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tion issue extends to medical and scientific communities as well.

Salem physician Heidi Thomas said she believes the issue of when life begins is not an arguable point.

"The facts are incontrovertible," she said. "Life begins at the moment of the union of 23 maternal chromosomes and 23 paternal chromosomes."

Abortion, she said, is a poor solution to the problem of unwanted pregnancy, not only for the baby but for millions of women exploited by the medical industry.

She said only 1 to 3 percent of abortions were performed for cases of rape, incest, fetal abnormalities or health of the

mother.

Marsha DeLaney of Eugene spoke as a woman who had gone through abortion and now regrets it.

In 1970, as a 20-year-old single woman, she saw advantages to having an abortion, she said. However, she said, "None of my thoughts would have been valid if I would have looked at it from the baby's perspective."

After the abortion, she said she tried to be emotionless but couldn't get away from the feeling she had taken a human life.

The rally was a peaceful one, unlike last November's pro-choice demonstration, which was marred by confrontations between abortion rights supporters and about 200 coun-

ter-demonstrators.

Kitty Piercy, local coordinator of the National Abortion Rights Action League, said local pro-choice groups consciously avoided showing up Sunday.

"We decided we would not participate or give them any additional credibility by being there," she said.

Right to Life chairwoman Atteberry said the group is continuing its efforts to present two ballot initiatives to voters this year. One would require parental notification for abortions performed on women younger than 18, while the other would ban abortions in Oregon, she said.



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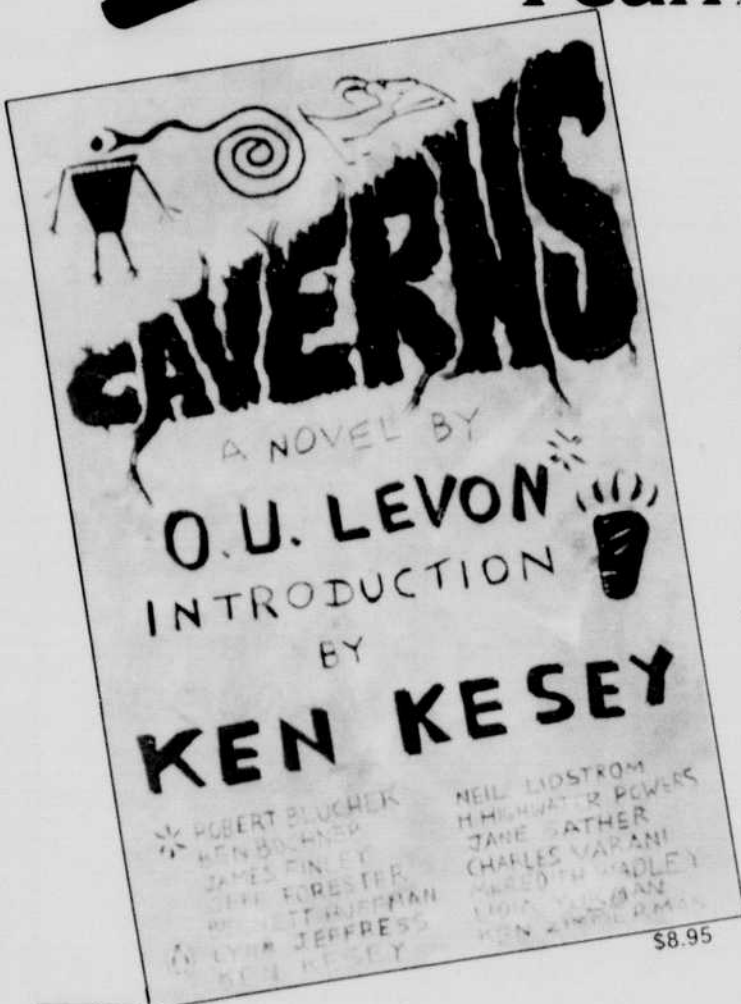
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