

191-5

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## Protest rally, celebration mark abortion case's 29th anniversary



PHOTOS BY BILL LUSTER, THE COURIER-JOURNAL  
Montoya Ware offered a prayer at the beginning of the courthouse rally, sponsored by Right to Life Louisville. Events were held to mark the 29th anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion.

## Sides cast each other in role of terrorists

By BUTCH JOHN, MATT BATCHELDOR and JAMES R. CARROLL  
The Courier-Journal

Comparisons to terrorists arose on both sides yesterday as local abortion opponents and supporters gathered separately to mark the Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion 29 years ago.

During a rally at the Jefferson County Courthouse, the Rev. Cecil Blye compared Osama bin Laden to abortion providers and what he called "terrorism against the womb."

And at last night's celebration of the Roe vs. Wade ruling, Sheila Sutton compared anti-abortion extremists who send threatening letters to women's clinics to the Sept. 11 terrorists. Sutton is executive director of the Kentucky Reproductive Health Network.

At the courthouse rally, where about 250 people protested abortion, Blye also brought up civil rights.

"The right to life is the first civil right. It is the civil-rights issue of the 2000s," said Blye, pastor of More Grace Ministries (for-



Sheila Sutton of the Kentucky Reproductive Health Network said the White House is hostile to abortion rights.

merly Abundant Life Ministries).

He was among a dozen speakers at the annual rally, sponsored by Right to Life Louisville, which drew people from across Kentucky and Indiana.

Another speaker was Lisa Arnold, a post-abortion counselor who brought many to tears as she talked about her own abortion at age 17.

Many protesters held red signs reading "Stop Abortion Now" and "Stop Kill-

ing Babies." Others, including two dozen students on a lunch break from Portland Christian Academy, made their own signs.

"Abortion is wrong because it's not the woman's life. It's the baby's life," said Katie Grimes, 12, whose sign read, "A baby is being killed right now" with a drawing of a fetus being menaced by a scalpel.

Hank and Janet Vierling of New Salisbury, Ind., brought their children, Ash-

*"It really shows . . . how much of a threat we're under."*

— Sheila Sutton, executive director of the Kentucky Reproductive Health Network

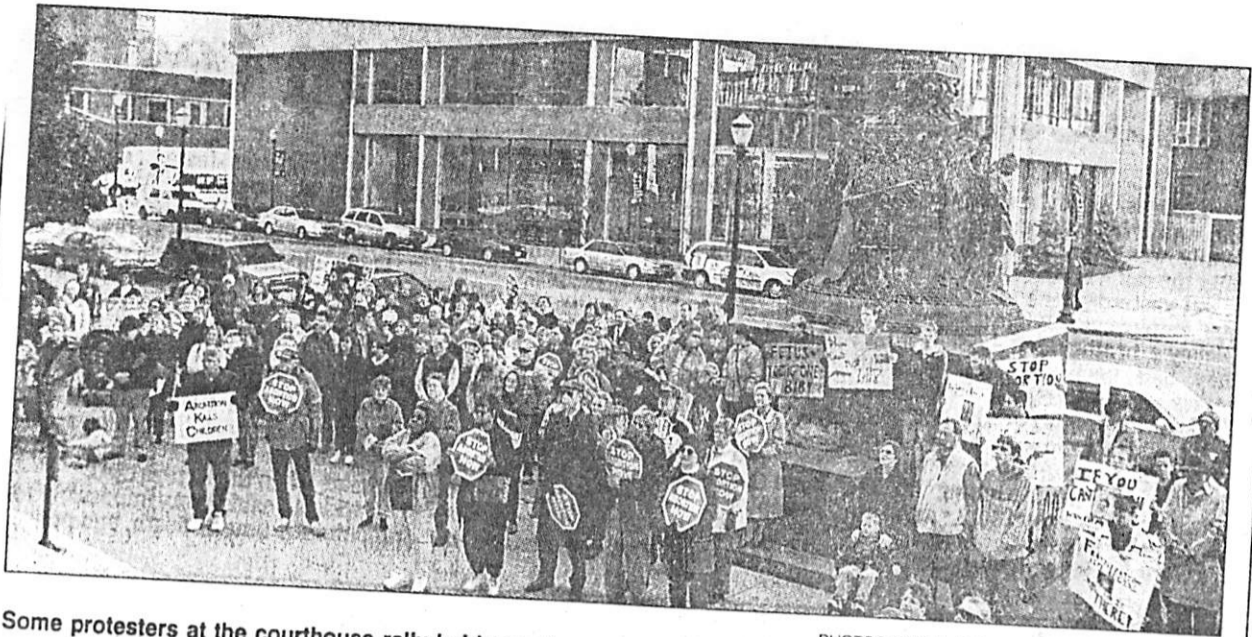
ley, 10, and Matthew, 7, to the rally.

Hank Vierling said he and his wife hope the children will learn that "abortion is not just a name for a medical procedure, but the taking of life."

At the Rudyard Kipling in Old Louisville last night, about 50 abortion-rights advocates celebrated with poetry and puppet performances. But they also ex-

See EVENTS  
Page 4, col. 2, this section

Wednesday, January 23, 2002  
Neighborhood news  
Weather  
Briefs  
Deaths  
B2  
B4  
B4  
B5, 6  
Editor: Jean Porter  
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Some protesters at the courthouse rally held red signs reading "Stop Abortion Now" and "Stop Killing Babies." PHOTOS BY BILL LUSTER, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

# Events mark Roe anniversary

Continued from Page B 1

pressed fears that government intervention might scuttle their efforts.

"We're at the 29th anniversary (of Roe vs. Wade), and I don't know if we're going to see a 30th anniversary," Sutton said.

Calling this a crucial year, she said the Bush administration is hostile to abortion rights, citing an order last January to block U.S. financial aid to international family-planning organizations that spend money to make abortion and abortion counseling available.

"It really shows . . . how much of a threat we're under," she said.

Poet Kandiss Wilder, 29, echoed Sutton's words that Jan. 22 is a celebration but also a struggle for women's rights.

Wilder read a poem called "He said," a description of how her former lover tried to control her body and lifestyle.

Self-love is the first step toward empowering women, Wilder said — something she often tells her two daughters, who are 9 and 10.

"I don't have to find myself in the women I see on television," Wilder told a reporter during a break. "I see the woman who's in the mirror."



Jennifer and Jason Jewell, left, greeted Barbara Ogle and Clarissa Key, right, at the Rudyard Kipling, where abortion-rights supporters gathered.

In Washington, D.C., about 500 Kentuckians gathered at the Right to Life Kentucky breakfast, held before the annual anti-abortion march in the capital.

Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., told the group that those opposed to abortion were "always on the defensive" during the years of Bill Clinton's presidency.

"That's changed," Bunning said. "It's been like night and day under the

new Bush administration. No one's talking seriously any more about the passage of 'freedom of choice' bills or other dangerous acts like that."

Rep. Anne Northup, R-3rd District, decried what she said was the use of taxpayer money during the Clinton administration to encourage other nations to permit abortions.

Those policies, she said, were not supported by most Americans, and President Bush is reversing them.