Paul deParrie

Almost 150 Portland, Oregon protesters lined the streets outside OHSU, urging them to abandon plans to test RU-486, where it is slated to be tested first in the United States.

California; and Miami, Florida.

Hoechst-Celanese plants across the country were hit as well. Hoechst, in the United States, produce fertilizers, dyes, and other chemical products.

The national headquarters of the Hoechst company is located in Bridgewater, New Jersey. Speaking at the demonstration of fifty, there was Dr. Joel Brind, a steroid bio-chemist from Baruch College of the City University of New York. Dr. Brind first gained notoriety with studies showing the connection between abortions and increased risk of cervical cancer.

Bill Calvin, spokeman for the group and president of Morris County Right to Life said, "We want to tell Dr. Drew [president of the company] and Hoechst that we don't want them producing RU-486. Stop killing babies!"

Among the other sites picketed were Charlotte, North Carolina; Dallas, Texas; Portsmouth, Virginia; Florence, Kentucky; Spartanburg, South Carolina; and Kalama, Washington.

The Response

Hoechst-Celanese in the United States denied any connection to Roussel Uclaf; however, their own statement indicated that both were part of the German company, Hoechst AG.

Meanwhile, in Paris, France, after the stockholder's meeting, Sakiz announced that RU-486 would probably not be made available in the United States for about five years. No U.S. pharmaceutical company is willing to take on the pro-life backlash if they were to start manufacturing it.

President Clinton, on the 20th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision, while hundreds of thousands marched against abortion in Washington, D.C., signed an executive order permitting the drug to be imported for experimentation. This, however, has drawn no interest from American pharmaceutical manufacturers.

"No important laboratory is ready to take the risk of putting abortion opponents on its back," Sakiz explained. ■

Woman's death reveals RU-486 dangers

To demonstrate the dangers of RU-486, the French anti-abortion group, *Le Treve de Dieu*, has documented the death of 31-year-old Nadine Walkowiak, a mother of five. In March of 1991, Walkowiak consulted her physician, Dr. Patrick Annic, to confirm a possible pregnancy. She was referred to a hospital in Lens, France for an abortion.

She was not made to observe the legally required reflection period of one week, but was given three 200 mg. tablets of Mifegyne (RU-486) in the presence of Dr. Pas, an abortionist at the Lens hospital, on March 21.

The child was aborted.

However, complications set in shortly afterwards. On March 23 at 10:15 a.m., she received an intramuscular shot of 250 micrograms of Naldor, a prostaglandin. She died on the same day at 8 p.m. of a massive coronary thrombosis.

Walkowiak's husband, Christian Polveche, a blue-collar worker, is now alone in rearing the five children.

Le Treve de Dieu calls the incident "a predictable accident." In November of 1987, three years before the death, the Director of Pharmacy and Medicine in the French Health Ministry indicated there were "difficulties" with RU-486.

He said, "It seems desirable to realize an exhaustive evaluation of the technical, judicial, and ethical aspects of any definitive decision about the authorization to put on the market Mifegyne."

Such an evaluation was never done. The drug entered mainstream use in France virtually untested.

In May of 1988, Roussel Uclaf provided dossiers on the drug to the AMM, the commission responsible for authorization to place drugs in the market, AMM's evaluation of the information was questionable, but the drug was approved later that year.

Because of the known disadvantages, they said, "The RU should be reserved for sufficiently instructed and responsible women."

An April 4, 1990 International Inquiry Commission report on RU-486, citing the works of the AMM Commissions and having interviewed specialists in endocrinology in France, the United States, Germany, and other nations, published a report that called for "the immediate suppression of the marketing and use of RU-486."

Even before the death of Nadine Walkowiak, the French government finally issued warnings about the risk factors involved in the use of the drug.

The risk factors listed included cardiovascular problems, nicotinism (smoking) diabetes, high blood pressure, and others. These were evidently ignored in Walkowiak's case.

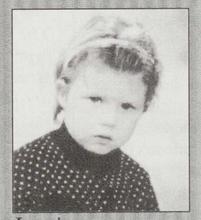
"The rush to judgment in the use of RU-486 began in France and is being continued — under political pressure — here in the United States," said one RU-486 opponent. ■

Christophe

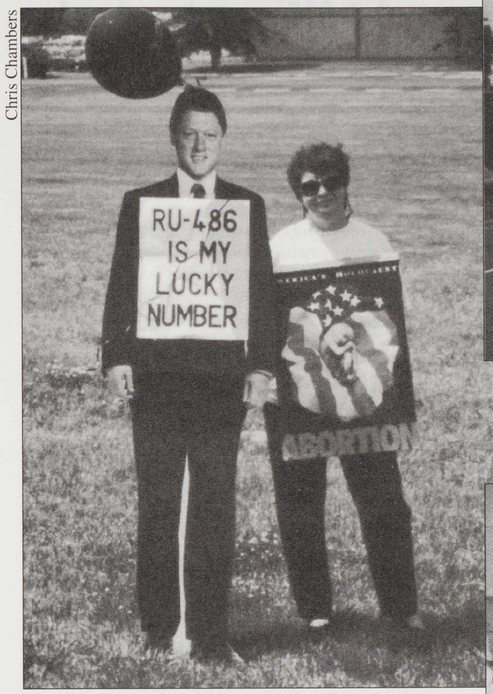
Magalie

Christian

Ludivine

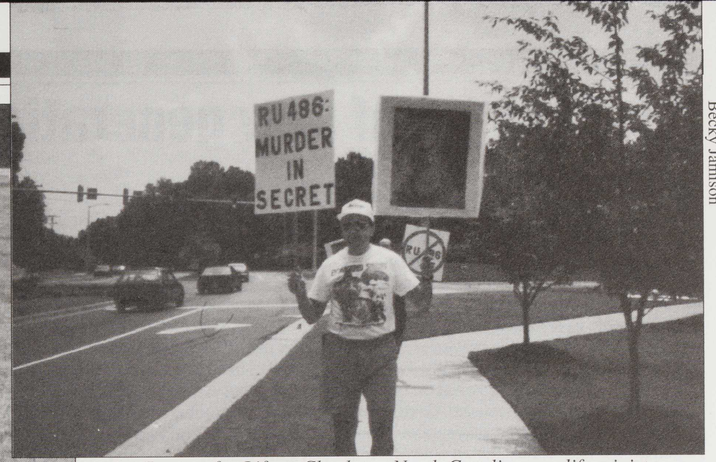


Laurie



Chris Chambers

Latonia, Kentucky picketer, Sandra Jones, has a "special guest" in the form of cut-outClinton. The president authorized RU-486 experimentation.



Becky Jamison

Action League for Life, a Charlotte, North Carolina pro-life ministry, was represented by 10 picketers outside a local Hoechst plant.

Husband, Christopher Polveche, and children at Nadine's gravesite.