

WOMEN'S ACTION COALITION

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USE IT TO BE INFORMED ON EVERYTHING GOING ON IN WAC!!

DRAFT: New Members Orientation Packet

Welcome to WAC!!!!

This packet is designed to provide an introduction to the Women's Action Coalition and contains useful information to help you become an active participant.

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THIS PACKET HAS BEEN PREPARED USING THE WHAM! NEW MEMBER PACKET AS A GUIDE. WE THANK WHAM! FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP, EXCELLENCE, AND VALUED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ONGOING STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHAM! PLEASE CALL 212-713-5966.

THIS PACKET HAS BEEN ADAPTED FROM WAC, NEW YORK.
OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR WAC SISTERS IN NEW YORK FOR
SHARING THE WAC NEW MEMBER'S GUIDELINES.

* A postcard blitz, in collaboration with the Guerrilla Girls, of the director of the Guggenheim Museum, addressing the lack of representation of women and people of color in their proposed inaugural exhibition of the museum's SoHo branch. Our protests instigated a flurry of revisionist history by the museum. Stay tuned. . . .

* Demonstrated in support of the fourteen-year-old Irish rape victim's right to travel in order to obtain an abortion (illegal in Ireland). The global outcry pressured the Irish parliament into a reversal of their restriction in this case. WAC continues to call for the repeal of the 1983 Irish constitutional amendment on abortion. . . .

Through these and other actions, WAC is establishing itself as a voice for change that continues to grow louder and will not be silenced.

B. DIRECT ACTION

The goal of direct action is to empower individual action by means of organizing, to effect change on specific issues, to manifest our will and to maintain and alert others to our vigilance. From speaking out and sitting in, to demonstrations, civil disobedience, educational forums, phone and fax "zaps," canvassing, and letter writing campaigns, direct action enables us to focus attention and clearly challenge the mechanisms of power that threaten to constrain women's lives and choices.

Direct action begins with information. Actively collecting and disseminating facts and outlining the political, cultural, economic, and judicial implications of decisions and incidents, our object is to raise public awareness and to pressure officials and institutions at every level to improve their programs and policies.

Our collective ingenuity enhances our actions and our understanding of issues as they affect diverse groups of people. By seizing the power to direct attention—our own, the public's, and the media's—we empower ourselves and others and demonstrate our seriousness and commitment to social justice.

C. WORKING IN COALITION

The Coalition Committee maintains a telephone checklist that is continually updated. A scripted guideline exists and is available for use in outreach to other organizations. Always let an organization know we would be happy to send a WAC member to one of their meetings.

The Coalition Committee is in regular contact with other groups, and invites them to make presentations to the WAC membership.

D. WHERE YOU FIT IN

Webster's defines the word *coalition* as a "temporary alliance of factions, parties, etc., for some specific purpose." The Women's Action Coalition is concerned with a broad spectrum of women's issues. Whether you have a specific interest in a particular issue or a general interest in all of them, your voice and participation in actions are always welcomed and encouraged.

If you have certain specific talents (poster making, writing, etc.), investigate the various committees within WAC to see where they might best be utilized. The most important thing to remember, though, is that you are welcome and you do fit in—simply by virtue of the fact that you are an individual concerned with the current critical issues that affect you as a woman.

Through WAC, we afford ourselves nothing less than a chance to change the world. The responsibility of being a member of WAC is the responsibility of being an adult, of living in a democracy and being our sisters' sisters. As members of WAC, we can inform one another; we can speak up, shout out, take our place, and demand our rights with the support and camaraderie of other women. As a group we have mobility, exponential strength, and wisdom beyond our individual experiences.

II. WAC POLICY

A. General Policies

WAC policy is determined by the floor. The following is a list of approved general policy to date.

1. In order for any action to be considered a WAC action, it must be approved by the floor.
2. Action planning must involve thorough and accurate research, to be executed before the action is brought to the floor, and must involve the Multicultural Caucus (and other relevant committees) from the earliest planning stage.
3. Once an action has been approved, the resources of the organization (financial and human) are available to facilitate the action. Budgets over \$100.00 must be approved by the floor and (except in case of emergency) must be brought to the floor for a vote at least one week before they are acted upon. Budgets under \$100.00 may be approved by the treasurer.
4. All official written material bearing the WAC logo, address, and phone number must be reviewed by the Editorial Committee.
5. Efforts must be made to translate all WAC flyers and fact sheets into Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and/or any other language appropriate to a given action.
6. If you are representing WAC in meetings with other groups to develop an action that will have WAC endorsement or co-sponsorship, all decisions about that action must be approved by the floor.
7. Men are not permitted to attend WAC meetings, but may be invited to join WAC on specific actions.
8. Once an action is approved by the floor, it should remain as close to the original proposal as possible. Spontaneous changes are discouraged, because of the possible presence of infiltrators or agent provocateurs, questionable motives, and incorrect information.

