

COMING TUESDAY...

A preview of Bang Tango live at the Shark Club.

# Lifestyles

February 27, 1992

THE REBEL YELL

7

## Controversy with new drug may be based in ignorance

by Melanie McEvoy

RU486, the new drug in birth control devices for women, has made its wave in the United States. Surrounded by controversy as the "abortion pill," there are more uses for it than simply as a means for abortion.

This "abortion pill" is not actually one pill taken the morning after unprotected sex. Rather it is three different pills and one injection administered in a doctor's office. The three pills each contain 200 milligrams of mifepristone. Two days later an injection or vaginal suppository of

prostaglandin is made. One week later, a third visit is made to the doctor's office where the woman is checked to make sure the abortion has been completed. This procedure can be done up to nine weeks after a missed menstrual cycle with an effective rate of 96 percent.

RU486 is an alternative to clinic, or vacuum aspiration, abortions. This fertility-control drug was developed in France by the French Pharmaceutical firm, Roussel Uclaf. When taken in conjunction with prostaglandin, the

woman will effectively be able to terminate an unwanted pregnancy safely, according to a Feminist Majority Foundation Report. RU486 will stop the progesterone hormone emitted by a woman's body, halting the pregnancy. The drug prostaglandin will induce contractions, which are said to feel like a strong period, thus terminating the unwanted pregnancy. RU486 is a private, non-invasive and safe drug, and is becoming a popular choice among European women.

In 1988, the French government declared RU486 "the moral property of women," and ordered Roussel to make the compound available to women in France. Currently the "new generation" fertility-control drug has been used by over

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90,000 women in 20 different countries, according to the Feminist Majority Foundation Report.

This drug has other important uses. It has been proven through testing in many countries to be effective for inducing labor in difficult deliveries, which reduces the need for Caesarean sections.

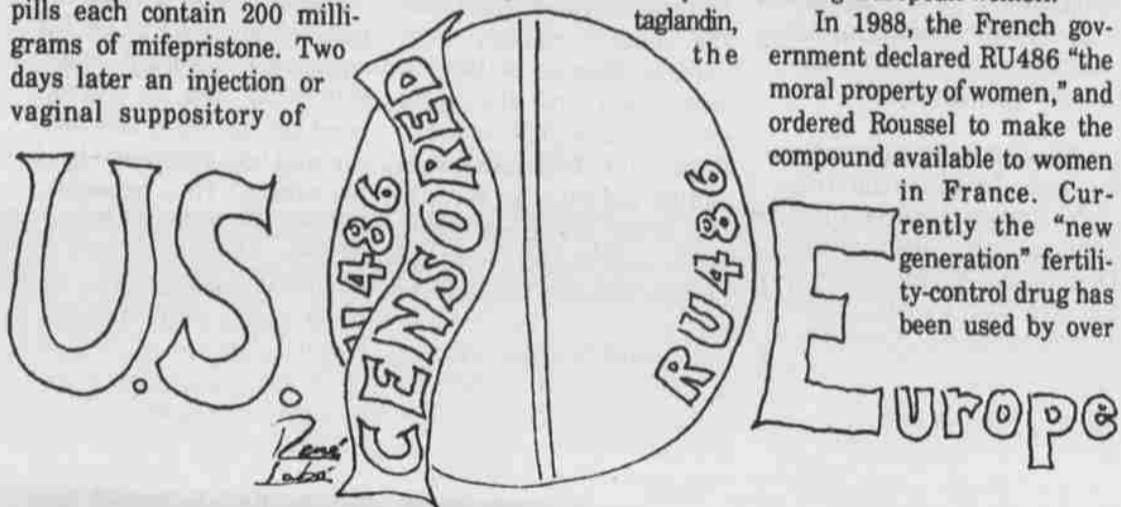
Testing is done with RU486 on victims of Cushing's syndrome, a life threatening disease where the body produces too much cortisol and effects women more than men most of the time. Extensive testing done in Europe has shown to actually reverse and control the tumors that develop from the disease, allowing time for doctors to remove them.

In addition, RU486 is a possible treatment for breast cancer, the most common form of cancer in American women; endometriosis, one of the three leading causes of female infertility; and meningioma, a type

of brain or spinal cord tumor which occurs twice as frequently in women than in men.

In addition to being widely accepted in Europe, testing and use of RU486 is supported by organizations such as the American Medical Association, Endometriosis Foundation, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Women's Health Coalition, and the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Association, and many more world wide recognized organizations.

