed to provide student leaders with a strong background in reproductive rights issues along with a solid set of grassroots organizing skills.

To date, Leadership Institutes have trained nearly 200 highly-skilled, pro-choice, student leaders who have taken their training back to campus to establish permanent feminist voices on their campuses through FMF-affiliated student groups, known as Feminist Majority Leadership Alliances. The leadership alliances then conduct FMF's pro-choice campus campaign called Choices. Since its inception in

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*FMF Board Member Dolores Huerta and X-Files star Gillian Anderson lead the Million4ROE campaign.*

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## Newsbriefs

### Repro Rights Groups Ask Court to Reconsider Nuremberg Files Decision

Leading a group of reproductive choice and women's rights organizations, the Feminist Majority Foundation and its National Clinic Access Project filed an amicus brief asking the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to "reconsider" its March 28 ruling that the web site known as the Nuremberg Files and various WANTED-style posters are protected under the First Amendment right to free speech. The site and the posters contain abortion providers' addresses and other personal information.

The brief, filed by FMF on behalf of NARAL, the NARAL Foundation, California NARAL, Montana NARAL, Washington State NARAL, the National Abortion Federation, the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, the National Organization for Women Foundation, NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Women's Health Foundation, Northwest Women's Law Center, Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health, and the Women's Law Project requests an *en banc* review of the decision—a review before the full 9th Circuit Court.

We argued that District Court and jury findings, as well as past 9th Circuit Court rulings, mandate an interpretation of the Nuremberg Files website, the WANTED-style posters, and the "Deadly Dozen" list as legitimate threats against abortion providers in violation of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. The American Medical Association and 43 members of Congress filed amicus briefs as well. ■

### CRLP Sues Bush Over Global Gag Rule

The Center for Reproductive Law and Policy (CRLP) announced on June 6<sup>th</sup> that it has filed a lawsuit against President George W.

Bush for censoring free speech and will sue him for the global gag rule. This rule bars U.S. aid to family planning programs in developing nations that use their own, separate funds to counsel or advocate abortions.

"President Bush took away my right to speak because I support a position with which he disagrees... Yet groups that oppose abortion rights are not censored," says Janet Benshoof, President of CRLP. The organization will ask a Manhattan federal court to block a section of the global gag rule that bars groups from advocating the reform of abortion laws overseas.

The global gag rule prevents family planning clinics from offering any information on abortion or the consequences of illegal abortion, and in many cases discourages clinics from treating women and girls who are suffering from abortion-related complications. ■

### Catholic Priests' Rape of Nuns Protested

On July 14, the Feminist Majority Foundation joined with Catholics for a Free Choice and over 100 U.S. and international women's rights, human rights, and religious organizations to call upon the Vatican to end sexual violence against nuns. Condemning the rape and abuse of nuns by some priests, as has been reported by the *National Catholic Reporter*, the groups demanded that the Vatican take action to protect nuns. The U.S. event included a demonstration outside the United Nations (UN) in New York City followed by a march to the Vatican Permanent Mission and culminated in a candlelight vigil at the Vatican Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Eleanor Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority Foundation said, "For years, the Vatican has known of the rape and abuse of nuns by Catholic priests. However, the Vatican has ignored this unethical and criminal behavior just as they have ignored the rampant priest pedophilia." Smeal called upon the Vatican to "end sexual violence against nuns, to punish the priests, that have engaged in this violence, to grant

reparations to nuns who have been victimized, and to end their cynical and hypocritical attacks on the rights of women worldwide." ■

### Court Mandates Contraceptive Insurance Coverage

In the first federal case of its kind, the U.S. District Court in Western Washington has ordered Bartell Drug Company to provide prescription coverage for contraceptives for its female employees. The court declared that excluding contraceptives from the company's health coverage constitutes sex discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The case was taken on as a class-action suit by Planned Parenthood of Western Washington.

