

Rock for Reproductive Rights

Community gathers to honor 31st anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Planned Parenthood is planning more than parenthood when it gathers a night of speakers, poetry and music Saturday, Jan. 22 at the WOW Hall to observe the 31st anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the groundbreaking Supreme Court decision which guaranteed women access to doctor-assisted abortions.

Mayor Kitty Piercy, who will speak at the event, worked as Eugene's Planned Parenthood's public affairs director from 2000 through last week, when she quit to as-

"National Sanctity of Human Life Day" effectively linking abortion to terrorism in his speech marking the event. He said, "On Sept. 11 we saw clearly that evil exists in this world, and that it does not value life. Now we are engaged in a fight against evil and tyranny to preserve and protect life."

Most recently, in October 2004, the Bush administration refused to align with 179 countries in endorsing the Cairo Program of Action, which was adopted in 1994 at the International Conference on Population and

Bush rejected the protocol citing objections to the phrases "reproductive services" and "reproductive health care," because they could imply a right to an abortion.

What about the Supreme Court? The court's composition has not changed since Clinton appointed Justice Stephen Breyer in 1994, and Republican presidents appointed seven of the remaining eight justices. As the current court continues to age, with all but two of the justices being over 70 by the 2008 elections, it's ever more likely that Bush will

Stevens and O'Connor, two of the court's three oldest members, are part of the slim six-justice majority for retaining Roe v. Wade.

Kellie Shoemaker, vice president for public affairs at Planned Parenthood, says the event is to raise awareness of the tenuous hold women maintain on their right to abortion access. "It's an anniversary we need to recognize because of the importance to women's rights and women's health care, but we also use [the anniversary] as an opportunity to celebrate as a community," she says.

Local musicians Laura Kemp, Hallie Loren and Marietta Bonaventura will perform, and Jorah LaFleur will offer spoken word poetry. Local activists will be on hand to share their experiences.

The event is free and open to all ages with a suggested donation at the door to help cover Planned Parenthood's costs of renting the hall. Coffee, tea and desserts will be available.

"It's really an opportunity to invite the community in to celebrate with us, to celebrate women, to pay tribute to reproductive choice," Shoemaker says. "And obviously we hope to educate people who attend about where Roe v. Wade stands right now and why it's important to recognize the anniversary." **EW**

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— Kellie Shoemaker

sume her post as mayor. The mayor says, "The right to choose is in more danger today than it has been at any time since the Roe v. Wade decision was made. Restrictions are being put into place all over this country and restrictive legislation at the national level continues to grow."

Over the past four years the Bush administration has quietly but relentlessly sought to undo more than 30 years of progress in women's reproductive rights since the Roe v. Wade decision was handed down in 1973. In November 2003, Congress passed and President Bush signed the first ever federal law banning second-trimester abortions. Implementation of the law has been delayed pending court challenges. Critics of the measure call it overly broad and say it offers no recourse for pregnant women experiencing health-related issues prompting them to seek an abortion at 12 to 15 weeks. Forty states already ban third-trimester abortions except for health-related reasons, so Bush's move encroaches into territory previously off-limits to federal jurisdiction. President Clinton twice vetoed similar bills. In October 2002, the Bush administration elevated the legal status of fetuses by allowing fetuses — but not pregnant women — to be eligible for health care coverage under the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

One year to the day after his Jan. 20, 2001 inauguration, Bush declared Jan. 20, 2002

Development. The Cairo protocol is unique in that it marked the first time in the international community that reproductive rights were explicitly accepted as human rights.

have the opportunity to appoint two or possibly more conservative judges to the highest court in the land. A sobering thought to reproductive rights activists is that Justices

music BY STEVEN SAWADA

Eugene Evolution

The ECC comes to town.

"Don't bother trying to sue us. To us it's just publicity." Thus begins *Plagiarism Nation*, the first properly released album by the Evolution Control Committee, an audio collage group that can proudly wear the title: The bane of Dan Rather's existence.

For those of you unfamiliar with audio collage, it is what the label suggests: a collage of spliced songs, familiar rhythms, audio clips and ambient sounds. Collagists layer the pieces together to create a new, cohesive version with new meaning. Sometimes, there is also a slight political spin, many times a critique of corporate capitalism.

The Ohio based ... committee, as it's hard to consider them a typical "band" without the standard guitars and drums, rocketed to cult as well as popular-fringe status through an audio collage piece titled "Rocked by Rape."

Released in 1999, "Rocked by Rape" cut quotes from Dan Rather's CBS Evening News completely out of context and pasted them over AC/DC's "Back in Black." "CIA/ mayhem/ crisis/ horrible/ inflation/ military/ flaming debris," and "dangerous radiation/ communist/international/smuggling/pipeline," are just some examples of Rather's disem-

bodied vocals turned apocalyptic news report.

The attorneys at CBS news didn't think the song was funny at all and threatened to sue the group over copyright infringement. The ECC responded by saying the song was done in parody, and thus superceded the particular laws that the lawyers referred to.

Forcing meaning and humor out of something as drab as Dan Rather news reports is what the ECC is all about. Their craft can be compared to the act of drawing Sharpie mustaches on people's yearbook pictures: slightly sophomoric, but nonetheless completely hilarious.

This really is a big show for Eugene. With a 20-year history, the ECC will entertain and enthrall the news junkie in all of us. Fans of quality, sample-based electronic music ala Negativland will also wet their pants.

But check it out. The show is really a triple bill. Seksu Roba, the Korean-Japanese-American future disco duo, makes their second visit to Eugene in as many years. The always fashionable Lun'na Menoh brings her seductive song and stage performance, while Sukho Lee, master of synthesizers and beat machines, once again astounds audiences with his virtuoso Theremin skills.

Finally, local band Atrial Flutter will open the show. This relatively new group features a very refreshing, clear guitar sound, similar to bands such as the Sea and Cake. Their guitar and violin combination relies on gentle melodies rather than crunching distorted riffs. Catching one of their stunning, rare performances is enough reason to attend the show. **EW**

Evolution Control Committee
Seksu Roba
Atrial Flutter
John Henry's, 9pm
Jan. 24, \$3

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