

1 – *Roe v. Wade* On January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court struck down criminal abortion laws in the state of Texas, holding that the right to decide whether to have a child is a fundamental right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. The 7-2 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which recognized a right to privacy, would have an immediate and profound effect on the lives of American women. Abortion is one of the most common and safest procedures for women in the U.S. At current rates, about one in three American women will have had an abortion by the time she reaches age 45.

2 – *My Good Friend Roe* U.S. Supreme Court decisions subsequent to *Roe v. Wade* opened the door to an increasing number of restrictions on women's access to abortion including 24-hour waiting periods, state-mandated information designed to discourage abortion, parental notification laws for young women and funding prohibitions for low-income women. In 2005, state legislatures considered 614 anti-choice measures.

3 – *A Father's Story* When abortion was first legalized in 1973, federal funds were available to low-income women seeking medically necessary abortions. But four years later, Representative Henry Hyde sponsored a bill that eliminated federal funding for abortion except when necessary to save the woman's life. Since 1993, the amendment has permitted some Medicaid funding for cases of rape and incest. A global gag rule denies any U.S. aid to programs around the world that provide or

even mention abortion, even in cases of rape.

4 – *Haunted House of Hell*

In 1995, Rev. Keenan Roberts of the Abundant Life Christian Center (ALCC) in Arvada, Colorado opened the first 'Hell House', which has now expanded to more than 600 churches. They aim to frighten and stigmatize women who exercise their reproductive rights and choose abortion.

5 – *Approximating Mother*

Approximately one in five adolescents has engaged in sexual intercourse before his or her fifteenth birthday. Annually, 280,000 teens under 18 become pregnant in the U.S.; 87% of these pregnancies are unintended.

6 – *'You're On Your Own'*

The anti-abortion movement has launched a many-faceted campaign ranging from protests, to hit-lists, to false promises to pregnant women. The Christian Right seeks to enforce its religious perspective through government regulation of women's access to healthcare.

7 – *What I Said* In 2003, Congress passed and President Bush signed into law the "Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act," the first federal law banning abortion.

Despite having rejected a nearly identical law in 2000, in April 2007 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the law and declared that Congress can ban an abortion procedure and subject a doctor to arrest. The court permitted the law to stand even if the procedure were necessary to preserve a woman's health. The votes of the two justices appointed by President Bush - John Roberts and Samuel

Alito - swung the vote to the anti-abortion side. The only woman on the Supreme Court, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, called the decision "alarming" and said it puts women's health at risk. The decision also opens the door for states to pass more laws that inhibit women's access to abortion.

8 - *She Said – Before 1973*

Estimates of the number of illegal abortions in the 1950s and 1960s ranged from 200,000 to 1.2 million per year in the US. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in 1972 alone, 130,000 women obtained illegal or self-induced procedures. To provide safety, some doctors and women began to help other women despite laws against abortion. Women in countries around the world where abortion is illegal, such as Chile, still face arrest and can go to jail for seeking an abortion.

9 - *Remembering –*

Reproductive freedom is an issue with which women have struggled throughout the ages. Centuries ago, Chinese women drank lead and mercury to control fertility, which often resulted in sterility or death. During the Middle Ages in Europe, magicians advised women to wear the testicles of a weasel on their thighs or hang its amputated foot around their necks. As recently as the 1990s, teens in Australia have used candy bar wrappers as condoms. In 1916, Margaret Sanger opened the first birth control clinic in America and was an early proponent of the diaphragm. In 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, finally rolled back state and local laws that had

outlawed the use of contraception. Today, advocates and women continue to fight for contraceptives to be covered under prescription health insurance plans.

10 – SCHIPS On Their

Shoulders Efforts to restrict reproductive rights come in many guises. In 2002, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson issued a new regulation allowing states to use the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to provide healthcare coverage for "*unborn children*." The regulation allows coverage for children "*from conception*" up to age 19. This is one of the many unseen ways that opponents of choice grant a fetus greater rights and legal status than a woman.

11 – Kathy Najimy Most religious institutions are pro-choice, according to the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, an interfaith network of more than 40 prominent religious groups. Nearly eight in ten U.S. women obtaining an abortion report a religious affiliation (43% Protestant, 27% Catholic and 8% other.) Although the Catholic Church is against abortion and birth control, only 25% of Catholics believe that church leaders should have the final say on abortion.

12 – Emily Lyons Almost one in four clinics throughout the country is targeted with the most severe forms of anti-abortion violence, including blockades, invasions, bombings, arsons, gunfire, and physical assaults. In 2005, after an extensive manhunt, Eric Rudolph pled guilty to the bombing that injured Emily Lyons, as well as the bombing at the Olympics in Atlanta and of a gay night club.

13 – Taco Bell Emergency contraception – or EC for short – is a back-up method of birth control. It is sometimes referred to as the 'morning-after pill' but can be used for more than 72 hours after unprotected sex or contraceptive failure as a safe and effective way to help prevent pregnancy. EC is a higher dosage of the same hormones found in daily birth control pills. EC is not the same thing as Mifeprex or RU-486, which is sometimes called the abortion pill. EC helps to prevent pregnancy while Mifeprex/RU-486 (when taken in combination with another pill) terminates an early pregnancy. Mifeprex/RU486 is currently available in the U.S. through some doctors and clinics. EC can be prescribed by a physician, and pharmacists in 6 states are permitted to sell EC directly to women without a prescription. On August 24, 2006, after years of stalling, the Food and Drug Administration declared that EC can be sold over-the-counter to American women over the age of 18. Women under 18 must still get a prescription from a doctor, except in 8 states that have broader access from a pharmacist.

14 – 'blessed' Reproductive rights include the decision to bear children or not, use contraceptives and have an abortion if one chooses. On April 25, 2004, more than one million people of every age, gender, race, religion and sexuality marched on Washington DC, in the largest demonstration of support for reproductive rights in history.

- Prepared by Suzanne Grossman

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