The court ordered Bartell not only to provide coverage for prescription contraception, but to cover contraception-related services, such as the initial visit to the prescribing health care provider and any required follow-up visits to ensure accessibility. ■

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1600 Wilson Blvd., #801  
Arlington, VA 22209  
(703) 522-2214

[www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org)

President	Eleanor Smeal
Chair	Peg Yorkin
Vice President	Katherine Spillar
Editors-in-Chief	Eleanor Smeal
	Jennifer Jackman
Managing Editor	Julie Bernstein
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Contributors	Nikki DeBlosi
	Norma Gattsek
	Kim Lonsway
	Dvora Lovinger
	Beth Raboin
	Tracy Seffl
	Sharyn Tejani
	Michelle Wood

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# Taliban Increases Restrictions While Afghans Suffer

By Norma Gattsek

The Taliban continues its reign of terror, imposing new edicts that defy all basic human rights. Non-Muslim religious minorities in Afghanistan are being forced to wear yellow badges to supposedly identify them more easily. They also are requiring foreigners in Afghanistan, to sign an agreement to obey their “Islamic” laws before entering the country.

“This latest edict is reminiscent of the Third Reich that required Jews to wear a yellow star of David on their clothing,” said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation. “The treatment of minorities in Afghanistan is bordering on a Holocaust. The civilized world must do more.”

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) recently documented strong opposition within Afghanistan to the Taliban’s system of gender apartheid. According to PHR, more than 90 percent of Afghan women and men in the survey supported reinstating the rights of women. The survey also confirmed the physical and emotional suffering of the women under Taliban rule. Women in Taliban-controlled areas reported significantly worse physical and mental health, including extremely high rates of major depression, than women living in other areas of the country.

The Taliban’s policy of gender apartheid has even interfered with the United Nations’ (UN) relief efforts to deliver food to Afghans who are suffering from the worst drought in decades. Citing its ban against women working, the Taliban repeatedly refused to allow Afghan women to conduct a UN survey of food needs and distribution and temporarily closed several bakeries. Since Taliban edicts also prohibit contact between men and women, this meant that the most vulnerable population, widows and their children, could not be included in the UN survey.

Only after a year of negotiations and a threat to end the UN’s World Food Program assistance in Afghanistan did Taliban officials give permission for women working at the Taliban Health Ministry to conduct the survey. However, this “solution” prevents these women from carrying out their critical health care duties and deprives other women of desperately needed employment.

The United States, the largest provider of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, recently announced an additional \$43 million in emergency food and medical supplies for Afghanistan. The aid will not go to the Taliban, but rather to UN agencies and non-governmental relief organizations. The Feminist Majority played a key role in increasing humanitarian assistance to Afghans, especially women and children, who are in peril for their lives.

The Feminist Majority is working with members of Congress, including Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), on legislation to codify non-recognition of the Taliban, to dramatically increase relief, education, health, and humanitarian assistance to Afghan women and children, and to make the restoration of rights of Afghan women and girls a foreign policy priority for the U.S.

The same day U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell announced the \$43 million in aid to Afghanistan, Taliban “religious police”—The Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice—raided a hospital in Kabul, claiming that male and female personnel were “mixing” illegally.

“How long is the civilized world going to stand by and watch this barbaric regime destroy the lives of millions of Afghan women and children?” asked Smeal. ■

NATIONAL AND LOCAL

TAKE

ACTIONS FEMINISTS CAN

FEMINIST

TAKE TO MAKE OUR BELIEF

ACTION

IN WOMEN’S RIGHTS COUNT

**SAVE ROE at [www.Million4ROE.com](http://www.Million4ROE.com)**

Legal abortion hangs in the balance by a 5-4 margin in the U.S. Supreme Court. As many as 2 or 3 justices may be appointed by anti-abortion rights Bush. Join one million voices in urging Senate leaders to filibuster any Supreme Court nominee who won’t support Roe, and tell Washington “We Won’t Go Back.” Contact Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and urge them to lead the Senate to oppose confirmation of any Supreme Court nominee who refuses to support *Roe v. Wade*. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or send a message from [www.Million4ROE.com](http://www.Million4ROE.com).

