

Rival Protesters Converge on S.F. for Anniversary of Abortion Ruling

By LEE ROMNEY
Times Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — It's an unlikely battlefield. But several thousand abortion foes from as far as Florida are expected to march today in the streets of this city that fervently backs abortion rights.

Close behind them, supporters of a woman's right to choose whether to terminate her pregnancy are scheduled to stage one of the biggest counterdemonstrations that activists here have planned in recent memory.

The occasion of the faceoff is the 32nd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized abortion. But far more is stirring here below the surface.

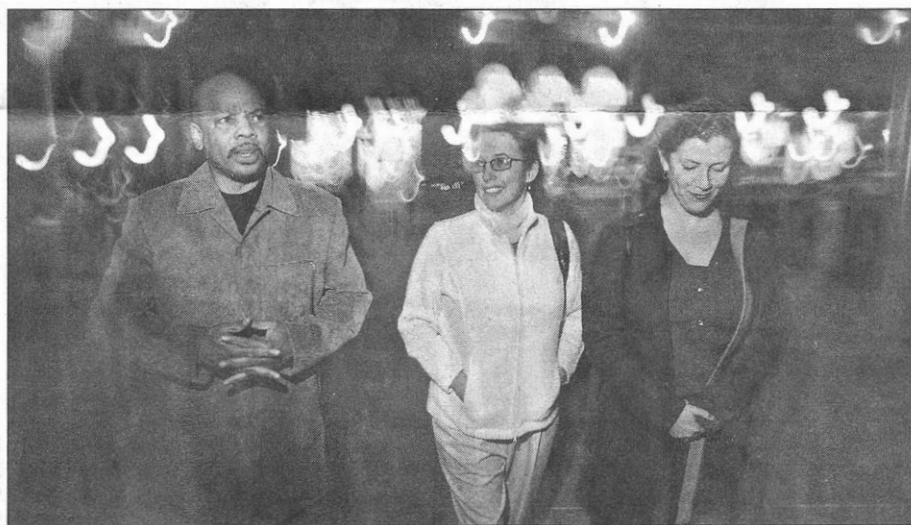
The audacity of an antiabortion incursion into the liberal heart of the Left Coast has so outraged San Francisco, Berkeley and Oakland officials that the governing bodies of all three cities passed unanimous resolutions declaring today Stand Up for Choice Day and officially backing the counterdemonstration.

Abortion rights advocates who normally save their organizing for contested turf sprang into motion, mobilizing a network of 40 sympathetic Bay Area nonprofit organizations already stinging from President Bush's reelection in November.

Meanwhile, Dolores Meehan and Eva Muntean — devout Catholics who organized the Walk for Life West Coast — say they simply want to reclaim their rightful piece of San Francisco.

"I love this city. I never want to leave it. But every time I travel to a conference, the first thing they ask me is, 'How can you live there?'" said Muntean, 46, who is assistant to the marketing director of Ignatius Press, a Catholic publisher. "I would like to do everything I can to make this city not be thought of as a Sodom and Gomorrah of modern times."

Meehan, a fourth-generation San Franciscan, and Muntean, a Hungarian immigrant and 11-year city resident, decline to vote in most mayoral elections: They will cast their lot only with fellow abortion opponents, and those are scarce to nonexistent in San



ROBERT DURELL Los Angeles Times

MARCH: From left, Clenard Childress Jr., who is to speak at today's anti-abortion rally, with Eva Muntean and Dolores Meehan, who organized the Walk for Life West Coast.

and vice president of Feminists for Life of America, which has lent the event its trademarked slogan "Women Deserve Better." African American and Latino ministries, as well as three Bay Area Catholic dioceses, will participate too.

Busloads are expected from Stockton, Fresno, Salinas and beyond.

Seasoned antiabortion groups are applauding.

"I think there are a lot of pro-lifers in San Francisco that are quiet pro-lifers that will be grateful that this event is taking place," said Mike Spence, vice president of the California Pro-Life Council.

Meehan, a computer specialist, met Muntean a decade ago when both volunteered in an AIDS hospice run by Mother Teresa. It was at an anemic antiabortion rally last January in Sacramento that Meehan decided it was time to take the message home. She pays taxes here, she thought. Why not speak her mind?

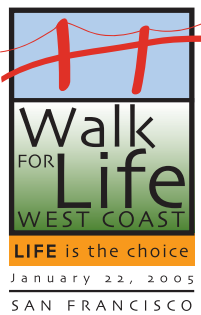
"Don't tell me that I can only be a feminist, that I can only be a pro-woman woman when

kind of mandate or message from Washington, D.C., that it's OK to do what they do."

Her opponents' use of the slogan "Women Deserve Better" isn't supported by their views, Harrison said. "Their underlying message is women don't deserve the right to choose an abortion. Women don't deserve the right to contraception. . . . Young people don't deserve the right to age-appropriate sex education information," she said.

Opinions on abortion are rarely polled in San Francisco, since more than 70% of the population has previously polled in favor, said San Francisco political consultant and pollster David Binder. Faced with more nuanced questions — on late-term abortion or parental notification — those opinions shift a bit. Still, Binder said, the decision to march here against abortion seems like a taunt to many liberals.

"It does seem to be an in-your-face attitude that people are concerned about nationwide — that [Republicans and conservatives] are saying, 'We're going to take our 51% and move with it,'" he said.



San Francisco Chronicle

Protesters face off over abortion rights

Dueling marches in San Francisco mark anniversary of Roe vs. Wade



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By Christi
CHRONICLE

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A pro-choice demonstrator is arrested at Jefferson and Jones streets after blocking the route of the antiabortion demonstration.

