Abortion week pushes change

By Chris Keasick

Last week, as President Nixon publicly reaffirmed his commitment against unwanted abortion, the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition staged an Abortion Action Week of 1972.

Abortion Week activities occurred throughout the United States as well as in some foreign countries. Events emanated in mass marches and rallies in Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington on Saturday.

Boston activities were concentrated largely in area high schools and colleges. Discussion, discussions, films, and debates were featured.

"We want to make abortion a load-and-clear issue," stated Boston co-coordinator Jane Roland at a press conference last week. "Too many people are afraid to discuss abortion, and we just can't have this any longer."

Roland announced the introduction of the Abortion Rights Act of 1972 by Congresswoman Barbara Matsui. The Act calls for an end to the enforcement of all currently existing abortion statutes.

Noting the present danger to New York's liberalized abortion law, Roland claimed that there is a need for urgency in reform of anti-abortion statutes. If unlawful, she stated, then the law would be void in the States. If constitutional, we will probably appeal to the Supreme Court. But if Rhoda fails, then we will have a special problem, commented Roland, "because they often can't even get women that they can't get pro-choice to the hospital to have their baby."

The anti-abortion discussion featured several local doctors who oppose abortion. The panel was headed by Dr. Mildred Jef-feries, whose concern is the morality of abortion, effects of abortion upon society, progress in effective birth control methods, and suggestions of more humane ways to deal with unwanted children.

Questions were raised about the availability of abortion to all, and that Right to Life groups are simply Catholic front organizations. It was suggested to the Protestant, denied any validity to the Church accords.

President Nixon's anti-abor- tion statement last of week was made in response to the addition on Population Growth's recommendation that "women should have control over their fertility and birth control be made "freely available" in the United States." This has caused many women to consider abortion "an unacceptable option." Nixon's policy was "a false choice." He also claimed that birth control information and devices should not be freely available to minors because "it would do nothing to preserve and strengthen close family relationships."

On March 22 of this year the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Nixon Administration violated the constitutional right of women to an abortion, and that the birthday could be overturned. Roland emphasized the need for immediate action on this issue.

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The level of paranoia was apparent in many of the attendees, which was marked by a good deal of suspicion dancing around the area; others, however, blithely circulated cannabis products through the crowd. Friday's warm weather wereclouded by great influence upon the attendees, as sources.

The blockade, as well as individuals, took part in the event and had expressed their distaste for the "lack of respect" shown the late FBI Director on nationwide TV last night.

The blockade also included the idea that the pickets were being arrested and were concerned about the public illegality of the party.

Dean for Student Affairs J. Daniel Nyhart stated that though Nixon may take no action, the Cambridge Police narcotics division was represented by police personnel at the party, and the possibility that there would take some sort of action had been discussed by authorities.

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