The controversy surrounding the abortion issue in the United States has focused on RU486 as an "abortion pill," as opposed to a its possible means for helping with difficult deliveries and other women's health issues. Threats of boycotts from fundamental religious groups and the conservative Reagan-Bush administration have kept the drug out of the United States.



## Campus call boxes provide a safety line to those in need

by Nickie N. Maffie

Anyone who has experienced the feeling of being alone at night on campus will appreciate the increased awareness for campus safety which is now becoming prevalent. With this current concern over campus safety, maybe now is a good time to remind students of the yellow emergency call boxes and their locations.

The call boxes have a direct line to the Campus Public Safety Office and are in operation 24 hours a day for emergency use only. To activate the emergency system, all you need to do is open the yellow door. The campus police operator responds to the call by immediately notifying campus police of your location. To talk to the police operator you must press the "talk" button inside the box, but it is not necessary if you are unable. Help will be on the way.

The key is knowing the locations of the call boxes before needing them. Call boxes are located outside in the following locations:

1. Southeast corner of the James R. Dickinson Library

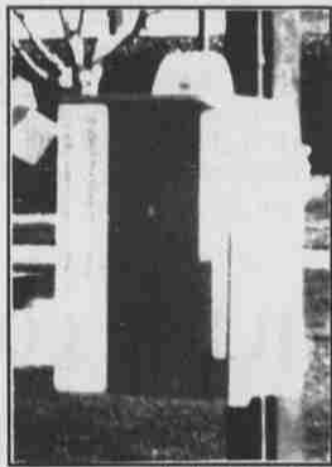


photo by Kimberly McGee

Pull this arm in a non-emergency and the only jackpot you'll win is a trip to the slammer.

2. Northwest of Ham Hall between the engineering building and Ham Hall
  3. Northeast corner of the Barrick Museum
  4. Northeast corner of the gym at the track entrance
  5. South side of Tonopah Hall
  6. South of White Hall
- If needed, the Campus Public Safety Office and the Campus Emergency System with its yellow call boxes are here to help you. Stay informed and be safe.

## Pisces represents experience in life

by Gena Atkinson

In literary terms, Winter is symbolic of the last cycle of life before Spring's rebirth. In astrological terms, this final phase of life has the same elements as the sign of Pisces. Pisces is the last of the twelve signs on the zodiac. Whereas Aries is the first, symbolizing infancy and those qualities of need and selfishness, Pisces represents the final product of all of life's journeys.

Like the scholar who studies, yet learns only that there are no clear-cut answers to life's dilemmas, the Piscean has experienced all aspects of life, yet realizes that true knowledge is accepting that not all questions have answers.

Those born Feb. 19 through March 20 are born under this sign of Pisces, symbolized by two fish swimming in different directions (which shows the duality of the sign). Pisces, with their lifetime of knowledge, know they have a choice on which life path to take. However, Pisces tend to bury their heads in ostrich-like style and avoid the harsh realities of life. Pisces tend to turn to alcohol and drugs for relief. If you are born under this sign, be aware of your astrological tendencies.

There are definite advantages to being a Pisces. They are envied for their imagina-

tion and artistic taste. The ability to bring people's emotions to the surface and capture a mood is strictly a Pisces quality. Because of their strong sense of imagination, Pisces may be accused of being a little too dreamy, too unrealistic. Their approach to life is philosophical.

The tastes and preferences of the Pisces reflect their inner workings. Pisceans are the luckiest of all the signs as far as fashion is concerned: they look good in almost anything. Pisces have strong personalities which can match the image of what they are wearing. The look that the designer goes for is assumed by the Piscean. All colors which shimmer or change are Piscean. The greens and blues of the ocean extends to mauves and purples, too. Because Pisces is the last sign of the zodiac, it follows that violets, at the end of the rainbow of colors, are a Piscean favorite.

Furnishings of the Piscean can be modern or antique. Whichever is chosen, the arrangement must evoke some sort of mood. Sentimental value is the rule. Ornaments and objects are not acquired to match the furnishings or because of their value. All things in a Piscean's home are associ-

ated with memories and have sentimental value.

For hobbies, Pisces turn to arts and theater. Both offer an escape which blocks out the world and allows for inner-reflection. Pisces make good painters and photographers because of their perceptive abilities.

This is the beginning of the astrological year for the intuitive Piscean. To make the most of this year, the twin-fish should keep in mind that all he needs to know, he already does. It is essential to draw upon this knowledge to apply it to life's problems. Focus on creativity and combine it with your knowledge to produce wonderful results. Academically, spend more time observing life. Try not to hide in books for refuge. There is so much in life to be had. Enjoy it. Live it.