By Cicero A. Estrella
and Henry K. Lee

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITERS

Thousands of protesters on both sides of the abortion issue clashed in San Francisco in rival demonstrations Saturday, the 32nd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

In dueling marches, about 6,000 antiabortion activists in the Walk for Life West Coast were jeered and harangued by about 3,000 advocates for abortion rights, some waving wire hangers, a symbol of the unsafe procedures women feared before abortion was legal.

Walk for Life organizers Dolores Meehan and Eva Muntean said they knew holding an anti-abortion rally in the liberal bastion of San Francisco would spark outrage. But doing so would draw the greatest exposure, Meehan



Antiabortion protesters chant as they march down San Francisco's Embarcadero.

said.

"We're trying to change hearts and minds," Meehan said. "We needed to go where people's points of view are a little bit different than ours. If we did this in In-

diana, it would be interesting, but it would not have nearly the impact."

Organizers of the dueling protests had divergent strategies. The antiabortion group specifically

avoided confronting its opponents, while the pro-choice contingent that lined the Embarcadero berated the larger group with insults and accused them of bringing in people from out of town to bolster its cause.

Two people with the pro-choice group were arrested for assault on a police officer, said police Capt. Denis O'Leary, who estimated the size of the two crowds.

The antiabortion rally at Justin Herman Plaza included a prayer, the singing of "Amazing Grace" and speakers affiliated with Catholic groups and Feminists for Life of America, known for the slogan "Women deserve better."

In response, people affiliated with pro-choice groups gathered at Market and Powell streets several blocks away, cheering speeches by a number of San Francisco officials, including District Attorney Kamala Harris. The group then

► **MARCH:** Page A13

Oakland Tribune

oaklandtribune.com

Serving Oakland For 130 Years

Foes face off on abortion at S.F. march

By Rebecca Vesely
STAFF WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO — Several thousand anti-abortion demonstrators converged on one of the most liberal regions in the nation Saturday — and were greeted with jeers from abortion rights activists and condemnation from Bay Area officials.

Abortion foes marked the 32nd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion by launching the first Walk for Life West Coast, a rally and march along the waterfront Embarcadero to protest a practice they described as anti-women.

Please see **MARCH**, News 7



RAY CHAVEZ — Staff

ABORTION RIGHTS ACTIVISTS (above) march in a counterprotest to the Walk for Life. Marcos Abina, 8, (left) and grandmother Lily Hazewood march in the Walk for Life.

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Forecast

Partly cloudy
Highs: mid-50s
Lows: upper 40s

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Escapes 6



before

■ Turnout seen as ba
future of the fledgling

By Hamza Hendawi
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Mil
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sembled and 300,000 Iraq
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Everything is in place f
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SQUARING OFF: An opponent of abortion, left, argues with abortion rights advocates during a march on the 32nd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized abortion. Two people were arrested on suspicion of assaulting police officers.

Marching to Rival Beats on Abortion

Marching to Rival Beats on Abortion

About 10,000 people participate in competing rallies and marches in San Francisco.

By LEE ROMNEY
Times Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Thousands took to the streets of this city Saturday on both sides of the abortion issue, in dual rallies and marches that served as a metaphor for the stark national polarization heightened by the fall election.

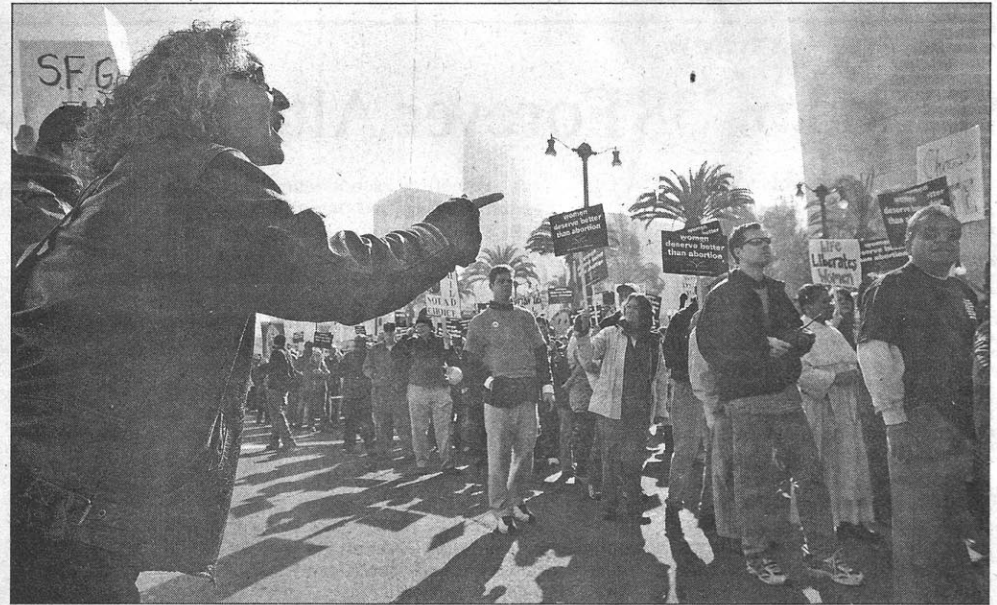
The events were among many planned across the country to commemorate or protest the 32nd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that effectively legalized abortion. But they presented the most contentious pairing of opposing views, delivering red state sentiments into the heart of beleaguered blue state terrain.

Antiabortion forces, who drew busloads of supporters from the Central Valley and beyond, had started planning their event last spring — well before President Bush's reelection. They cast their message with a feminist twist, emphasizing that "Women Deserve Better" than abortion.