**AFGHAN WOMEN**

Urge the U.S. government to do everything possible to restore women’s rights to work, education, mobility and physical safety in Afghanistan, to continue not to recognize the Taliban, and to increase humanitarian assistance to women and girls living in Afghanistan and those living as refugees outside the country. Write to President Bush at the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500, contact your members of Congress through the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or send a message from [www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org).

**SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

In 1998, 120 countries, excluding the United States, voted to adopt the Rome Statute, which classifies gender crimes including apartheid and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity as crimes against humanity. Former President Clinton signed the Rome Statute, but Senate ratification is still required. Urge President Bush and your Senators to support the International Criminal Court for the rights of women and oppose Senator Jesse Helm’s (R-SC) American Servicemembers’ Protection Act which sends the wrong message to those responsible for genocide and crimes against humanity. Write to President Bush at the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500, contact your members of Congress through the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or send a message from [www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org).

## Clinic Defense Team Goes to Wichita

By Michelle Wood

Operation Save America – formerly Operation Rescue National – will descend on Wichita, Kansas in July for the 10th anniversary renewal of its “Summer of Mercy” campaign. Responding to calls for assistance from Wichita abortion providers, the Feminist Majority Foundation’s National Clinic Access Project sent an Emergency Response Team into Wichita to mobilize and train pro-choice community volunteers in clinic defense and provide security assistance to the area’s women’s health clinics.

Ten years ago, Operation Rescue attracted thousands of abortion protestors to Wichita, blockading area clinics for five weeks and viciously targeting Dr. George Tiller, a nationally renowned abortion provider. With the intention of repeating its campaign of harassment and disruption, Operation Save America has put out a call to its followers, organizing under the banner “Let’s Finish It” – an ominous threat, given the history of anti-abortion violence in Wichita.

Our Emergency Response Team worked with local pro-choice organizations, including the Wichita Choice Alliance, Wichita NOW, Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, Wichita League of Women Voters, student leaders from Wichita State University, and the Kansas Religious Leaders for Choice, to keep Wichita’s women’s health clinics open and free from violence during the demonstrations.

The Feminist Majority Foundation, together with the National Abortion Federation and Planned Parenthood Federation of America, also sent specialists to assist local and federal law enforcement in Wichita, providing security briefings and the latest information on threats posed by anti-abortion extremists.

Dr. Tiller, who provides late-term abortions and helps desperately ill women and women with troubled pregnancies, has long been a target of anti-abortion ex-

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## Sold Out Rock for Choice Concert Sends a Powerful Message: We Won’t Go Back!

By Mary Hood

Some of the industry’s top musicians, including Melissa Etheridge, Sarah McLachlan, The Bangles and Paula Cole, *Rocked for Choice* to an impassioned sold out crowd last April in a concert benefiting the Feminist Majority’s Campaign to Save *Roe*. Emceed by *X-Files* star Gillian Anderson, the five-hour concert was held at the historic Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles, CA and raised awareness of the possibility that President Bush could appoint as many as two anti-abortion Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court—a move that could overturn the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion.

”There are rumors Bush will soon appoint justices to the Supreme Court who will make abortion illegal. This is 2001. It’s unconscionable. Without reproductive control, we have no equality. We will not go back!” said Anderson.

Many celebrities, including Ellen DeGeneres, Kathy Najimy, Helen Hunt and Portia de Rossi, joined the crowd and cheered in support of every mention of protecting women’s rights and abortion rights. “Thank you for helping all women be able to make a choice!” said Paula Cole. “It seems absolutely bloody ridicu-



Top musicians Paula Cole and Melissa Etheridge performed to a full house at the *Rock for Choice* benefit concert.

lous we have this issue still in 2001,” McLachlan said of the fight against abortion restrictions. Concert-goers had the opportunity to sign petitions to Senators Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) urging them to lead the Senate to oppose any anti-choice Justices nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court. ■



Musical artist Sarah McLachlan, FMF *Rock for Choice* Director Michel Cicero, and musician Mia Doi Todd joined forces in support of abortion rights.

## Bush's Dismal Record on Women

By Julie Bernstein

From reproductive rights to the tax cut, women will suffer as a result of the policies and actions President George W. Bush has set in place during his first six months in office. The aftershocks and damage are likely to be felt by an entire generation of women for many years to come.

