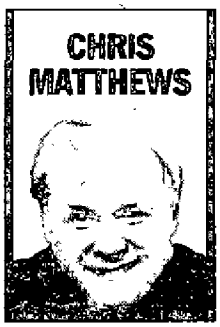
NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

LOOKING MORE PRO-CHOICE

Mike's win gives GOP new cast

The great Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia once said, "There is no Republican way to collect garbage."

The grandchildren of those New Yorkers who time and again elected the "Little Flower" have not forgotten his admonition. A city flooded by Democrats has once again chosen a Republican to be its life raft.



Michael Bloomberg is a can-do American success story who built an empire in business communication from scratch. That made him a good bet to rebuild the world's greatest city from the rubble. This guy gets things done.

The fact that Bloomberg is Jewish, supportive of abortion rights and gay rights and a New Yorker tells you something about the post-Sept. 11 Republican Party.

Recall the pre-Sept. 11 standards.

To be a prominent leader of the GOP, you had to be from the Bible Belt and sing from the Southern Republican songbook of Dick Armey and Tom DeLay.

A President who made just one trip to New York prior to the World Trade Center crime and who passed over Pennsylvania's Gov. Tom Ridge for vice president because of his abortion position is now surrounded by Northern pro-choicers.

Check out the leaders today: Mayor Giuliani, Gov. Pataki, homeland security boss Ridge and, last but hardly least, the mayor-elect of New York.

A guy who has never shown much interest in snagging tickets to "The Producers" is now Mr. Broadway.

He's a man who wants to do all he can to help the same city in need that a former Republican President told to "drop dead," according to the famous Daily News headline.

I write this as an out-of-towner still enamored of this wondrous American metropolis. I recall all the thrill of my first visit for the Columbia University high school newspaper editors convention. I remember catching "Hair" on my last day in the country before heading to Africa with the Peace Corps. And now I treasure every day I get to work in the city, especially this time of year.

While the Yankees lost the World Series in seven, I am thrilled that they came back to win every game at the Stadium. New York cheered those three victories with greater love than I have ever seen in professional sport. The fans knew they were cheering themselves.

Winning at home is, after all, a huge part of the war we're in now.

And while we go about winning the early, vital battles here at home, we need to carry on the fight in Afghanistan. We need to bring New York justice to Osama Bin Laden and his whole wretched gang.

That, too, is a nonpartisan job, come to think of it.

Just remember what LaGuardia said: "There's no Republican way to collect garbage."

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