"When they ask us today, 'What about the women,' we will not answer, 'What about the baby?'" Sally Winn, vice president of the Washington-based Feminists for Life of America, told a crowd of antiabortion backers that grew to the thousands as the crisp morning wore on. "We will give them a good answer. We will tell them, 'We refuse to choose between women and their children.'"

Bay Area officials and activists learned several months ago of the planned antiabortion incursion into liberal territory. They reacted viscerally and urgently, pulling together thousands of their own supporters to send a clear signal that San Francisco is and will remain in favor of abortion rights.

"I'm glad they're here," San



DINO VOURNAS Associated Press

THE GANTLET: Abortion rights supporter Amy Beinart heckles antiabortion marchers. Officials kept the rival marches apart but allowed abortion rights advocates to line the opposing march route.

Francisco City Atty. Dennis Herrera told a screaming crowd from the back of a flatbed truck where a panoply of city and state officials gave speeches. "I'm glad they're here because you are sending them a message: We will not return to a time of back-alley abortions."

The rallies were held separately, a little less than a mile apart. But as antiabortion forces followed San Francisco Archbishop William J. Levada in prayer and sang the national anthem, their opponents were marching toward them.

While each group claimed to outnumber the other, more than 100 police officers worked to keep the two marches — which they estimated at a total of about 10,000 people — separate. But officials allowed abortion rights proponents to line the route of the opposing march, creating a gantlet for antiabortion forces to pass through. Officials reported two arrests, each on suspicion of assaulting a police officer.

Organizers and some participants of the Walk for Life West

Coast said they had hoped for dialogue. "If we can just stop screaming like we have for 32 years and listen to what women really want, I think we could make a difference," Winn said hopefully before the rally.

But while Winn's calls for healthcare, day care and a living wage for women did fall in line with sentiments of many abortion rights activists, that is where agreement ended.

Those who hope the high court will eventually overturn Roe vs. Wade pointed to 45 million babies "killed" since the law was changed. Many prayed, sang and carried crosses and rosaries. As they held banners exhorting "Abortion Hurts Women" and "Celebrate Life," they were met with critical chants and taunts.

"Pro Life, your name's a lie. You don't care if women die," yelled protesters, some of whom held up coat hangers. Other signs were more entreaty. "Please Don't Force Your Beliefs on Me," read one.

San Francisco, Berkeley and Oakland had all passed resolu-

tions in recent days formally backing the counter-march and declaring Saturday to be Stand Up for Choice Day.

To them, the sentiments of their opponents, many of whom came to San Francisco from more conservative communities, are but one example of what they see as the Bush administration's push to turn back the clock on a host of civil rights.

A 51-year-old man from Marin who goes by the name Sludge was reprimanded by a police officer for tossing a condom into the sea of opposing marchers. "We support rights for the individuals who are under attack by the current administration," he said. "These people are just proxies for that administration."

But 49-year-old Matt Caligaris, a Mountain View banker who marched against abortion with his wife and three young children, said those stereotypes are unfair. "They've got a right and we've got a right" to expression, he said. "People don't realize how much opposition there really is to abortion."

CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA

SUNDAY TIMES

See DEAL, Page 8

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S.F. marches cover both sides of abortion issue

■ Demonstrators voice anti-abortion and pro-choice views simultaneously and without violence

By Sara Steffens
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO — In his many decades of protests, the Rev. Tom Flower had never seen anything quite like the simultaneous anti-abortion and pro-choice marches that wound side-by-side through the streets of San Francisco on Saturday.

"We've never had such a cheering section before," said the 75-year-old San Francisco resident and Catholic priest, whose sign proclaimed his objection not only to abortion, but also to poverty and war.

Flower was among thousands of anti-abortion activists who



GREGORY URQUIAGA/TIMES

WHILE ABORTION OPPONENTS WALK along the Embarcadero, Kim Rabuck and other pro-choice supporters chant against them.

marched along the city's waterfront during the "first annual" Walk For Life West Coast, marking the 32nd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision. They clutched

rosaries, pushed baby strollers, sang hymns and chanted "Women Deserve Better."

They were met by thousands

See ABORTION, Page 10

Democrats vow to fight for schools

■ Governor's proposed budget doesn't include promised education funds

By Andrew LaMar
TIMES SACRAMENTO BUREAU

SACRAMENTO — Democrats in the state Senate want to loosen class-size requirements and shift money from wealthier school districts as part of a measure intended to counter Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's ballot box push.

The plan, still in the making, is being designed to offer voters an alternate prescription for schools, as lawmakers struggle with a chronic budget shortfall and Schwarzenegger seeks to re-

See DEMOCRATS, Page 10

Helping women oppose choice

Abortion foes are putting a moderate face on their first San Francisco march in memory

By Tali Woodward and Rachel Brahinsky

Opponents of abortion are making a local stand Jan. 22, the 32nd anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, and they plan to bring a moderate-sounding message to the streets of this pro-choice stronghold. The Walk for Life's purpose, according to its Web site, is "to establish a new West Coast tradition of celebrating life" and "inform society of the damage done to women by abortion."

Organizer Dolores Meehan told the *Bay Guardian* she wants to show that "women deserve better than abortion," which is a new approach from a movement that a decade ago was asserting that women who seek abortions are murderers. Meehan said the event is unconnected to any legislative effort and even refused to say whether she personally would like to see abortion outlawed.

"Let me ask you this: do you think we are freer as women today because of being turned against the children who are in our wombs?" she said.