On his first full day in office, Bush reinstated the "Global Gag Rule" endangering women's lives worldwide. First imposed by President Reagan in 1984, and later reversed by President Clinton, the Global Gag Rule prohibits family planning programs in developing nations that receive USAID international family planning funding from using *their own, non-U.S. funding* to refer or counsel patients about abortion, or to advocate for changes in abortion laws in their own countries.

The Global Gag Rule is a death sentence for women – especially young women – in poor countries where access to contraceptives and safe abortion is limited. According to the United Nations, an estimated 20 million unsafe, illegal abortions worldwide occur annually, resulting in more than 80,000 deaths.

The Bush administration then ordered a review of National Institutes of Health (NIH) rules on federal funding for stem cell research. Bowing to anti-abortion zealots and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, meetings with leading scientists were canceled by the Bush administration and have yet to be rescheduled. Even vehemently anti-abortion Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson support stem cell research. Stem cell research has shown enormous potential to treat debilitating ailments like diabetes, AIDS, Huntington's, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and Lou Gherig's diseases.

Next came Bush's cutting of mandatory contraceptive coverage in federal employees' health plans, directly affecting over one million female employees. Quietly, the Bush administration also closed the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach, an effective avenue of communication with women's organizations.

Bush policies again proved hazardous to women's health when he retracted ergonomics regulations protecting workers from repetitive motion injuries. Bush's repeal of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) ergonomics stan-

dards disproportionately affects women workers, who comprise 47 percent of the paid workforce and represent 64 percent of repetitive motion injuries.

The tax cut picture is grim for women as well. Bush's plan provides little relief to average women workers and threatens the well-being of women. As both tax payers and recipients of social services, women have little to gain and everything to lose from the Bush tax-cut and budget plan.

Bush's plan to privatize Social Security endangers the only income source for 2.5 million women and shortens the lifespan of the Social Security Trust Fund. Women are 60 percent of Social Security beneficiaries, and most rely solely on social security benefits in retirement.

As for Bush's judicial nominees, most hold right-wing, anti-women's rights views. The first pool of federal, district and appellate court judicial appointments may seem diverse on the surface but the vast majority are of one conservative mind. Several nominees are members of the Federalist Society and share its far-right, anti-abortion, anti-affirmative action conservative ideology. ■

## Christie's Hosts Auction to Benefit Afghan Campaign

By Mary Hood

Women's rights in Afghanistan was once again *the* cause in a diverse crowd of celebrities, activists, and art lovers who joined to raise awareness and critical funds for the FMF Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan. The event was held March 22 at Christie's auction house in Beverly Hills, California.

Patrons had a chance to tour the collection, pick up FMF informational materials, and mingle with stage and screen stars Julia Ormond, Frances Fisher, Timothy Dalton and Shiva Rose during a pre-auction reception. FMF Afghanistan Campaign Chair and Board Member Mavis Leno, joined by

her husband, Jay, host of *The Tonight Show*, welcomed guests before kicking off the evening with a heartfelt speech that inspired the audience to be quick with their bidding paddles and generous with contributions.

On the auction block were European and Eastern European paintings and works on paper from the collection of Gigi Guggenheim Danziger, who was moved to action after hearing the first-hand accounts of three Afghan-born orphans of war who had been adopted and rescued from the Taliban militia's oppressive world.

The incredibly successful event raised funds and awareness in an ongoing campaign to end the suffering of women and girls in Afghanistan. ■



FMF Afghanistan Campaign Chair and Board Member Mavis Leno and actress Julia Ormond at Christie's auction to benefit women's rights in Afghanistan.

# FMF Aids *Women on Waves* in International Effort to Focus on Illegal Abortion

By Tracy Sefl & Dvora Lovinger

The Feminist Majority Foundation has provided its expertise to *Women on Waves (WOW)*, the Dutch group committed to providing safe abortion services, raising public awareness, and encouraging dialogue about abortion in countries where abortion is illegal. During *WOW*'s inaugural voyage to Ireland in June, Feminist Majority Foundation's National Clinic Access Project (NCAP) staff members including Margaret Moore, Dvora Lovinger, and Elizabeth Koenig were present to assist in the implementation of security protocols and to provide technical assistance in threat management. Moore and FMF's Susie Gilligan traveled to Ireland earlier in the spring to brief *WOW* organizers on security issues.