9. CROSS TALK (members of the floor addressing one another or speaking without being acknowledged by the facilitator) is NOT permitted.

10. When observing any judicial proceeding (e.g., a trial, sentencing, probationary hearing, etc.), WAC members should keep in mind that judges are empowered to keep order in their courtrooms. They may have disorderly spectators removed, fined for contempt, or even imprisoned. Therefore, the safest course of conduct is to refrain from causing disruption; in general, this means keeping quiet and leaving any signs, banners, or props that you might have brought with you as part of an action outside the courtroom. Consult action marshals in case of questions.

B. DISSENT

Dissent by its very nature involves opinions that can not be reconciled. It is a component of all organizations. To deal with dissent, the diversity of interests, perspectives, and goals that exists among different groups of women must be acknowledged. A specific policy to address and incorporate strong dissenting opinions is imperative and must include careful evaluation of methods and objectives that attempts to identify exclusionary interests, practices, and tendencies. Any discussion on dissenting opinions must include:

- * A history of coalition building
- * Efforts to develop practical strategies for coalition work
- * An examination of efforts to achieve a majority opinion and a questioning of personal motives
- * An exploration of relative privilege(s) and the means of acquiring credibility

As we create WAC's structure and philosophy of action, it is critical that we deal with dissent creatively and carefully.

Endorsement

The WAC endorsement is intended to encompass the sentiments of the WAC membership as a whole.

III. MEETING AND FACILITATING PROCEDURES

WAC meetings are co-facilitated by two women who have been elected by the floor to the Facilitating Committee (see committee listings), loosely following Robert(a)'s Rules of Order.

The agenda is compiled by the facilitators at 6:00 p.m., one hour prior to the general meeting; anyone wishing to bring an item to the floor must attend this meeting. At 7:00 p.m., the facilitators will:

1. Introduce themselves.
2. Read the mission statement.
3. Ask that members of the police, FBI, CIA, or other law enforcement agency identify themselves ("YOU ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF").
4. Ask if there is a request to photograph, videotape, film, or record discussion; if so, a vote must be taken on the floor.

5. Ask the working press to identify themselves.
6. Ask for volunteers to help clean up at end of the meeting.
7. Welcome new members (show of hands) and call for a volunteer to orient new members at the end [beginning?] of the meeting.
8. Explain how items are put on the agenda.
9. Outline the agenda:
 - * Organizational info (see above)
 - * Action proposals
 - * Action updates
 - * Committee reports
 - * Operational proposals
 - * Announcements

ACTION PROPOSALS—Someone must agree to coordinate an action before it is proposed. Initial concrete plans must be thought out before discussion, but the bulk of the details will be worked out by those who take responsibility for the action (as opposed to emergency actions, which must be entirely thought out before presentation). Time, place audience, target, message, and goal should be presented for discussion.

Zap actions are proposals for new actions that must take place before the next meeting. In order for an action to take place this quickly, all details must be thought out before bringing it to the floor. Actions must have a coordinator before they are presented. This means having a time, place, audience, target, and goal for the action as well as a budget.

ACTION UPDATES—Discussed chronologically; should include comprehensive updates. May also include calls for votes on specific components of the action that require approval by the membership. **PLANS FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AND ILLEGAL ACTS SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED ON THE FLOOR.**

ACTION FOLLOW-UPS—Should be concise appraisals of recent actions enumerating problems (low turnout, trouble with opposition, ineffective or unwise tactics, etc.), as well as results (response from target, media attention, change effected, etc.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS—Administrative updates and calls for volunteers.

OPERATIONAL PROPOSALS—Proposals that directly affect the functioning of WAC (meeting procedures, decision-making processes, etc.).

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Must be relevant to WAC issues (see Mission Statement); typically include upcoming actions and events sponsored by other groups. Since there is usually a lot of business to be covered in too little time, announcements are limited to a minute and a half each.

