ABORTION
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was then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

That same year, in Doe vs. Bolton, the Supreme Court struck down a Georgia law requiring all abortions be performed in hospitals with the approval of a hospital committee and three doctors.

A recent blow to Roe came in 1989's Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services, which upheld a Missouri abortion law prohibiting the use of public facilities and employees in performing abortions.

Pro-choice activism boomed after the Webster decision, said Debbi Webster of Students for Choice.

Webster and other student members of the National Abortion Rights Action League decided a pro-choice student presence was needed on campus.

Attendance at Students for Choice and NARAL meetings grew during the 1990 election period, she said, in reaction to two state ballot measures restricting abortion.

"Students have always had the right to an abortion), and they don't know what to do if it is taken away," Webster said.

"I think it's going to be the young women and the older women, the ones who remember what it was like when abortion was illegal, who fight the hardest."

Ironically, pro-choice leaders have decided if Roe is going to be overturned, they want it to happen now, before the 1992 elections.

"A national coalition of pro-choice organizations has petitioned the court to hear the Pennsylvania case this session so that George Bush may be held accountable for this devastating blow to women's rights before the next presidential election," according to a NARAL press release.

Webster said NARAL would rather have Roe overturned at once than chipped away.

"Only once it's overturned do we have the chance to pass the Freedom of Choice Act," Webster said.

The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to review the case of

CASES THAT CHALLENGE ROE vs. WADE

GUAM: Legislation was signed into law in Guam by Gov. Joseph Ada in March of 1990 that outlaws abortions. It contains no exceptions for cases of pregnancy by rape or incest. In August 1990 a federal district court ruled the law unconstitutional and unenforceable.

LOUISIANA: A ban on abortion was enacted, despite Gov. Buddy Roemer's veto on June 18, 1991. Allows exceptions where the pregnancy would cause the woman's death. It also allows for exceptions for victims of incest who report the crime, or victims of rape who report the crime within seven days and receive medical care to determine that the woman was not pregnant before the rape.

MISSISSIPPI: In March 1991 legislators overrode Gov. Ray Malbus' veto to enact a law that requires a woman to receive what pro-choice activists call misleading information on abortion and then wait for 72 hours before having one. A preliminary injunction blocking the law's enforcement was granted.

NORTH DAKOTA: In April 1991 Gov. George Sinner signed a law that requires a woman to receive information on abortion, then wait for 24 hours before having one. A preliminary injunction blocking the law's enforcement was granted.

UTAH: A law signed in January, 1991 by Gov. George Bangerter, prohibits most abortions unless the abortion is necessary to save a woman's life, if the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest or if the fetus has grave physical or mental deformities. All cases, the woman must be less than 20 weeks pregnant.

Source: NARAL   Graphic by Jeff Pasley

Planned Parenthood vs. Casey, involving a Pennsylvania law placing several restrictions on abortion, including waiting periods and spousal notification.

The case will be heard in April, with a decision expected in July.

The justices didn't address the broader constitutional issue in the Tuesday statement, despite requests from both sides that the Pennsylvania case be used to decide if Roe is still the law of the land.

Susan Low Bloch, a Georgetown University law professor, told the Associated Press she doubted whether the Court would use the case to reverse Roe because "the case doesn't require it."

"There are cases from Guam, Utah and Louisiana that will reach the court in which revisiting Roe will be unavoidable," she said. "I don't think the court wants to reach out unnec-

essarily in this case. The way review was granted confirms that intuition."

In the years between Roe and Webster, the Court invalidated several restrictive abortion laws, including laws requiring women to obtain their husbands' consent or wait for a specified time period.

In 1986 the Supreme Court struck down, by a 5-4 vote, almost identical regulations as those in the Pennsylvania case. However, three of those five justices in the majority decision have since retired.

The Court has also upheld parental-notification laws and restrictions on public funding of abortions in those years.

Last July, the Court upheld government regulations that barred federally funded clinics from discussing abortion with patients, a decision affecting about 4,000 clinics serving 4.5 million women.

RU ready for RU 486?

By Hope Nealson
Emerald Reporter

An Oregon representative who wants the "abortion pill" to be legally tested in the United States is working to make Oregon an "RU 486 friendly" state.

Oregon Rep. Ron Wyden has introduced "The RU 486 Regulatory Fairness Act of 1991," which would make it legal to test RU 486 in the United States.

The hormonal drug RU 486 is an abortifacient, or abortion pill, that has been used to terminate a woman's pregnancy, treat breast cancer, meningioma (brain tumors), endometriosis, Cushing's Syndrome, and infertility.

Wyden's legislative assistant, Joan McCarter, said the task force has been formed to have RU 486 "treated as any other drug would be treated."

RALLY
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about abortion. She told the crowd of approximately 300 that she had been raped in California when she was 19. When she returned to Oregon, she discovered she was pregnant.

She said she was confused and frustrated until God spoke to her. "God told me that 'I am so sorry for what happened to you and I give you this baby to love and care for,'" Tricia said.

She kept the baby and now has a beautiful two-year-old boy, she said.

"I'm here to tell everyone here today that all abortion is wrong,' she said,"no matter if the woman was raped or a victim of incest."

Charles Hoffmeister, a neonatalogist at Sacred Heart General Hospital, told the crowd "We have decided that some human lives are more important than others, meaning that big people are more important than little people.

"When the sperm and egg come together, the entire genetic makeup has been determined; that human being has been programmed," he said. "We are talking about a complete human being at the flash moment of conception; it is like a polaroid, you take a picture and wait for it to develop."

Hoffmeister said 97 percent of the abortions that occurred

after the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision was passed have been for convenience and economical reasons.

He rejected arguments that abortion on demand reduces child abuse. "Child abuse has dramatically risen in countries that have passed permissive abortion laws," Hoffmeister said. "When we decide to devalue one human life, we devalue all human life."

One speaker who had a slightly different message than the rest of the speakers was Kathleen Freemen, the local coordinator of Feminists for Life.

"Our society still values men over women," she said. "Abortion is an example of this discrimination against women. Women feel that to be equal to men they need to be able to rid themselves of a pregnancy."

Freeman said, "Instead of trying to solve the problems that cause abortion, the woman's movement made abortion its central issue."

However, she said the short-term, violent solution of abortion is actually antithetical to the women's movement.
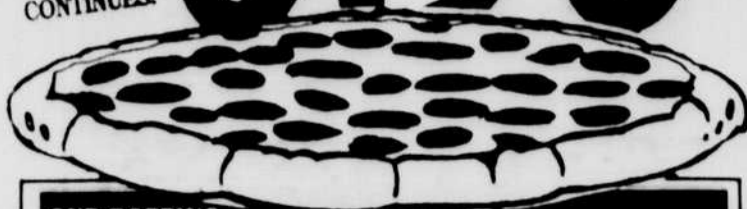
"Women and children are not adversaries," Freemen said.

The energy trying to keep abortion legal should be put to reaching a point "where motherhood is not an obstacle to being fully active in the community," she said.