The *WOW* crew arrived in Ireland on a specially equipped 115-foot Dutch ship outfitted with a custom-designed medical examination suite. Abortion is illegal in Ireland, even if a woman is pregnant due to rape or incest, and each year, at least 6,300 Irish women are forced to travel to England to obtain a legal abortion.

*WOW* was flooded with over 300 requests from women all over Ireland in need of an abortion and, due to the overwhelming numbers of women seeking services, physicians on board would have been unable to meet the demand. Also, due to last-minute maritime licensing problems in the Netherlands, original plans to provide abortions on the Irish voyage were withdrawn although doctors did provide Irish women with contraception, family planning education, emergency contraception, and information about abortion.

*Women on Waves*, in cooperation with local Irish groups, was smashingly successful in raising public awareness of the consequences of the oppressive Irish law. There was extensive media coverage all over the world, educating people about



*Women on Waves' Aurora sails into Ireland to provide reproductive health care to Irish women.*



*FMF NCAP Director of Law Enforcement Operations Margaret Moore joins Women on Waves founder Dr. Rebecca Gomperts and Women on Waves attorney Julie Kaye as they arrive in Dublin, Ireland.*

the dangers of illegal abortion and the need to have safe, legal abortion in every country.

Speaking on CNN's *Daybreak*, Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) President Eleanor Smeal explained that worldwide, restrictive laws like Ireland's lead to twenty million illegal and unsafe abortions annually. By conservative estimates, every year these illegal, unsafe abortions result in at least 80,000 deaths of women worldwide.

In preparation for the voyage, FMF's NCAP staff drew on its research on ties between U.S. and Irish anti-abortion extremists like Joseph Scheidler, Patrick Mahoney, and Matthew Trehwella who have all traveled to Ireland to teach anti-choice protest tactics. Other anti-abortion extremists, including Jeffrey White of Operation Rescue West and convicted felon Michael Bray, spoke out against the mission, warning that the crew should take extra security measures. Members of the crew and its leader, Dutch physician Rebecca Gomperts, received at least four serious bomb threats, but there was no violence and otherwise few protests while in Ireland.

In future voyages, the floating abortion clinic will travel to other countries where abortion is illegal or greatly restricted. A return trip to Ireland and missions to Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa are being considered. ■

## Wichita

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tremists. Just two years after the 1991 blockades, Dr. Tiller was shot five times in both arms at point-blank range as he was leaving his clinic in an assassination attempt by Rachelle "Shelley" Shannon. Shannon had participated in the 1991 blockades. Tiller is heavily targeted on extremists' web sites and was among the physicians listed on a 1995 "Deadly Dozen List" published by the American Coalition of Life Activists, many of whose leaders advocate the use of 'deadly force' against abortion providers.

The response from the Wichita pro-choice community has been tremendous. By showing support for clinics and health care providers, the pro-choice community will send the message to anti-abortion extremists that they will not succeed in closing a single reproductive health clinic with intimidation or violence. ■

# Women Continue to Be Excluded From Policing

By Kimberly A. Lonsway

The fourth annual *Status of Women in Policing Survey* by the National Center for Women & Policing, a division of Feminist Majority Foundation, shows slow gains and low representation for women in sworn law enforcement in both large and small agencies.

Overall women comprise only 10.9 percent of sworn law enforcement nationwide, with women holding 13 percent of sworn positions in agencies with over 100 officers and an even smaller 7.1 percent in agencies with fewer than 100 officers.

The percentage of women in sworn law enforcement positions in large agencies has grown little over the past decade, from 9 percent of sworn officers in 1990 to 13 percent in 2000. Worse yet, women of color hold 4.9 percent of these positions in larger agencies. Not only do small and rural agencies have half as many women sworn officers, over 94 percent of these departments reported having no women in Top Command. And women of color represent less than one percent of sworn personnel in small and rural agencies.