The announcement period **MAY NOT** be used for the promotion of events that are not WAC-related (i.e., offers of professional services, announcements of art exhibitions, solicitations for publication subscriptions, political canvassing, etc.); an information table is available at every meeting for this purpose. We encourage sisters to support each other in all endeavors.

BEAR IN MIND . . .

- * Presentations should be brief, followed by questions and then by discussion, pro and con. Speakers from the floor should limit their comments to a minute and a half.
- * In general, discussion of any proposal should last no longer than fifteen minutes; additional discussion must be voted on by the floor.
- * The floor can propose amendments to a proposal, which must be seconded to be considered. If the amendment is accepted by the presenter, the proposal is modified and the floor votes on the modified proposal. If the presenter does not accept the amendment, the floor votes on the original proposal. If it does not pass, the floor then votes on the amended proposal.
- * MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO WAIT UNTIL THEIR THIRD MEETING TO VOTE, so that they can become familiar with WAC procedures.
- * After the floor has voted to end discussion, the proposal is restated and voted on by the floor. THE FLOOR IS THE FINAL ARBITER OF ALL DECISIONS.
- * Facilitators should try to be as impartial as possible and refrain from calling on themselves.

IV. CREATING ACTION

Any member of WAC can propose and develop an action. The following checklists will help you to:

- * Design an action
- * Present it to the floor
- * Stage it to run as smoothly as possible

It is not necessary to work out all of the details before coming to the floor for the first time; however, it helps to gauge other WAC members' interest in working on the action in order to be sure of having help. To start a working group, make an announcement requesting interested volunteers to organize a specific meeting to address the issue. Then plan a committee meeting and go to work.

The following points should be considered carefully before coming to the floor.

A. General action planning

1. Who or what is the target?
Why?
2. What are the desired results?
What do we want to change, effect, or communicate?
3. Are there other groups already dealing with the issue?
What is the time frame/immediacy of the action? Is it realistic?

4. What is the range of possible actions?
What are the pros and cons of each? Is CD involved?
What are the potential legal ramifications for participants?

5. How will this action be presented to the media?
What possible media attention will it receive?

6. Is more than one action involved?

B. Specific action planning

1. When will it be?
Are there any particular reasons for the chosen day, date, and time?

2. What type of coalition should be built around the action?
What outside groups should be contacted?
How many people are needed?
What accessibility issues are involved (language, mobility, money, etc.)?

3. Where will it be? Inside or outside?
Has the location been researched/confirmed?
Is a permit required?
If the action is outside New York City, have the appropriate groups in the area been contacted?
Have transportation and housing been arranged?

4. Is there a theme? A visual concept?

5. How much will it cost?
What is the budget?
What materials/resources are needed? (Be sure to consider such items as posters, flyers, fact sheets, research, phone calls, mailing, translations, media packets, transportation, and visuals.)

6. Should follow-up actions be planned?

7. The working group must decide who will be responsible for the following:

Before the action—

- Detailed research for action
- Flyers announcing the action
- Educational fact sheets for distribution at action
- Liaison to Media Committee for press release
- Liaison to WAC Productions (if video documentation of action is desired)
- Budget and disbursement of funds/treasury liaison
- Selection of marshals and media liaison for on-site press
- Arranging speakers and PA system
- Transportation and directions/housing
- Poster/video components and special visuals
- Organizing CD/contacting lawyers, police, district attorney, or other officials
- Action wrap-up/clean up

After the action—

- Follow-up actions/thank you or complaint letters
- Resolving legal issues
- Reporting to the floor
- Assessment of action
- Delivering print and electronic media coverage to archivist

C. PHONE TREE

The Phone Tree is staffed by volunteers. It is activated when information needs to be quickly spread throughout WAC, either as voted on the floor or in case of emergency (see below).

OPERATION REGULATIONS

1) The Phone Tree is activated only when the floor has specifically voted to do so, in regard to actions approved by the floor. (Not all actions voted on and approved by the floor will involve activating the Phone Tree.) Regular items of information are to be placed on WAC Voice Mail

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2) Anyone with a prospective action that requires the activation of the Phone Tree must bring a copy of written information to the meeting at which the action is discussed; if the action is approved by the floor, the copy must be given to a Phone Tree representative. This written information must include the name and telephone number of an action contact person.

3) Phone Tree captains will contact the people on their lists in a timely fashion. If a message is left, the captain must leave her name and telephone number in addition to the regular information; the recipient of the message must then return the call to confirm that the message was received.