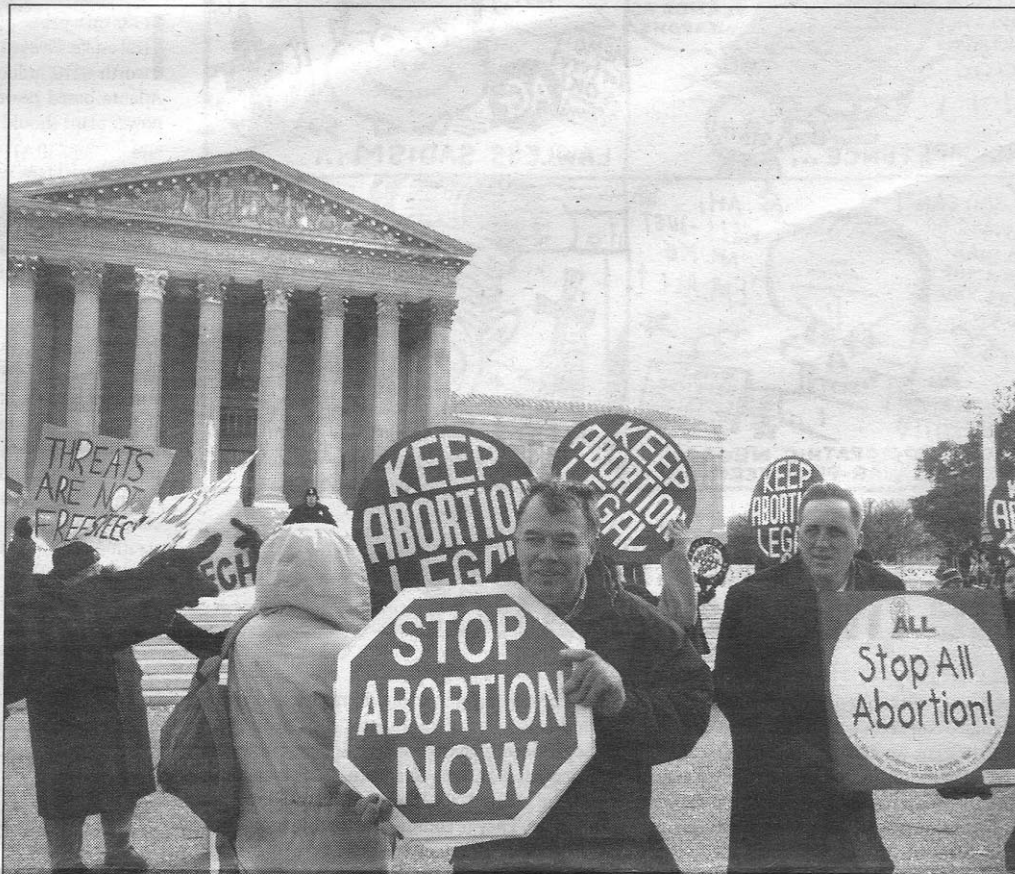
Therese Wilson, vice president of Planned Parenthood Golden Gate, cautioned that the language of female empowerment being used by the Walk for Life is disingenuous.

"Antichoice organizations can say what they want, but their real agenda is to restrict health care for women," including access to contraception, she told us. "Being pro-choice really does encompass all women and their ability to decide what's best for themselves." Wilson and other activists are hoping to out-show the antiabortion crowd with a march in support of *Roe* that's bigger than usual.

The Walk for Life has been endorsed by a roster of faith-heavy organizations like the Coalition on Urban Renewal and Education and the Archdiocese of San Francisco. And most of them have an agenda that goes beyond abortion. Take the Walnut Creek-based California Right to Life, which is fighting a state bill that would require pharmacists to dispense contraception. Another sponsor, the Ignatius Press, publishes books on Christianity as well as tomes on the dangers of birth control and the medically discredited claim that abortion causes breast cancer.

It's also possible the more radical elements of the antiabortion movement are far off the stage. Planned Parenthood spokesperson Erin Kiernon told us her group got its first inkling of the event months ago when someone forwarded a call to action posted on the Web site of Operation Save America (formerly Operation Rescue), famous for extreme tactics like clinic blockades and harassment of abortion providers. Reproductive rights activists told us they certainly expect increased protesting at women's clinics the day of the walk.

It may seem that San Francisco, where the Board of Supervisors designated Jan. 22 "Stand Up for Choice Day," and even the state of California, with its pro-choice Republican governor, would be impervious to any antichoice message. But abortion rights activists, who are gearing up for four years of fighting Republican



Bringing it home: The two sides of the abortion debate, squaring off at the U.S. Supreme Court Dec. 4, will meet again on the streets of San Francisco Jan. 22.

THIS MODERN WORLD

THE PRESIDENT IS REPORTEDLY A SELECTIVE LISTENER.

SIR, ANOTHER CAR BOMB HAS EXPLODED-- AND DID IT THEN PROCEED TO SHOWER OUR TROOPS WITH A GENTLE CLOUD OF ROSE PETALS, MAYNAP?