“At the present rate of growth of less than one-half of one percent annually, women will not achieve equality in law enforcement agencies for several generations,” said Penny Harrington, a former police chief and director of the National Center for Women & Policing (NCWP).

Women also continue to be largely excluded from the essential policy making positions in policing. Within large law enforcement agencies, women are concentrated in the lowest tier of the hierarchical structure. Although women fill 13.7 percent of the line operation positions, they account for only 10.3 percent of supervisory positions and 7.3 percent of top command positions. In

tion of women and/or minorities have an average of 9.7 percent women in sworn law enforcement positions. In agencies *with* a consent decree, women account for 14 percent of the sworn personnel. Similarly, the percentage of women of color is 6.3 percent in agencies *without* a consent decree and 11.7 percent in agencies operating under a consent decree.

Of the 25 agencies with the highest percentage of sworn women, 10 have been subject to this type of consent decree. In sharp contrast, only 4 of the 25 agencies with the lowest percentage of sworn women have been under such a consent decree.

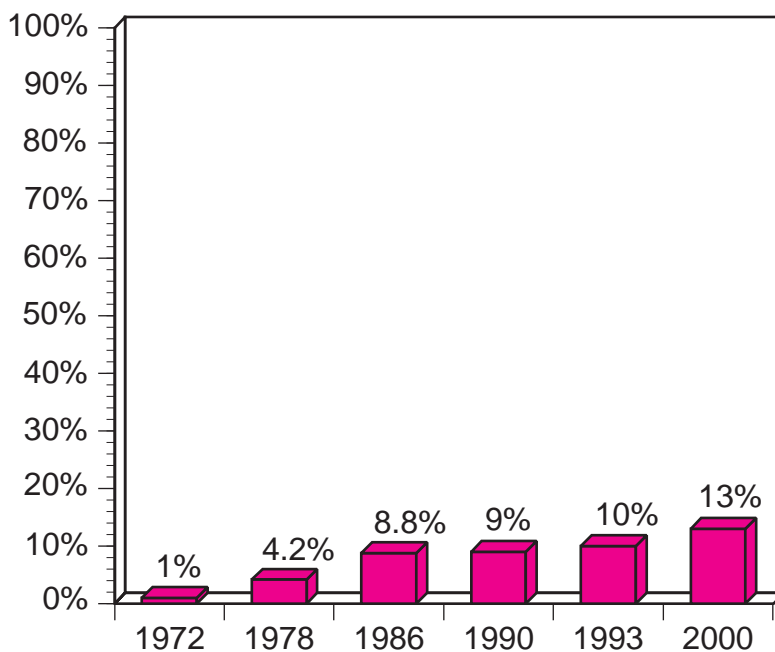
“Women have made the most progress in police departments where women officers and women’s organizations have taken legal action to fight the discriminatory hiring and promotion practices of law enforcement agencies, and where court ordered consent decrees have forced agencies to increase the number of women and minorities hired and promoted,” commented Harrington.

For the first time, the National Center for Women & Policing worked in cooperation with professors at

the Justice and Safety Center of Eastern Kentucky University to survey small and rural police agencies. For this study, small and rural police agencies were defined as those county and municipal agencies located in a county with a population of less than 50,000 and with fewer than 100 sworn personnel. ■

*Note: The full report from the 2000 Status of Women in Policing Survey is available online at [www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org).*

## Percentage of Women in Sworn Law Enforcement in Large Agencies, 1972-2000



Sources: National Center for Women in Policing (2000); Bureau of Justice Statistics (1990 and 1993); International City Management Association (1972); and Police Foundation Reports (1989).

fact, more than half (57 percent) of the agencies surveyed reported no women in top command positions and 88 percent of the agencies reported no women of color in their highest ranks.

Court-ordered hiring mandates have played a key role in even the minor increase in women in law enforcement. Agencies *without* a consent decree mandating the hiring and/or promo-

## The Ten Biggest Mistakes Women Can Avoid: How to Protect Yourself, Your Children, and Your Assets By Marilyn Barrett

by Sharyn Tejani

Everyone has heard a story about a woman who lost her money, children, home or business because she trusted someone else to make legal decisions for her. Marilyn Barrett has represented many women in that situation. Now, she has written a book to make sure that women protect their legal rights so that they will not need her expertise later.

