

Groups protest anniversary of legalized abortion

200 gather for protest at Rudder

By Christie Yeates
Reporter

Approximately 200 pro-life demonstrators gathered yesterday in front of Rudder Tower to protest the 14th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision, which legalized abortion.

Baptist Student Union Director Mike Graham said, "About 4,400 people are aborted every single day in America. In 1987, 60 million people will be aborted in the world."

Speakers at the rally spoke against abortion, calling it murder. Howard Atkinson, pastor of the Community Bible Church, said that a fetus is a person. He added that brainwaves can be measured from the sixth week of a baby's life in the womb.

Dr. Leon Rasberry, a local gynecologist, said, "Through science, we are able to prove more and more that life exists in the womb early." Eventually, he said, life will be detected at conception.

Rasberry called doctors who do abortions "hitmen," saying they are in business only to make money.

Judy Vaughn of Houston said she had an emotional breakdown eight years after having an abortion.

Alternatives to abortion were presented by Judy Bruenger, director of



Kay Lawless, principal of Brazos Christian School, directs students in singing "I Am a Promise" at a pro-life rally sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ. The rally was Thursday at Rudder Fountain.

Photo by Tracy Staton

the Brazos Valley Crisis Pregnancy Service. She said her organization helps women who want to continue their pregnancies by providing financial and emotional support. The service has a 24-hour-a-day hotline and counselors.

"I am a promise, I am a possibility," were the words sung by 25 children from the Brazos Christian School. DeeAnn Martin, a 18-year-old adopted child, thanked her natural mother for allowing her to live. Chris Taylor, a junior applied math

major, and Ann Horton, a Texas Transportation Institute research assistant, both sang pro-life songs.

The rally was sponsored by the Campus Crusade for Christ and the Baptist Student Union.

Anti-abortion group ignores cold in march to courthouse

Dallas (AP) — Chanting abortion foes armed with black balloons braved freezing winds Thursday in a march to the courthouse where a suit filed 14 years ago led to the landmark Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

About 1,000 protesters — some pushing children in baby strollers — marched five blocks in 30-mph winds that pushed the chill factor to 12 degrees.

"We feel that in Dallas we have a special responsibility to stop abortion," said Bill Price, president of the Greater Right to Life Committee. "Rallies like this are important because they show there is broad-based public support for the pro-life movement."

Richard Land, named as an administrative aide to Gov. Bill Clements, told the Dallas crowd to "dedicate our memory to the 20 million babies who have been sacrificed."

In Austin, meanwhile, Pam Fridrich, Texas Abortion Rights Action League executive director, said abortion supporters are concerned about Land's appointment.

Clements said he appointed Land, a professor of theology and church history, to advise him on church-state issues and issues concerning "traditional family values."

"Too often, traditional family va-

lues is a euphemism for invasion of privacy, second-place status for women, state-imposed restrictions on reproductive choice," Fridrich said.

In 1970, a suit was filed in the name of Jane Roe, a woman whose name used by Norma McCorvey was a waitress who became pregnant after a gang rape which she was also severely beaten. She was too poor to leave Texas and have an abortion.

The Supreme Court struck down anti-abortion laws Jan. 22, 1973. Price said at the rally, "Today stand here 14 years later with 20 million babies dead. Today is a national humiliation and a national mourning."

In Austin, Fridrich said her plans to oppose legislation would make it difficult to obtain an abortion.

She said Rep. Billy Clemmens, Pollock, and Sen. Ted Lyon, D-Texas, are sponsoring bills "designed to restrict access to abortion services."

Gara LaMarche, director of Texas Civil Liberties Union, said the legislature were to pass any of this kind, they would be challenged immediately, and that state would be wasting its money to defend these bills.

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