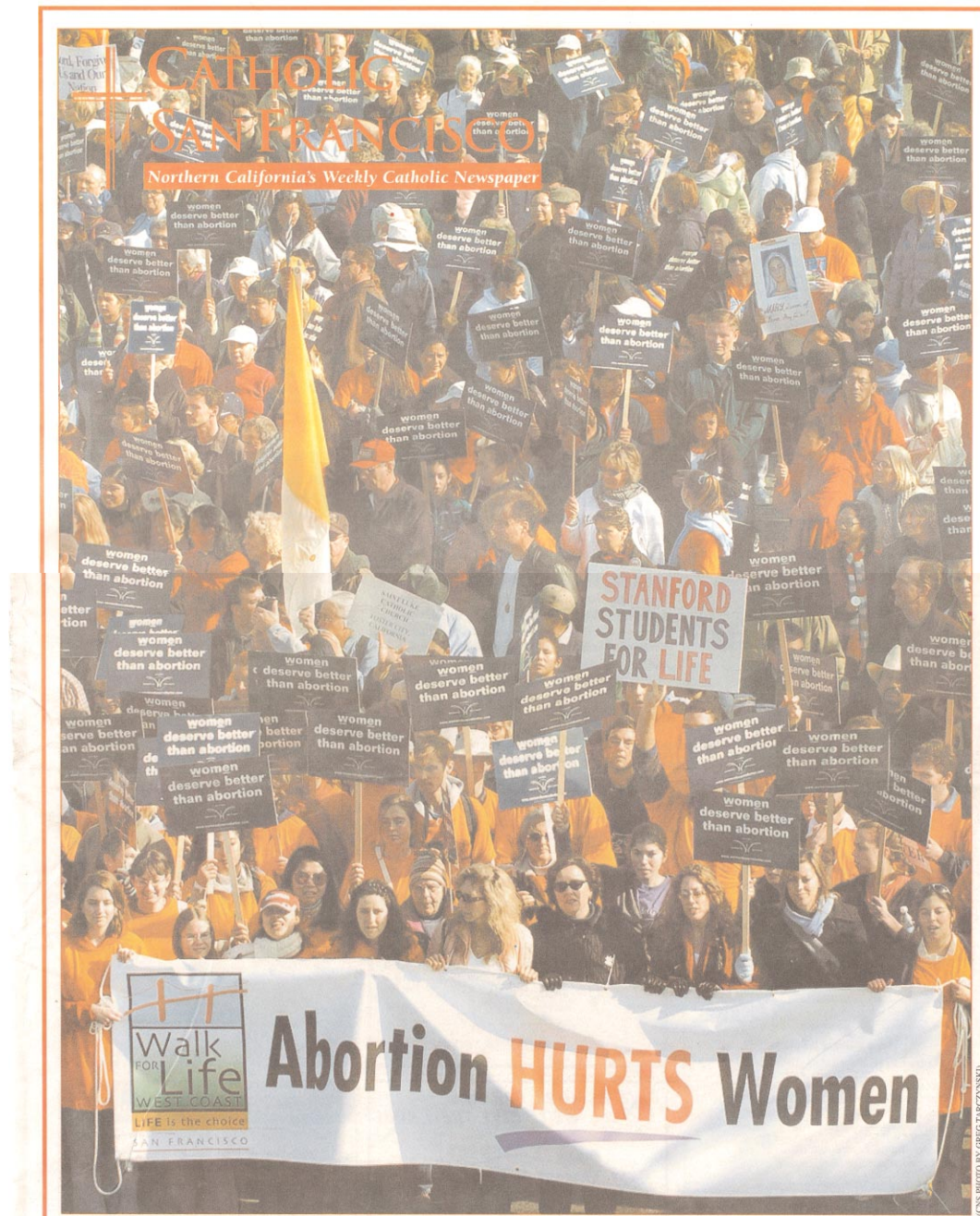
ER--NO, SIR, IT DID NOT-- THEN BEGONE! I DO NOT WISH TO BE BOTHERED WITH SUCH TRIFLES!

A LOT OF REPUBLICANS TRY TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE... IGNORING, FOR INSTANCE, ANY EVIDENCE OF U.S. TORTURE BEYOND THE ABU GHRAIB PHOTOS...

BUT--WHAT ABOUT THE TAGUBA REPORT? DETAINEES SODOMIZED WITH LIGHTSTICKS? WATERBOARDING AT GITMO? DOCUMENTED DETAINEE DEATHS? THE RED CROSS REPORT? FBI AGENTS EXPRESSING CONCERN AS FAR BACK AS 2002? AND ON AND ON--

LA LA LA LA LA LA! I CAN'T HEAAAAARRR YOU!!

by TOM TOMORROW



11-10-05
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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION



faith
in Every Student
Catholic



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San Francisco Chronicle

BAY AREA
AND CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO

Thousands expected
at anti-abortion marchLower-key approach
tailored for area;
counterprotest set

By Joe Garofoli

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

During her cross-country travels for a Catholic book publisher, anti-abortion activist Eva Muntean often hears the same thing about San Francisco: "How can you live there?"

After years of defending her beloved adopted city's reputation, Muntean and friend Dolores Meehan are intent on bringing what they see as San Francisco's unrecognized reservoir of anti-abortion sentiment into the public eye.

Bolstered by busloads of supporters coming from the Central Valley and with word spread for weeks by the region's Roman Catholic archdioceses, they are organizing what is expected to be one of the city's largest anti-abortion demonstrations in recent memory. After an 11 a.m. rally Saturday, upward of 3,000 people are expected to walk along the Embarcadero from Justin Herman Plaza to the Marina Green in an event called Walk for Life West Coast.

"I want everyone to know that San Francisco is not a modern-day Sodom and Gomorrah," said Muntean, who also co-organized an anti-same-sex-marriage demonstration with Meehan last April

▶ **ABORTION:** Page B10

Anti-abortion activists plan march

▶ **ABORTION**
From Page B1

in North Beach.