4) Anyone on the Phone Tree list who has failed to respond to/confirm three consecutive phone messages will be contacted and asked whether she is still interested in being a part of the Phone Tree. If she fails to contact her captain in response to this question, the individual will be removed from the list.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The Phone Tree can be activated without a vote from the floor under the following circumstances:

1) The issue presented (which must be a women's issue that falls within the scope of concerns outlined by the WAC mission statement) must be so urgent that it absolutely cannot wait until the next general meeting be voted on by the floor.

2) At least three elected representatives of the Phone Tree Emergency Committee must agree to activate the Phone Tree.

THESE NOTES ARE DESIGNED TO LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!!!!!!
AS WELL AS FACILITATE DISCUSSION WITHIN ROBERT(A)' RULES OF ORDER.

A FEW NOTES ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE:

Following are the basics of parliamentary procedure presented in their order of precedence according to Robert's Rules (only the last two are debatable):

Point of Personal Privilege

An individual can rise on a point of personal privilege at anytime without being recognized by standing up and shouting, "Point of personal privilege." A point of personal privilege takes precedence over anything else, can be raised at any time, does not require a second. It includes things like, "I can't hear," "I need to sit up front and there are no seats," "Someone is smoking," "It's too cold in here," etc. The facilitator should deal with whatever the problem is immediately.

Point of Order

An individual can rise on a point of order without being recognized by standing up and shouting, "Point of order." A point of order takes precedence over anything but a point of personal privilege, can be raised at any time, and does not require a second. It is normally used when an individual feels that the rules are being violated, for example, voting without discussion, not following the agreed agenda, voting on an expense item or an amendment to the Working Document the first week it is proposed, etc. The facilitator should either fix the problem or explain why what is happening is happening. Occasionally people rise on points of order in order to bring something to the agenda (for example an emergency or time-sensitive topic). In this case the facilitator can put it to a vote of the floor whether the new item should be discussed immediately.

Point of Information

Used when an individual needs information in order to be able to vote. A point of information is always a question, for example, "How much will the posters cost?" or "What were the two demands again?" People often rise on points of information and then attempt to provide information or make arguments. That should not be allowed.

Call the Question

When recognized by a facilitator, an individual can ask that discussion on the previous motion or proposal cease and that it come to a vote. A second is required. A vote is then taken on whether to end discussion and vote on the previous motion.

Motion to Table

When recognized by a facilitator, an individual can ask that discussion on the previous motion cease and that it be taken up at the next (or later) meeting. A second is required. A motion to table is not debatable. (Occasionally, people move to table and have the question put at the top of next week's agenda. In this case, facilitators usually permit a brief debate.) A vote is then taken on whether to table the previous motion.

Motion to Amend

When recognized by a facilitator, an individual can ask that the previous motion be amended. A second is required. The person who proposed the previous motion is asked if the amendment is accepted. If it is accepted, it becomes part of the motion and discussion proceeds. If it is not accepted, the amendment should be discussed and voted up or down. After the vote on the amendment, discussion and vote on the previous motion proceeds. (Occasionally it makes more sense to vote on the primary motion first and then on the amendment, this may be done at the facilitator's discretion.)

Main (or Primary) Motion

A main or primary motion is a proposal to actually do something like hold an action or zap, spend money, approve a flyer, adopt an operational proposal, etc. A main motion takes precedence over nothing and is out of order when a previous motion is already on the floor. (If someone wants to discuss something other than what is on the floor, they must first move to table or call the question, giving as their reason that they wish to discuss something else.) When recognized by a facilitator, an individual can propose a motion on the floor. A second is required. Discussion should take place, followed by a vote.

GLOSSARY

AFFINITY GROUP—A group that is established to carry off actions that may be detrimental to the official reputation of a parent group with which it shares common goals. Affinity groups sometimes choose to use methods (sometimes illegal) that may not necessarily be safely endorsed by WAC.

BLUE DOT—Originally used in the media coverage of the William Kennedy Smith rape trial to conceal the identity of the woman in the case. WAC has adopted the blue dot as a symbol of ongoing resistance to violence against women.

BRAY (Bray v. Planned Parenthood of Alexandria)—Any day now, the Supreme Court will decide whether or not Federal judges may rely upon the Civil Rights Act of 1871 (the Act) to grant injunctions that bar anti-choice protesters from blockading clinics. Under the Act, which was designed to fight the Ku Klux Klan, Federal courts have held that when groups such as OR (see below) block a woman's access to a clinic, they are violating her civil rights. (Also, the U.S. Attorney General's office is currently investigating whether or not to file suit under the Act against the four Los Angeles police officers accused of using excessive force in the arrest of Rodney King.)