As Barrett correctly points out, courts are very reluctant to believe that a spouse or business partner did not know about certain financial transactions or decisions. Therefore, it has become incumbent on women to be proactive and make sure that they know what is being done in their name.

Barrett's book addresses the major legal decisions that many encounter: marriage, divorce, bankruptcy, a business starting or failing, buying a house, disability, and those that everyone encounters: death and taxes. Her advice boils down to a simple set of very sound principles: read everything, be careful whom you trust, and take the time to personally take care of your legal and financial affairs. Barrett's book also provides a very useful crash course in legal and financial vocabulary so that the reader will be able to understand the documents that control her assets and property.

Legal books in general, and ones on taxes and bankruptcy in particular, can be exceptionally dull. Barrett avoids this pitfall by filling the book with real life examples from famous and infamous divorces and from the lives of regular people. The illustrations also motivate a reader by showing how important it is to plan to avoid legal disasters and how a lack of planning can change an emotionally difficult time, such as a divorce or death of a spouse or partner, into a financially devastating one. ■

## Million4Roe

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votes rather than the majority vote needed to defeat a nominee — is the most winnable strategy in the face of future anti-Roe nominees to the Supreme Court.

Both the Ashcroft vote and the close vote confirming anti-abortion Solicitor General Ted Olson suggested that pro-choice Senators have the votes to sustain a filibuster. "The close 51-47 vote showed a willingness to stand up, and represented an increase since the Ashcroft vote," noted FM President Eleanor Smeal.

### Celebrities Join Million4Roe

Many celebrities are joining the campaign. The first to be featured on the site are *X-Files* star Gillian Anderson and long-time Latina icon Dolores Huerta.

Anderson, whose fans admire her for the strength and fearlessness she portrays as "Dana Scully," noted that "what does scare me is the thought of returning to what we do know: the days of back alley abor-

tions." Anderson has lent her support to the Feminist Majority in the past, as part of the Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan.

Huerta, a Feminist Majority board member and co-founder of the United Farm Workers, highlighted President Bush's reinstatement of the global gag rule to put the issue of abortion into wider perspective. "I will not watch silently as millions of women lose their right to safe, legal abortion," she said.

### Grassroots Effort Expands

"Million4Roe.com has become the catalyst for the creation of a nationwide network of pro-choice feminists," said Feminist Majority IT Director and site designer Rosalyn Lemieux.

Interest in the campaign immediately ballooned beyond the Internet, and Million4Roe.com has expanded into a grassroots effort across the country, with more than 1,500 volunteers in large and small cities organizing petition drives, phone banking, and local events to spread the word. ■

## Feminist Leadership

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1997 the Choices campaign has reached a diverse collection of more than 288 campuses in 28 states and the District of Columbia.

During the Leadership Institute, students were introduced to a range of reproductive rights issues and their intersection with other issues of equality, such as poverty and welfare, lesbian and gay rights, and affirmative action. Issues-based workshops were complemented with skills-building sessions aimed at helping students maximize the reach and impact of their pro-choice message upon returning to campus.

The overwhelming success of the Leadership Institute was evident during one of the training's main events, the Feminist Action Day on Washington, DC's National

Mall. Student leaders planned and implemented a visibility and petitioning event to promote awareness of the potential life-saving uses for mifepristone.

During the Action Day, tourists and Washingtonians signed postcards to support increased funding from the National Institutes of Health to research mifepristone's potential indications for uterine

fibroid tumors, ovarian cancer, endometriosis, and meningiomas, all of which predominately affect women. Students also carried signs and created a Burma Shave to draw attention to their public education campaign.

"The Feminist Action Day was a great way to allow students to put into practice the skills and issues they had been working on at the Institute,"

said FMF Field Coordinator Annie O'Connell. "The excitement and energy was outstanding!" ■



Miranda Ward of Spellman College embraces her feminist identity.