Muntean says she is tailoring the Walk for Life to the Bay Area's sensibilities, and has told Operation Rescue activists to leave their aborted-fetus billboards at home. But Bay Area abortion rights activists are taking the event as a slap in the face from a movement energized by the re-election of an anti-abortion president who may soon have an opportunity to remake the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We couldn't believe that they had the nerve to come to San Francisco," said Dian Harrison, president of the Golden Gate chapter of Planned Parenthood. "They've been so emboldened that they believe that their message would be tolerated here. Sure, they can come here, but San Francisco will be ready to show them that they don't believe in their message."

Abortion rights advocates have scheduled a 10 a.m. counterprotest Saturday, beginning at Powell and Market streets, and plan to shadow the Walk for Life demonstrators to the Marina. While the anti-abortion organizers have lined up bishops from San Francisco, Oakland and Santa Rosa for their event, the abortion rights supporters are touting local and state politicians.

Harrison said the response Saturday to this incursion deep into blue-state land will be an early test of the coalition of 35 regional or-

ganizations that their (abortion rights) are being questioned," said San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammannio, who is scheduled to speak at the counterprotest. "In many ways, this shows how the religious right is arrogant and secure with the messages they're hearing that this federal government is behind them."

Yet the two women organizing the protest are promising a different kind of anti-abortion event. The featured speaker will be Sally Winn, vice president of "Feminists for Life." Muntean said the target audience is "pro-choice women" who she says need to be reminded that they have options for unwanted pregnancies other than abortion.

"We really want a peaceful event," said Muntean, 46. "The focus is going to be on the women."

Born and raised as a Catholic in communist Hungary, Muntean immigrated to the United States as a 9-year-old with her family. Her faith is integral to much of her life, from her job as a marketing director's assistant at a Catholic publishing house to her longtime work treating HIV and AIDS patients at the Gift of Love, a non-profit residential care home in Pacifica where she volunteered with Meehan.

Muntean became active in the anti-abortion movement 15 years ago, when a friend's daughter became pregnant and was contemplating an abortion. Muntean, who is single and has no children, offered to pay for her to deliver the

can, born and raised in the Irish Catholic enclaves of the Sunset District. Her father died when she was 12, and her mother, a chemistry teacher, raised eight children. A touchstone in her family's history is the story of her grandmother, left on her great-grandmother's doorstep as an infant.

The abortion issue became a high priority for Meehan in college, when several of her friends were in "crisis pregnancies." The trials of one woman in her early 20s particularly moved her. The woman told Meehan she had an abortion "because she felt she had no options."

"That's what we want our message to be to women," said Meehan, a 39-year-old computer consultant. "That women do have options."

Last year, after a sparsely attended anti-abortion event in Sacramento, the women wanted to try to organize a bigger demonstration in their home city. Buoyed by their success in drawing 1,000 people to last April's anti-same-sex-marriage event in

North Beach, they began planning the Walk for Life last summer.

Anti-abortion activists are thrilled to see such an ambitious event planned for San Francisco, even if the history of such events has been spotty.

In 1993, amid much advance hype, Operation Rescue activists declared San Jose one of its "cities of refuge" and staged protests around the city. The expected large crowds never materialized, and anti-abortion rights demonstrators were matched by abortion rights activists in most spots.

"I don't expect to see the violent, radical situation we had (12 years ago)," said Troy Newman, president of Operation Rescue West. He said the organization "has been promoting (Saturday's) event heavily," and will send a busload of supporters from Sacramento.

"I'm pleased to see this finally happening (in San Francisco)," said Nancy Bonnet, director of the Respect Life Office for the Diocese of Stockton, which is sending



LACY ATKINS / The Chronicle

Dolores Meehan and Eva Muntean stand at Justin Herman Plaza the starting spot for the Walk for Life West Coast on Saturday, the 32nd anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

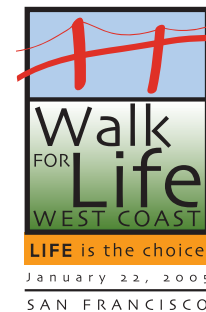
eight busloads of supporters. "We could do this in the valley, but it wouldn't have the same impact it does in San Francisco."

One abortion rights organization said that no matter how many people show up Saturday — on either side of the street — it won't make much difference beyond the partisans. Though the organizers' soft-pedaled appeal to abortion rights advocates is "somewhat un-

usual," said Frances Kissling, a former president of Catholics for a Free Choice, that message may get lost in the cacophony.

"The abortion debate is so polarized, and so polarized," Kissling said. "And besides, demonstrations are not the place for a nuanced argument."

E-mail Joe Garofoli at jgarofoli@sfchronicle.com.



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RELATED. Cold weather Sunday and Monday in Brevard County is related to the Northeast blizzard, **1A**

Tough going. Richard Perri rides his bike through the snow Saturday in Burlington, N.J., where a major storm was expected to drop up to 18 inches of snow.

FLORIDA TODAY
Speaker who identified himself as al-Zarqawi called on his followers to prepare for a long struggle. ■

Dueling rallies mark Roe v. Wade

Abortion ruling's future debated

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Activists on both sides of the abortion issue marched in demonstrations across the country Saturday to mark the 32nd anniversary of the historic U.S. Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal.

The anniversary came amid speculation that retirements on the Supreme Court could alter its makeup and its long-standing defense of the Roe v. Wade decision during President Bush's second term. Chief Justice William Rehnquist is 80 and suffering

from thyroid cancer.

