

Smart, glamorous, and ferociously self-promoting, Westchester D.A. Jeanine Pirro is the most promising woman in New York politics since Geraldine Ferraro. But will her husband's indictment on bribery and fraud charges (not to mention an embarrassing sex scandal) derail New York's GOP golden girl? **By Kevin Gray**

PIRRO MANIA

Police commissioner Howard Safir has just told a packed room of reporters that the city's most notorious rapist, who may have attacked 51 women in six years, has been caught. The room erupts in questions. Was he wielding a gun? Is there DNA evidence? Why did it take so long? Safir, flanked by fourteen beefy detectives, fires off his answers. Lost in the noise is a striking woman in three-inch stiletto heels, standing just to Safir's right, nervously tilting toward the microphone. Though just one of the rapes occurred in her jurisdiction, Westchester County district attorney Jeanine Pirro rushed here to help out. Too bad not a single question has come her way. The exercise has eaten three hours of her day; it will amount to a twenty-second sound bite on the evening news, Pirro thanking the NYPD for its hard work. "It was Safir's show," Pirro says later as her Crown Victoria sits in rush-hour traffic on the FDR, two veteran investigators, each of whom earns more than \$60,000 a year, idling in the buttery leather seats up front.

Photograph by Jake Chessum