CARDINAL O' CONNOR—Catholic Cardinal of St. Patrick's Cathedral and Archbishop of the Diocese of New York. A vocal supporter of OR (see below) and their tactics, who fails to recognize the benefits derived from promoting higher causes such as education about birth control and sexuality, women's rights, and gay and lesbian rights.

CASEY (Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey)—A case argued before the Supreme Court on April 22, 1992; ruling expected June/July 1992. The Court will decide whether married women (in most cases) must provide their doctors with proof of spousal notification prior to obtaining an abortion, and whether doctors must provide all women with state-prepared literature describing alternatives to and the risks of abortion. Also contains parental consent and 24-hour waiting period requirements which the Court has opted not to review. In all likelihood, this decision, even if it does not directly overturn ROE V. WADE (see below), will make it much easier for states to pass laws that restrict access to abortion.

CDC (Centers For Disease Control)—The Federal arm of the Department of Health and Human Services that monitors and tracks the spread of infectious diseases in the U.S. The CDC makes up and maintains the current case definition of AIDS, which activists have been protesting for years as exclusionary of women because it does not include symptoms that are specific to women with AIDS.

CFPC (Community Family Planning Council)—A private, non-profit organization funded by the HRA (see below); runs nine family planning clinics in five boroughs of New York City that provide comprehensive services to low-income and homeless women.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE (CD)—The organized, planned decision to risk arrest at a protest or demonstration by, for example, sitting in an office or on a piece of property and refusing to move until your demands are met. Groups engage in CD in order to demonstrate commitment to an issue and to gain media attention. CD is complicated and requires a great deal of organization; it should not be entered into without careful consideration and planning.

CLINIC DEFENSE—Escorting clients of women's health clinics past violent, abusive, or just plain obnoxious anti-choice types who blockade clinics on special occasions.

COMPARABLE WORTH—Statistics show that women earn an average of 33% less than their male counterparts who perform equivalent work (i.e., work requiring comparable levels of education,

skill, experience, and/or responsibility). Those who support the idea of compensation based on comparable worth advocate taking steps (e.g. legislation, pressure on corporations) to close the pay/gender gap.

CONTACT SHEET—A list, available at every WAC meeting, of names and phone numbers of committee contact people in WAC.

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS —Fake clinics, run by anti-choice groups, that lure women in with promises of free pregnancy tests and counseling and subject them to a barrage of anti-choice films and misinformation.

ERA (Equal Rights Amendment)—A proposed amendment to the Constitution that would prohibit discrimination against women.

FACILITATOR—Selfless WAC member who has been to at least three meetings, who is elected to run, along with another WAC member, two meetings in a row. Facilitators are elected for a three-month term, and may be elected for no more than two consecutive terms. Facilitators keep order, present items on the agenda for discussions/votes and, most importantly, keep things moving so that no WAC meeting lasts longer than an Academy Awards ceremony.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT—Legislation pending before Congress that would provide workers with twelve weeks of unpaid leave in the event of childbirth or serious illness in the family. President Bush vetoed the act two years ago and has stated he will do so again.

FLOOR—The authoritative body of WAC, composed of all members present at a weekly meeting. Any proposal for an action to be undertaken by WAC must be brought to the floor and voted upon by those present.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT (FOCA)—Legislation pending before Congress that essentially codifies the holding of [??] ROE v. WADE (see below). Sponsors of FOCA are pushing for a vote to take place in Congress before November 1992. It is believed there are enough votes in both houses to pass FOCA, but not enough to override a veto by President Bush.

HHS (Department of Health and Human Services)—The federal agency that oversees many health-related agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, etc.

HRA (Human Resources Administration)—The arm of the New York City government that funds social services.

HYDE AMENDMENT—An amendment to Federal legislation introduced in 1977 that disallowed Federal funding through Medicare of abortions for low-income women. New York is one of several states that has retained public funding for abortions for low-income women.

THE LAMBS OF CHRIST—An OR (see below) group whose members give up their homes to travel around the country blockading clinics and living in jail cells after arrest.

" LOCK ' N' BLOCK " —When anti-choice activists lock the doors of an abortion clinic and chain/lock themselves to its doors, or to any heavy object (usually the underside of a car) in front of its doors, to prevent women's access to needed health care.