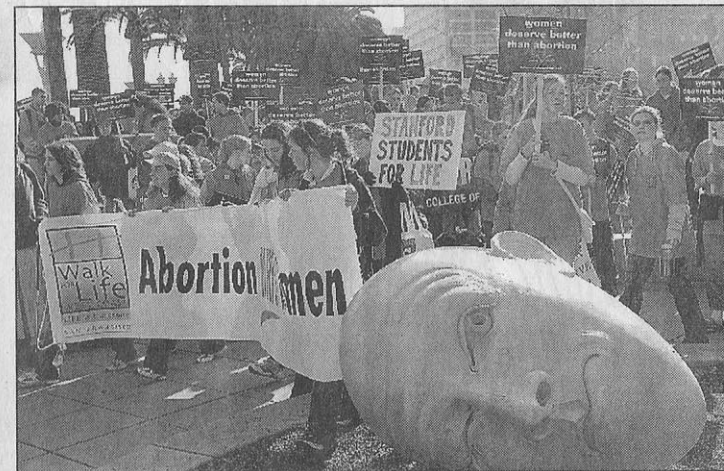
In San Francisco, thousands of pro-lifers marched on the city's waterfront, chanting slogans like "Women deserve better," while pro-choice supporters tried to drown them out with their own rallying cries.

San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano said he thought it was ironic pro-life activists chose the liberal West Coast city as the site for their demonstration.

"I think they want to parlay that irony," Ammiano said. "What better place than San

Francisco, not only as an act of provocation, but I think as an act of arrogance."

Abortion opponents carrying American flags and signs reading "Parental Rights" and "Choose Life" also marched on the state capitol in Austin, Texas, where Republican Gov. Rick Perry pledged support for a bill requiring a minor to get her parents' consent for an abortion. In Los Angeles, Catholic Cardinal Roger Mahony was expected to lead an annual "Respect Life Mass" Saturday featuring the lighting of 157 candles to signify the number of abortions being performed a day in the city. ■



AP

Rallies. Pro-life activists stage their march Saturday along the Embarcadero in San Francisco. Pro-life activists and pro-choice supporters held competing rallies to mark the 32nd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER

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Jan. 30 - Feb. 5, 2005

Vatican Grants 'Year of the Eucharist' Indulgence

by TIM DRAKE
Register Staff Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Vatican announced that Catholics' hours before the Eucharist now reap even more spiritual rewards — a plenary indulgence.

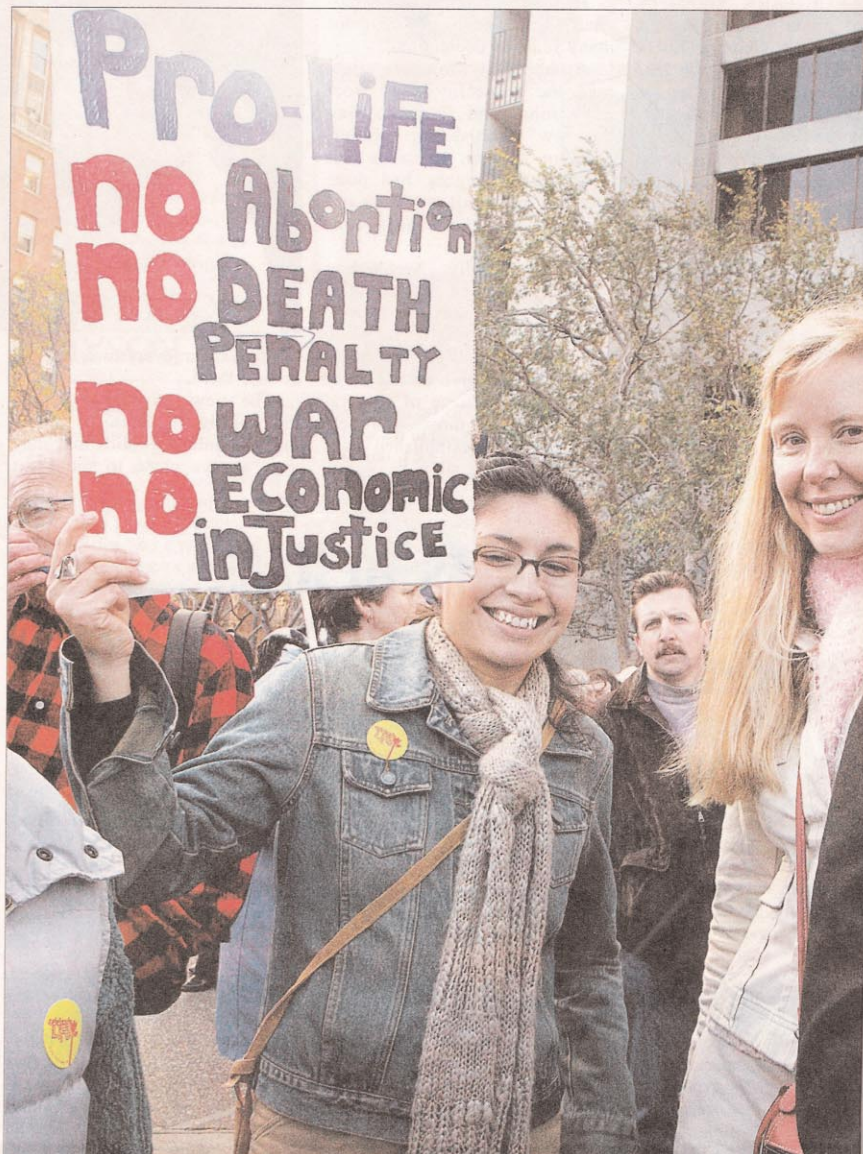
That's good news for Catholics like the DiFuccia family in Coon Rapids, Minn. "Adoration was a treasured part of our prayer life before getting married and after we married, before the children came," Mollie DiFuccia said. "Then we wanted to keep Eucharistic adoration as a central part of our family's prayer life, despite the challenges of managing the little ones in church."

