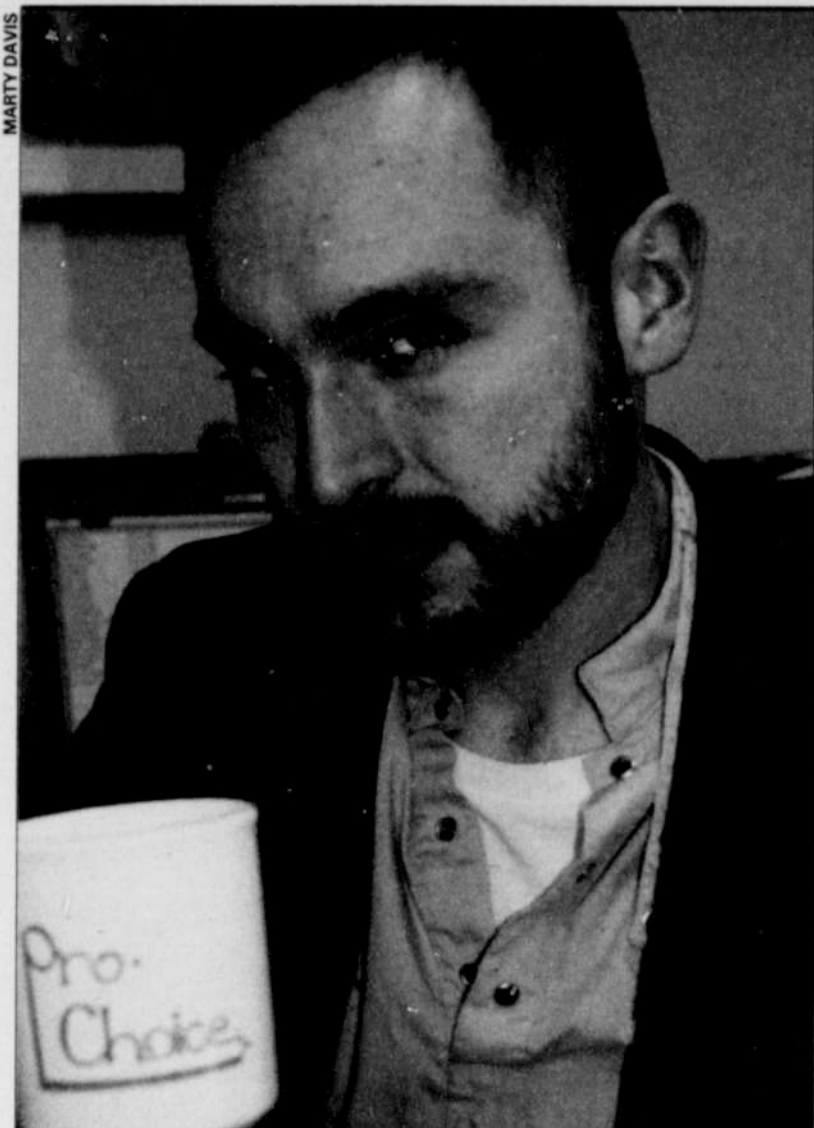




Nick Mattos spots insidious deception by the extreme right that threatens access to birth control and same-sex marriage.

egg meet to the moment a newborn baby takes its first breath. People should be free to make that decision on their own, and [health care providers] should have good, clear information for their clients so they can recommend emergency birth control in particular situations.

JRC: How is NARAL getting this information out?

NM: The first phase of the Emergency Birth Control Access Project is a widespread pharmacist education project launched by NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon in 2007. We educated over 400 pharmacies regionally, focusing on rural communities. Then we discerned that pharmacists had a 78 percent increase in understanding how emergency birth control worked and a 36 percent increase in pharmacists stocking and dispensing emergency birth control in Oregon.

We are also working on phase two, provider training. In 2009 we are engaging in similar work with medical providers, doctors, nurses [explaining] what emergency birth control is and why it's different than an abortifacient.

The third phase is consumer education. We're doing a widespread campaign throughout Oregon so consumers know about emergency birth control

as an option. Our messages will be community-specific. Bus ads that work well in Portland might not work as well in Castle Rock.

JRC: How does access to reproductive rights affect sexual minorities?

NM: I speak for myself when I say that there are some insidious deceptions that are occurring for the extreme right to get its way. Reproductive rights are a battle for privacy and the freedom to make decisions about one's own personal life, based on one's own ethics and morals.

There is a clear comparison of the efforts by the extreme right to wage a secret attack on contraceptives by couching it as an attack on abortion in the same way that [California's] Prop 8 was an attack on queer people couching in an attack on [same-sex] marriage.

Freedom to make decisions about one's personal life is a freedom that extends to one's reproductive choices and one's inclinations about who they love.

JRC: What can we expect from NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon in 2009?

NM: Politically, we're engaged in ensuring that reproductive health care remains top-of-mind with Oregon's legislators through a staff of lobbyists—the first time ever that NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon has had lobbyists.

We're helping to bring awareness and solutions to the health care crisis facing women—being uninsured and underinsured and having impediments to making decisions about one's one health.

We're also working to ensure that reproductive health is not part of the inevitable cuts to Oregon's budget.

The Bush administration's ["conscience rule"] indicates that the nature of the debate is changing. At this point choice is safe in Oregon, but we can't speak about the future. 10

To learn about NARAL PRO-CHOICE OREGON'S spring theater series and online auction visit www.prochoiceoregon.org.

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