MARSHALS - People responsible for organization and safe conduct at demonstrations; usually trained in CD (see above).

NEA (National Endowment for the Arts)—A beleaguered government agency that provides Federal funding for the arts. Grants and awards to institutions and artists are approved by peer review panels, but are subject to reversal by a board and chairperson who all too often succumb to pressure from outsiders (like Sen. Jesse Helms, Pat Buchanan, Rev. Wildmon) who claim that the NEA subsidizes work that is pornographic and obscene.

OR (Operation Rescue)—Anti-choice terrorist group founded and led by former used-car salesman Randall Terry. OR blockades clinics, holds prayer vigils, and gets arrested a lot. They besieged Wichita, Kansas in 1991, where over 2,600 of them were arrested, and launched the unsuccessful April 1992 assault on clinics in Buffalo, N.Y.

PARENTAL CONSENT—The Supreme Court has upheld laws in several states that require a teenage girl to notify (and in some states receive permission from) one or both biological parents before obtaining an abortion. In some of these states, teenagers may obtain permission via judicial bypass. (This requires the teenager to appear before a judge and convince him/her that she is mature enough to make such a decision. Ironically, that same teenager is not required to prove that she is mature enough to raise a child.)

PHONE TREE—A telephone-contacting network that allows WAC to pass along information to members regarding events, actions, etc. A list is passed around at every meeting for new members to sign up (that is, provide us with your name, address, and phone number). Also see page [??]

POINT OF INFORMATION—An important fact relevant to matters under discussion on the floor that could change the course of discussion, or anything that people need to know immediately. In **ROBERT(A)'S RULES OF ORDER** (see below), a **POINT OF INFORMATION** may be injected at any point in a discussion, taking precedence over other people waiting to speak.

PORNOGRAPHY VICTIMS COMPENSATION ACT—Legislation currently under review by the Senate Judiciary Committee that would, in certain cases, permit the victim of a sex crime to sue producers of sexually explicit material.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EQUITY ACT—Designed to undo the damage inflicted by **RUST V. SULLIVAN** (see below) and the Reagan/Bush administration upon a woman's right to access to affordable, comprehensive health care, this legislation calls for the restoration of Federal funding to clinics that perform abortions.

ROBERT(A)'S RULES OF ORDER—The procedural format followed loosely at WAC meetings.

ROE v. WADE—The 1973 Supreme Court case that legalized abortion on the grounds that laws forbidding abortion violated a woman's right to privacy. The judicial foundation on which the reproductive rights struggle rests, and the primary target of anti-choice legislation.

RU-486 ("the abortion pill")—A hormonal abortifacient that prevents conception by causing the lining of the uterus to be shed before the implantation of the zygote (the one-celled result of the union of sperm and egg). RU-486 has been legal in France since 1988.

RUST v. SULLIVAN (also Title X; Gag Rule)—The 1991 Supreme Court decision that upheld Reagan administration regulations barring federally-funded (as per Title X) family planning clinics from providing information on, or even mentioning the option of, abortion. On April 30, 1992, the House voted to overturn the gag rule, but the 268-150 vote fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto by President Bush. New guidelines for implementation of the regulations are set and are currently under review by Federal courts. Under these new guidelines, only doctors at Title X-funded clinics will have the authority to discuss medical information. Unfortunately, most counselling is handled by nurses and doctor's assistants and these clinics

don't have the funds to hire additional doctors simply to inform women that they must go elsewhere if they wish to obtain an abortion.

SIDEWALK COUNSELING—An OR (see above) euphemism for harassment of clients at clinics; intended to ultimately close women's health facilities.

STD—Sexually transmitted disease.

STRAW VOTE—An informal vote by the floor that decides, for example, whether people want to continue or close discussion of an issue.

WEBSTER (Webster v. Reproductive Health Services of Missouri)—A 1989 Supreme Court decision that opened the door for greater state regulation of abortion. In WEBSTER, the Court upheld a Missouri law that prohibited any public facility, or any facility receiving public funds (almost every clinic), from performing abortions, and that required fetal viability tests before an abortion on the grounds that life begins at conception.

WHEAT PASTING—A way to disseminate information by pasting up fliers or posters with wheat paste on any flat surface (usually walls) around the city. An illegal activity, usually done in groups under cover of night.

ZAP—The concentrated bombardment by phone, fax, or mail of the offices of a targeted individual or corporation.