Now when the whole family prays their weekly adoration hours at Epiphany Church, they will qualify for a plenary indulgence — a remittance of punishment due to sin that they can gain for the deceased. They hope it will encourage others to begin planned adoration, too.

Pope John Paul II has made a plenary indulgence available to those who participate in acts of worship and veneration of the most holy sacrament, or those who pray vespers and compline of the Divine

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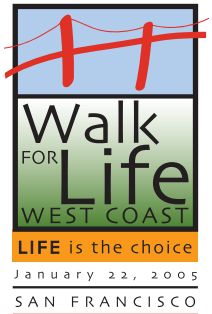
New Study Calls Abuse



OPINION

☆☆☆☆

San Francisco Chronicle



Protecting free-speech rights for all

By Maurice Healy

With repugnant rhetoric by city officials and boorish behavior by several hundred pro-choice activists, San Francisco went a long way this month to solidify its reputation as one of the most intolerant cities in America.

When two San Francisco Catholic women, Dolores Meehan and Eve Muntean, voiced their plan for a Walk for Life West Coast to mark the 32nd anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision, the establishment that favors unrestricted abortion reacted with fear and loathing. Planned Parenthood, National Abortion Rights Action League and others went to work with local politicians. On Jan. 11, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution declaring last Saturday as "Stand up for Choice Day" and supporting the pro-choice demonstrators — effectively disenfranchising those San Francisco citizens who are opposed to abortion on demand.

With this reaction to the Walk for Life plans, the supervisors, who think of themselves as liberal and progressive, sent a bellicose message to pro-choice activists, calling for a reactionary and intolerant response. In the process, San Francisco's elected officials raised their voices against freedom of speech and right of assembly.

Despite the message of "Don't come, don't speak, don't march," a peaceful Walk for Life rally at Justin Herman Plaza Saturday featured Sally Winn of Feminists for Life, Georgette Forney of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign and Carol Crossed of Democrats for Life. They spoke in favor

of better treatment for women.

At noon, the anti-abortion throng of 6,000 people began a procession along the Embarcadero to Marina Green. They were young and old, and many were families with children — a quarter from San Francisco and a majority from the Bay Area. As the praying, singing and smiling people began, they were met with loud insults and vile invective from pro-choice zealots. Many insults were specifically anti-Catholic.

What was the object of their hatred? Walk for Life participants quietly and purposefully walked behind a banner that said, simply, "Abortion hurts women." The pro-choice activists were enraged to see thousands of people proceeding under a sea of signs with the message, "Women deserve better than abortion." The stage for aggressive behavior by those protesting the Walk for Life was set at a pro-choice rally held earlier that morning at Market and Powell streets. San Francisco elected officials came close to inciting mayhem with their harsh rhetoric condemning the Walk for Life participants.

About 1,000 supporters of unrestricted abortion, the most angry and hostile remnant of the earlier rally of 3,000, according to police estimates, took up positions along the Embarcadero and waited for the Walk for Life marchers. The worst of these actors, some with loudspeakers, shouted obscenities and vile insults. While many pro-choice demonstrators were content to shout, their muted behavior was overwhelmed by the hate-filled antagonism and intimidation of several hundred rabid activists.

San Francisco elected officials tried to make villains of the anti-abortion

marchers by calling them "outsiders." The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. easily would recognize this epithet. When King participated in marches for civil rights in various U.S. cities, he often experienced similar insults thrown at the participants in the Walk for Life. Worse, the angry shouts of pro-choice activists, telling the marchers to "Go back to the Central Valley," were thinly veiled racist attacks on Latinos.

Hundreds of San Francisco police provided a barrier between the Walk for Life march and pro-choice protesters positioned on the side of the roadway. Yet, pro-choice activists defied police and several times tried to block the route of the Walk for Life procession. A clash between police and pro-choice activists was averted when participants in the Walk for Life peacefully made a minor detour and continued to Marina Green. There, the participants in the first ever Walk for Life West Coast joined in a prayer of thanksgiving.

A civilized society requires respect for people who hold opinions different than our own. We must recognize that "choice" and "abortion" are highly charged emotional issues among those — many people of goodwill — who identify as pro-choice or anti-abortion. Elected officials should encourage respect for all, rather than playing to the worst fears of a few. San Francisco's tolerance must extend to people of faith, and the city must protect the rights of free speech and peaceful assembly for all citizens.

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agenda to 51 percent of the elec

It's funny how the Democrats pronounced the GOP evil genius while suggesting that they could be, only better. So they treat as if issues were mere packaging as with consequences. Rosenbergs the party's need to "revitalize the message" — hence, the de-emphasis

Sacramento-based Democrat Roger Salazar supports Fowler because he believes the party has to be at the center. "You have to have an appeal than just the base," he said. "The sooner we sober up, the sooner we'll take back control of 1600 Van Ness Ave."

The rub: It was that think tank prompted Democrats to nominate John Kerry, who voted for a war most Democrats opposed, and went on to general election.

Political consultant Katie Couric warned that it is a mistake for Democrats to judge the race for DNC based on the reaction of activists. DNC members in that room, and 440 nationally, will vote for the candidate on Feb. 12. The DNC member looking for a solid nuts-and-bolts man.

She added that while California leans heavily toward Dean, Democrats in the South and Midwest want Al Gore. And that A.B.D. push, I think, is about issues and message.

The two most prominent Democrats are Fowler and Frost.

Fowler summed up the A.B.D. argument when he told the Associated Press: "Dean had the oranges, but he didn't make orange juice."

What does that even mean?

The real question is: Does it matter who you win, if you lose what you stand for?

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